


# COMMUNITY BASEBALL RULES

# I-Ball

THESE RULES SUPERSEDE ALL PREVIOUS RULES ISSUED AND COVER ISSUES NOT ADDRESSED BY MLB RULES

Last REVISED 11/2022

www.milfordyouthbaseball.com

# MILFORD YOUTH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.
# INSTRUCTIONAL BASEBALL RULES

The Instructional Baseball program of Milford Youth Baseball Association, Inc. (MYBA) is a recreational baseball program designed to emphasize skills development, teamwork, sportsmanship, and most importantly, fun. Although games are scheduled, competition is not to be emphasized; rather, skill instruction is to be emphasized. This is NOT a select program. The Instructional Baseball program of MYBA is composed of two divisions: T-Ball and Instructional. The Instructional Division is for 7-year-olds. The Instructional Baseball program is an inter-league program with the number of teams in each age group to be determined by the quantity of players recruited each year, not to exceed ten teams per division, unless approved by the MYBA Board.

## 1.00 Playing Rules

Milford Instructional Baseball rules
Major League Baseball rules

## 2.00 Player Age

7U – Cutoff May 1st

Eligibility to play within a given age group is based on the player's age as of May 1st of the current year. No player may play below their age class without MYBA Board approval. A player may play above their class if parents request and the MYBA Board approves.

## 3.00 Team Formation

All teams will be formed from a draft of available players. Eligible players may come from any location without geographical restrictions. Official teams may have a manager and up to three (3) coaches and a roster of up to 14 players unless otherwise approved by MYBA. All managers/ coaches of Milford Instructional Baseball teams will be at least 18 years of age, unless otherwise approved by the Board. All individuals intending to manage within the MYBA program must complete a manager's application form, be accepted by the MYBA Board, and successfully complete coach's certification (NYSCA).

**A. Existing Teams:** An existing team will be defined as a minimum of 4 players from the previous year. Existing teams may remain as a group, with players drafted on an as needed basis. Players may remain with their previous team (i.e. last year's team) or may elect to be drafted to another team. No manager or player may specifically choose a player or team. This is not a select program.

**B. New Teams:** New teams formed prior to the draft will consist of one manager and two coaches and their children. Additional coaches may be chosen after the draft of the current year. All other players will be drawn from the draft pool for the current year.

## 4.00 Manager Qualification & Requirements

A. **MYBA Manager and Coaches Application:** All managers and coaches of Milford Instructional Baseball teams will be at least 18 years of age, unless otherwise approved by the Board. All individuals intending to manage or coach within the MYBA program must complete a manager's or coach's application form. This form is available on the website www.milfordyouthbaseball.com or from the Board President. Forms must be completed and submitted to the MYBA Board for approval.

B. **Back Ground Check:** All individuals intending to manage or coach within the MYBA program must complete an annual back ground check. This form is available on the website www.milfordyouthbaseball.com

C. **NYSCA Certification:** All individuals intending to manage within the MYBA program must successfully complete the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) certification program.

D. **Rules Meeting:** Managers should attend the rules meeting which is held each spring before the season opens.

**E. Restrictions:** Any manager, coach, or player found using alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs while coaching or playing may be banned for life from participating in any MYBA authorized team or function. Neither managers nor coaches may use tobacco on the playing field or players' bench. Use of profane or abusive language by managers, coaches, or players will be grounds for ejection from the game. Any manager or coach displaying disrespect or abuse to umpires or league officials will be called before the MYBA Board for disciplinary review.

## 5.00 Game Information

**A. Game Time Limits**: A 1 hour and 1/2 time limit will be imposed for all games from the scheduled starting time. All ground rules will be covered during a meeting of the managers and umpires approximately 5 minutes before game time at home plate. After 1 & 1/2 hours from the scheduled starting time, PLAY MUST STOP.

**B.** Each team will be permitted a minimum of five minutes on-field warm-up time prior to the start of the game. The visiting team will take their warm-up first, followed by the home team.

**C.** A regulation game for Instructional Ball is 5 innings. Innings are to be completed regardless of score, unless the game is shortened due to rain, darkness, or time limit.

**D.** No ten run rule exists in Instructional Baseball. The intent is to get each team as much playing time as possible.

**E.** No games may be rescheduled for any reason other than weather related cancellations without approval from an MYBA official.

**F.** All postponed or suspended games will be made up on a scheduled practice night on a scheduled practice field.

## 6.00 Game Protests

Since this is an instructional program and game results do not apply to standings, there will be no game protests accepted in this program.

## 7.00 Intimidation

No manager, coach, player or fan will in any manner or form harass or intimidate a member of the opposing team or an umpire before, during, or after a game. Violations of this rule may result in ejection from the game or suspension from MYBA activities. Any person that is ejected from a game must go to the parking lot. The game will not resume until this happens. This person will serve a one game suspension and will not be able to attend the next game. If a person is ejected a second time, the MYBA Board has the option of suspending them for the remainder of the season. Managers are responsible for their own conduct as well as that of their coaches, players, and fans. In the event of unruly fans, umpires will ask managers to control the fans. If this does not happen, play will be suspended until the fan problem is resolved. If it is not resolved within a reasonable time, the umpire shall suspend the game. Games suspended due to loss of control will be forfeited by both teams.

## 8.00 Umpires

No MYBA umpires are provided for **I-Ball** games. Instead, each team provides a coach or parent to act as an official (umpire) on the field while their team is at bat.

## 9.00 Player Requirements

**A.** All players will wear uniforms provided by MYBA and will wear them correctly on the field.
**B.** No steel cleats (fixed or screw in) are allowed. Any player wearing steel cleats will be ejected.
**C.** All players must wear a protective cup.

## 10.00 Team Play

**A.** All players present will be placed in the batting order and will bat in turn.
**B.** All players will play a minimum of two (2) innings in every game except for weather or time shortened games. Violations of this rule will result in disciplinary action for the manager.
**C.** Players may be kept out of the line-up for disciplinary reasons for not attending the practice session immediately prior to the scheduled game or other appropriate reasons.

**D.** Players arriving at the game late will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
**E. A fourth outfielder** may be used in both divisions. The extra player must play in the outfield. The extra player cannot play as an infielder or a short center fielder, i.e. he/she must play at approximately the same distance from the infield as the other outfielders. This rule is being instituted to get more playing time for the players. This is not a mandatory rule and managers may elect to use or not use the fourth outfielder at any time during the game regardless of what the opposing team decides to do. This player may only enter the field at the beginning of the half inning and must remain on the field until the half inning has been completed, unless injured or ill.

## 11.00 Game Equipment

**A.** In **Instructional Ball** the home team manager is responsible for the game balls. They will be given game balls with equipment pickup in beginning of the year.
**B.** Pitching rubbers will be used at all games.
**C. I-Ball** catchers must wear the catcher's mask issued by MYBA.
**Instructional Division** catchers **must** wear **ALL** approved protective equipment (shin guards, helmet, chest protector, and catcher's mask including a throat guard). It is required that they wear an athletic supporter and protective cup.

## 12.00 Field Dimensions

| *Pitching Distance* | *Base Distance* | *Innings* |
|---|---|---|
| 39' | 50' | 5 |

## 13.00 Game Field Preparation

In the event of poor weather or poor field conditions it is the responsibility of both managers to assist MYBA personnel with field preparation.

## 14.00 Sliding Base Rule

In MYBA Community Baseball only sliding bases (throw down bases) will be used.
This rule was written to protect the runner, not put him in jeopardy, and to provide safety. This rule will apply when:

**1)** The runner slides in, he is considered to be with the base. Remaining on the ground, if tagged, the runner is "SAFE." After sliding in, the runner stands up and makes no attempt to advance to the next base, if tagged; the runner is "SAFE." If the runner moves toward the next base and the fielder makes a tag before the runner can get back to where the base had been originally, the runner is "OUT." This is strictly the UMPIRE'S JUDGMENT.
**2)** The runner goes in standing and the base moves off the spot more than the length of the base (approximately 15 inches) and no part of the runner is touching the original spot of the base, when tagged, the runner is "OUT."
**3)** A preceding runner moves the base off the spot more than the length of the base; following runners need only touch the original spot of the base. It is recommended that all base locations be clearly marked before the game begins so that the runners have a visual point to touch and the umpires have a reference point.

## 15.00 Plowing

Any runner who does not slide or attempt to get around a "fielder who has the ball and is making a tag" will be called "OUT." Any runner who hurdles a fielder in possession of the ball will be called "OUT." When a runner is called out in either of these situations the ball is dead immediately and all other runners must return to the last base reached when the ball became dead. In addition, any player who WILLFULLY plows into or over a fielder who has the ball will be EJECTED from the game. This is strictly UMPIRE'S JUDGMENT.

## 16.00 Stealing

1. No stealing will be permitted in **Instructional** games. The only way a runner may advance from any base is by a batted ball, forced to advance by a walk, hit batsman or catcher’s interference.
2. Lead-off is not permitted in **Instructional** games. Runners are not permitted to leave the base until the ball is hit.
3. Runners may not advance on an overthrow, e.g. when the catcher is returning the ball to the pitcher following a pitch.

## 17.00 Pitching

**1.** Coaches will pitch all 5 innings of every game. Coaches **must pitch overhand** from the specified distance.
**2.** One defensive player must stay within 6 feet of the pitcher at the time of the pitch.

## 18.00 Innings

In the **Instructional Division**, the inning will end when either the third out is made or the entire team has batted and the ball is returned to home plate.

## 19.00 Batting

**1.** The batter will hit a pitched ball from the coach. Coaches will pitch all five innings.
**2.** No balls or strikes will be called. Instead, batters will be limited to a maximum of 7 pitches. The batter must either put the ball in play or strike out (3 swinging strikes). Coaches may not walk batters. A foul ball on the seventh pitch will end a turn at bat. If the batter has not successfully put the ball in play or struck out by the seventh pitch, the batter returns to the bench, an out is taken and the next batter takes his/her turn at bat.
**3.** No bunting is permitted. Batters must make every reasonable effort to take a full swing.
**4.** The batter is out on the third strike even though the catcher may drop the ball. The batter may not run.

## 20.00 Infield Possession

In both Divisions, when a player has possession and control of the ball in the infield, and is not making a play on any runner, time will be called by the umpire and play will stop. Runners who are more than half-way to the next base will be allowed to continue to that base; runners who are less than half-way to the next base must return to the last base reached. Play is stopped when a defensive player forces the runner to stop, or when a player stops on his/her own. Once stopped, the runner is to remain at that base. When a

thrown ball goes into foul territory, play stops and the runners do **NOT** advance.

## 21.00 On-field Coaches

For both Divisions, each team is permitted to have two (2) defensive coaches on the field only for instructional purposes. These coaches must not obstruct runners or fielders. If the ball comes in contact with a defensive coach, the ball is dead and the batter returns to the plate for another pitch or swing. Only four (4) coaches including the manager are permitted at the players' bench during the game.

## 22.00 Scorekeeping

Instructional teams may keep score. The official score will be kept by the home team. Standings, however, standings will not be kept and scores need not be reported.

## 23.00 Supervision

Each year a supervisor for each Division will be selected by the MYBA Board and will be identified at a managers' meeting or in scheduling information. For each Division, all questions, problems, etc. must be directed to the Division Supervisor or an MYBA Board member. Complaints about field conditions, umpiring, etc. are not to be reported to the concession stand as the individuals operating the stand have no authority or control over things other than the concessions.