

# 2020 SEASON MIDGET LEAGUE (7-8 YEAR OLDS) PLAYING RULES

(Reviewed 5/25/2020, Adjustments 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. NO INNING SHALL START MORE THAN ONE (1) HOUR AND FIFTEEN (15) MINUTES AFTER THE SCHEDULED START TIME OF THE GAME.
2. A GAME THAT IS STOPPED DUE TO WEATHER, DARKNESS OR TIME LIMIT 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 OR THE GAME IS TIED.
  - 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, DARKNESS OR TIME LIMIT 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 AND THE ONE (1) HOUR, (15) MINUTE TIME LIMIT HAS NOT BEEN REACHED, AN EXTRA INNING (OR INNINGS) SHOULD BE PLAYED. ANY INNING THAT ENDS AFTER THE TIME LIMIT WILL BE THE FINAL INNING OF THE GAME.
5. ALL GAMES SHALL BE PLAYED TO THE END OF REGULATION AS ALLOWED BY THE TIME LIMIT, REGARDLESS OF THE SCORE. ALL INNINGS STARTED BEFORE THE TIME LIMIT SHALL BE COMPLETED REGARDLESS OF THE SCORE. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE ONLY EXCEPTIONS:
  - a) THE HOME HALF OF THE SIXTH INNING SHALL NOT BE PLAYED IF THE HOME TEAM HAS THE LEAD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 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. AN INNING SHALL CONSIST OF THREE (3) PLAYER OUTS OR A TOTAL OF FIVE (5) RUNS SCORED, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST.
7. 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 USING TEAM NUMBERS. IF A GAME ENDS IN A TIE, A COACH OR MANAGER FROM EACH TEAM SHOULD REPORT THE SCORE THE DAY OF THE GAME.
8. 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.
9. THERE MUST BE A COACH IN THE BENCH AREA AT ALL TIMES. IF A FAN IS USED, THEY MUST BE AT LEAST EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE. THIS ADULT MUST MAKE SURE NO PLAYERS OTHER THAN THE BATTER ARE TOUCHING A BAT.
10. 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 DOES NOT NEED TO BE UTILIZED FOR THE 2020 SEASON.**
11. 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.
12. **IF THERE IS A CATCHER**, THE CATCHER WILL WEAR A PROTECTIVE HELMET, FACE MASK, THROAT SHIELD, CHEST PROTECTOR, AND SHIN PROTECTORS AT ALL TIMES WHILE PLAYING DEFENSE.

13. 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, DARKNESS, OR THE TIME ALLOTMENT EXPIRES.
14. 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.
15. THE PLAYER AT THE PITCHING POSITION SHALL NOT PLAY ANY CLOSER TO HOME PLATE THAN THE LOCATION THE COACH PITCHES FROM.
16. FREE SUBSTITUTION DURING A GAME IS ALLOWED, ALTHOUGH PLAYERS MUST BE IN A POSITION FOR ONE (1) COMPLETE INNING TO COMPLY WITH RULES 13 AND 14.
17. BASE RUNNERS MAY NOT BE SUBSTITUTED EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF AN INJURY. THE PINCH RUNNER SHALL BE THE LAST POSSIBLE PLAYER THAT CAN BAT THAT IS NOT ON BASE FOR THAT TEAM.
18. IF THE NEXT CATCHER IS ON BASE WITH 2 OUTS, THEY MAY BE REPLACED BY A PINCH RUNNER.
19. RUNNERS DO NOT HAVE TO SLIDE INTO ANY BASE. DEFENSIVE CATCHER MUST HAVE THE BALL IN GLOVE IN ORDER TO BLOCK BASE LINE, OTHERWISE, THE BASE RUNNER IS SAFE. "BULL DOGGING" IS A JUDGMENT CALL BY THE UMPIRE AND THE BASE RUNNER CAN BE RULED OUT IF AGGRESSIVE CONTACT IS MADE.
20. 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.
21. A BASE RUNNER CANNOT ADVANCE EXCEPT ON A HIT BALL.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. 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.

- PLAYS INVOLVING BALLS HIT INTO THE OUTFIELD WILL END WHEN THE BALL IS IN THE CONTROL OF AN 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

**BATS SHOULD BE CHECKED BEFORE GAME PLAY STARTS BY AN UMPIRE OR THE COACHES. IF AN ILLEGAL BAT IS USED DURING GAME PLAY THE BATTER IS OUT AND THE BAT WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE FIELD OF PLAY.**

**D. UMPIRES AND COACHES**

- THE PITCHER (OFFENSIVE COACH) WILL SERVE AS THE UMPIRE.
- IF THERE IS AN UMPIRE AT THE GAME THE UMPIRE WILL WORK FROM BEHIND THE PITCHER.
- THE ONLY OTHER PARENTS OR COACHES PERMITTED ON THE PLAYING FIELD ARE THE FIRST AND THIRD BASE COACHES; AND A PARENT BEHIND THE CATCHER TO RETRIEVE PASSED BALLS (FACE MASK RECOMMENDED, PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT IS AVAILABLE.)
- COACHES/ADULTS POSITIONED ON THE FIELD MUST BE 18 OR OLDER.
- 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.

**E. PITCHING**

- 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**

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

## **G. HOME TEAM**

1. THE FIRST TEAM LISTED ON THE SCHEDULE IS THE HOME TEAM.
2. THE HOME TEAM HAS THE FIRST BASE SIDE OF THE FIELD.

## **H. BASEBALLS**

6. RIF LEVEL 5 OR COMPARABLE BASEBALLS.
7. NO LOOSE BASEBALLS ON THE FIELD.
8. ~~THE PITCHER WILL USE ONLY THREE BASEBALLS AS GAME BASEBALLS TO PITCH WITH. BOTH TEAMS WILL USE THE SAME THREE BASEBALLS FOR THE GAME. IF THERE IS AN UMPIRE AT THE GAME THE GAME BALLS WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE UMPIRE.~~

## **I. 2020 Covid specific rules**

- All players, coaches and umpires showing COVID-19 symptoms as outlined by the CDC should NOT attend games or practices.
- All parents and spectators must wear a face covering upon arrival at games and practices. Players will not be required to wear face coverings when participating in games or practices.
- Players will be required to wear face coverings and to social distance (sit with parents) while on the bench or not playing in games.
- All coaches and umpires will be required to wear face coverings at all times.
- All players will only use one set of equipment for the duration of the season. (No sharing).
- A limited supply of catcher's equipment will also be available, however the rule requiring a catcher to be used at all times has been lifted.
- Lines will be painted at six foot increments around the perimeter of each field to guide social distancing among spectators.
- Social distancing will be in place for team huddles and mound conversations.
- Post Game sportsmanship will be shown using social distancing and eliminating handshakes.
- Seeds and other items that can be spit from players' mouths will be prohibited.

A complete list of the state protocols can be found here: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Baseball-Softball.pdf>