

MBA – 6/8 Game Rules – 2014

Coordinator Contact information:

Any questions or disputes of the rules should first be worked out between the team managers (head coaches). Anything that cannot be immediately resolved should first be escalated to the league coordinator. If necessary, the league coordinator will report any incidents to MBA board members.

Current coordinator - Brian Reynolds – brian@reynoldsfam.net – 443-952-1465 (cell/text)

Rules Summary:

Coach Pitch	YES, batting teams coach is to pitch to his or her team
Kid Pitch	NO
Pitching Distance	30-35 feet – to be measured out prior to each game
Catcher in use for defensive team	YES
Bunting	NO
Lead Off	NO
Steals	NO
Strike Outs (called and swinging)	YES
Foul Ball Strikes	NO
Base Path Distance	50 feet
Bat full roster	YES
Play full roster in field	YES, Catcher, Pitcher (fielding only), 1B, 2B, 3B, SS and the remainder must play in the outfield (not to stand at or on 2nd base, for example)
Outs per inning	3
Limits per inning	3 outs or bat the lineup whichever occurs first
Extra bases on overthrows	NO
Extra bases on batted balls to outfield	YES, a halfway line between bases will be used and runners are to stop or return to the prior base if not halfway when the ball hits the infield (does not have to be caught or under control in the infield)
Umpires and disputed calls	NO official umpires. Fielding team will supply a "coach" umpire to back up the catchers (keep the game moving along) while calling balls, strikes, outs and enforce halfway rule each half inning. Managers of home and away teams will confer and agree on a call if there is any dispute. Assistant coaches, parents and players will not be involved in resolving any disputes. This is mandatory that the manager/head coaches agree and show good sportsmanship in doing so. This is still an instructional age group trying to advance baseball skills and knowledge of the game.
Coaches on field instruction	YES, up to 2 coaches in the outfield – behind the fielders - for fielding team (not to touch balls hit in play or all runners are called safe and awarded an extra base)
Base coaches	YES, 2 per team for the batting team
Game time limits	6 innings or 90 minutes whichever comes first (the top of the last inning shall not be started after the 90 mins mark)
Mercy rule	NO, we will let each team play their full amount of innings regardless of how well the opposing team is doing - that is why we have inning limits
Equipment rules	Helmets must be worn at all times for batters, on deck batters, base runners. No big barrel bats allowed. Compression baseballs will be used at all times during games. Catchers must wear full gear and a protective cup that the player/parent provides (cup).
Field Prep and Clean up	Home Team to cut grass (as needed), prep bases and drag/line field. Visiting team to put away bases, field prep equipment, rake/drag field and base lines and lock shed(s).

General Rules:

- All Manchester Baseball and NCRC Code of Conduct Laws apply
- All Manchester Baseball and NCRC Weather Policies are in effect
- Batters boxes, coaches boxes and base lines that run into the outfield should be put down prior to all games
- Compression balls will be used at all times during games. These balls are harder than tee balls but not official baseballs.
- No big barrel bats (2 and ¼ inch bats only).
- Fields should be raked or dragged and lines raked out of the fields at the end of each game (or following the last game on Saturday)
- Home team is responsible for lining the fields and putting down the bases – cut the grass and drag the fields as required prior to games.
- Visiting team is responsible for cleaning up, raking field and base lines, putting away bases, locking shed(s)
- No official umpires will be supplied. Games will be called jointly by the coaches of each team using fair discretion for 6, 7 and 8 year olds – please see summary and coaches rules for details of umpiring and game calling
- Games will be played for 6 innings or 90 minutes (new innings not to start after 90 minutes of play). Whichever comes first
- This is a coach pitch league and there will be no player pitchers
- Coaches for both teams will pitch from a position in between lines drawn at 30 and 35 feet distances from home plate when the field is prepared.
- Outs will be counted
- 3 Outs or batting through a lineup will end that half of the inning
- Strike outs will count as outs and the player must return to the dugout.
- Foul Balls will *not* be counted as strikes
- Strikes will consist of balls that are swung on and missed or balls that are considered to be highly hittable but not swung at (defined as: belt high pitches down the middle portion of the plate)
- There will be no walks. Players will bat until they hit the ball into fair play territory or strike out swinging or looking.
- Outs in the field will count and the player must return to the dugout if they pop out, fly out, are forced out or tagged out. If a base runner overruns another they are also called out (the runner who was overrun must return to the dugout and one out is recorded).
- All batted balls (including swinging bunts) are considered in play unless they are in foul territory
- On any foul ball a player will continue his or her at bat without penalty or strikes being called. This includes foul balls that are hit into the outfield.
- A halfway line between bases will be measured and put down along with baselines prior to games. For balls hit into the outfield there will be extra bases permitted – the rule is that any base runner (including the batter) may advance until the fielded ball hits the infield dirt or is received in the infield or run into the infield. At that point the base runner(s) progressing must return to the base which he was last at if he hasn't passed the halfway line when the ball leaves the throwing players hand.
- There will be no advancing of bases on overthrows of any kind in the infield unless the advancing player was already past the halfway line between bases.
- No lead offs. No steals. Players breaking this rule will be required to return to the previous base. If they are tagged out they will however have to return to the dugout as a recorded out.
- Runs may be counted and there will be a winner and loser at the end of the game but standings for the league will not be kept on record or online.
 - If and how the coaches choose to report the end of game scores to their team is up to their discretion, but we encourage using the result for teachable moments. E.g. explain the final result of the game, congratulate them for a job well done (win or lose). Teach sportsmanship and proper attitude regardless of the end of game results.

Player Rules:

- Rosters will consist of 9 to 10 players.
- 9 kids will play in the field with a roster of 9 players – Pitcher, Catcher, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B, LF, CF, RF. Teams with 10 players should place the 10th player in right-center or left-center field – not as an additional infielder. Players must be placed at or about the proper playing position in the field. Putting players in strategic positions to make outs such as directly behind 2nd base is prohibited. The goal is to teach the players how to field and how to move on the field of play in order to make outs.
- Every player bats no matter how many are on the roster (bat the full roster).
- Catchers must wear all catching gear and a protective cup
- All on deck batter, live batters and base runners must wear a batting helmet (mask is optional)
 - Helmets should not be removed until the player reaches the dugout after batting or base running
- Fielding pitcher will stand just to the left or right of the 30-35 foot lines (they may choose or coaches may tell them which side to stand on). They are not to stand in front of or behind the coach who is pitching

Coaches Rules:

- Batting team will place 1 coach in the field to pitch to the players on his or her team
- Batting teams coach-pitcher should have 3 balls with them but keep them off of the field of play (in their glove or under their feet in close proximity)
- Batting team will place 2 coaches at the base coach positions (1B/3B) to provide instruction to base runners and assist with safe/out calls
- Fielding team may place up to 3 coaches in the field
 - Mandatory coach behind the catcher to assist with calling strikes and relaying passed balls back to the pitching teams coach
 - Optional 2 coaches *behind* the outfielders to assist with infield/outfield positioning and instruct fielders when balls are batted in play
 - Fielding coaches are not to touch live balls that are considered in play
 - If a live ball is touched by a fielding coach it becomes a dead ball and each of the batter and base runners is to advance one extra base using the “halfway rule”
 - If a coach is missing 2 or more players they will remove RF, LF then CF and any ball hit into the outfield will be ruled a single unless the player can advance past the halfway line for extra bases before the infielders are able to run the ball down and it hits the infield dirt
- A team parent or coach must be present to manage the dugout (control), on deck circle/batter and keep the game moving along timely between batters and between innings
- Fielding positions are up to the coach’s discretion. We encourage moving kids around into positions that they are interested in and capable of playing and allowing each of them to try to master 2 or 3 spots on the field. If a position poses a danger to a child or they don’t show ability/interest it is not mandatory that they play that particular position (this is especially true with things like catcher and 1B where some kids may struggle to catch the ball).
- NO official umpires. Fielding team will supply a "coach" umpire to back up the catchers (keep the game moving along) while calling balls, strikes, outs and enforce halfway rule each half inning. Managers of home and away teams will confer and agree on a call if there is any dispute. Assistant coaches, parents and players will not be involved in resolving any disputes. This is mandatory that the manager/head coaches agree and show good sportsmanship in doing so. This is still an instructional age group trying to advance baseball skills and knowledge of the game.