

NORTH EDISON

BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Rules and Regulations

Majors Spring Ball Baseball Rules

A. Game Setup:

- a. **Field Dimensions:** Bases will be placed 70 feet apart. Pitching rubber is at 50 feet.
- b. **Defense:** Nine players will be positioned in the field on defense.
- c. **Inning Limit:** 3 outs per half-inning. No maximum runs per inning.
- d. **Game length:** 6 innings
 - i. Official Game: 4 innings (3 ½ if home team is leading).
 - ii. Tie-breaker: if tied after 6, play continues until time expires.
 - iii. Mercy Rule: 10 runs after 4 innings (3 ½ innings if home team is leading)
- e. **Time Limit:** No new inning after 1:50
 - i. Note: The new inning starts the moment the 3rd out is recorded at the bottom of the previous inning. There is no "hard kill" time.
- f. **Umpire:** One Federated (carded) and one Cadet umpire is used at this level.
- g. **Coaching:** No defensive coaches are allowed on the field. All coaches must remain behind the dugout fence. Offensive coaches are allowed in the 1st and 3rd base coaches boxes.
- h. **Sportsmanship:** No arguing of balls and strikes is permitted. No heckling pitchers or batters (chanting, fence shaking, or loud outbursts during the windup) is allowed. Umpires may warn or eject the head coach for team or spectator behavior.

B. Pitching Rules & Safety:

- a. **Pitcher Limits:** (See Roadmap for limits).
 - i. One pitch thrown = 1 inning counted on the record.
 - ii. **Rest Requirements:**
 1. Pitch 1+ inning: 1 calendar day of rest.
 2. Pitch 2+ innings: 2 calendar days of rest.
 3. Consecutive Days: No player may pitch more than two days in a row, regardless of inning count.
- b. **Curveball Ban:** Pitchers may not deliberately throw curveballs (defined by significant downward or sideways break via spin).
 - i. **Penalty:** Umpire calls the pitch a "Dead Ball." 3 charges in a game results in removal as a pitcher.
 - ii. Hit Batters: Any pitcher who hits 2 batters in a single game must be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of that game.
- c. **Balks:** Umpires will provide warnings and instruction to correct the cause. Pitchers receive 2 warnings before a balk is enforced.
- d. **Re-entry:** Any pitcher removed at the manager's discretion is **not** eligible to return to the mound later in that game.
- e. **Penalty:** Violation of rest or inning requirements results in an **automatic game forfeit.**
- f. **Mound Visits:** A team is permitted one (1) free defensive conference per inning, per pitcher. On the second (2nd) defensive conference to the same pitcher in the same inning, that pitcher must be removed from the mound.



- i. Note: A defensive conference is defined as any meeting between a coach/non-playing representative and any defensive player(s). If a pitcher is removed, the "visit count" resets for the new pitcher.

C. Base Running & Enforcement:

- a. **Leading & Stealing:** Leading is allowed. Stealing is unlimited and includes stealing of Home.
- b. **Dropped Third Strike:** This rule is enforced at this level (the batter may attempt to run to 1st if the catcher drops strike three with 1st base open or 2 outs).
- c. **Infield Fly Rule:** This rule is in effect.
- d. **Pinch Runners:**
 - i. Allowed for injured players (last batted out).
 - ii. Catcher Speed-up: With 2 outs, a pinch runner (last batted out) may be used for the catcher of the next defensive inning.
- e. **Overthrows:** Runners advance freely at their own risk.

D. General Safety & Restrictions:

- a. **Sliding Rules:**
 - i. **MUST SLIDE OR AVOID CONTACT:** Runners must slide or avoid contact if a play is being made at a base. Deliberate contact results in ejection.
 - ii. **No Headfirst Slides:** Only permitted when returning to a base.
 - iii. **Equipment:** Maximum bat diameter is 2 5/8" inches, bats must be marked with a USA Bat stamp. No metal spikes.
 - iv. **Illegal Bat Penalty:** If an illegal bat is discovered before the next pitch to a batter of either team, the batter is out, and runners return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

E. Developmental Roadmap Dates:

Effective Date:	Max Innings per Outing	Max Innings Per Week	Pitching Distance
April 11 (Start)	3 Innings	4 Innings	46 ft
April 25	3 Innings	5 Innings	46 ft
May 9 (Final)	3 Innings	6 Innings	46 ft