

MADISON COUNTY RURAL RECREATION YOUTH BASEBALL/SOFTBALL RULES 2023-2024

PARTICIPATION RULES

Players that do not start a game defensively must start their next scheduled game

EXCEPTION: When a starter is injured or becomes sick, he/she may be substituted for immediately **(All Leagues, Including Babe Ruth) Each team shall bat the entire roster of players present for the game.** Each team may play free substitution on defense for the entire game. All players present for a game MUST be listed on the line-up card, that will be given to the umpire prior to the start of the game, at the umpire-coaches plate meeting.

PENALTY: Manager will be suspended for an unspecified number of games.

Each substitute player must bat in the lineup and play 1 inning of defense in each scheduled game, unless sick or injured or being disciplined by the team manager.

DISCIPLINE EXAMPLE: Unexcused absences from games or practice. When a game is called before completion for any reason, this rule does not apply.

Rosters- all teams may have a maximum of 12 players on a roster.

Lineups- all lineups must be turned in to either the home team book keeper or a central official book keeper prior to the game starting. Lineups are to include first and last names AND jersey number. Penalty for not including this information is: the batter is out and no runners will advance, and the lineup card will be corrected.

5U Competitive Tball- All pitches will be off the Tee. Fair/foul arc will be at 20', with the mound at 35'. Pitchers must have 1 foot inside the pitching circle (10 ft diameter). 5U age group will use an 9- inch baseball. 5 attempts straight up. If the 5th pitch is a foul ball, does not reach the 20' fair/foul arc, or is a swing and miss, the batter will be declared out. Catchers must wear a helmet with a mask, and should be behind the 10 foot line opposite of the batter.

6U Girls Modified Coach Pitch- Batters will receive 5 pitches and may swing at all of them. the 5th pitch must be fair, or the batter is out. Pitchers must pitch behind 20' fair/fail arc and in front of the pitching circle. Mound will be at 35'. 6u Girls will use an 11-inch softball. Pitcher position players must have 1 foot inside the pitching circle (10 ft diameter). . Catchers must wear Catchers helmet and Chest protector, and should be behind the 10 foot line opposite of the batter.

6U boys modified coach pitch Batters will receive 5 pitches and may swing at all of them, the 5th pitch must be fair, or the batter is out. Pitchers must pitch from behind the 20ft fair/foul arc. Mound will be at 35'. 6u Boys will use a 9in baseball. Pitcher position players must have 1 foot inside the pitching circle (10 ft diameter). . Catchers must wear Catchers helmet and Chest protector, and should be behind the 10 foot line opposite of the batter.

8U Boys and 8U girls Coach Pitch- 6 pitches, 3 strikes Should the batter foul off the 6th pitch, they will continue to bat until they either do not swing, swing and miss, or hit a ball into Fair Territory and beyond the 20' Fair/Foul Arch. Taking the 6th pitch will result in an out. Pitchers must throw with 1 foot in contact with the pitching circle. Pitcher position players must have 1 foot inside the pitching circle (10 ft diameter). Catchers must be in Full catcher's gear, including throat guard, and be in a catchers stance.

10U/12U baseball - With Drop third Strike. Runners may lead off and steal.

Innings Limits for pitchers 12U/10U Baseball

Age group	One Day Max to pitch next day	One day Max	Three Day Maximum
10u,12u	3 innings	6 innings	8 Innings

*SEE USSSALEAGUE.ORG RULE 7.05.B.8 "It shall be the responsibility of each team to challenge pitching violations by notifying the Umpire and then filing a Protest with the League / Tournament Director. A protest may be filed at any point after the pitcher in violation records any out beyond his legal limit AND while the pitcher in violation is in the game as the pitcher of record. If such violation is the last recorded out of the game, the protest MUST be filed prior to the Umpires and the protesting team leaving the field of play. Rule 7.05.B.1 – 7.05.B.7 Penalty: Any violation shall result in immediate forfeiture of the game..."

Innings counts are to be confirmed by the umpires after every inning and recorded. These cards will be signed by the head coaches at the completion of the game and be submitted for record no later than 2 HOURS PRIOR TO NEXT SCHEDULED GAME.

Baseball Leagues: there will be a 7 runs per inning, if there are not three outs once 7 runs are scored teams will change sides.

Softball Leagues: there will be a 5 runs per inning, if there are not three outs once 5 runs are scored teams will change sides.

Baseball: playing rules for all leagues not otherwise cited will be found in the current year USSSA LEAGUE rulebook. <https://usssa-league.com/usssa-rec-baseball-rules>

Softball: playing rules for all leagues not otherwise cited will be found in All American youth sports rulebook <http://www.allamericanyouthsports.org/rulebook/>

PROTEST

A manager protesting a rule interpretation must protest before the next pitch is thrown. The protesting team will notify the official, bookkeeper, and opposing team at the time of the protest. Written verification of the protest must be presented to the Madison County Rural Recreation Director within forty-eight (48) hours after completion of the game. A protest based upon the use of ineligible players must be submitted in writing to the Madison County Rural Recreation Director within forty-eight (48) hours after completion of the game. Protest based upon judgment calls by the umpire will not be accepted. A twenty-five (\$25) fee (made payable to the recreation facility at which the protested incident happened) must accompany each protest. The fee will be returned if the ruling is in favor of the protesting party. The Madison County Recreation Director shall handle all protests.

COACH and SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR

No spectator shall be allowed on the field during the game.

No adult will be allowed on the playing field during the playing of any game without the consent of the umpires. No persons except the players, manager and coaches will be allowed on the bench or in the dugout during the playing of the game.

If, in the opinion of the umpires, a player, manager, coach, or spectator conducts themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner or commits any act which may maim or injure anyone, if deemed deliberate, they shall be removed from the premises. A coach that is ejected from a game will be subject to an automatic review by the Madison county parks and recreation department. The parks and recreation department will determine if further suspension of the coach, fan, or player is necessary. A second (2nd) ejection will result in automatic suspension for the remainder of the season, including all post season play.

FORFEITS

A team failing to field at least eight (8) players within ten (10) minutes after the scheduled game time shall forfeit the game **AFTER FIRST GAME ONLY**. Teams must have eight (8) players available the entire game, or will have to forfeit whenever they have less than eight (8) players, due to injury, ejection, etc.

Any team manager or adult who withdraws a team from the playing field prior to the official completion of the game shall forfeit all rights to protest. The manager will forfeit the game by a score of six (6) to zero (0). This constitutes possible disciplinary action by the local Committee of Management. **Teams playing with less than a full defensive team must have a pitcher and a catcher at all times.**

Any team/recreation facility that forfeits due to not showing up for a scheduled game, is obligated to reimburse the recreation facility that paid the umpires for the forfeited game. The fee is \$60 for a one umpire game and \$80 for a two-umpire game.

SAFETY

In case of an injury where blood is present the following should occur, but not limited to: The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered, and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform it must be changed before the athlete may participate.

ALL Leagues: After one (1) warning per game, per player for slinging their bat, the batter will be called out, the ball is dead, and no runner can advance.

Ages 5-8 Boys & Girls: all pitchers must wear a fielder's facemask and a heart protector.

INJURED PLAYER

A player that is injured and leaves the game may not under any circumstance return to the game.

BAT RULES

Ages 5-12 Boys: See USSSA League rulebook for updated bat information.

<https://usssaleague.com/usssa-rec-baseball-rules>

Ages 7-12 Girls: See All-American Youth Sports rulebook for updated bat information.

<http://www.allamericanyouthsports.org/rulebook/>

BATS THAT SAY T-BALL WILL BE USED FOR 5T TBALL AGE GROUP ONLY. THEY WILL NOT BE PERMITTED IN ANY COACH PITCH AGE GROUP

INFIELD FLY RULE

Ages 5 - 8 Boys & Girls: The infield fly rule WILL NOT be used, during the game.

Ages 9 - 12 Boys & Girls: The infield fly rule WILL be used during the entire game.

CURFEW

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday: Games will end at 9:15 p.m. (ages Rk-8u)

Games will end at 9:30 p.m. (ages 10u-16u)

A new inning is not to be started with less than 5 minutes before the expiration of the time limit. **No new inning will be started within 10 minutes of Curfew**

This means the game ends. **No** additional pitches will be allowed.

This will not apply for the League County Tournaments. **Regular season only.**

Time Limits are as followed

Rookie- 50 min

5T/6U- 1 hr

8U-1HR 15 min

10U/12U- 1HR 15 Min

SATURDAY TIME LIMITS

Parks playing multiple games on Saturday and get behind, have the option of reducing time limits of games as follows:

1:45 time limit....reduced to 1:30 minutes

1:30 time limit....reduced to 1:20 minutes

1:15 time limit....reduced to 1:05 minutes

Regular season only

NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES PER WEEK

Teams may have a maximum of four activities (games or practices) per week, unless approved by the Director.

TRAVEL TEAMS FACALITY USE

Travel teams may rent MCR fields when our park is not using the field. The amount will be \$75.00 per hour, or \$500 on Sat. or Sun. max 10 hours.

FAKE BUNT and COURTESY RUNNER RULE

Fake bunting, then swinging away is not allowed, the batter will be ruled out, the ball is dead, and no runner may advance. When the first offense occurs, the manager will receive a warning, on the second offense the manager will be ejected. (ALL LEAGUES)

Courtesy Runner (All Leagues):

A courtesy runner is allowed for the catcher only and the last batted out is to be used as the courtesy runner.

TROPHIES/MEDALLIONS FOR LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS:

Spring League (Single Elimination):

2-6 teams entered: 1st & 2nd place awarded.

7-9 teams entered: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place awarded.

10 or more teams entered: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th place awarded.

All tournament brackets are approved by Madison County Parks and Recreation Director

BABE RUTH LEAGUE RULES

Each game will have a 2-hour time limit.

We will use Babe Ruth pitch count during regular season:

Max pitches: 95

Rest:

1 - 45 Pitches = 0 days Rest

46 – 75 Pitches = 1 day Rest

76 – 95 Pitches = 2 days Rest

Teams may score 7 runs per inning.

Babe Ruth CONT

Games will be played by AHSAA Rules, with the exception of the Babe Ruth league Rules found in the Madison County Parks and Recreation Baseball/Softball Rule book

Run Rule

Mercy rule shall be used when a team is up 15 or more runs after 3 innings or 8 runs after 4 innings.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Head Coach is required to carry a copy of his/her team's roster, signed by their park President and Madison County Parks and Recreation Director to all games, either digital or physical copies will suffice so long as they have both the Signature of the Park Director and The Stamp of the Madison County Parks and Recreation Director. The Park President's signature will mean all players listed on the roster have shown their Birth Certificate to a Rec. Board member from their park.

During the regular season only, teams may pick up one (1) player to meet the minimum number required to play the game(8). This player must be from the team's same park and be in the same age group or younger to be eligible. ONLY 1 total player can be picked up. TEAMS MAY NOT PICK UP PLAYERS DURING TOURNAMENT PLAY.

Tournament gate fee's

Tournament spectator gate fees will be as follow:

5 and under- free

Age 6-11 \$3

Age 12 and up \$6

All players playing a game that night will get in free. Teams will get four (4) coaches get in free(must be listed on the team's roster)