

Major League Rules 2011

1. **No inning will start after 7:30 p.m. sharp. This is firm and coaches are expected to abide.**
2. **It is expected that all coaches, parents, fans and players treat each other and especially our umpires with the utmost respect. Non-compliance with this request will not be tolerated.**
3. **Use of tobacco products by any coaches or league representatives in and around the bench areas is expressly prohibited.**
4. Bunting is allowed. Stealing will be allowed on a limited basis. Runners are allowed to steal second and third base, but not home plate. Base runners may leave the base when the ball crosses home plate. If the umpire sees a runner leaving the base before the ball crosses home plate, the runner is out. A runner can only score from third on a batted ball or if forced in by a walk or hit by pitch.
5. Running on dropped third strike is allowed, however, if first base is occupied the batter is out.
6. The play is over when the ball is in the control of the pitcher in the pitchers circle.
7. There will be a limit of **six runs** per inning, which will be lifted for the seventh inning.
8. A slaughter rule will apply. At the end of four and one-half innings, if the home team is winning by twelve runs or more, the game is over and the home team wins. If after five complete innings the away team is winning by twelve runs or more the game is over and the away team wins.
9. A regulation game last seven innings. A tie at the end of seven innings will continue to the next inning until the game has a winner or is called for darkness. In the event that a tie game cannot be completed because of darkness it will be recorded as a tie game.
10. Four innings must be completed for a game to be considered an official game. If the home team is winning at the end of three and one-half innings the game will be considered official. If a game is called for darkness or weather after five complete innings but before the completion of seven innings the winner is determined by the score at the end of the last completed inning.
11. Each player must play four innings in the field of a seven inning game.
12. A continuous batting order and free substitution will be effect.
13. The infield fly rule will be in effect.
14. **Nine** players will play in the field. A team must have eight players for a game to count. A team must forfeit its game if at any time it cannot field eight players.
15. Game must start on time. **Games through April 22 will start at 5:45 p.m. sharp. Effective April 25, games will begin at 6:00 p.m. sharp.** Players should arrive for games 30 minutes before the start time to ensure proper warm-up. Once the game has started the umpire is in complete control. A forfeit due to a lack of players will be called fifteen minutes after the scheduled game time. Games must be played as scheduled.
16. Pitcher must start with both feet on the pitching rubber at a distance of forty feet.
17. Any player who throws a bat after hitting a ball in fair territory will be called back to the plate and charged a strike (the batted ball is considered a dead ball). The second time a player throws a bat during any single game the player will be called out with an explanation. Base runners cannot advance in either situation.
18. A player who has been removed from the pitcher position can be returned to pitching one time during the course of a game.
19. All offensive players, with the exception of the batter and base runners, as well as non-playing defensive players must remain behind the bench fences.
20. Players can wear shorts; however we would encourage those who do, to purchase sliding shorts to minimize any chance of injury.

21. Positive cheering is encouraged. **Taunting will not be allowed.**

22. Players should leave the bench area cleaner than when they arrived. Encourage the players to pick up after the game.

23. All pitchers, first and third base players must wear a face mask in the field.