

MIDWEST OHIO BASEBALL LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

14 YEAR OLD DIVISION

1. All league play shall be governed by **Ohio High School Baseball Rules**. ONLY those exceptions specifically listed herein shall be applicable.
2. Players may not have their fifteenth **birthday** prior to May 1 of the current year. No player is eligible to play unless his properly signed MWOBL contract and birth certificate have been validated by the league at least 24 hours prior to said player playing in his first game. Each team is limited to a maximum of 21 players. No player may be added to the roster after June 1 each year.
3. (A) There shall be a 15 minute **grace period** for a late start. (B) The team that was on time shall notify the age level coordinator of the infraction. (C) This grace period shall only be afforded twice during a season, after which the on time team may elect a forfeit. (D) If a team shows after the 15 minute grace period of it is their third or more infraction, the on time team may elect a forfeit win. However, if they choose to play the game, it shall be official and the grace period violation is waived in that instance only. A minimum of 8 players is required to begin a game.
4. If the **umpire fails to show** by at least 15 minutes after the scheduled game time, manager may elect any of the following: (A) Mutually agree to cancel the game (B) Mutually agree upon an extended length of time to delay the game before cancellation or the following alternatives are instituted. (C) Appoint a mutually agreed upon individual to call the game or portion thereof (i.e.: until the assigned umpire shows)
(A) Where a replacement umpire is agreed upon prior to the start of the game, that game shall be official. (B) Where the game is cancelled due to umpire no-show, there shall be no penalty to either team providing the host team did schedule an umpire. (1) If it can be proven the host team failed to schedule an umpire and the game is cancelled, they shall forfeit that game.
5. **PAYMENT OF UMPIRES:** The host team shall pay any and all umpire and umpire assignor fees. Umpires fees are payable in a form acceptable to the umpire, at the pre-game meeting or as arranged with the umpire. Two qualified and MWOBL approved umpires (approved list is available on the website) is mandatory
6. (A) Either the general or field manager may be designated by the team's league member as the **responsible party for determining the start of a game due to inclement weather or darkness**. Until the game is started, the umpire shall have no authority in this matter. Only the home team can call a game due to weather prior to the first pitch. Umpires fees may be due according to the host team's umpire agreement (such as a show-up fee), or may be fully or in part payable by the host team only, if the game is cancelled prior to its start. (B) No game shall be started or commenced where lightning is present or there is a tornado warning (As distinguished from a watch). Once the game is started, the umpire in chief alone shall be responsible for such determinations. Except in an instance of malicious intent by an umpire, a coach pulling his team off the field due to such conditions shall forfeit that game, even when using sound judgment.

7. A **pre-game umpires/coaches meeting** shall be conducted prior to the start of every game in order to inform the visitors of all ground rules and to properly educate the umpire of all league specific playing rules. **No host team playing another MWOBL team may vary from league application of rules simply because the game is being played at their site.** Any variance from league rules must be agreed upon by team managers. Teams may agree to alter the rules under which they are playing a specific game, but only by mutual agreement and only for that game. At this meeting, coaches are to trade information about who is eligible to pitch that game.
8. N.O.C.S.A.E. approved batting helmets shall be worn by all batters, base runners, and on deck batters. Player/Catchers must wear, at minimum, standard protective gear including protective helmet, mask, chest protector, shin guards and protective cup. Player/Bullpen catchers must at least wear protective mask (Full equipment is preferred and strongly encouraged by the league.)
9. The last several years have resulted in many complaints about coaches using unacceptable balls, limited flight balls etc. Therefore, the following balls are authorized for play: Rawlings LL, Diamond DOL-II, Wilson A1074 or any ball rated for higher level play than those listed above.
10. Base runners must **avoid violent or malicious contact** during league play. (For interpretation, this means high spiking, or the use of body parts for the purpose of dislodging the ball or causing bodily harm.)
11. If a game is called due to **inclement weather or darkness**, it shall be final if official (4 completed innings). If it is not yet official, it shall be picked up at a point of suspension prior to the start of the next scheduled game between the two teams or at a time agreed upon by the managers and played to completion or the run rule. Teams shall share all expense incurred for this make-up portion of the game including, likely, full umpire expense. If the completing of this game would not impact league standing, it need not be completed. In addition, the losing manager may elect a loss and the game need not be completed. However, if a game would impact league standings and thus post season tournament opportunities, the game must be completed or the manager refusing completion shall be suspended for a portion of the next season at the discretion of the President.
 - a. Rescheduling / Forfeits, etc.
 - i. Once scheduled, if a game is cancelled here are the procedures:
 1. Coaches can jointly agree on a date or...
 2. The opposing coach provides 3 optional dates to reschedule.
 3. These dates must be shown as available to the opponent's schedule.
 4. No Mondays are allowed following tournament play.

5. The canceling team must accept one of the proposed dates or forfeit.
 6. Forfeits will be a (-2) points.
 7. Make sure you include all tournaments and non-league games on your website schedule. Also, update any changes.
12. It shall be the responsibility of the winning manager or his/her appointee to **submit the score and pitching record into the website within 48 hours of game time.** This is a direct report via the website. Teams shall receive one point for a win, ½ point for a ties and 0 points for a loss or unreported win. Forfeits will be a (-2) points. Losing teams are responsible to review those entries and report errors to their age level coordinator.
 13. **Standings** tie breaking procedure shall be determined in the following sequence: (1) head to head competition within your division or league (2) Record against the next higher team in league standings. (3) Record against the next lower team in league standings. (4) A one game playoff at a neutral site sharing expenses. To be declared league champion, teams must have completed a minimum of 90% of its scheduled league games.
 14. Any player or coach ejected from a game will also be ineligible for the next game. Also both teams must report the incident to the age level coordinator by completing the “Ejection Form” from the website.
 15. Formal complaints must be filed with the league via the Issue Resolution Form on the website.
 16. A trip to the mound will be charged once the coach crosses the foul line to talk to the pitcher or any other fielder. Two trips per inning (per pitcher) mean the pitcher must be removed from the game.

Age Specific Rules:

17. (A) Games shall be **7 innings in duration.** (Innings necessary to break a tie are permitted) (B) A twelve run rule shall apply after the losing team has batted both an equal number of times as the winning team and at least 5 times.
18. A continuous batting order will be used. All players in uniform will be in the batting order. An injured player or a player being disciplined may be withheld from the batting order as long as the coach reports this to the opposing coach prior to the game’s start. In a continuous batting order, the spot occupied by an ejected player is an automatic out for the rest of the game. Free substitution shall be used defensively, except for the pitcher. Once a pitcher is removed from the pitching position, he shall not return to the pitching position in that game.

19. Pitching distance shall be 60'6" and the base distance shall be 90' unless agreed upon by the managers. Pitching limitations and rules are under pitching rules on the website.
20. **Metal Spikes** shall be permitted at this age level.
21. There are no glove or bat length, barrel diameter or length/weight differential limitations.