

COMMUNITY BASEBALL RULES

Nationals

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

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www.milfordyouthbaseball.com

MILFORD YOUTH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.
COMMUNITY BASEBALL RULES

Nationals (10U, 11U & 12U Players)

The Community 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. This is NOT a select program. The Community Baseball program of MYBA is composed of two divisions: Minors and Nationals. The Nationals Division is for 10, 11 & 12U year-olds. The Community 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 or league, unless approved by the MYBA Board.

1.00 Playing Rules

Milford Community Baseball rules
Major League Baseball rules

2.00 Player Age

Nationals Division 10, 11 & 12U year old – Cut off 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 and may NOT pitch if permitted to play below their class. A player may play above their class if parent's 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 Community 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: No time limit on Nationals games. All games played to completion unless stopped by weather or run rule. Ground rules will be covered during a meeting of the managers and umpires approximately 5 minutes before game time at home plate.

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 is six innings. In the case of a tie, as many innings as required will be played.

D. Games will become officially completed when it is mathematically impossible for the loosing team to tie or win the game (see seven run rule). In the event of extra innings, a winner will be declared once the home team is ahead by at least one run.

E. SEVEN RUN RULE: Play stops when the third out is made or the 7th run scores in any one-half inning. This rule MUST be used in all MYBA Community games.

F. All games will be played to completion, i.e., the full number of innings, unless one team is mathematically eliminated. Games may be suspended due to rain, lightening or threatening weather, or darkness. In the event of suspension, all reasonable efforts will be made by the managers to record the game situation at the point of suspension in the home team scorebook. The umpires will acknowledge this by signing the scorebook. Suspended games will resume at the point of suspension.

G. All postponed or suspended games will be made up on a scheduled practice night on a scheduled practice field. Home team managers are responsible for initiating the process of rescheduling. Games not played will be recorded as a forfeit or loss for both teams. No games may be rescheduled for any reason other than weather/darkness-related cancellations without approval from a MYBA official.

6.00 Game Protests

Protests may be of two types:

A. Violations of standing rules or by-laws, or because of ineligible players. These protests may be made at any time and may be acted upon by a MYBA official.

B. Misinterpretation of playing rules by the umpire on the field of play. ***Judgment calls (balls, strikes, balks, safe, out) cannot be protested.***

When a protest on the field arises, every effort is to be made to resolve the protest before a formal protest is made. If the problem is not resolved, the manager must quote the general rule which he/she is protesting, announce to the other manager that the game is being played under protest, have both umpires sign both score books and note the exact game conditions (base runners, outs, count on batter, etc.) before the next pitch is made. A written protest and a $50.00 fee must be filed with the MYBA Board within 48 hrs of the protest. The MYBA Board shall form a protest board consisting of a panel drawn from the ranks of the MYBA to review and decide the case within 1 week of the protest filing. If the protest is no upheld, the fee will be forfeited and go to the MYBA general fund. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned to the protesting manager.

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 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 allowed to attend the next game. If a person is ejected a second time, the MYBA Board has the option of suspending them for 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. 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. Both teams will forfeit games suspended due to loss of control.

8.00 Umpires

A. There will be at least one MYBA approved umpire at each game. Every effort will be made to provide two (2) umpires on each Minors and Nationals game. In the event that only one umpire is present, the game will be played as scheduled.
B. Any game played without at least one certified umpire may not be protested.
C. No father, mother, brother, sister, son, or daughter may umpire a game in which their immediate relative is managing, coaching, or playing.
D. Only one person (manager or coach) may discuss a disputed call with an umpire. This designated person will be decided upon during ground rules.

9.00 Forfeits

A. Any team may field a team of eight players providing an "OUT" is declared when the ninth batting position comes up. If, in the umpire's judgment, the game is a farce, the umpire may declare a forfeit. If a minimum of 8 players cannot be fielded within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time, then the umpire will call a forfeit.
B. When both teams are present, if a team refuses to take the field within 5 minutes of the scheduled starting time, a forfeit may be declared.

10.00 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. Bats - Approved baseball bats are any unaltered commercially manufactured bats available for retail purchase with the following exceptions: The maximum bat diameter is 2.75 inches. (b)Softball bats are not allowed to be used. (c) Composite material and flex handle bats are prohibited unless they have a manufacturers rating. Ratings may be printed on the bat or received from the manufacturer in some written or electronic (email) manner for each bat model. Wood bats and single piece aluminum

bats are allowed to be used in all classes without any ratings; all other restrictions apply.
PENALTY: Player is out and the ball is dead immediately. The bat is immediately removed from the game and the bench area. Additionally, the manager of the offending team is automatically ejected from the game.
D. All players **must** wear a protective cup.
E. Players arriving at a game late will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
F. Regular baseball rules are in place which means nine defensive positions.
G. If a player must leave the game due to a legitimate injury or illness their spot in the batting order will be skipped and an **OUT** will **not** be declared.

11.00 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 forfeiture of the game and 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.

12.00 Game Equipment

A. All games will be provided two (2) game balls via the umpires. These must be returned to the umpire office at the end of the game by the umpire unless they are lost during the game. The home team will be responsible for providing a suitable ball for play in the event that both balls are lost.
B. Pitching rubbers will be used at all games.
C. 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.

13.00 Field Dimensions

	Pitching Distance	*Base Distance*	*Innings*
Nat. Div.	48'	70'	6

14.00 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 preparations.

15.00 Trips to the Mound by the Manager

A manager in his/her third trip to the mound in any one inning for the same pitcher must remove his/her pitcher. A pitcher removed because of a manager's third trip in one inning may not return to the mound in that inning.

16.00 Sliding Base Rule

In MYBA Community Baseball, if sliding bases (throw down bases) are utilized, the following will be followed. The sliding base 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 the next base, if tagged; the runner is "SAFE." If the runner moves toward the next base and 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.

17.00 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.

18.00 Stealing

1. Lead-offs and stealing will be permitted as per Major League rules.
2. Runners may steal home.
3. The batter will be considered "OUT" and may not run on a dropped third strike. Base runners may advance at own risk.

19.00 Pitching

1. Players will pitch all innings of each game.
2. The plate umpire will call balls and strikes.
3. A player may pitch a maximum of 4 innings or 70 pitches per game. One (1) pitch in any inning is considered a 1 inning is considered a 1 inning pitched. All pitchers must have two (2) nights rest between assignments unless approved by MYBA Board.
4. Balks will be called. Two (2) warnings will be given to each pitcher on each team. After pitchers second warning umpire will award bases.
5. Players that turn 12 prior to May 1st of current year are not permitted to pitch.
6. MYBA Board may allow a pitcher to pitch in both games of a double header or on consecutive days as long as 4 innings and 70 pitch count is not exceeded.

20.0 Innings

Nationals will follow Major League rules. Three outs constitute a half inning. There are no limits on number of batters in an inning. (Maximum of 7 runs per half inning)

21.00 Bunting

Bunting is allowed in accordance with Major League rules.

22.00 Scorekeeping

Scores will be kept during all games. The official score will be kept by the home team. The winning team for each game is responsible for reporting the results to proper designated person so that standings can be kept.

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 a 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.