



Twinsburg Baseball League, Inc.

Majors Handbook

Updated: 2010 Season





Major Division

GENERAL RULES

1. Where not covered by specific Twinsburg Baseball League Inc. amendments, Official Baseball Rules will apply.
2. The "playing age" of a player is determined by the age he will be on August 31st of the present year.
3. The home team will prepare the field for play and will practice 30 minutes before the game. The visitors will practice 15 minutes before the game and will put the bases away at the end of the game. Both teams will clean their respective areas and share in the cleaning of common areas after the game.
4. Nine (9) defensive players will play the field at any one time.
5. Teams will bat all players on their roster in a predetermined order, a copy of which will be provided to the opposing team. Late arrivals will be placed at the bottom of the order.
6. In the event a player is ejected, any subsequent turns at bat for the player will be considered an out.
7. There is **NO Run Limit**.
8. Free and unlimited substitutions of defensive players are permitted except for pitchers. A pitcher removed from the mound, but not the game, can return to the mound in the game, once, but not in the same inning.
9. When a player is injured, another player may replace him. An injured player may return to the game without penalty when recovered, but only in his original position in the batting order.
10. A mercy rule will apply. If the losing team is behind by 15 or more runs after the fourth inning, or 10 or more runs after the fifth inning, the game is over.

THE PLAYING FIELD

1. The infield shall be an 80-foot square
2. The distance between the front side of the pitcher's plate and home base (the rear point of home plate) shall be 54 feet.



PITCHING

1. A player may pitch in a maximum of nine (9) innings in a calendar week, Sunday through Saturday (LLB Section VI - Junior League).
2. If a player pitches in less than five (5) innings, one (1) calendar day of rest is mandatory. If a player pitches in five (5) or more innings, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed (LLB Section VI - Junior League).
3. Pitcher may pitch 5 complete innings in a game.

EXAMPLE

If a player pitched in five (5) or more innings on (Column A), and is still eligible, that player may pitch again on (Column B):

Column A	Column B
Sunday	Thursday
Monday	Friday
Tuesday	Saturday
Wednesday	Sunday
Thursday	Monday
Friday	Tuesday
Saturday	Wednesday

3. Delivery of a single pitch constitutes having pitched in an inning.
4. A pitcher may not pitch on consecutive days.
5. Each pitcher may receive no more than two balk warnings. Following the second balk, any subsequent balks by a pitcher will be enforced as defined in the Official Baseball Rules.
 - a. Information on the Balk rule may be located in the following sections:
 - i. OBR 5.09(c)
 - ii. OBR 7.04
 - iii. OBR 7.07
 - iv. OBR 8.05



BASE RUNNING

1. A runner may take leadoff at any base at his own risk.
2. Runners may tag up at their own risk on any fair or foul ball that is caught.
3. A runner is out when the runner slides head first while advancing.
4. Runners who turn toward second base after crossing first base cannot be tagged out unless, in the umpire's judgment they show "intent" to reach second base.
5. In the event of an injury, a courtesy runner will be permitted. That runner will be the last player who was called out.
6. The infield fly rule will apply.
7. [CVBA Rule 15] A runner must slide, or give up, or attempt to avoid being tagged while a play is being made on him. No runner will initiate any contact with another player. **PENALTY:** The runner is out, and if in the judgement of the umpire such contact is deemed to be flagrant, the offending player will be ejected.

On a force play, the runner shall slide on the ground in a direct line between the two bases, or away from the fielder, to avoid making contact with, or altering the play of, the fielder. **PENALTY:** With less than two outs, the runner is declared out as well as the batter-runner. Runners shall be returned to the bases they occupied at the time of the pitch. With two outs, the runner shall be declared out and the batter-runner credited with a fielder's choice. Violations result in outs; flagrant violations will result in ejection.

BASE COACHES

1. The offensive team shall station two base coaches on the field during its time at bat, one near first base and one near third base. Base coaches shall be eligible players in the uniform of their team, or one (1) adult manager or coach. (LLB rule 4.05).
2. All Base Coaches shall:
 - a. Remain within the base coaches' boxes at all times, except when necessary to provide space for a defensive player to make a play on a batted or thrown ball
 - b. Talk to members of their own team only
 - c. An offending coach shall be removed from the base coach's box.



GAMES TIMES AND DURATION

1. All games are scheduled for seven (7) innings, and will begin within ten (10) minutes of scheduled starting times unless waiting for completion of an earlier game or clearing of inclement weather. However, no new inning may be started after two hours from the actual starting time, which should be noted by the umpire and announced to both head coaches at the completion of the ground rules discussion. In the event of a tie, extra innings may be played as the time limit allows.
2. A game that is stopped for any reason with less than three and one half (3 ½) innings completed will be a suspended game and will be resumed at a later date from the point at which it was stopped.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

1. Complete and proper equipment (by position) must be worn at all times. All male players should wear athletic supporters. Male catchers must wear cups, females appropriate chest protection.
2. Metal cleats are not permitted.
3. All bats will comply with **either** the current season Little League Baseball standard for non-wood bats, **or** the current season National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) standard for non-wood bats.
 - a. Little League Baseball Standard
 - i. Bats may not exceed 2 and ¼ inches in diameter and may not exceed 33 inches in length (this is the same standard used by the TBL Junior and Minor divisions).
 - ii. The Little League Baseball Statement on Non-Wood Bats may be found at www.littleleague.org/news/bats.htm
 - iii. Little League Baseball provides a manufacturers listing of currently approved, non-wood bats at www.littleleague.org/equipment/bats_nonwood.htm
 - b. National Federation of State High School Associations Standard
 - i. Bats may not exceed 2 and 5/8 inches in diameter, and the unit differential, namely the difference between bat length measured in inches and bat weight measured in ounces, may not exceed 3 units.
 - ii. The NFHS statement on Bat Rules may be found at:
 1. www.nfhs.org/sports/batrule_info.htm
 2. www.nfhs.org/press/baseball_ratio.htm
 - c. Wood bats are not permitted



4. All offensive players must wear batting helmets while outside the dugout. Runners who intentionally remove their helmets while on base paths will be called out.
5. All players will wear complete uniforms as issued by the league including baseball pants. No shorts will be permitted. All on-field coaches must also be in uniform.

UMPIRES

1. The decision of the umpire is final. Any umpire's decision which involves judgment, such as, but not limited to, whether a batted ball is fair or foul, whether a pitch is a strike or a ball, or whether a runner is safe or out, is final. No player, manager, coach or substitute shall object to any such judgment decisions (OBR 9.02)
2. Only a head coach or designated speaking coach may discuss plays with the umpire. The "designated speaking coach" shall be the team's representative during the pre-game conference with the umpiring crew.
3. In the event of an injury the umpire is to **immediately** call time. Any game related injury **must** be reported within 24 hours of the occurrence. Injury forms can be obtained at the concession stand.

COACH, PLAYER, AND SPECTATOR CONDUCT

1. (OBR 4.06) No manager, player, substitute, coach, trainer or batboy shall at any time, whether from the bench, the coach's box or on the playing field, or elsewhere :
 - a. Incite, or try to incite, by word or sign a demonstration by spectators;
 - b. Use language which will in any manner refer to or reflect upon opposing players, an umpire, or any spectator;
 - c. Call "Time," or employ any other word or phrase or commit any act while the ball is alive and in play for the obvious purpose of trying to make the pitcher commit a balk;
 - d. Make intentional contact with the umpire in any manner;
 - e. Take a position in the batter's line of vision, and with deliberate unsportsmanlike intent, act in a manner to distract the batter.

PENALTY: The offender shall be removed from the game and shall leave the playing field, and, if a balk is made, it shall be nullified.



2. No coach or staff member will appear at any game or practice under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance. Smoking is prohibited on the playing field and in the bench area. Coaches are not to leave the field or the bench area for the purpose of smoking during a game or practice.
3. All players must remain inside their respective dugouts unless fielding or batting. A warning will be issued for the first offense. An out will be assessed for any further offenses. If an out is assessed against the offensive team, and it is the third out, the current batter will leadoff his team's next turn at bat. If an out(s) is assessed against the defensive team, the out (s) will be applied to their next turn at bat.

EXCEPTION - A batter may be "on deck" only when accompanied by a manager, other adult coach, or parent who may assist. Only one batter may be "on deck" at a time. A batter may not be "on deck" directly behind the backstop. It will be the responsibility of the adult accompanying the batter to ensure the batter is not presenting a safety risk to others, and that the batter is sufficiently clear of the playing field so as not to be at risk of injury from a batted/thrown ball.

EXCEPTION - A pitcher may warm-up prior to entrance into a game only when accompanied by a manager, other adult coach, or parent who may assist. Only one pitcher may warm-up at a time. It will be the responsibility of the adult accompanying the pitcher to ensure the pitcher is not presenting a safety risk to others, and that the pitcher is sufficiently clear of the playing field so as not to be at risk of injury from a batted/thrown ball.

4. Other than as defined in the BASE COACHES section of these rules, and the two exceptions noted in (3) above, all coaches are to remain in the dugout. A warning will be issued for the first offense. An ejection will be issued for any further offenses.
5. There will be no throwing of equipment such as helmets and bats. **It will be in the umpires judgement to issue a warning and an out or an ejection for any infraction.** If the third out has been completed, the out will be applied to the next inning. For the second offense, an out and ejection of thrower. For unintentional slipping of a bat, there will be a warning to both player and coach for first offense and an out assessed for subsequent offenses.



EJECTIONS

1. Any player or coach who is ejected from a game by an umpire is automatically suspended from the next game played, **including play-off, championship and tournament games.** There is no appeal.
2. Anyone who is ejected from a game must immediately leave the area in a sportsmanlike manner before play will resume. If no other assistant is available, the umpire may designate a parent as head coach to resume play.
3. Umpires will report all ejection's to the Head Umpire who will in turn notify the division commissioner, Officers and Trustees of the League.
4. Anyone ejected from two (2) games during a season must meet with the Officers and Trustees of the League who may consider suspending the individual for the remainder of the season.
5. See Article XX of the Amended Articles of Incorporation of the Twinsburg Baseball League Inc.

PROTESTS

1. No protest will be heard except for violations of the Pitching rules defined herein.
2. Only the head coach or acting head coach may file protest.
3. Protests shall be made as follows:
 - a. The protesting head coach shall immediately, and before any succeeding play begins, notify the umpire that his team is playing the game under protest.
 - b. Within 48 hours, a formal protest must be submitted in writing to the Head Umpire, who will evaluate the validity of the protest and submit it to the Officers and Trustees of the League.
 - c. The written protest must be accompanied by a Twenty-five dollar (\$25) cash deposit to be considered valid. The deposit will be returned only if the protest is upheld.
 - d. All valid protests will receive a hearing with the division commissioner, the Head Umpire and the Officers and Trustees of the League.