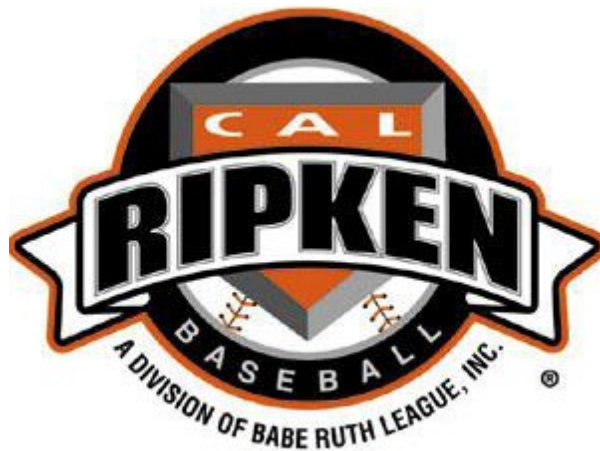


Marlborough Youth Baseball Association

2025 Playing Rules

(APPROVED – February, 2025)



Minors Summer League
www.myba.org

PLAYING RULES

MYBA Local Rules supersede Cal Ripken Rules.

Cal Ripken Rules supersede "Official Baseball Rules".

- "Cal Ripken Baseball Division – Special Base Running Rule"
- "Cal Ripken Division – Local League and Tournament Play Special Rules and Regulations"
- "Official Baseball Rules Not Applicable to the Cal Ripken Division"

Remaining interpretations are based on the "Official Baseball Rules"

LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

1. Beginning a Game: All summer league games should be played if possible with the number of registered players that are present (minimum of 8 per team). As standings and scores are not the focus, teams may share/rotate players to facilitate game play (meaning if one team has 12 players and one team has 7 the team with 12 may send two players to the other team OR rotate players in the field so that the game can be played).. ALL PLAYERS PARTICIPATING MUST BE A REGISTERED MEMBER OF THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNING LEAGUE AND FIT WITHIN THE GIVEN AGE GUIDELINES (Minor League Cal Ripken Ages 7-9, Major League Cal Ripken Ages 10-12). A team in the major league may call up a 9 year old to play subject to that player being registered (see above).
2. Time Limit. No **new** inning may be started later than 1 hour and 45 minutes after the start time subject to the following conditions.
 - If the umpire is on the field at the scheduled start time, the 1:45 time limit will be as of the scheduled start time.
 - If the umpire is not on the field at the scheduled start time, the 1:45 time limit will be as of the time of the first pitch.
3. Substitution Rule. Free substitution at all times.
4. Batting Order. Fixed complete roster batting order. Late arrivals are placed at the bottom of the order.
5. Minimum Play Rule. All players have the right to play for a fair and reasonable amount of time during the regular season of play. Therefore, no player (in a single game) shall ever sit two innings in a row AND no player shall sit for a 2nd inning until ALL players have sat for at least 1 inning. This rule shall continue exponentially; i.e. no player shall sit for 3 innings in a game until all players have sat for 2 innings that game, etc. Innings that the player is absent (late arrival, early departure) may count towards the players minimum innings of sitting.
6. No Slashing. Players may not show bunt during the pitch to draw fielders in and then swing away at the ball. The pitcher does not need to be in his windup for this to be valid. The first offense is an out; a repeat offense will result in ejection from the game.
7. No Head First Slides. A running head first slide is not allowed, regardless if you are advancing to a base or returning to a base. Infraction of this rule is an automatic "out" of the

player involved. If taking a lead, a player may dive back. However, this dive may be ruled a head-first slide if, in the umpire's judgment, a slide occurs.

8. Contact Rule: All runners shall **slide or avoid contact** on all tag plays or force plays.
Penalty: Runner is out.
 - a. There shall be no penalty for incidental contact. (umpire's discretion)
 - b. There shall be no penalty if there is no contact.
 - c. Runner will be ejected if the umpire rules the contact was malicious or with intent to dislodge the ball.
9. Base Running Clarification. When all runners have stopped their advance (**even if they continue to bounce around**), the pitcher is in possession of the ball and is in contact with the rubber, all runners must return to their respective bases. Note: As long as any runner continues his **advance (moving towards the next base)** the play is alive and runners do not have to return. It shall be the umpire's judgment whether or not the runners have stopped their advance.

Pitching (Rules 10 -16)

10. Innings Per Game – A pitcher may pitch a maximum of 2 innings per game
11. A Single Pitch Constitutes an Inning: A player is charged with an inning pitched when one pitch is thrown to a batter (warm up pitches do not constitute an inning pitched).
12. Removal by Rule: A second trip to a pitcher during the same inning must result in player removal as pitcher. Injury trips do not count.
13. Re-appearance: Pitchers removed from the mound may not pitch again in the same game.
14. Hit Batters Rule: Any pitcher who hits 3 batters in one inning OR 4 batters in a game must be removed from pitching by rule.
15. No Intentional Walks: If an umpire suspects an intentional walk has begun he shall rule the pitch a “no pitch” and give the manager and player a warning. If the intentional walk continues, all pitches shall be disallowed, the pitcher shall be removed from the mound and the manager ejected from the game.
16. No Breaking Balls: Curve Balls and Sliders are not allowed.
 - a. The first offense will result in a warning from the umpire and the pitch will be called “No Pitch”
 - b. Second Offense Pitcher is removed from mound for the rest of the game and the pitch will be called “No Pitch”
17. Maximum Runs per Inning - 5 Run Rule: There will be a maximum of 5 runs allowed in any one inning

ADDITIONAL MINOR LEAGUE RULES

18. Batter/Runner Cannot Steal on Walk (MINORS ONLY): The batter/runner is limited to 1st base on a walk. Other base runners may advance at their own peril subject to standard Cal Ripken baserunning rules.
19. No Stealing Home (MINORS ONLY): Runners may not steal home or advance to home on a wild pitch or passed ball. Runners may only score on a batted ball or when forced in on a walk/HBP.
20. Pickoff Rule (MINORS ONLY): Base runners without the possibility to advance are **not** at risk of being picked off. Runners on third cannot be picked off, because they are not allowed to advance to home except by batted ball or force. When third is occupied, a runner cannot be picked of at second or third, and when second and third are occupied no runners can be picked off. **Coaches should make every attempt to keep runners from leading off 3rd base to keep games moving as runner cannot advance or be put out.**
21. Walk Rule (MINORS ONLY): We will be using the “No Walk” rule to encourage hitting and ease the younger kids into batting against a live pitcher. If a pitcher manages to walk a batter at the plate, the batting team coach will take over the mound to continue pitching to the batter; the strike count will remain the same. The coach will continue to pitch to the batter until the batter either strikes out by swing or the ball enters play. For the 2nd half of the summer ball season, we will go back to normal Cal Ripken / MYBA rules attached with regards to walks.