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# METRO BASEBALL LEAGUE

2010

## RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR 12 YEAR OLDS

The following basic rules and regulations will govern play in the Metro Baseball League for 2010. The list of rules and regulations is **NOT** intended to cover all of the playing rules, but rather highlight those areas that are referenced most often by the coaches and participants. In general, the MBL Board of Directors has adopted the National Federation High School League rules. Except where modified below.

### I. PLAYER REGISTRATION/ELIGIBILITY

- A. Players in their respective age groups must not reach the next age before May 1, 2010. **It is permissible for a player to play up from their designated age division, but they may not play down.** For example, an 11 year old may play in the 12 year old division, but a 13 year old may **NOT** play in the 12 year old division.
- B. Rosters are due before the first game and each team must check in prior to first game with rosters and birth certificates.

### II. RESIDENCY

- A. The Metro Baseball League is a **community based program**. Players are eligible to participate on teams from the community in which they live with their parent(s) or legal guardian, or their school attendance area. In some cases a "natural baseball community" exists which may be a combination of nearby communities based on high school attendance area or other demographics. However, this is **NOT** intended to allow all-star or recruited teams to be formed. The MBL Board of Directors reserve the right to rule on any questionable situations.

### III. LEVELS OF PLAY

- A. In order to encourage the development and expansion of baseball within the state and to provide for uniformity of competition for the purpose of obtaining these goals, the MBL shall be divided into three competitive levels as herein provided. **The policy of the MBL is that all associations must have a "AAA" team to have a "AA" team unless they petition the board for an exception.** It shall be the responsibility of each association to

maintain the integrity of each level within their own association and to properly classify their teams.

“AAA” -The highest competitive level and every association shall have the right to enter teams in the AAA League level.

“AA”- The intermediate level, primarily intended to provide a uniform competitive experience for communities that are not able to compete at the AAA League level or communities that already have teams at the AAA League level.

“A”- The intermediate level essentially designed to be a developmental league to provide a competitive experience until they are ready to advance to a higher competitive level.

- B. Interlevel Play** - There shall be no interlevel play between “AAA”, “AA”, and “A” leagues. In some circumstances where interlevel play is appropriate, approval of the MBL Board of Directors must be obtained.

#### **IV. FIELD DIMENSIONS**

- A. The following base lengths shall apply:**

12 year olds - 67.5 - 75 feet (**recommended distance is 75.0 feet**)

- B. The following pitching distances shall apply:**

12 year olds -50-54 feet (**recommended distance is 52 feet**)

#### **V. EQUIPMENT**

- A. Shoes**

**12 year olds** will use molded cleats or tennis shoes. **NO METAL SPIKES ALLOWED!**

- B. Bats** - The following pertains to the legality of bats in the MBL

**12 year olds** In diameter at the thickest part:.....2 1/4" or less with unlimited weight differential

**12 year olds** In diameter at the thickest part:.....2 1/2" or less with minus 10 weight differential or less

**12 year olds** In diameter at the thickest part:.....2 5/8" or less with minus 10 weight differential or less

**12 year olds** In diameter at the thickest part:.....2 3/4" or less with minus 10 weight differential or less

In length:.....36" or less

## VI. COACH/PLAYER CONDUCT

- A.** All players, coaches and spectators are to behave in a manner that reflects the positive fun associated with the game of baseball. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated including:
- Verbal abuse - Arguing judgment calls
  - Physical aggression                      - Profanity
  - Tantrum-like acts
- B.** Any player, coach or spectator ejected from a game will also be suspended from their teams next game. Further sanctions may be warranted depending upon the behavior. A second game disqualification will result in suspension from the remainder of the team's regular season and playoff games.
- C.** Anyone ejected for the season is entitled to an appeal. They should submit their appeal in writing to the MBL Board of Directors. A hearing will be scheduled to include the party involved, their coach, the umpire, the travel director, and the MBL Board of Directors.

## VII. UMPIRES

- A.** **12 year old teams** It will be the responsibility of each home team to supply and pay for an umpire for each game. It is also the responsibility for each association to determine how much each umpire will be paid.
- B.** **No judgment call may be protested.** Only rule interpretations are allowed. Protested games will be completed only when the outcome has significant bearing on the final standings.
- C.** While the MBL hopes to eliminate all "no-shows", we must also have a policy in the event that you do have a "no-show".

If an umpire is not at the field at game time, both managers must agree to one of the following options:

- 1) Wait for the umpire to show.

- 2) Start the game with an agreed upon substitute umpire. To avoid conflict between both teams have one person from each team umpire the game.
  - 3) Do not play the game and attempt to reschedule.
- D.** In any event, call the MBL to report problems that arose and what solution was agreed upon. If a substitute umpire was used, and the MBL is responsible for payment, supply their name and address on an umpire reimbursement form with the game number and they will be paid for their services.

### **VIII. GENERAL RULES**

- A.** Each team must supply 1 new game ball for each game.
- B.** Home team shall keep the official scorebook.
- C.** Line markings and bases are the responsibility of the home team.
- D.** All players must be in matching uniforms.
- E. Courtesy runners**  
**12 year olds** The last player to be put out will be allowed to run for the current catcher any time. The player that is run for must catch the next innings. **Exception:** A courtesy runner (the last player to be put out) will be allowed for an injured player.

### **IX. CONTINUOUS BATTING**

- A. 12 year olds** Continuous batting and free substitution will be used in **All** Metro Baseball old games. This rule applies to the AAA, AA, and A leagues.

### **X. PITCHING RESTRICTIONS**

- A. 12 year olds** A pitcher may pitch a maximum of **3 innings per game and a maximum of 9 innings per week.**
- B. Definition -** A week consists of Sunday through Saturday.

One pitch in an inning constitutes an inning pitched.

## **XI. LEADING OFF**

A. The following rules shall apply:

**12 year olds** - A player may lead off and steal at any time.

## **XII. GAME LENGTH**

- A. **12 year olds** Completed games re **FINAL** after **6** innings. Extra innings will be allowed based on weather conditions and sunlight.
- B. Ties will stand after curfew or darkness. **Do not risk injury due to darkness.** To insure the playing of the full six innings, hustle between half innings and retrieve all foul balls in a timely manner.
- C. The 10 run rule will take effect after 4 1/2 innings.
- D. Games called for any reason in mid-inning will revert to the score at the end of the last completed inning.

## **XIII. STANDINGS**

- A. The Metro Baseball League standings are computed by a point system. Each team will receive 3 points for a win, 2 points for a tie and 1 point for a loss. Ties will be broken down by the followings procedure:
- 1) Head to Head competition
  - 2) Best winning percentage (games won divided by games played)
  - 3) Best positive run differential in games between the tied teams
  - 4) Best positive run differential in all games played
  - 5) If still tied, a one game playoff will determine the winner

## **XIV. RAIN-OUT PROCEDURES**

A. **12 year olds** Games started but stopped due to weather conditions are official after 3 1/2 or 4 innings.