

MAJOR LEAGUE RULES of PLAY

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Article 29.00 - Major League Rules of Play

29.01 - Game Rules

Major League games will be played in strict accordance with the Official Cal Ripken Rules.

29.02 - The Game

A. A game will consist of 6 innings or a 2 hour time limit.

B. No new inning may be started after the time limit has expired.

C. An inning that has started prior to the expiration of time will be played until completion.

29.03 - Game Lineup/ Batting Order

A. Each teams' lineup/ batting order is to be turned in to the Official Score Keeper by the Manager as soon as the teams enter the dugout for their game. *Player's last name and number must be included.*

B. Prior to the start of the game both Managers will meet with the Umpire. The Umpire will be given a game lineup/batting order from each Manager. The Managers will also exchange game lineup/ batting orders at this time.

29.04 – Team Lineup/ Batting Order

A. Each Team Lineup/ Batting Order is to be turned in to the Official Score Keeper by the Manager as soon as the teams enter the dugout for their game. This lineup will be complete with each player's number, position in the batting order and the defensive position. Substitute players will be listed at the bottom of the lineup card and will also include the players' number.

29.05 - Required Playing Time

Every player on a game lineup/ batting order is required to play at least 2 defensive innings and bat one time in every game.

29.06 - Rain Out Game

A rain out game is one that never started due to inclement weather or did not complete 3 ½ innings of play before being stopped due to inclement weather.

29.07 - Tie Game

There will be no ties in Major League play.

29.08 - Rescheduling Rain Out or Suspended Games

A. Any game that has been rained out or suspended must be made up as soon as possible of the original date.

B. A Suspended Game will begin at the exact point in the game that it was at when stopped.

29.09 - Mercy Rule

A. If, after 4 ½ complete innings of play, the home team is ahead by 10 or more runs the game will be stopped and the home team declared the winner. If, after 5 complete innings of play, the visiting team is ahead by 10 or more runs the game will be stopped and the visiting team declared the winner.

B. If there is time remaining in the time limit, the score board will be reset to "zero" and the teams allowed to scrimmage for the remainder of the time limit if both coaches agree to continue. This becomes a practice and innings pitched after this point will not count against the pitcher's weekly number of allowed innings.

29.10 – Pitching

- A. A pitcher may pitch a maximum of six innings per calendar week. If a pitcher delivers one pitch in an inning, that pitcher shall be charged for one inning pitched.
- B. A pitcher should not throw more than 60 – 75 pitches in a game. Once he reaches this pitch count it is **strongly recommended** that he be removed from the game as the pitcher.
- C. The calendar week is Monday – Sunday.
- D. Use of pitches that involve a twisting motion of the arm or wrist is **strongly discouraged**. These pitches include curveballs, sliders and screwballs.
- E. Pitchers are not permitted to wear white on their forearms, wrists or gloves.
- F. Pitchers must have two calendar days rest between pitching assignments if he/she pitches more than two innings in a single game.

29.11 – Batting

- A. Homerun balls must clear the fence. A ball which hits the top of the fence and remains in play is a live ball.
- B. Any batter who unintentionally throws a bat will be given one warning. A second offense in the same game will result in the player being called out. Any player who intentionally throws a bat will automatically be called out. This is also cause for ejection from the game if the umpire feels that the player was intentionally trying to hurt another player.

29.12 – Courtesy Runner

- A. Courtesy Runner for Catcher: When the catcher is a base runner and there are two outs, a courtesy runner may be used to allow the catcher additional time to put on their equipment for the next half inning.
- B. The Courtesy runner must be the player who committed the second out in the current inning.
- C. The player receiving the courtesy runner must be the player who is going to catch the next half inning.

29.13 – Sliding

- A. Headfirst sliding is prohibited. The two exceptions will be when a player is caught in a run down or is returning to a base to avoid being put out. Penalty: Umpire will declare a dead ball and the violating player will be called out.

29.14 – Game Protocol

A. All coaches are expected to remain inside their dugout once game play has begun. A coach may walk out of the dugout to demonstrate or communicate something to a player and then return to the dugout. Time must be called prior to entering the field of play for any other reason once the umpire has declared "Play Ball".

B. Only rostered players and coaches of the competing teams may be in the dugout during the game. A Scorekeeper and the team mom are also permitted to be in the dugout. Parents of injured players are also permitted to enter to care for their child.

C. Deliberate action taken to delay a game is considered unsportsmanlike conduct and will be reported to the Division Vice President. Repeated violations of this rule may result in a game suspension for the violating coach.

D. In the event a player or coach is ejected from the game by an umpire, the player or coach will not be eligible to participate in the next game played by their team. (The ejected individual will not be permitted to have any involvement with his/her team inside the fenced in area of the playing field on the game day they are suspended for). In the event that a second ejection occurs involving the same individual during the season, that player or coach will not be eligible to participate again until he/she has been given permission by the JCYB Board of Directors.

E. Any individual ejected from a game or the park by an umpire or league official must leave the field area for the remainder of the day in which the ejection occurs. The individual must vacate all park facilities. (This includes the parking lot area). Failure to leave in a prompt fashion or continued unsportsmanlike conduct may result in a forfeiture of the game for the team affiliated with that person.

29.15 – Extra Hitter

A. Extra Hitters rules/guidelines:

- a. Must list EH on your lineup card before start of game.
- b. E.H. spot must be used for entire game.
- c. Can change the E.H. any time during the game.

Example: E.H. exchanges spots with shortstop and shortstop becomes E.H. They remain in the original spots in the batting order. The E.H. can also be replaced by a player not already in the game

- d. E.H. may re-enter the game as a player according to Cal Ripken rules if he has been removed from the game.
- e. E.H. can be used by one team or both teams.
- f. E.H. must play six defensive outs in the field.