



Harrisburg -Tea Rec Baseball League



Boys Baseball Majors League Rules

Last Revised April 2, 2025

General

1. Intended length of the game is 6 innings. If one team is ahead by 15 or more runs after 5 innings, the game will be over. No new innings shall start after 1 hour 20 minutes from the game start time. The umpire will be the official timekeeper. A new inning begins immediately after the third out of the prior inning.
2. Official games will consist of a minimum of 4 complete innings (3½ if the home team is ahead). If a lesser number of innings is completed and the game is postponed because of weather, the game will resume at the point play was suspended, if possible.
3. Rainouts and postponements will be rescheduled, if possible, by the league representative in cooperation with the two affected coaches.
4. A minimum of 8 players per team is required to start a game. When batting, the ninth position will count as an out. If one team fails to field 8 players, it will forfeit the game. (In this situation, coaches are encouraged to play a scrimmage using players from a combination of both teams if possible.)
5. Every rostered player present at the start of a game will participate in each game for a minimum of 6 defensive outs.
6. The game will not be interrupted by rule interpretations or protests of umpire calls. Any rule clarification requests should be made to the home plate umpire. Only the head coach may approach the umpire for clarification.
7. Game protests are not allowed. All umpire decisions will be final.
8. Run Rules: each team is limited to 5 runs per inning.
9. Distances: 46 foot mound and 60 foot bases.
10. Standard Infield Fly Rule.
11. Each team should keep score and record pitchers pitch count during the game. Home team scorebook and pitch count will be the official book and pitch count for the game. The home team coach should maintain records of the game score and pitch count and report them to the ump at the conclusion of the game.

12. The Harrisburg Baseball Association board of directors has decided that the end of the year playoff pairings will be determined by a tiered system based on Win-Loss Percentage. This decision was implemented to allow all teams to foster the development of all players by providing them with playing time in multiple positions throughout the season in our developmental Majors division.

Equipment

1. Steel cleats are not allowed.
2. Wooden bats are not allowed.
3. Jerseys are required to be tucked in if possible and hats should be worn facing forward.
4. All players must wear league-issued jerseys, hats, and helmets. Helmets that are non-league issued may be worn but must NOT contain any non-HBA league, Tea Park and Rec, or competitive team logos or colors.

Batting

1. All players are included in the batting lineup.
2. All players must wear helmets while batting, on base, and on deck. Only the on-deck batter is allowed outside of the dugout.
3. Bunting is not allowed.
4. Batters may run on a dropped third strike unless first base is occupied. With two outs, the batter may run on a dropped third strike, even if first base is occupied.
5. Players shall not throw their bat or helmet for any reason. Players who throw bats or helmets in an unsportsmanlike manner may be disqualified from the game at the umpire's discretion.

Base Running

1. Base runners are required to wear batting helmets at all times.
2. Until there are two outs, a runner on first base cannot advance unless the ball is put in play. Once there are two outs, a runner on first base can steal or advance on a wild pitch. Runners on second base can steal third base or advance on a wild pitch at any time.
3. In situations where stealing is allowed, runners may not leave the base until the pitch crosses home plate. If violation: runner who safely steals a base will return to prior base. If the runner is out on attempted steal, the out will stand. Home plate is open and a runner can score on a wild pitch.

4. If a runner leaves early and the ball is put in play, the runner will be called out.
5. There is no must slide rule, however if any contact is made at any base (except first base), including home plate, and the runner does not slide, then the runner may be called out. Any player who acts in an unsportsmanlike manner may be disqualified from the game at the umpire's discretion.
6. A runner will be called out if the runner slides headfirst while advancing. Sliding headfirst back into a bag is allowed.
7. Base runners will be allowed one base on any overthrow resulting in the ball going out of bounds.
8. Courtesy runners are allowed for the pitcher and catcher with two outs. The player who made the last out will be the courtesy runner.

Catching

1. All catchers must wear a mask with throat guard, chest protector, and shin guards. The HBA encourages the use of protective cups.
2. All catchers are subject to the catcher interference rule.
3. Any catcher that catches 4 or more innings in a game cannot pitch in that game.

Pitching

1. Pitch limit: 85 pitches per day.
2. Required days rest before pitching in a game:

REGULAR SEASON BASEBALL PITCHING REST CHART						
BASEBALL DIVISIONS	DAILY MAX PITCHES	REQUIRED REST (PITCHES)				
		0 DAYS	1 DAY	2 DAYS	3 DAYS	4 DAYS
MINORS	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
MAJORS	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+

3. Pitchers may exceed the daily max (75 for Minors, 85 for Majors) to complete the current at-bat. However, if a pitcher reaches a rest threshold (e.g., 20, 35, 50, 65 pitches), any additional pitches beyond that threshold will count toward the next required rest category.
4. If a pitcher leaves the mound, he may not pitch again in that game.
5. Pitchers will be allowed five warmup pitches between innings.
6. Pitchers cannot balk. Any illegal pitches result in a ball called on the batter.

7. Pitchers may not wear batting gloves, sweat bands, distracting undergarments, jewelry around the neck, or other loose fitting clothing.
8. A pitcher who delivers more than 40 pitches in a game isn't allowed to catch in that same game.
9. Any catcher who catches four or more innings in a game cannot pitch in that game.

Coaching

1. Coaches are required to exchange lineups prior to the start of each game. Coaches must also include any player(s) with pitching limitations from games earlier in the week.
2. Coaches of the home team are designated the official scorekeepers and must maintain and report the final score and pitch counts.
3. Coaches are responsible for all team equipment and should keep it off the playing field.
4. Coaches are responsible for following the pitch count rules set forth by the league. First violation is a warning, second is a one game suspension, and third is removal for the season.
5. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of the players on their team and the parents and fans associated with the team. The expectations are that coaches are to assist in the positive administration of the game rules and to show exemplary conduct both on and off the field.
6. Coaches are ambassadors of the league and are expected to follow the rules of conduct and sportsmanship established by the league. Any abuse of the coaching privilege, as determined by the association, may result in an immediate suspension of coaching duties.
7. Coaches are responsible for collecting equipment provided by the league after the final league game and returning it to the appropriate league representative within two weeks of the end of league play.

Personal Conduct and Good Sportsmanship

We strive for our league to provide a positive, safe, and supportive environment for all players, and we encourage all involved to respect their coaches, opponents, officials, and teammates.

Good sportsmanship is required of all players, coaches, parents, and others in attendance at games and practices. At the end of each game, each player and coach will shake hands with the opposing team. Unsportsmanlike or other inappropriate conduct, which may include but is not limited to physically or verbally abusing any player, coach, official, or any other person; arguing with officials; using inappropriate language; or disregarding or attempting to circumvent any rule at any practice or game will constitute a violation of league rules.

Poor sportsmanship by any player, coach, parent, or spectator will not be tolerated.

Unsportsmanlike conduct will be determined at the discretion of the referees and league officials and will be penalized as follows:

- First Occurrence: Warning
- Second Occurrence: Removal from the remainder of the current game and the next game
- Third Occurrence: Ejected for the season

Suspensions or ejections that occur during the regular season may extend into the post-season. Any person suspended or ejected is not allowed to participate in any league activities (practices or games) until reinstated by the league officials. Refunds will not be given for any league activities missed due to suspension or ejection.