

MARION BOYS BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE RULES

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Applicants must be at least 13 years old and no more than 15 years old as of April 1st of the current baseball season. Players may lose their eligibility as a result of false information given on their application form, for repeated offenses of sportsmanship, conduct or attendance, or for any single flagrant violation of sportsmanship, conduct or other rules of the game.
2. **PITCHING ELIGIBILITY:** No restrictions.
3. **SPORTSMANSHIP:**
 - a. Zero Tolerance - Unsportsmanlike conduct or inappropriate behavior by coaches, players or parents will not be allowed.
 - b. A game may be called by an umpire, League Director or board member for unsportsmanlike conduct from coaches or parents.
 - c. Coaches displaying unsportsmanlike conduct or using abusive language may receive one warning from the League Director or board member per Zero Tolerance policy. All incidents will be reviewed by the League Board of Directors.
 - d. Members of a coaching staff may not, by their actions, influence, distract or intimidate an opposing player or the umpire.
 - e. Coaches may not go behind the backstop to watch the umpire.
 - f. A coach may not protest a judgment call made by an umpire.
 - g. Players are not allowed to dispute an umpire's decision.
 - h. Players are not allowed to use personal name calling of opposing players or profanity.
 - i. Catcher and infield player distraction of a batter is not allowed. Once the Pitcher is set, any cheering from the dugout and baserunners is phased out.
 - j. Base runner distraction of an opposing pitcher is not allowed.
 - k. A player throwing a bat or helmet may be removed from the game by the umpire.
 - l. All coaches must be approved by the League Board. No unapproved persons are allowed in the dugout during any game. Approved coaches will be attired in appropriate team jersey.
 - m. See also Coaches Conduct and Parent Conduct detailed at www.marionbaseball.org
 - n. Violation of any of the Sportsmanship Rules may result in an ejection of a player, coach, or fan at the umpire's discretion. Any ejection will result in a minimum 1-game suspension. Any suspended player, coach, or fan may petition the board to have the suspension reduced.

4. GAMES: Are scheduled to start at 5:30 P.M. sharp. The coach will announce starting times for make-up games and practices to all players. Most regular season games will be played Monday - Friday with some Saturdays. Forfeit time will be 15 minutes past the scheduled starting time. The team listed first on the schedule will be the "away" team. Away team will use the first base side dugout and designate the official scorekeeper. Both teams shall keep a scorebook for every game. A team must have a minimum of seven (7) players to start a game. If the team has 7 or 8 players, the coach can ask the opposing coach to borrow fielders for defense only. The borrowed players will bat for their team only. A suggested rotation would be the final player that was out the previous inning, or coaches' discretion.

Major League games are scheduled for seven (7) innings unless otherwise called by the umpire because conditions in his judgment become unplayable.

In the event of a tie score after regulation innings and the game is within the time limit, the game will continue using California rules as long as conditions remain playable in the umpire's judgment, the home team goes ahead in the score, or the time limit is reached.

No new inning will start after 7:15 P.M. on weekdays and after 1 hour and 45 minutes on weekends. No play will continue after 2 ¼ hours on weekends.

At the top of an inning the umpire will determine if that is the last inning. If so, they will make that announcement and there will be unlimited runs for both teams. If the last inning ends before the time limit has expired and it is a completed inning, then another inning will be played under California rules with unlimited runs. Once an inning is started it must be completed, unless it is a Saturday game. Play will continue until time has expired or there is a winner.

In the event a game is shortened by the umpire's judgment that conditions are no longer playable it will constitute an official game if 3 ½ innings have been played with the home team ahead in score or after 4 full innings are complete.

If called with neither team ahead in score: the visiting team having gone ahead in score and the home team not having completed their half of inning, or tied the score, or gone ahead in score or with the home team having gone ahead in score, play reverts back to the last completed inning, or the score is final, and the home team has won the game.

A game that is called due to heat by the League Director will have a final inning in which the unlimited rule applies.

For Excessive Heat Warnings, MBB policy will be to cancel all activities for the day.

5. **MAKEUP GAMES:** The League Board members will be responsible for figuring out a time for all makeup games. They will notify the coaches of the time and place for the makeup game.

6. **LINE UP CARDS:** Must be traded with the opposing team before the game starts with the shirt number in the order you want them to bat. Any late comers must go to the bottom of the lineup card. Everyone bats the entire game. Coach will report all pitching changes to the home plate umpire. If a player can no longer bat during the game, the batting order will be adjusted, and this will NOT constitute an automatic out. The only automatic out will be in the event of an ejected player.

7. **GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT:** Each player that shows good faith in attendance and abides by the Player's Code of Conduct must be given an opportunity to play in the game.

8. **AUTHORIZED PERSONS:** Are permitted within the confines of the playing area. Coaches (max 4 in uniform), players, umpires, batboys (in uniform) and league officials.

9. **PLAYERS:** If a player is not in the field, up to bat, on deck or warming up to pitch with a catcher (with helmet) and player protecting the pitcher and catcher (with a helmet and glove), they should be in the dugout.

10. **FREE SUBSTITUTION:** Players may enter and leave a game any number of times between innings or after securing a timeout from the umpire when action is stopped.

11. **LOOSE EQUIPMENT:** Helmets, bats, gloves, etc., must be kept in the dugout for safety.

12. **BATS:** All baseball bats must meet the following guidelines:

- a. Maximum length of a bat is 34 inches
- b. Barrel diameter is $2 \frac{5}{8}$ for BBCOR bats.
- c. Absolutely no big barrel bats (except BBCOR), oversized bats, softball bats or tee-ball bats are not allowed
- d. Maximum bat drop is -3. Drop refers to bats weight in ounces minus its length. For example, a 27 inch bat that weighs 24 ounces would have a bat drop of -3.
- e. Bats must be certified BBCOR bats approved for high school and collegiate play.
- f. Any equipment issued by MBB is considered legal.
- g. Wood bats are allowed.

13. **SHOES:** Baseball shoes with soft treads, imitation cleats or tennis shoes are allowed. Absolutely NO steel spikes are allowed.

14. **CLOTHING:** Absolutely no shorts are allowed. Players must wear long pants, below the knee. If the pitcher is wearing an undershirt or arm sleeve, it must be a solid color and match the

main color of the team shirts or be black. Pitchers are not allowed to wear wristbands or batting gloves. Absolutely no player is allowed to wear jewelry. Shirts also must be tucked in during games at all times, and socks must be worn. Sunglasses may be worn by any player except the pitcher, catcher, and batter. Prescription sunglasses may be worn by any player. Pitchers and Catchers must have a protective cup.

15. **HELMETS:** Helmets must be worn by the batter and all base runners at all times. If the batter steps into the batter's box or substitute runner steps on a base without a helmet on his head, he or she will be called out by the umpire. When play starts, base runners will occasionally run out from under their helmets. However, any deliberate removal or tossing aside of a protective helmet by the runner will result in being called out by the umpire.

16. **ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT:** Coaches are required to ensure all equipment before a game or practice follows the rules of the game and is safe. Any equipment that is deemed illegal by league standards or not safe will result in:

- a. First infraction: the coach will receive a warning by the umpire.
- b. Second infraction: the coach will be ejected from the game.
- c. Umpires are required to report any illegal equipment issues to the Marion Boys Baseball Board immediately after the game.
- d. Any equipment issued by MBB will be considered LEGAL.

17. **SCORING:** If five (5) runs are scored in any one inning, the play will stop when the 5th run scores and will go to the next inning.

There will be no run limits in the 7th or subsequent innings, or an inning declared the last inning by the umpire. Play continues until the batting team is retired with three (3) outs.

At the end of the 3rd inning, if one team is ahead by fifteen (15) runs or more the game will end. At the end of the 5th inning, if one team is ahead by ten (10) runs or more the game will end.

18. **PITCHING:** (54 feet) A player is not allowed to pitch more than 3 innings and may pitch 1 more inning if the game goes to an 8th inning (see below). Eight (8) total innings may be pitched per week (a week shall be defined as any seven (7) day consecutive period). Pitcher innings will reset for the championship game in the season ending tournament. Once a pitcher is removed from the game: Hit more than 3 batters; Being pulled before the end of the 3rd consecutive innings; or at the end of the max of 3 consecutive innings, they may not return as a pitcher. The player removed is available to play at any other position. One pitch thrown to a batter from the opposing team will be counted as an inning pitched.

If the game goes into extra innings, the pitcher at the end of regulation and has thrown the max of 3 consecutive innings may be considered to throw one more inning the next time the team

takes the field. Any previous pitchers who pitched in the game are ineligible to come back in and pitch.

Violation of either of the above stated rules may result in forfeiture of the team in violation of the rule.

A pitcher may have seven (7) warm-up pitches at the start of the game and five (5) warm-up pitches for each subsequent inning or for a substitute pitcher. A pitcher injured during play may have the appropriate number of practice pitches, umpire's judgment. A pitcher may warm up 30 feet beyond 1st and 3rd base in foul territory.

Coaches are responsible and need to take consideration regarding these young player's future good health. If your pitcher, for whatever reason, is working longer than average innings please take this into account when judging how much to work them without a reasonable period of rest.

19. **HIT BATTERS:** If a pitcher hits 3 batters in a game they must be replaced and are not allowed to pitch again in the game. Batter must try to avoid getting hit by the pitch (umpire discretion). If a player is hit while the pitch is in the strike zone or over the plate, the batter will not be awarded first base and the pitch shall be called a ball or strike based on its location when it crosses the plate. If a player's hand is hit by the pitch while on the bat, the player shall be awarded first base, unless the batter was swinging or attempting to swing when the ball hit the player's hand. A ball that bounces and then hits a batter is a dead ball and the batter shall be awarded first base unless the batter swings at the bounced ball. Runners may not advance on a dead ball unless forced to advance by the player awarded first base. A player may also hit a bounced ball.

20. **BALKS:** The balk rule will be enforced. Pitchers will receive 1 warning per pitcher per game. Members of the coaching staff are responsible to instruct their pitchers on what constitutes a balk. There are no hidden ball or fake tag plays.

21. **GROUND RULE DOUBLE:** Any batted fair ball that rolls through an outfield gate hole in the fence, under a fence or goes over the outfield fence after:

- a. first striking the ground in fair territory, or
- b. first striking the ground in fair territory and being deflected off a player's glove.

The ball is dead and all runners and batter advance 2 bases.

22. **OUT OF PLAY:** A ball is considered out of play when it is thrown or deflected out of the field of play or into either dugout or bench area. If a ball is thrown or deflected out of play by a defensive player, the base runner or batter becoming a runner will be awarded 1 additional base from the time of the ball going out of play.

23. **INFIELD FLY RULE:** The rule will be used during a Major League game.
24. **BASE RUNNERS:** Leading off is allowed. On all close plays at first base the runner must touch the orange base. If a runner fails to touch the orange base on a close play, the umpire may call the runner out.
25. **PINCH RUNNERS:** If a pinch runner is needed, they shall be the last person to make an out for the team at bat.
26. **BASE PATH LENGTH:** The length of the base paths for Major League games are 80 feet.
27. **SPEEDING UP THE GAME:** If the catcher designated for the next inning is on base with 1 or 2 outs they shall be replaced with a courtesy runner. The courtesy runner shall be the last batter to make an out for the team at bat.
28. **DEFENSIVE TIMEOUTS:** Coaches for each team in each game are allowed 1 defensive timeout per inning limited to 1 minute from the moment the timeout is granted by the umpire. On any subsequent trip to the mound in the same inning, the pitcher must be removed, and a new pitcher be brought in. An injured defensive player on the field area does not count toward a team's number of defensive timeouts in a game.
29. **INTENTIONAL WALKS:** Intentional walks will be allowed. Coaches may inform the umpire of an intentional walk and the batter will be allowed to advance to first base with no pitches being thrown.
30. **BUNTING:** Bunting is allowed. If the batter is bunting and does not pull the bat back it will be considered a swing. If the batter is hit by the pitch while attempting to bunt, this is considered a strike and first base will not be awarded.
31. **DROPPED THIRD STRIKE:** Batters may advance to first base, provided it was vacant at the time of pitch. With 2 outs, the batter may advance to an occupied first base.
32. **FOUL TIP CAUGHT:** A batter will be called out on a foul tip caught by the catcher with 2 strikes.
33. **BASE STEALING:** Base stealing is always allowed and any base can be stolen, including home.
34. **SLIDE RULES:** A base runner must slide feet first into home plate if there is a play at home plate. This is an umpire judgment call.

36. **BATTING CAGE:** Coaches and players may use the batting cage as long as the coaches have been given instruction by MBB personnel. Caution, safety and care will be used by adults operating the pitching machine. **AT NO TIME** will the player be left alone or operate the pitching machine. **AT NO TIME** will an adult demonstrate how fast the pitching machine can throw a ball, also for safety reasons.

37. **FIELD DIMENSIONS:** The Starry Major League field and the other fields may be slightly different in distance from pitching mound to home plate and the length of the base paths. Games will be played on these fields as they are, and they will not be altered to conform to a common standard.

38. **UMPIRE CARDS:** At the end of the game, a coach from both teams must sign the umpire's card and verify that the score and pitchers used, and innings pitched are correct.

RULES NOT OUTLINED ABOVE WILL REVERT TO THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION RULES.