

2022 Berks Youth Baseball League Majors Rules

1. Equipment

- a. Metal spikes are not permitted
- b. Bats- USA Baseball marking or wood bats ONLY

2. Games

- a. All games will be 6 innings.
- b. There is a limit of 6 runs per inning except for last inning. **Note** – If a team has scored 5 runs & puts the ball in play for another couple runs, that play needs to be completed for the inning to end. So if 3 runs score after there was 5 already scored in that inning, then the team is awarded all runs scored during that play, it does not revert back to 6. **Note:** The Umpire has the discretion to announce what he considers the last inning due to darkness
- c. No Time Limit - Umpire has discretion to announce the last inning due to darkness and he has to do it prior to the Top of that inning
 - Although there is no time limit Coaches need to use discretion with relation to darkness & playing on school nights
 - Some Umps may declare a 1hr 45min time limit & want to call the game. Politely let them know our league has no time limit & please thank them for their service & allow them 5 minutes to gather their things & leave the field
 - Place a Volunteer, or the Pitcher's pitching coach, behind the pitching mound to finish the game. It's suggested that each team has a Volunteer call the game from behind their own pitcher so they can perhaps coach the pitcher during the inning
 - If there are multiple games at the same field a time limit will probably need to be implemented. Teams should discuss what the time limit of their game will be prior to beginning
- d. **Mercy Rule:** 15 runs after 4 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings (3-1/2 or 4-1/2 if home team is leading)

(Note: By Mutual agreement of both managers the game may be continued for the entire 6 innings, however the outcome as determined by the ten or fifteen run rule will remain unchanged)

- e. Games are played on 70ft. base paths with a 50ft. pitching rubber – measured from back tip of home plate to the back edge of the base or pitching rubber.

(Please note when playing at Mifflin bases are 75ft and 53ft pitching mound)

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3. Substitutions and Lineup

- a. Bat your entire lineup, free substitutions in the field. All players must bat & play defense.

4. Base Running

- a. A courtesy runner should be inserted for the pitcher or catcher with two outs to speed up the game. The substitute runner must be the player on the roster that made the last out in the inning.
- b. There shall be a lead line 8 feet from the inside edge of the base. Runners may cross the lead line after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand (leave on release.) Leaving early will result in no pitch being called. After one team warning for leaving early, any subsequent violation on that team will result in the runner being called out.
- c. Head first sliding is an automatic out unless returning from a lead or returning to the base after overrunning the base.
- d. Stealing of all bases, including home, is permitted.
- e. The infield fly rule is in effect. Less than 2 outs with 1st & 2nd or 1st, 2nd & 3rd base occupied.
- f. Batters may attempt first base on a dropped third strike if first base is unoccupied or with 2 outs. Other runners may advance at their own risk. A runner on 1st base stealing does NOT open 1st base. 1st base is considered occupied in this case.
- g. The base runner must slide or avoid contact if there is a potential play at a base or home plate. If, at the umpire's discretion, the runner did not attempt to avoid contact, the runner will be called out.

5. Pitching

- a. Pitchers are allowed 85 pitches maximum per game
- b. No intentional curve balls. The judgment of the umpire will be based on the breaking of the wrist during the release of the ball. An illegal pitch will be called, and the pitch is a ball in the count. Changeups and knuckle balls are allowed.
- c. Once a pitcher has been removed he/she may not re-enter the same game as a pitcher.
- d. No Balks will be called
 - Runners picked off while a Pitcher balks is not an out, despite what the Ump calls. Both Coaches should support fair play
 - If a Pitcher balks on a steal the Runner should be awarded the base they were stealing, despite what the Ump may see & call.

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Again both Coaches should support fair play & use these instances as teaching opportunities

- e. If a pitcher hits 3 kids in one inning pitcher will need to be removed from pitching the rest of game
- f. A pitcher must be replaced during the second Coach visit to the mound in the same inning.
- g. The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her pitch count, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Regulation for his league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: 1. The batter reaches base; 2. That batter is put out; 3. The third out is made to complete the half-inning. **Note 1: A pitcher who delivers 50 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day. Note 2: Any player who has played the position of catcher in three or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day**

h. One thrown pitch in an inning constitutes an inning pitched

i. Pitchers must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 51-65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 36-50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 21-35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar days of rest is required.
 - **1 days rest refers to 1 whole calendar day of rest.** Example: If a player throws 66, or more, pitches on Monday, that pitcher is not available to pitch again until Saturday. 42 pitches on Monday & a Player is next eligible to pitch Thursday. A Player who pitches 20 or less can pitch again that day, in another game, or the very next day.

j. A Pitch Count Recorder shall be declared by both teams, prior to the game beginning, and keep track of all pitch counts for all pitchers during the game. The official pitch count recorder should inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted above. The

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umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed. However, the failure by the pitch count recorder to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in-chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.

- Pitch count recorders are encouraged to match up in between each inning.
 - In the event of a discrepancy, the Home Team's Pitch Count Recorder's record shall prevail
 - The pitch count recorder must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager is responsible for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed.
- k. Intentional walks will be permitted. The Pitcher does not have to throw the 4 pitches. When the batter addresses the plate, the Coach should call time & let the Ump & opposing Coach know that he wants to intentionally walk the batter.

6. Hitting

- a. Free bunting is permitted. Once a batter shows bunt, the batter may not attempt a normal swing at the pitch or they will be called out.
- b. Throwing of the bat is not permitted. Teams will be warned once, and subsequent violations will result in the player being called out and possibly ejected from the game.
- c. Dropped Third Strike Rule is in effect. By rule when there are 2 outs or 1st base is unoccupied the dropped 3rd strike is in play. A runner on 1st base stealing on the same play as the dropped 3rd strike does NOT free up 1st base. 1st base is still considered occupied in this case.

7. Playoffs 2022

Playoffs will be single elimination. Every Majors Division team will make the playoffs. Some teams may observe a Bye in the 1st round. The Championship game will be played at MTAA.

8. Rosters

- a. Rosters will be comprised of players who reside in the league's district boundaries & are a maximum of 12 years old as of April 30th.

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- b. Teams must use only the players on their roster for league games within BYBL.
 - Exception. Regular Season prior to the Roster Deadline. If a Majors team is shorthanded and will have only 9 or less players, they may utilize players from other teams within their Organization, including other Majors teams, to reach a 10 player roster. Including, but not limited to, Diamond Team, Jr.Diamond team, Majors & Minors divisions teams. These players do not need to be on the roster as long as this occurs prior to the Roster Deadline.
- c. Diamond, School & Travel players are allowed to play on an in-house roster, during the regular season as well, & must play 2 regular season games to be eligible for the Final Playoff Roster.
 - These players also have to adhere to the following:
 - Must be age eligible & live within the School District boundaries for their respective Organizations
 - Must be covered by the Organization's insurance policy
 - Adhere to the Roster & Final Playoff Roster requirements
 - Do NOT need to pay the in-house fee
 - The SPIRIT of this rule is for in-house teams to be able to pool players in order to field a team, in the event of player shortages or #s issues an Organization may face.
 - Also to Facilitate a Player who desires to play both Diamond, School or Travel, as well as in-house baseball
 - The SPIRIT of this rule is NOT to bring in a 'ringer(s)' for the playoffs to try & win the league championship
- d. **Final Playoff Roster Deadline: Noon Sunday May 15th**. Several weeks before the playoffs are to begin, all Majors BYBL teams will submit their final roster to the league. Only players on their Majors Team roster will be allowed to play in games after the final playoff roster deadline, no exceptions.
- e. No Double Rostered players allowed: Players can only appear on 1 final BYBL roster after the Final Playoff Roster Deadline has occurred. Players playing for multiple teams in the Majors division after the Roster Deadline will be ruled ineligible and will be required to play with the 1st team they played with after the Roster Deadline.
 - Note Double Rostered players do NOT refer to players that play on a Diamond, School or Travel roster. As discussed above these players are eligible. Double Rostered players refers to players not allowed to be on 2 BYBL teams' roster in the same Division
- f. Rosters can consist of a maximum of 16 players at the Roster Deadline date

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9. Umpires: Umpire Fees will be split by the competing teams

10. Balls: Home teams will provide balls