



Matawan-Aberdeen Babe Ruth League

Toomer Field House – Middlesex Road – Matawan, NJ 07747 – (732) 290-1680



MABRL Cal Ripken Rules – Ages 4 through 12

BATTERS:

1. All teams will play with a full team batting rotation meaning all players must be in the batting lineup.
2. There will be a 10-run rule in effect after 4 complete innings (or 3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead), for National and American League games. Minors have no mercy rule.
3. Every player on the team is to play a minimum of three innings in the field in a six-inning game or two innings in a less than six-inning game. If the home team does not bat in the sixth inning because they are ahead, all players on the visiting team must have played at least 2 innings in the field.
4. In the Minors and the National League, there will be a maximum of nine batters per half inning or three outs, whichever occurs first. There is no lineup rule. When the ninth batter comes to the plate there is assumed to be two outs. The inning ends when the next out is made or when the play comes to an end.
5. In the NL only, before the ninth batter comes to the plate, his/her manager has the option of indicating to the umpire that the batter will not accept a walk. The batter must then either, hit the ball, be hit by a pitch, or strike out. If the manager does not notify the umpire of a choice, the batter will take a normal turn at bat. Maximum pitches = 8. If the 8th pitch is a ball, the batter walks. If the 8th pitch is a strike and the batter is not out or a foul ball, the pitcher must throw another pitch.
6. Protective headgear shall be worn on deck, at bat and while a base runner. Such headgear must cover the top of the head and have extended earflaps, which cover both ears and properly fit the player wearing it. All bat and ball boys/girls must wear protective headgear while out of the dugout. Penalty - if a player refuses to wear headgear he/she shall be removed from the game.
7. If player throws a bat or helmet, a team warning will be given. The next player to commit an infraction of this rule will automatically be ejected from the game, and the batter is out.
8. One and **ONLY** one batter is to be allowed in the on-deck area at a time.

RUNNERS:

1. On all bases other than 1st, a player must slide or avoid contact when a defensive player is in position to catch the ball. At home plate the runner must slide when there is a play at the plate and the defensive player is no further from the plate than the width of the batters box. At all other times the runner must avoid contact. Penalty - the runner will be automatically out.
2. In Minors and NL, runners may not leave the base until the pitch has crossed home plate. AL may take a lead.
3. Runners may not intentionally toss off their helmets while running the bases. One team warning will be given. The next player to commit an infraction will be automatically out.
4. While a play is in progress, runners may not be touched in any way by a coach that could influence the speed or the direction in which the player is moving. If such contact occurs, the player will be called out.
5. Before Memorial Day, in the Minor Leagues, runners may steal only third base. After Memorial Day runners may steal both second and third base. However, American League and National League players can steal all bases starting in the beginning of the season. In the Minor League, runners may not advance on an overthrow.

6. If a runner leaves a base early and is put out, the player is out. Otherwise, they must return to the base from which they left early.
7. When the pitcher's foot is in contact with the rubber and has the ball, and the catcher is in position, the runner has to return to the base, or immediately go to the next base. The runner cannot taunt the pitcher. If the pitcher's foot is not on the rubber, the ball is in play and the runner may advance at his own risk.
8. The verbal appeal play is in effect for all divisions. In the Minors and NL, manager must simply instruct their players to verbally appeal the base and runner in question to the umpire without putting the ball back into play.
9. The American League will have a baseball rule appeal play. Managers are to teach their teams the proper procedure for appeals, as explained in baseball's rulebook. For example, if the ball is still in play, the player simply has to verbally appeal the play. If the ball is out of play, the ball must be put in play by the pitcher.
10. No head first sliding is allowed, unless the runner is returning to a base. Penalty: the runner will be automatically out.

PITCHING:

1. A manager may have one visit to a pitcher in an inning. After that, any charged visit in the same inning will be cause for the pitcher to be removed from that position.
2. In the Minor Leagues, a player may pitch a maximum of three innings in any one game and 6 innings in any given week, Monday through Sunday inclusive. If a player pitches 3 innings, the player needs 2 full days between assignments. If a player pitches 2 innings, the player needs 1 full day of rest and if a player pitches 1 inning the player may pitch the next day.
3. In the National League a player may pitch a maximum of three innings in any one game and 6 innings in any given week, Monday through Sunday inclusive. If a player pitches 3 innings, the player needs 2 full days between assignments. If a player pitches 2 innings, the player needs 1 full day of rest and if a player pitches 1 inning the player may pitch the next day.
4. In the American League, a pitcher may pitch up to four innings in any one game and up to seven innings in a calendar week, Monday through Sunday inclusive. Seven innings is only allowed in a week with 3 scheduled games. If a player pitches three innings, they need 2 full days between assignments. However, if they pitch four innings, they need 3 days between assignments.
5. Pitching note: Even though the week ends on Sunday, pitchers have to conform to the "days of rest" rule. A new week doesn't mean a pitcher does not have to rest the designated days based on the last pitching assignment.
6. A new pitcher should be allowed a maximum of eight pitches to warm up and an existing pitcher is allowed a maximum of 5 pitches between innings.
7. The pitcher's pivot foot must remain in contact with the rubber.
8. Once a pitcher has been removed, this player may not return as a pitcher. This is the only position that does not allow free substitution.
9. In the National and American Leagues, if an illegal pitcher throws one pitch in the game, the penalty will be that the team will take a loss. In the Minor League the pitcher will be removed and the game will continue.
10. If a pitcher hits 2 consecutive batters in 1 inning or three batters in one game, the pitcher must be removed from the game. The batter must make every attempt to get out of the way of the pitch.
11. No curve balls may be thrown. If a pitcher throws a curve ball the umpire will warn the manager. The manager must make a trip to the mound to advise the pitcher of the infraction, but will not be charged for an official visit. On the second infraction the pitcher must be removed. The pitch itself will be illegal and called a no pitch - dead ball.
12. Injury time out will not be charged as an official visit to the mound.

ADDITIONAL LEAGUE RULES:

1. No metal cleats are to be worn in the Cal Ripken Baseball Division. Babe Ruth's 13-15 year-old league players are allowed metal cleats.
2. In the Minor and National League, you play defense with four players in the outfield. They may be placed four across or three across and one short fielder. You may not use an outfielder to make your normal play at second base. Outfielders must stay off the infield dirt for their normal defensive position.
3. No team may have more than 4 adults on the field at any one time. (The dugout is considered part of the field). All adults should be certified. Umpires should request the removal of any extra adults from the field. Penalty - the game will be called until the extra adults are removed from the field.
4. Food or drinks are not allowed on the field. The only exceptions are water and sport drinks in plastic containers. NO soda and NO glass containers of any kind.
5. No foreign objects or substance is allowed in player's mouths while on the field.
6. A player on the field may not wear jewelry.
7. Teams may play with a minimum of 8 players.
8. All male players must wear a protective cup.
9. Balls that are thrown in the dead ball area allow the base runner one extra base from the one they are running to. If a runner is just rounding a base and the ball goes into the dead ball area, he may advance to the next base only.
10. At Toomer Field, the dead ball area on the first base side is from the end of the fence straight back to the outfield fence. On the third base side it extends from the far edge of the dugout to the utility box in foul territory. No play may be made once the player has gone in the dead ball area.
11. In the National and American League the first and second place team will receive trophies. However, to be eligible for a trophy, you have to play your entire schedule. Tee-ball through and including Minor League will receive participation trophies.
12. All managers in the Minor Division are required to umpire their own games in the event that the league cannot supply an umpire.
13. Managers do not have any say in who will umpire their games. Managers CANNOT verbally or physically abuse umpires. Any such incidents MUST be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors.
14. Managers and teams are expected to be prepared to play at the scheduled starting time. This means that lineups are prepared and that players know what positions they are going to play. When you are at bat, you should also be making sure that the players know where they will play on defense the next inning, especially the catcher. Help your catcher put on his equipment. Delays in getting ready are both an annoyance to the other team and unsportsmanlike. It is recommended that you arrive 20 minutes before the scheduled game time.
15. No new inning can be started after an hour and forty-five minutes of play. An inning begins when the last out of the previous inning is made.
16. Any players injured seriously enough to warrant a doctors examination, will be required to submit a release from the doctor indicating the player's ability to resume normal play.
17. Every player in the Minor League must play at least one inning in the infield per game starting after May 1st
18. Except in cases of injury, the plate umpire must remain behind the plate for the entire game.
19. There will be **NO** fake tags of any kind during the normal play of the game.

ADDITIONAL 50/70 RULES

20. Big barrel bats are not allowed. No minimum differential.
21. Prior to Memorial Day, a pitcher will be given one warning per game when he/she commits a balk. Runners will advance one base after each subsequent balk call.
22. If the catcher is a runner with 2 outs, the player with the last batted out must pinch run for the catcher.

PLAYER POOL RULE

A player pool will be created as a tool, to allow managers to have a list of players from the lower divisions, so that they may have them play up in cases that would result in a forfeiture due to lack of players, or to bring a team to full playing strength (10 in Minor and National, 9 in American), however, all players are eligible. Any player chosen is to play up a maximum of **ONE** division. All pool players are to be chosen by their managers and must have parental permission. Pool players must bat last in the batting order and they must play an outfield position. If there is a conflict in their schedule, the player must play for his/her own team. All managers will be asked to identify up to 3 players on his/her team that may be used as a fill-in player for an upper division team. A list of these pool players will be given to all managers to help them fill a hole in their line up. Every player brought up is to play at least the league minimum amount of innings.

PITCHING MACHINE DIVISION

1. The Pitching machine is to be used throughout the season.
2. Play 3 outs. The maximum number of batters per inning, per team will be the entire roster.
3. Maximum of 8 pitches per batter. If the last pitch is fouled off, treat it as a hit and run it out.
4. Managers and coaches are to develop pitchers during practices.
5. Rotate your players in the field so that all players get an equal chance to play different positions.
6. Change batting order each game so that all players get an equal chance for at-bats.
7. Each runner is to advance one base at a time, except on a hit that goes cleanly to an outfielder, in that case the batter and any runners already on base may advance a maximum of two bases at their own risk. The last batter of each half inning clears the bases.
8. All players will play the field each inning and gets a chance to play infield and outfield positions.
9. Cal Ripken Baseball Division rules will apply in all instances other than the above rules for this division.

T-BALL DIVISION

1. This is a no competition league, its purely instructional in nature.
2. No score is kept; all games end in a tie.
3. Home team for the first scheduled game
4. The entire roster bats each inning.
5. The entire roster plays the field each inning, and gets a chance to play infield and outfield positions.
6. Rotate your players in the field so that all players get an equal chance to play different positions.
7. Change batting order each game so that all players get an equal chance for at-bats.

8. Each batter is to advance one base at a time, except on a hit that goes cleanly to an outfielder, in that case the batter and any runners already on base may advance a maximum of two bases at their own risk. The last batter of each half inning clears the bases.
9. If a batter or runner is thrown out, he/she will remain at the base he/she was advancing to.
10. All batters and runners WILL wear batting helmets at all times.
11. Coaches will play the catcher position.
12. Encourage the defense to make plays at first base, as they progress you may teach them plays to second or third.
13. In the last 3 or 4 games of the season, the managers may elect to pitch (softly) to the batters. No more than 4 pitches per batter then go back to the Tee.
14. All Managers should try to accomplish these goals by the end of the season:
 - Proper throwing technique.
 - Knowledge of base running.
 - All players to be able to name all of the positions on the field, including the “ready” position.
 - Proper technique of holding the bat.
 - Proper technique of fielding with the glove.
 - MOST IMPORTANTLY, all players should be taught the importance of keeping their eye on the ball at all times, while fielding or batting.
15. Cal Ripken Baseball Division rules will apply in all instances other than the above rules for this division.