

**MSBL**  
**6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 78er and 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Middle School Baseball League Rules**

**Player and Team Eligibility**

Only students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade during the current school year may participate. Some schools are only able to put one team together

If a school is able to put together more than one team, the teams shall be divided as equally as possible amongst their grades. There are not to be any "A" or "B" level teams.

Some schools will end the season at May 6<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> with a little tournament.

Games may be single or double headers for make ups, at the discretion of the scheduling Team Manager/A.D. Our goal is to try and get 6 or 7 innings in a night.

Scheduling and payment of the umpires is a league agreement that 1 umpire will receive \$70 per game.

Games will be held at Meijer Sports Plex, Manhattan Park for some 78ers.

Rescheduling of rain-outs will at the discretion of and coordinated by the schools involved. Field location may also alternate as well based off availability. Umpire will still be paid through MIMSBL. Please get the umpire contact to Juston Miller for payment. To make up games you should try to locate a field now. If you know of an ump that is great as well. The ump will still be paid through the league.

All players must wear a team baseball cap, team jersey and baseball pants. Jewelry is allowed that does not endanger the player, teammates or opponents.

- Metal cleats are allowed except on turf mounds or turf fields.

**Each team will provide one new game ball which they were given at the manager meeting.**

**Game Length**

Start Time is 4:15pm or 6:30pm. The time limit is 6 inning games for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade. 78ers and 8<sup>th</sup> grade is 7 inning games. Time limit is no new inning after 1 hour 30 minutes. There is a drop Dead at 1 hour and 45 mins. If the inning will revert back to last full inning played **unless the umpire believes a team was intentionally slow playing then the game will be ruled by the umpire determination with no appeal.**

Umpires will have final say and be the official time keeper to decide if another inning can be played.

**General Rules**

Player, coach and parent behavior must be exemplary. Coaches must model good sportsmanship at all times. The umpires will be in control of the game and should be respected. No player or parent shall challenge an umpire's decision. Only coaches may talk to the umpire about decisions. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their players. **If one of your parents, players or coaches has to be removed by the umpire, your team will forfeit the game at that point and the game is over.**

Equipment may be inspected at the plate during game play by the umpire after a coach appeal

Coaches and players must be on time and ready to start the games promptly at

scheduled times. Warm up should be completed prior to schedule game time. No Infield/ outfield on the game field. Foul territory to warm up your players.

**Every player will bat throughout the entire game. Batting line up will list all players at game.** Both coaches may agree to deviate from this as circumstances allow (kid friendly rules).

Pitching mound distance: 6<sup>th</sup> grade we prefer 50'x70'. 7<sup>th</sup> 54 Ft. Base distance: 80 Ft. 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be 60'x90' at Meijer Sports Complex. 7<sup>8er</sup> can be a mix of 54x80 and 60x90.

Strike Zone is letters to the knees. Goal is to see hitter swing not walk.

Batter, base runner or player base coach must wear a batting helmet for safety.

**Every player must play.**

Leading off and base stealing is allowed.

**Slide Rule:** Players shall slide at their own risk and can slide feet or head first.

Base runners must not collide with the fielders. Fielder can not make contact with a runner with out the ball. If the runner intentionally collides with a fielder, runners shall be called out.

Teams may start and finish a game with 8 players on the field. If a team has less than 8 players, the game will be forfeited.

**Mercy Rule:** 15 runs after 3 innings, 10 Runs after 4 innings, and 8 runs after 5 innings.

**Balks:** Will be called after one warning is give per team per game. After warning, a balk will be called.

**-10 Bat or less restriction.** The bat does not need to be bb core.

All regular M.H.S.A.A. rules will apply unless otherwise stated. USSSA or USA are acceptable. Bat Rule:

8<sup>th</sup> graders = -3 or – 5

7<sup>th</sup> graders -3 to -8,

6<sup>th</sup> graders -3 to -10.

7<sup>8er</sup> is the same as 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **Pitching**

Pitchers may only pitch 4 innings per game, For double headers, pitchers may not pitch more than 6 innings per day. One pitch counts as an inning pitched.

Pitchers cannot start 2 consecutive games.

Pitchers removed from the mound may re-enter the game in another position or be a pitcher/DH.

## **Substitutions and Batting**

Free substitution is allowed, except for the pitcher. Coaches must agree to the substitutions at the home plate or round robin batting will be used with free defensive substitution.

## **Dropped 3rd Strike**

A batter may attempt to take first base on a dropped 3rd strike only if first base is unoccupied.