

Mooresville Baseball League  
Instructional League Rules  
2018 Revision

1. Games will consist of 4 complete innings or a 75-minute time limit, whichever comes first.
2. Complete innings consist of both teams batting half their lineup one inning and the other half the next inning. Same for innings 3 and 4.
3. Half the roster players will bat each inning.
4. All roster players present will play in a defensive position each inning. Players are to play in normal positions: catcher, pitcher's helper, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, shortstop, left field, left center, right center and right field. Extra players are to be in the outfield grass.
5. The offensive team will bat players in position 1 through X the first inning and reverse the batting order to X the next inning they bat.
6. All batters will hit the ball from the batting tee placed on home plate. The batter has unlimited attempts to put the ball in play.
7. No player may field the same position twice in one game.
8. The defensive pitcher's helper must wear protective headgear. He/she must start play with both feet inside of the pitcher's circle. The center of the circle is the pitching rubber and the circle measures 32 feet in diameter. The defensive pitcher's helper must remain in the circle until the ball is hit.
9. Each team must provide a catcher with a batting helmet and must stand back from the tee. A catcher's mitt is not required.
10. Players will advance one base at a time.
11. Offensive coaches shall be limited to pitcher, first base coach and third base coach. Defensive coaches shall be limited to and positioned behind home plate, behind shortstop in the outfield and between first and second bases in the outfield.
12. The home team shall line the diamond. The visiting team shall put down and pick up the bases. Each team shall be responsible for raking the diamond after each game. Each team will be responsible for removing all trash and equipment from their dugout after each game.
13. As no umpire will be provided for Instructional games until the final two games of the year, the coaches are responsible for making calls and following rules properly.
14. All players will receive a participation trophy at the end of the season.

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15. An "Incredibal" or "soft" hardball will be used for league play. A regulation hardball will be used for the final two (2) games.
16. There will be no official score kept, therefore, there will only be winners.
17. ALL DECISIONS BY COACHES REGARDING GAMES AND PRACTICES SHOULD BE MADE BASED ON THIS DIVISION BEING AN AGE GROUP THAT IS TO LEARN ABOUT BASEBALL RATHER THAN ABOUT WINNING AND LOSING.
18. New rules for double-bases on first base:
  - (a) A batted ball that hits the white section of the double base shall be declared fair. A batted ball that hits the colored (orange or green) section shall be declared foul.
  - (b) Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner, the defense must use the white section of the double first base. A play is being made on the batter-runner when he or she is attempting to reach first base while the defense is attempting to retire him/her.
  - (c) The batter-runner must use the colored (orange or green) section on his/her first attempt to tag first base. Exception: On extra-base hits or other balls hit to the outfield when there is no chance for a play to be made at the double first base, the runner may touch either the white or colored (orange or green) section of the base. Should, however, the batter-runner reach and go beyond first base, he/she can only return to the white section of the base.
  - (d) When tagging up on a fly ball, the white section of the base must be used by the runner. One foot is permitted to extend behind or on the base into foul territory, as long as the front foot is touching the white section of the base.
  - (e) When leaving base on a pitched ball, the runner must maintain contact with the white section of the base until the ball has reached the batter. Runners may extend a foot behind the white portion of the base, but must maintain contact with the white section until the ball has reached the batter.
  - (f) On an attempted pick-off play, the runner must return to the white section of the base only. This includes a throw from the pitcher, catcher, or any other player, in an attempt to retire the runner at the double first base.
  - (g) Use of the double first base does not change any other rule concerning Interference or Obstruction at first base. (An errant throw into the three-foot running lane could still result in an obstruction call. Also, the batter-runner must still avoid interference with the fielder attempting to field a batted ball.)
  - (h) All bats used in league play must have the USA stamp on it. Any bats that do not carry the USA stamp will not be allowed in the dugout.