

## **Mooresville Baseball League – 2018**

### **Major 50-70 Division**

It is the desire of the Mooresville Baseball League Board to standardize the playing rules in accordance with official baseball rules and the Bambino Division rules and regulations.

Exceptions to the standard rules are as follows:

1. A player once removed as pitcher may reenter the game in any position other than pitcher in the same game.
2. Prior to the start of each game, the opposing coaches will give the batting order consisting of all team players to the official scorekeeper. All players will remain in this order throughout the entire game. If a coach has ten (10) players or more, each player will bat in the batting order. Each player must play twelve (12) defensive outs in the field with the exception of a shortened (complete) game. Non-compliance with this understanding will result in a forfeited game.

Last names and uniform numbers must be included on the lineup cards. This is important for the opposing coach in keeping score and if the batting order is challenged.

3. No player can remove their helmet while on the field. Helmets can only be removed after they return to behind the dugout fence. Non-compliance will result in a mandatory out.  
  
\*\* NO WARNING is necessary for intentionally removing a helmet or throwing a bat. Players intentionally removing their helmet during play or throwing their bat will be called out.
4. The pitcher may not receive the ball while touching or straddling the pitcher's plate.
5. Delete Rule 5 (Minor League pitching)
6. Major League: Each team will pitch eleven (11) year old players a minimum of one complete inning (see rule #14) in any of the first three innings. This rule will be strictly enforced with regard to the minimum amounts of innings pitched for eleven (11) year old players. This is inclusive of opening day through the entire season.
  - A. All Pitchers will be limited to 60 pitches per day or 3 innings, whichever comes first. If a player hits 60 pitches during an at bat, they will be allowed to finish pitching to that batter. Coaches are responsible for tracking the number of pitches.
7. Delete Rule 0.05 (Team Composition).
8. Delete Rule 1.2.3 p.10 Bambino Rulebook.
9. Seven (7) eligible and uniformed players in majors are required to start and play a game.
10. There will be no game protests allowed. All subsequent rule infractions will be resolved by the umpire and at least one board member at the point the infraction is brought to the attention of the umpire or at the time the infraction occurs. All decisions made by the umpire and involved board member will be final. There will be no continued or reverted games resulting from protest.
11. Each coach is responsible for their team's equipment and uniforms. Coaches will assume the responsibility for any lost or stolen items and will replacement with equipment/uniforms of like value.
12. A pitcher may pitch a maximum of three (3) innings per game. One pitch constitutes one inning pitched.

**Mooresville Baseball League – 2018**  
**Major 50-70 Division**

13. The home team shall furnish the official score keeper and line the diamond. The home team is responsible for putting the bases out, raking the base paths, mound and around bases prior to game. The visiting team is responsible for picking up the bases after the game and raking the base paths, mound and around bases. The visiting team must put tools away after the game. Each team will be responsible for removing all trash and equipment from their dugout after each game.  
  
Emphasis: Coaches are encouraged to check the scorebook after each ½ inning. Compare with your book. If there is a flurry of activity, make sure who scored and who did not so that any problems can be addressed before further play takes place.
14. If, after four (4) innings a team is fifteen (15) runs or more ahead, the game will be ruled complete. If, after five (5) innings a team is ten (10) runs or more ahead, the game will be ruled complete.
15. Each ½ inning of play will be limited to six (6) runs, except where play scoring the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) run creates excess runs. All subsequent runs shall count, not to exceed a maximum of nine (9) runs per inning.
16. The coach must notify the official scorekeeper before changing pitchers. It is the responsibility of the official scorekeeper and each coach to properly identify the number of innings each pitcher pitches. Failure to identify these requirements will result in the forfeiture on the part of the offending team. Both coaches are responsible for signing the official scorebook. A game will be considered no contest unless the score is kept in the official scorebook. (Coaches: use good judgment when challenging this rule. If the spirit of the rule being challenged or did the coach forget to do it the right way? Help each other out).
17. Weekday games will start at 6 pm but no later than 6.15 pm (This rule applies to the allotted amount of players to begin a game, which is seven (7) major or the absence of an umpire).
18. Starting times in jeopardy due to weather: Games will be started at any time the diamonds are considered playable and safe, therefore, games could start as late as 6:30 pm. Please do not allow your players to leave the park without your permission when starts are delayed due to rain. Everything possible will be done to play games delayed because of weather. The umpire and senior board member on duty will make all decisions regarding whether the field and weather conditions are safe to play.
19. All teams will be awarded trophies. Teams tied at the end of the season for positional trophies will be awarded the same trophies.
20. There will be no penalized balks called in majors for the first 3 games. If a balk occurs, the ball will immediately be called dead and the umpire will warn the pitcher that he/she has balked. Any out recorded on a play in which it is determined a balk has occurred will be nullified. Beginning in game 4, one warning **per pitcher** will be issued on balks. Any subsequent called balks will be penalized with the advance of all base runners 1 base. See rule 46 concerning balks.
21. There will be no practice games with other teams during the regularly scheduled season.
22. All games will be limited to a two (2) hour time limit, regardless of the number of innings played. An inning cannot start after two hours. Time will begin with the first pitch of the game. Subsequent innings begin with the third out of the preceding inning.
23. The umpire will inform both opposing coaches that he is in control of the game. The umpire will make decisions regarding:

**Mooresville Baseball League – 2018**  
**Major 50-70 Division**

- A. Calling the game for darkness
  - B. Rain-delayed games
  - C. Irresponsible player, coach, parent or spectator conduct
24. Major league will use the infield fly rule. Please review this rule and make sure you have a complete understanding.
25. NO BATTING PRACTICE ON THE DIAMONDS AFTER 4:30 PM.
26. Games will be rescheduled in the next available time slot. Board members on duty will make this determination. The only exception will be if a school-sponsored event would prevent a team from fielding a complete team or if one of the teams is already scheduled for a game on that day.
27. If a game is stopped before it is considered an official game, it will be rescheduled per rule 26 and started at the point of which it was stopped. The same batting line-up must be used. Teams will not be penalized for players that are not able to attend the rescheduled game.
28. If a batter shows bunt, he/she cannot swing away at that pitch. If he/she does swing away, a dead ball will be called and the batter will be out.
29. The on-deck batter is the only player other than the batter and base runner(s) that can be out of the dugout for the offensive team.
30. The league will determine the number of teams in a division.
31. The league will decide the number of players on each team.
32. The league shall determine the type of baseball to be used.
33. The league shall determine the type of uniforms to be worn by the players.
34. Delete 3.09, 3.10, 3.11, 3.14, 3.15, 3.18, 8.02(a) of the Official Baseball Rulebook.
35. Coaches are not required to be in full uniform.
36. Official Baseball Rules 1.11 concerning uniforms. We want to impress on all of our players to wear the complete uniform including cap to all games. Do not cut the sleeves of the uniform or alter it in any way. The cap is considered part of the uniform, however, a player may not be disqualified for not having his/her cap. It is better that a coach not have his/her cap than a player. (Coaches: loan your cap to your players).
37. Refer to Bambino Division rulebook, page 22 concerning protective cup, supporter and protective headgear worn by the catcher. Protective equipment, as described, must be worn by the catcher during all practices and games. If a catcher refuses to wear this equipment, he shall be removed from the game.
38. Refer to Bambino Division rulebook, page 23 concerning the contact rule. Add to this rule: "any base which the runner is attempting to reach".
39. No player will be allowed to slide headfirst into any base. Violation will be an automatic out. There is a distinction between a headfirst slide into a base and a player diving back to a base.
40. It is emphasized that coaches and players not take needless time outs. As an example, a catcher will not be allowed to call time out to throw the ball back to the pitcher after a pitch. The first

**Mooresville Baseball League – 2018  
 Major 50-70 Division**

violation will be a warning. The umpire does not have to grant a time out. Please advise your players that they merely ask for a time out. The umpire then grants or does not grant a time out.

41. When there are runners on base and play has stopped, the umpire may call time to reposition himself behind home plate. The umpire will then call "play ball". When the pitcher has made contact with the pitcher's plate, play has resumed and the ball is live.
42. Once a base runner has stopped his/her advance and the pitcher has control of the ball on the mound, the base runner must return to the previous base attained. There will be no delay in this situation. If the base runner does not continue to advance to the next base and/or does not return to the previous base attained, the coach will be given one warning. All subsequent incidents will result in the base runner being called out. Any base runners behind the lead runner may advance without delay and at their own risk to any open base.
43. No more than six (6) pitchers may be used in a game.
44. No game or practice may start or continue with a temperature below 40 degrees (F).
45. 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 a base runner is tagging up on a fly ball, the white section of the base must be used by the base 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.)
46. Balks: Any of the following acts will be considered a balk. See rule 20 for rulings.
  - (a) Pitcher touching or straddling the pitchers plate without possession of the ball.
  - (b) Turning shoulder after coming to set position
  - (c) Flinching/moving after coming to set position without throwing pitch.  
Exception made for movement of head.

**Mooresville Baseball League – 2018  
Major 50-70 Division**

- (d) Beginning pitch motion without throwing pitch. Exception for fake pickoff to 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> bases.
- (e) After taking rubber, faking a pickoff throw to first base without first stepping back off of rubber. The act of stepping back off of the rubber (pitchers plate) turns the pitcher into a fielder, thus making any motion legal.
- (f) Failure to pause after coming to set position (quick pitching)

**Left Hand Pitcher:**

- (g) Lifting stride leg behind line parallel to pitchers plate extended during pickoff move to first base.
- (h) During pickoff move to first, failing to step within 45 degree angle of straight line to first base. The same rule applies to a right hand pitcher with respect to third base.

47. Leadoffs and steals

- (a) Baserunners may not lead off or steal until pitcher is on or straddling rubber (pitchers plate).
- (b) Baserunners must return to base after each pitch (prior to the next pitch). Exception for attempted pickoff or steal attempt.

48. Dropped third strike rule will not be used in Major division.

49. Pitchers plate will be set at 50 ft. from front edge to back corner of home plate.

50. Bases will be set at 70 ft. base pegs.

51. Teams will field a maximum of 9 players in the field.

**52. All bats used must have the USA stamp on it. Any bat not carrying the USA stamp is not allowed in the dugout during a game.**