

2019 OREGON MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL RULES

Purpose of the League: Minor League provides players an opportunity to further develop their offensive and defensive skills, while providing a supervised, competitive environment. The following principles should be the emphasis of the league.

- HAVE FUN
- FOCUS ON STRONG FUNDAMENTALS AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT
- TEAM DYNAMICS
- ADVANCED GAME DECISIONS

Rules: This document will serve as the official rules for Oregon Minor League baseball.

Safety

Batting

- All batters MUST wear a helmet.
- For right handed batters the on deck hitter should be located near the 3rd base dugout. For left handed batters the on deck hitter should be located near the 1st base dugout.
- When not hitting or on the on deck circle all players should be behind the fence. They should not be running around, climbing on the fence, etc. Each team should have a bench coach to help monitor their players.
- It is the coach's responsibility to ensure that each player is NOT throwing their bat.

Running the Bases

- All runners MUST wear a helmet and should keep it on until returning to the dugout.
- Work with your team to insure that they do not stand on the base when runners are advancing past the base. This is to avoid collisions.
- 1st Base should have two bases side by side. The 1st Baseman should stand on the inside base and the runner should run to the outer base.

Severe Weather

- At the sound of a severe weather siren, other official warning, or at first sight of lighting, the game or any practice should be stopped immediately. If the fields are wet and the games have not already been cancelled by Oregon Youth Baseball then the coaches are responsible for assessing the playing conditions and making the appropriate decision. This goes for both games and practices.

Practice: Each team will receive a practice schedule based on field availability which will be developed by the League Director. Teams will be required to have at least one practice per week.

Schedule: Games will be played at McGaw Park in Fitchburg. There will be two games scheduled per week unless there is an odd number of teams and we have to incorporate byes in the schedule.

In case of a rainout, the League Director will advise the teams to the make-up date.

Game Length: Games should be full innings; play is a maximum of one hour and 15 minutes or 6 innings, whichever comes first. Half Innings will be 3 outs or a maximum of 10 batters, whichever occurs first.

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Game Rules

Umpires

- The league will provide a home plate umpire. A coach or parent will act as a base umpire. The home team is responsible for supplying the base umpire.
- The home plate umpire shall use a larger than normal strike zone so as to promote kids swinging the bat and to help reduce the amount of walks issued by young, inexperienced pitchers.

Pitching

- No pitcher shall pitch more than 2 innings in one game. One pitch counts as an inning pitched.
- Once a pitcher is removed from the game he cannot return to the mound in the same game even if he has not pitched his two innings.
- An offensive coach or parent will go to the mound and pitch to the batter the remaining strikes left on the batter's count at the time of the fourth ball was thrown. No walks unless the batter is hit by a pitch.
- There are strikeouts including strikeouts while a coach or parent is pitching.
- Warm up pitches should be limited to 5 pitches.
- One mound visit per pitcher is allowed. The pitcher needs to be replaced on a second mound visit.
- ANY PLAYER WARMING UP THE PITCHER MUST HAVE PROTECTIVE GEAR ON.

Team Batting

- All players will hit regardless if they are playing in the field at the current time with a pre-established batting order. The batting order should remain the same throughout the game.
- No advancing on a dropped third strike. Batter is automatically out on a third strike.

Team in the Field

- There are 10 positions that are played in the field in Minor League. They are Pitcher, Catcher, 1st Base, 2nd Base, Shortstop, 3rd Base, Left Field, Left Center Field, Right Center Field, and Right Field. No rover. All outfielders must start in the grass in their proper positions.
- If you have more than 10 players some will be on the bench. Use that time to coach them on the game. Defensive playing time should be equal throughout the game.
- It is the coach's responsibility to make sure that every player has the opportunity to experience all of the positions on the baseball field. An exception to this may be Pitcher, Catcher, and 1st Base for safety reasons. To truly know the game you must learn all the positions
- No player can play the same position for more than two innings in a game.
- Each player should play a minimum of 2 innings on the infield per game.
- Make sure players are getting the opportunity to play a variety of positions. All players should have extensive experience in both infield and outfield positions at the end of the year. Coaches need to keep in mind the safety of the kids when putting them into certain positions.

Stealing, Leading Off, and Courtesy Runners

- There is no stealing.
- Runners may lead off the base after the ball crosses home plate.
- A courtesy runner for the catcher should be used when there are two outs and your catcher is on base. The player that made the last out will be the courtesy runner.

Other Rules

- **Bunting:** Bunting is not allowed.
- **Infield Fly Rule:** There is no infield fly rule in this league.

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- **Game Balls:** The home team provides the game balls.
- **Base Coaches:** Both base coaches should be adults. If you cannot find two adults to help coach the bases a player can serve as a base coach when they are not up to bat but they **MUST** be wearing a helmet.
- **Field Coaches:** Defensive coaches will remain in their dugout.
- **Keeping Score:** The score will be kept. At no time though should winning become the priority over teaching players about the game and focusing on fundamentals. Home team is responsible for keeping the official score.
- **Sliding:** The runner has the primary responsibility to avoid a collision with the defensive player. Headfirst slides by an advancing runner is **NOT ALLOWED** due to player safety. An advancing runner who slides headfirst will be declared out. The one exception to this rule is a runner returning to the base that they came from.
- **Fielder Interference:** If a fielder, who does not have the ball, impedes the progress of any runner, interference or obstruction shall be called on the defensive player who blocks off a base, base line or home plate from a base runner while not in possession of the ball. In that case the base runner will be rewarded that base.
- **Runner Interference:** If a runner intentionally interferes with a thrown ball, the runner is declared out. If a runner interferes with a fielder attempting to make a play on a batted ball that has not been fielded (whether it is intentional or unintentional), the runner is declared out. If the batted ball hits the runner before touching a fielder then that runner is out. Running into a fielder waiting to make a tag with the ball is an automatic out.
- **Players Remain in the Dugout:** All players must remain in the dugout when not actively participating on the field. Only players and coaches are allowed in the dugout during the game.
- **Pitcher Warm-up:** Pitchers are allowed to warm-up out of play before going into the game. They should do so far enough away and out of line from any spectators. We do not have a designated area, so coaches use your best judgment as to where they warm-up.
- **Thrown Bats:** Coaches should reinforce this throughout the year. If a coach knows of a player who throws his/her bat they should let the other team know and the catcher should move behind the fence for his protection. A player who throws a bat will be given one warning. The next time that player throws a bat that player will be declared out.
- **Bats:** **All bats must adhere to the USA Baseball Bat Standard and must have the USA bat stamp on it and the barrel must not exceed 2 5/8".** Any questions concerning bats should be referred to the Oregon Minor League Director.