

2018 SEASON MIDGET LEAGUE (7-8 YEAR OLDS)
TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES
(Revisions compared to regular season in red)

A. FIELD DIMENSIONS

1. BASE PATH DISTANCE: 50 FEET
2. PITCHER (COACH) SHALL BE 30 TO 40 FEET FROM HOME PLATE

B. GAME RULES

1. A REGULATION GAME WILL CONSIST OF SIX (6) INNINGS. **THERE IS NO TIME LIMIT.**
2. A GAME THAT IS STOPPED DUE TO WEATHER **OR** DARKNESS WILL BE CONSIDERED A COMPLETED GAME IF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING IS TRUE:
 - a) FOUR (4) INNINGS ARE COMPLETE AND THE VISITING TEAM IS LEADING.
 - b) THREE AND ONE-HALF (3-1/2) INNINGS ARE COMPLETE AND THE HOME TEAM IS LEADING.
3. IF A GAME IS STOPPED DUE TO WEATHER **OR** DARKNESS AND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A COMPLETE GAME HAVE NOT BEEN MET, THE GAME SHALL BE SUSPENDED AT THE POINT AT WHICH IT WAS STOPPED AND IS TO BE COMPLETED AT A LATER DATE.
4. IF A GAME IS TIED AT THE END OF REGULATION OR AT THE END OF AN EXTRA INNING, AN EXTRA INNING (OR INNINGS) SHOULD BE PLAYED.
5. **FOR THE FIRST FIVE INNINGS OF THE GAME**, AN INNING SHALL CONSIST OF THREE (3) PLAYER OUTS OR A TOTAL OF FIVE (5) RUNS SCORED, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. **THE SIXTH INNING AND ANY EXTRA INNINGS WILL CONSIST OF THREE (3) PLAYER OUTS PER INNING.**
 - a) THE HOME HALF OF THE SIXTH INNING SHALL NOT BE PLAYED IF THE HOME TEAM HAS THE LEAD AT THE BEGINNING OF THAT HALF INNING.
 - b) THE HOME HALF OF THE SIXTH INNING OR ANY EXTRA INNINGS SHALL END WHEN AND IF THE HOME TEAM TAKES THE LEAD.
6. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MANAGER OR A COACH OF THE WINNING TEAM TO REPORT THE SCORE TO THE LEAGUE COMMISSIONER ON THE DAY THAT THE GAME OCCURS.
7. NO PLAYER, SPECTATOR, MANAGER, COACH, OR OTHER TEAM DESIGNATE IS ALLOWED BEHIND THE BACKSTOP AT ANY TIME DURING THE GAME. THE SPECTATOR AREA SHALL NOT BE CLOSER THAN 25 FEET FROM THE BACKSTOP.
8. THERE MUST BE A COACH AT FIRST BASE, THIRD BASE, **AND AN ADULT / COACH IN THE DUG OUT OR BENCH AREA AT ALL TIMES.** IF A FAN IS USED, THEY MUST BE AT LEAST EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE.
9. EACH TEAM WILL FIELD TEN (10) PLAYERS OF WHICH FOUR (4) SHALL PLAY A DEFENSIVE POSITION IN THE OUTFIELD. THE ONLY EXCEPTION WILL BE IF LESS THAN TEN (10) PLAYERS ARE AVAILABLE TO START OR CONTINUE THE GAME. OUTFIELDERS MUST BE OFF THE DIRT INFIELD. THE CATCHER POSITION MUST BE UTILIZED AT ALL TIMES.
10. A MINIMUM OF SIX (6) PLAYERS ON EACH TEAM IS REQUIRED TO BEGIN A GAME. IF A TEAM IS UNABLE TO FIELD SIX (6) PLAYERS WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) MINUTES OF THE SCHEDULED START TIME, THE OTHER TEAM WILL BE DECLARED THE WINNER, BUT A GAME/SCRIMMAGE SHOULD STILL BE PLAYED.
11. THE CATCHER WILL WEAR A PROTECTIVE HELMET, FACE MASK, THROAT SHIELD, CHEST PROTECTOR, AND SHIN PROTECTORS AT ALL TIMES WHILE PLAYING DEFENSE.
12. EACH PLAYER MUST PLAY A MINIMUM OF FOUR (4) COMPLETE INNINGS IN THE FIELD WITHIN THE FIRST FIVE INNINGS. THE ONLY EXCEPTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:
 - a) A PLAYER BECOMES INJURED AND MUST LEAVE THE GAME.
 - b) A GAME IS POSTPONED OR ENDS EARLY DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER **OR** DARKNESS.

13. PLAYERS MAY PLAY THE SAME POSITION NO MORE THAN TWO (2) INNINGS IN THE SAME GAME. EACH PLAYER MUST PLAY ONE (1) INNING IN THE OUTFIELD AND ONE (1) INNING IN THE INFIELD DURING THE FIRST FIVE (5) INNINGS OF EACH GAME. VIOLATION OF THIS RULE MAY RESULT IN A FORFEIT. THE ONLY EXCEPTIONS ARE FOR TEAMS WITH SIX OR SEVEN PLAYERS AVAILABLE:
 - a) TEAMS WITH (7) PLAYERS MUST POSITION A DIFFERENT PLAYER IN THE OUTFIELD EACH INNING.
 - b) TEAMS WITH (6) PLAYERS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO POSITION ANY PLAYERS IN THE OUTFIELD.
14. THE PLAYER AT THE PITCHING POSITION SHALL NOT PLAY ANY CLOSER TO HOME PLATE THAN THE LOCATION THE COACH PITCHES FROM.
15. FREE SUBSTITUTION DURING A GAME IS ALLOWED, ALTHOUGH PLAYERS MUST BE IN A POSITION FOR ONE (1) COMPLETE INNING TO COMPLY WITH RULES 12 AND 13.
16. BASE RUNNERS MAY NOT BE SUBSTITUTED EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF AN INJURY. THE PINCH RUNNER SHALL BE THE LAST PLAYER TO MAKE AN OUT FOR THAT TEAM.
17. BASE RUNNERS MUST SLIDE AT SECOND, THIRD, AND HOME PLATE WHEN THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY OF A PLAY AT THE BASE. IF THE RUNNER FAILS TO SLIDE IN THESE SITUATIONS, THE RUNNER WILL BE CALLED OUT. DEFENSIVE CATCHER MUST HAVE THE BALL IN GLOVE IN ORDER TO BLOCK BASE LINE, OTHERWISE, THE BASE RUNNER IS SAFE.
18. HEAD-FIRST SLIDING WILL NOT BE PERMITTED INTO ANY BASE. A PLAYER WILL BE CALLED OUT IF THE PLAYER HEAD-FIRST SLIDES INTO A BASE. HOWEVER, A BASE RUNNER IS PERMITTED TO "DIVE" BACK TO THE BASE IF ONLY WITHIN A REASONABLE SHORT DISTANCE.
19. A BASE RUNNER CANNOT ADVANCE EXCEPT ON A HIT BALL.
20. OVERTHROWS AT FIRST AND/OR THIRD, WHEN BALL GOES INTO FOUL TERRITORY, WILL NOT AUTOMATICALLY ADVANCE THE BASE RUNNER(S). IF THE BALL REMAINS IN FAIR TERRITORY, BASE RUNNER(S) MAY ADVANCE AT THEIR OWN RISK.
21. THERE WILL BE NO LEAD OFFS FROM ANY BASE. IF A RUNNER LEAVES THE BASE BEFORE THE BALL IS HIT, HE WILL BE CALLED OUT. NO INTENTIONAL STEALING IS PERMITTED.
22. THE INFIELD FLY RULE WILL NOT APPLY.

C. BATTER'S RULES

1. ALL PLAYERS SHALL BAT IN A PRE-DETERMINED ORDER THROUGHOUT THE GAME REGARDLESS OF WHICH INNINGS THEY PLAY DEFENSIVELY. A PLAYER ARRIVING LATE SHALL BE PLACED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BATTING ORDER.
2. ALL PLAYERS MUST WEAR PROTECTIVE HEAD GEAR WHILE AT BAT AND ON THE BASES. **ON DECK BATTERS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED. BAT BOYS AND BAT GIRLS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED. ONLY THE BATTER UP TO BAT WILL BE PERMITTED TO HAVE A BAT IN HIS OR HER HANDS. ALL BATS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT MUST BE OUT SIDE THE FENCED IN FIELD OF PLAY AREA.**
3. THROWN BATS ARE NOT PERMITTED. THE FIRST INSTANCE IN A GAME FOR EACH TEAM IS A WARNING. IN ALL SUBSEQUENT INSTANCES THE BATTER WILL BE RULED OUT AND THE BALL IS DEAD.
4. EACH BATTER WILL BE GIVEN A MAXIMUM OF SIX (6) PITCHES.
5. THE BATTER WILL BE OUT IF A FAIR BALL HAS NOT BEEN HIT AFTER THE SIXTH PITCH.
6. NO INTENTIONAL BUNTING WILL BE ALLOWED. ALTHOUGH INTENTIONAL BUNTING IS NOT ALLOWED; "SWUNG AT" HITS IN FAIR TERRITORY JUST IN FRONT OF HOME PLATE WILL BE PLAYABLE.
7. PLAYS INVOLVING BALLS HIT INTO THE OUTFIELD WILL END WHEN THE BALL IS IN THE CONTROL OF THE INFIELDER (WHILE IN THE INFIELD). ADVANCING BASE RUNNERS MORE THAN HALFWAY WILL BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE TO THE NEXT BASE. RUNNERS LESS THAN HALFWAY WILL BE DIRECTED TO RETURN TO THE PRIOR BASE. IF THE DEFENSIVE TEAM ATTEMPTS TO MAKE A PLAY PRIOR TO THE UMPIRE CALLING THE PLAY DEAD, THE RUNNERS MAY CONTINUE TO ADVANCE AT THEIR OWN RISK.

LEAGUE POLICY REGARDING BATS IS AS FOLLOWS:

WOODEN BATS ARE PERMITTED.

NON-WOOD BATS ARE PERMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS:

AGE RANGE	MAXIMUM LENGTH	MAXIMUM BARREL DIAMETER
5 – 6 Year Olds	33 inches	2-1/4 inches
7 – 8 Year Olds	33 inches	2-1/4 inches
9 – 10 Year Olds	33 inches	2-1/4 inches
11 – 12 Year Olds	33 inches	2-1/4 inches
13 – 14 year Olds	34 inches	2-3/4 inches
H.S. League	36 inches	2-3/4 inches

D. UMPIRES

1. **ONE MANAGER OR COACH FROM EACH TEAM SHALL BE DESIGNATED PRIOR TO THE GAME AS THE SOLE PERSON TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE UMPIRES DURING THE GAME. ANY COMMUNICATION RELATED TO DISPUTES OR CLARIFICATION OF RULES MUST BE HANDLED BY THAT DESIGNATED COACH.**

E. PITCHING

1. THE PITCHER (COACH) SHOULD THROW OVERHAND. THE PITCHER (COACH) SHOULD CALL OUT THE PITCHES, LETTING THE BATTER AND OTHERS KNOW WHEN THE BATTER IS APPROACHING THE SIXTH (LAST) HITTABLE PITCH. DO NOT ALLOW BATTERS MORE THAN SIX (6) PITCHES. THIS WILL KEEP THE GAMES MOVING QUICKLY.

F. MANAGERIAL STAFF

1. THE MANAGER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF HIS TEAM AND ITS STAFF. HE SHALL ALSO TO THE BEST OF HIS ABILITY, CONTROL THE CONDUCT OF THE PARENTS, AND THE SPECTATORS ON HIS SIDE OF THE FIELD. HE SHALL MAKE EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE HARASSMENT OF THE PLAYERS BY THE SPECTATORS ON HIS SIDE OF THE FIELD.
2. THE MANAGER MUST CONDUCT HIMSELF IN A SPORTSMANLIKE MANNER AT ALL TIMES AND SHOULD ALWAYS BE AN EXAMPLE OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP FOR HIS PLAYERS AND THE SPECTATORS. ANY INFRACTION OF THESE RULES OF CONDUCT MAY BE REPORTED IN WRITING TO THE COMMISSIONER OF THE LEAGUE. THE COMMISSIONER, IF DEEMS NECESSARY, MAY DETERMINE DISCIPLINARY MEASURES.
3. NO MANAGER OR ANY MEMBER OF HIS STAFF WILL APPEAR AT ANY GAME OR PRACTICE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL. CIGARETTE SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED ON THE PLAYERS BENCH OR ON THE PLAYING FIELD.
4. NO COACHES FROM THE DEFENSIVE TEAM ARE PERMITTED IN THE FIELD DURING PLAY EXCEPT WHEN SERVING AS PERSON BEHIND THE CATCHER. COACHES MAY HELP PLAYERS POSITION THEMSELVES PRIOR TO THE START OF THE INNING AND THEN RETURN TO BENCH.

G. HOME TEAM

1. **THE HIGHEST SEEDED TEAM (LOWEST NUMBER) IS THE HOME TEAM.**
2. THE HOME TEAM HAS THE FIRST BASE SIDE DUGOUT OR BENCH.

H. BASEBALLS

1. RIF LEVEL 5 OR COMPARABLE BASEBALLS.