

Mentor Baseball Fall Ball League Rules

The Mentor Baseball Fall Ball League follows current NFHS Baseball Rules except where modified below. Mentor Baseball reserves the right to clarify or amend these rules as necessary during the season.

League Administration

- Mentor Baseball or its appointed representatives (including umpires) shall have final authority regarding field conditions, game suspensions, cancellations, and player safety.
- No protests will be permitted.

Player Eligibility

- Teams may maintain an open roster.
- Players must appear in a game by the fourth week of the season and participate in at least four (4) games to be eligible for the playoffs.
- Players may compete in the same age division they played during the current summer season (age determined as of April 30th).
- Players may not appear on more than one roster within the same league.

Game Format

- Games are scheduled for six (6) innings.
- A game becomes official after four (4) innings, or three and one-half (3½) innings if the home team is leading.
- Regular season games have a one hour, forty-five minute (1:45) time limit. No new inning may begin after the time limit expires unless required to complete an official game.
- The game clock begins immediately following the pregame plate meeting and ground rules.
- The time limit is waived for the Semi-Final and Championship games.

Mercy Rule

- A game shall end if a team leads by twelve (12) or more runs after four (4) complete innings (or 3½ innings if the home team is ahead).
- A game shall end if a team leads by ten (10) or more runs after five (5) complete innings (or 4½ innings if the home team is ahead).

Umpires

- Umpire fees must be paid in cash at home plate prior to the start of each game.
- 11U/12U and younger: \$80 per game (\$40 per team).
- 13/14U divisions: \$140 per game (\$70 per team).

Team Requirements

- Teams may start and finish a game with eight (8) players.
- A fifteen (15) minute grace period will be allowed from the scheduled start time.
- Forfeits will be recorded as an 8-0 final score.

Lineups

- Teams may bat nine (9), ten (10) with an Additional Hitter (EH), or roster bat all uniformed players.
- The lineup option must be declared before the game and remain in effect for the entire game.
- When roster batting, players arriving after the game begins shall be added to the end of the batting order.

Courtesy Runners

- Courtesy runners may be used at any time for the pitcher and/or catcher.
- The courtesy runner must be an available substitute or, if none is available, the last recorded batted out.

Pitching Rules

- One pitch thrown in an inning constitutes one inning pitched (warm-up pitches excluded).
- 9U/10U: 3 innings per game, 6 innings per weekend.
- 11U/12U: 4 innings per game, 6 innings per weekend.
- 13U/14U: 6 innings per game, 6 innings per weekend.
- A pitcher removed from the mound may not return to pitch in the same game. If this occurs, the umpire shall correct the situation with no additional penalty.

Playing Rules

- The Infield Fly Rule is in effect for all divisions.
- Slug bunting is prohibited. Penalty: Batter is out; dead ball.
- The malicious contact rule is enforced in all divisions at the umpire's discretion.
- Metal cleats are permitted in 60/90 divisions but are prohibited on portable pitching mounds.

- Bat restrictions: No restrictions for 9U–12U. 13U/14U: Maximum -5 bat.

Sportsmanship

- Profanity, unsportsmanlike conduct, or misconduct by any player, coach, or manager may result in ejection from the game and/or removal from the facility.

Standings & Playoffs

- Regular season games may end in a tie.
- Points: Win = 3, Tie = 2, Loss = 1.
- If teams play an unequal number of games, winning percentage may be used.
- Two-Team Tiebreaker: 1) Head-to-Head, 2) Fewest Runs Allowed Head-to-Head, 3) Fewest Runs Allowed Season, 4) Run Differential (maximum +8 per game).
- Three or More Teams: 1) Head-to-Head (if applicable), 2) Fewest Runs Allowed Season, 3) Run Differential (maximum +8 per game).
- Awards will be presented to the Champion and Runner-Up in each division (13 awards per team).

Division Reference

Division	Innings	Official	Mercy Rule	Steals	Leadoffs	Bases	Mound	Pitching
9U/10U	6	4	12 after 4 / 10 after 5	Yes	Yes	65'	46'	3/game, 6 / weekend
11U/12U	6	4	12 after 4 / 10 after 5	Yes	Yes	70'	50'	4/game, 6 / weekend
13U/14U	6	4	12 after 4 / 10 after 5	Yes	Yes	90' or 80'	60' or 54'	6/game, 6 / weekend