

MSBL

Middle School Baseball League Rules

Player and Team Eligibility

Only students in 7th and 8th grade during the current school year may participate. Some schools are only able to put one team together. In the interest of creating fair teams and equal competition, all teams shall consist of only 7th and 8th graders. We will match up play between grades as much as possible.

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.

Games may be single or double headers. Games will be scheduled as two 5inn games, but if both coaches agree you can change this as long as you don't exceed more than 10innings. Our goal is to try and get 10 innings in a night.

Teams will have the option of participating in a single elimination tournament the first weekend of April 30th – May 2nd .

Scheduling and payment of the umpires is a league agreement that 1 umpire will receive \$50 per game. This is included in your registration fee. If you choose to include another umpire the additional umpire can only be compensated by the participating teams if agreed to ahead of time.

Schools that are unable to provide a home field may still participate; however, fees will be assessed accordingly to cover umpire payment and field rentals.

Rescheduling of rain-outs will at the discretion of and coordinated by the schools involved. We will look to use the Saturday of that week to reschedule and Sunday no sooner than noon.

All players must wear a team baseball cap, team jersey and baseball pants. Jewelry is not allowed, for the safety of all players. Metal cleats are allowed.

Home team will supply 2 baseballs to the first game and Away team will supply 2 baseballs to the second game.

Game Start / Length

Game 1 is scheduled to start at 4:15pm.

For 7 inning games the time limit is 1 hour 45 minutes per game. In double headers game one of 5 inning games should not exceed 1 hour 45 minutes. Game two should start within 15 mins of the 1 hour and 45 min mark.

Four innings shall constitute a complete game in the event of bad weather or darkness. If a tie exists after 7 innings, runners will be put on 1st and 2nd with no outs.

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.

All equipment must be in good working condition.

Coaches and players must be on time and ready to start the games promptly at scheduled times. Warm up should be completed prior to scheduled game time. No Infield/ outfield on the game field. However, you can choose to utilize the foul territory to warm up your players. You must be ready to play at the scheduled time.

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: 54 Ft. Base distance: 80 Ft. (exceptions may be made in circumstances where a school only has access to a HS regulation field). They will then play on a 60'6" x 90'

Strike Zone is letters to the knees.

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

Every player must play at least 6 outs in the field.

Leading off and base stealing is allowed.

No head first slides. If done, the runner will be called out.

Base runners must not collide with the fielders. If done, 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.

End of the year tournament is a randomly drawn single elimination; all teams qualify. Teams must use their regular season roster. Can not swap or add players just for the tournament, or once one of your teams has been eliminated from the tournament.

Mercy Rule: 7 inning Game 15 runs after 3, 10 after 5 innings.
5 inning Game 15 runs after 3,

Balks: A warning will be given for the first 3 games. After 3 games, 1 warning will called per team per game. After the warning, a balk will be called.

-10 Bat or less restriction (-8,-5,-3 accepted). Wood, USSSA, and USA bat certified bats are acceptable bats..

All regular M.H.S.A.A. rules will apply unless otherwise stated.

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.

If a pitcher hits 3 batters in one inning, the pitcher must be removed from the mound.

Pitchers removed from the mound may re-enter the game in another position.

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.

Infield Fly Rule

An infield fly that is fair (not including a line drive or an attempted bunt) and can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort , provided the hit is made before two are out and first and second base or all bases are occupied.

When the umpire calls an infield fly the batter is out, but the ball is alive and runners may advance at their own risk.

Dropped 3rd Strike

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