



## Minors League Playing Rules

(rev. 03-12-2025)

Any problem with the interpretation of a rule shall be governed by the original intent of the Board of Directors. Minor League rosters will consist of players who are 8-9-years-old as of April 30<sup>th</sup>, of that year.

1. The batting order will consist of the entire roster of players present at the game. Players will bat regardless of whether they are playing defensively. If a player is injured and a substitute runner is required, the last batter out will be the substitute runner.
2. If a team does not have nine players, they can play the game with 8 players.

a) If a team does not have eight players or cannot field a team for any reason by fifteen minutes after the scheduled starting time of the game, they will forfeit the game. While the game is forfeited, we strongly encourage the teams to scrimmage during this allocated game time.

b) If a team has only eight players and a player is ejected from the game, they forfeit the game.

c) If a team has only nine players and a player is lost to injury, the team may continue to play with eight players. Less than eight players, regardless of the circumstances, the team will forfeit the game.

3. Free substitutions are allowed as long as players meet their minimum play requirement. Because Minor League games are often shortened and ended before six innings have been completed, all players must be substituted into the game to play defensively for two innings (six consecutive outs) by the end of the fourth inning. The purpose of this rule is to provide fairly even playing time for all players in a shortened game - so no player plays three innings in a four-inning game when another player plays only one. Re-entry is permitted freely, and all players must play defensively for three innings in a six-inning game.

4. A starting line-up shall be presented to the opposing manager or his assistant before the start of the game. It shall contain the names of all players and the positions of the starters. All substitutions must be announced to the opposing manager before they enter the game.

### 5. PITCHING RULES

a) Pitching logs will be kept by the managers and will be available at the games.

b) The regular season pitching rules will be used for the playoffs, including between the end of the regular season and the start of the playoffs. This includes the rest rule.

c) Refer to section 13 of the General Rules for innings pitched information and rest

	<b>Minors League Playing Rules</b> (rev. 03-12-2025)
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rules.

d) There will be no intentional walks.

e) The only pitches allowed are knuckleball, fastball, change up, side arm and submarine ball.

f) If a pitcher throws a trick pitch (i.e. curve, slider, etc.), the pitcher will have an automatic ball called against him. One trick pitch constitutes a warning from the plate umpire, if the pitcher throws another one the umpire must remove the player from the mound as a pitcher only.

g) An 8-year-old pitcher is allowed to pitch from a nail-down mound approximately 42 feet from home plate. Coaches are responsible for installing and removing the nail-down mound, as appropriate for the pitcher. Usage of nail-down mound must be declared to the umpire and approved. It is discouraged to change in-between 8- and 9-year-old pitchers during an inning, in the spirit of pace-of-play.

6. Game score, including runs scored by both teams, the number of innings played, and the pitching log for both teams will be submitted by the winning manager to the league V.P., opposing manager, and communications officer within 24 hours of game completion. Failure to do so could result in a forfeit.

7. No new inning may begin after 8 pm on weeknights and after two hours on weekends.

8. There is a limit of 5 runs per team each inning, regardless of the number of outs. This will apply to all innings played.

9. Bunting is allowed. "Slash bunting" is not allowed (e.g., square to bunt, pull back and swing) for safety reasons. Determination of whether a slash bunt occurred is at the sole discretion of the umpire, the batter will be called out if the umpire determines a slash bunt has occurred.

10. The infield fly rule is in effect.

11. Baserunners may not advance or steal base before the pitched ball has reached home plate or when the pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's plate (rubber) and is in possession of the ball. Once the catcher has secured the ball and the runner has stopped his forward progress, the runner must immediately

return to the base.

a) Teams can steal home 2 times per inning. An attempt to steal home is defined by the runner's advancement past the designated "line of commit."

b) Double stealing will be allowed in Minor League as defined as a player may steal second (for the exception of a walk) at the same time another player is stealing third.

c) Double stealing of two or more bases by a single runner is NOT allowed.

	<b>Minors League Playing Rules</b> (rev. 03-12-2025)
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d) A base runner may only steal one base per pitch, so there must be another pitched ball before a player can advance a second base by stealing

e) There can be no further advancement on an overthrow to a base in an attempt to get the runner out.

f) For a runner to score they must be forced home by a bases loaded walk or hit batsman or by a play that began with a batted ball.

g) The team that is leading by 10 or more runs may no longer steal while ahead by 10 or more runs.

h) Base runners shall not leave their base until the ball has been delivered and reached Home plate.

i) The ball is considered dead when the pitcher has the ball within the dirt area of the pitching mound. Runners may not advance or steal when the pitcher has the ball within the dirt area of the pitching mound.

j) A base runner is not allowed to steal second base after a walk, until the next pitched ball.

12. The slaughter rule is in effect. The game is automatically over if going into the fifth inning and the visiting team has a lead of ten or more runs, or four and one-half innings, if the home team has a lead of ten or more runs. This applies to both regular season and playoff games. E.g., for playoffs, if a team is ahead by ten or more runs going into the

fifth inning, the slaughter rule goes into effect, AND TAKES PRIORITY OVER GENERAL RULES CALLING FOR PLAYOFF GAMES BEING PLAYED TO COMPLETION.

13. The manager will report immediately to the Player Agent any condition that necessitates a replacement player. No player may be brought up without notification of the Player Agent. A temporary replacement from the Rookie League is allowed *only* when the roster will be reduced to nine or fewer players. The purpose of this rule is to prevent forfeits. Call-ups shall be approved by the player agent/registrar, not coaches. The league President will investigate any forfeits and report the reasons to the Board of Directors.

The Player Agent will keep the Board of Directors advised of any replacement requirements. Managers will not contact the respective player until they have notified the Player Agent. The Player Agent will then notify the player, or at his option, permit the manager to contact the player directly. If a player is available but refuses a call up they will be ineligible to be called up to any other team for the remainder of the season. All temporary call ups must bat last in the order, may not play more defensive innings than any other player on the original roster, and are not eligible to pitch .

14. Each team may have one adult manager and two adult coaches within the fenced-in playing area once the game has begun until it is finished. Only these three adults and the roster players are allowed on the field or in the dugouts during games. Because the dugouts are not large enough to accommodate twelve players and three adults, the adults are not required, as the players are, to remain in the dugouts when not participating in the game. The adults, however, must stay against the fence on the outfield side of the entrance to the dugout. At the discretion of the manager, a fourth adult acting in an official capacity may be in the dugout for the purpose of maintaining order in the dugout.
15. Only the **manager**, not the coaches, may leave the dugout area to question a rule interpretation. Coaches may not leave the dugout area or the coaches' box, nor can they question any umpire's judgment call. (Violation is grounds for ejection.)
16. No player may be dropped from a roster without permission from the Board of Directors. Any player who has been dropped by a Minor League team for any disciplinary reason may not be brought up by any other team under any circumstances for the remainder of the year. The player will be returned to the draft for the following season, if eligible.