

2025 DCEYB Majors League Playing Rules



Games

1. Six inning game length.
2. 3 1/2 innings (if the home team is winning) will constitute a complete game if there is a rain out.
3. All single night games start at 6:00pm.
 - a. 1 hr 30 min TIME LIMIT: Do not START an inning AFTER 7:30.
4. If Double-Header games are needed because of rescheduling, we will start at 5:30pm and 7:00pm
 - a. 1 hr 20 min TIME LIMIT with HARD STOP:
 - i. Game 1: HARD stop at 6:50pm.
 - ii. Game 2: HARD stop at 8:20pm.
 - b. *If at the hard stop, the inning is not completed, score reverts to previous inning.*
5. The definition of the start of inning is when the 3rd out is made in the previous inning.
6. Home Team reports game scores on Crossbar website.
7. Both teams enter keep track of pitching statistics.

Fields

- 1) Fields used are...
 - a) Kennedy Park, Jones Field #1 and #2 (50/70 field) for all games
 - b) Kennedy, Machmueller, George Street, River Street, Spring Street, Robinwood Park, and Gaska are all available for scheduled practice if not in use.
 - c) To utilize the cages at Kennedy, you must schedule time through just like fields.
- 2) Home team is responsible for field set-up and tear-down.
 - a) Lining baselines (infield dirt only). Do not lime grass on the infield or outfield.
 - b) Placing bases (plugs should be placed out of field of play).
 - c) Raking base paths, pitcher's mound, and home plate area.
 - i) (Note...Always rake parallel to edge of grass.)
- 3) Once Home team arrives, please stay off infield so that the field can be prepped.
 - a) Practice in outfield.

Umpires

1. **Home team pays the plate umpire before the game starts.**
 - a. \$45/game
 - b. If game is called before umpire arrives, the umpire does NOT get paid.
 - c. If game is called after umpire arrives, umpire still gets paid.
 - i. If game is resumed at a different date, no need to pay Umpire again. (League will try to reschedule using the same ump)
 - ii. If game is cancelled and no longer played, ump does not have to return money.
2. Away team provides base umpire –
3. DCEYB will appoint umpires.
 - a. Umpires call is final decision, no exceptions. DO NOT ARGUE with League Appointed Umpires.
 - b. If you have an issue, contact Commissioner.
4. **If there is no league appointed umpire, each team shall provide one umpire (1 plate, 1 field)**
 - a. **Both Umpires can NOT be from the same team**
 - b. **Both Umpires MUST be signed up as assistant coach or Field Umpire and passed the background check program.**
 - c. **No Parents from the stands.**
 - d. **Close calls will then be decided between the 2 head coaches from each team.**
5. Plate umpires are encouraged to call a slightly wider strike zone.
 - a. The strike zone ranges, vertically, from the knee to the armpits and a ball wider than the plate.

Pitching

1. A pitcher may pitch up to 3 innings in a game.
(Note...ONLY on the Pitch Count Limit for the day...a pitcher may continue to pitch until the current batter completes his at-bat if his pitch count limit has been reached during the at-bat.)
2. Pitch count limits...
 - League age: 11-12 - (85) pitches per day
 - **Try to cap pitchers to 2 innings if possible.**
3. Mandatory resting periods for pitchers are required depending on the number of pitches thrown...
(Note...Resting Period counts are strict amounts.)
-Try not to change pitchers in the middle of a batter. Be pro-active if you need a pitcher to minimize rest time.
 - (1) to (40) pitches - no rest is required
 - (41) to (65) pitches - (1) calendar day rest is required
 - (66) or more pitches - (2) calendar days rest is required
4. If you substitute for a pitcher, that original pitcher may not pitch again in the same game.
5. Warm up Pitch MAX = 5
 - Try to keep the pace of the game moving
6. Coaches may make one trip to the mound, per pitcher, in any one inning. The second trip shall result in the removal of that pitcher from the game as a pitcher.
7. First balk of the inning for each pitcher is a warning, all subsequent balks will be called.
8. Infield fly rule WILL be enforced.

Note – For improved game play, it is recommended that teams use their best pitcher the first two innings of a game. Rotate players in and out of pitcher and catcher positions more frequently during hot weather conditions. In addition, not all kids will be capable of pitching. Be clear with players and parents at the beginning of the season that an effort will be made to teach and rotate the kids through every position, but some kids may not likely play pitcher or catcher as their skill or comfort levels haven't developed to the necessary level. This improves the safety of the game, so kids are not getting hit by pitches, improves the pace of the game, and keeps the rest of the players engaged. This also prevents a kid from being demoralized by finding out the hard way during a game that he/she is not yet ready to play that position. Every effort should be made to teach every position to every player during practice however and your goal as a coach should be to have every player regularly and consistently rotate through every position during the season.

Batting

1. A continuous batting order is to be used.
 - a. If a player cannot continue due to injury, their at-bat is NOT counted as an out. Just skip batter. They may return to same spot in batting order at any time.
 - b. If a player cannot finish their at-bat due to injury, the player is NOT out. Just skip to next batter.
 - c. If the batter is hit by a pitch and cannot make it to first base, player that made the last out will pinch run.
2. A half inning ends when three outs are recorded **or a team bats through the roster. If the opposing team has a higher number of players on their roster, you may bat additional hitters to equal the number of hitters on the other team.**
3. Four balls = walk
4. Bunting is allowed. During a pitch, if a batter shows bunt then they may not swing away. It will be an automatic out if they do swing after showing bunt.
5. If a batter is hit by pitch with a ball that hit the dirt first, it is still considered a HBP and the batter is awarded first base.
6. Catcher's interference allows the batter to take first base. (Please make sure catchers are not too close, or too far that there are too many past balls).
7. A batter may advance to 1st base on a **dropped third strike**, unless the base is occupied with less than 2 outs. The batter will be out if tagged, or the ball is confirmed at 1st base before the batter arrives.

Base-Running

1. Leading off and stealing of all bases (including home) is allowed at any time.
2. Runners can advance on a wild pitch.
3. Runners must stop and return to base once the pitcher has possession of the ball on the mound.
4. Stealing/Sliding-
 - a. Runners must slide feet first on all close plays, unless going back to a base previously occupied, then they may slide head first. Runners will be called out for illegal head first slides.
 - i. **If a runner does not slide on a close play they will be called out.**
 - ii. **If a runner intentionally runs into defender, tries to knock the ball out, or any other unsportsmanlike action....they will be ejected, and may be imposed a suspension based on circumstances.**
 - iii. All close plays will be at the umpire's discretion.
 - b. Teach kids, when in doubt, slide. It's good practice and can't hurt if there is no play.
5. **A courtesy runner can be used for the catcher on the bases when there are 2 outs. This runner will be the player that made the last out.**
 - a. In an effort to minimize down time between innings.
6. When running to first base, runner can be tagged out...ONLY if clearly trying to advance to 2nd.
 - a. Runner can turn to the right OR left after successfully claiming first base.

Players

1. Play all kids as equally as possible.
2. Teach and rotate players through every position consistently throughout the season. Your goal as coach is to rotate all kids through all positions during the season. Teach the game. Do not coach to win but rather focus on skill and knowledge development for all players.
3. Play 9 players defensively.
4. If one team is short players, share your extra players with the opposing team to provide a fun night of baseball for all. Ask your players for volunteers to help the other team. Most kids are eager to help and be sure to praise those that do.
 - a. MUST have minimum of 8 players to play official game.
 - b. If playing with 8 players, an out will be recorded during the 9th player's spot in the batting order.
 - c. Encourage sharing players to other teams if short and decide BEFORE game starts if it will be counted as official game or forfeit.
 - d. If contacting kids from another team, must be approved by commissioner prior to game.
 - i. ONLY DCEYB registered kids are allowed to play
 - ii. Substitute players are NOT allowed to pitch
5. Unlimited substitution in the field is allowed, except for the pitcher. Once removed, they are not allowed to pitch for the remainder of the game. **Double headers are considered two separate games.
6. **Bat a continuous batting order (each player shall bat regardless if they are playing in the field that inning.)**
7. **No player should sit more than two innings per game (they can be consecutive.)**
8. **The sitting of players should be equal amongst the entire team during regular season play. (DO NOT just keep sitting the same few players)**
9. **If the commissioner receives parental complaints, there may be a review of the books. Failure to comply with the Players rule #8 (unless due to necessary disciplinary benching) will affect team eligibility to participate in the playoffs.**

Playoffs

1. All teams will make playoffs regardless of how many teams are in the league.
2. Awards
 - a. Champions and Runner-ups will receive trophies
3. Commissioner will develop playoff schedule
 - a. Seeding will be based on final standings based on win/loss record
 - b. If teams play unequal schedule, seeding will be based on win %
 - i. Ties in Win% will be determined by
 1. Head-to-Head matchup
 2. Head-to-Head Runs Scored vs. Runs Against differential
 3. Total Runs Scored vs. Runs Against differential
 4. Runs Allowed
 5. Flip of a coin
4. Playoff seeding will determine next year's draft schedule (worst to first)
 - a. Not who won the championship game
5. Home Plate Umpires will be provided for playoff games just like regular season.
 - a. Championship game will have 2 paid umpires assigned from commissioner.

Coaches Code of Conduct

1. Remember to always be positive with kids. Set a good example and be a good role model.
2. Your goal is to teach the fundamentals of the game while creating a respectful and fun atmosphere.
 - a. **As coaches, we represent the League and your community.**
 - b. **WORK together!!! Let the kids compete, but as coaches, we are one team!!**
3. Absolutely no foul language to players, coaches, umpires, or anyone (this will not be tolerated!).
4. Respect the fields we are playing on.
5. Respect the opposing team and fans.
6. Get parent involvement (assistant coaches).
7. Exude sportsmanship.
8. Do not violate the village sportsmanship ordinances. Violations will be dealt with swiftly and severely.
9. Above all, be a Teacher of the game. Consider yourself 99% teacher and 1% coach and you'll be far more effective at achieving good players.
10. It is strongly suggested that you have fundamental skill development and overall level of fun for the kids.
11. A team meeting at the first practice during which you cover your rules and expectations of the kids (discipline, behavior expectations, sportsmanship, teamwork, respect, etc.), your expectations of the parents (support, handling conflict in a proper manner, positive role model), as well as what the players and parents can expect of you as team manager/coach.

Remember to keep it positive and fun at all times!

Safety Items

1. Lightning – plan to cancel the game at any sighting of lightning, or sound of thunder.
2. On deck batters must stand on side behind the batter's back.
3. It is required that those kids playing catcher wear a cup and supporter.
4. No metal cleats are allowed.
5. Remind the kids to drop their bat after making a hit – do not throw it.
6. Per Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth standards, only **USA stamped bats** are allowed.
7. Remind the kids to make sure the person they are throwing to is looking at them and for the ball.
8. Sliding is to only be feet first.
9. Anyone (adults included) must wear a mask to warm up the pitcher.
10. Must be 16 or older to coach 1st or 3rd base and an approved Manager or Asst. coach.
 - a. **No kids under 16 may coach 1st or 3rd base**

Housekeeping Items

1. Ensure the equipment storage closets are kept in order.
2. Ensure the equipment storage closets are locked when games/practices are complete.
3. Fields must be raked after the games. Rake parallel with field!!!
 - a. Try to keep the batter's box, the areas near the bases, and the mound free from large depressions.
 - b. Fill and tamp them down as necessary.
4. Try to keep the kids from digging holes while they are in the field.
5. Try to keep the base plugs organized so they make it through the entire season.
6. Ensure the dugouts are clean when games/practices are complete.

Rain Outs

1. While the decision to cancel a game due to a rain out (or field conditions) is the responsibility of the HOME team manager, it is recommended that both managers collaborate on the decision.
2. Plan to decide on the game cancellation **1.5 hours before game** time to allow ample time for notification of all players/parents. It is recommended that you decide ahead of time how you would get notification out quickly (dividing between coaches and/or team parent, etc.).
3. Keep in mind that playing on a field that is saturated or with standing water will make a mess of the field as well as the kids.
4. Makeup games can be played when there is field availability. The commissioner must be notified to verify the field is available to prevent 4 teams from showing up at the same field on the same night. We may run into situations with multiple nights of rainouts and fields may be at a premium.
5. Make up games are at the coaching staff's discretion but make up games are mandatory so we can seed for the playoffs. It is often difficult to field an entire team on a Friday or Saturday so keep that in mind when making your decision. It is often helpful to ask the parents' opinion as to whether they will be available (and willing) for bringing their kids on off nights.