



## **Geneva Baseball Association**

### **2019 Official Playing Rules**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>All League Common Rules.....</b>                            | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Rookie Specific League Rules.....</b>                       | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Mustang Specific League Rules (intro to kid pitch).....</b> | <b>11</b> |
| <b>Minor Specific League Rules.....</b>                        | <b>13</b> |
| <b>Major and Pony League Specific Rules.....</b>               | <b>14</b> |

**ALL LEAGUE COMMON RULES**

1. Rules as published by Major League Baseball and Pony Baseball, Inc., will apply with the following amendments:

2. **PLAYERS AND TEAMS:**

a) Players may play with their grade or age as of August 31<sup>st</sup>.

| Spring League | 2019      |          | <i>Based on Grade then age as of 8/31/2019</i> |                  |
|---------------|-----------|----------|--|------------------|
|               | Min Age   | Max Age  | Min Grade                                      | Max Grade        |
| Rookie        | 8/31/2013 | 9/1/2011 | K  | 1st              |
| Mustang       | 8/31/2011 | 9/1/2010 | 2 <sup>nd</sup>                                | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  |
| Minor         | 8/31/2010 | 9/1/2008 | 3 <sup>rd</sup>                                | 4 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Major         | 8/31/2008 | 9/1/2006 | 5 <sup>th</sup>                                | 6 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Pony          | 8/31/2006 | 9/1/2004 | 7 <sup>th</sup>                                | 8 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Colt          | N/A       | N/A      | 9 <sup>th</sup>                                | 11 <sup>th</sup> |
|               |           |          |  |                  |

b) Managers and Coaches will be nominated by the league presidents and approved by the GBA Board. Consideration of years of service and parent feedback will be used to help determine priority of coach selection. Managers can be suspended, expelled, or removed when it is the judgment that it is in the best interest of the Association with two-thirds of the GBA Board. Any such action taken by the Board shall be justifiable, without prejudice and with cause. A League President shall not be permitted to serve as a manager in the same league that they serve as President.

c) All Managers and Coaches (any adult wearing a GBA hat/jersey) will be required to go through a background check.

d) Prior to the draft, Rookie and the Mustang leagues will only be allowed up to 3 coaches and Minor and up will only be allowed only 2 coaches. Teams can add additional coaches after the draft. **GBA only supplies 3 coaches' jerseys and hats.**

e) Managers and coaches are required to provide feedback on player's ratings within two weeks of the season ending. Failure to do so may affect their status for the next year.

f) Team formations will be conducted prior to the season by the league president holding a draft.

1) Players participating in a given league (Minor and above) will be drafted by managers or their representatives as follows. Rookies will be a draft primarily based on neighborhoods and not based on evaluations as described in the process below for the older leagues.

2) Prior to the draft, the League President will obtain a list of players who have registered for the upcoming season. Based upon this list, the League President shall identify "new players" and instruct these new players to participate in a "new player evaluation" session or if no session is held interview their parents to determine their level of play. At this session all new players will be evaluated by League managers and coaches for the purpose of placing these players in the proper position within the draft.

3) Using player evaluation forms from both the previous season and the "new player evaluation" session, the League President (with the help of League managers) will determine the position of players in each round of the draft for each age group. If

## GBA BASEBALL SPRING RULES 2019

more than one age group exists in the same league (Minor, Major and Pony), then all second year players will be grouped with the higher age group.

- 4) On draft night, the players will then be drafted by the managers of each team as follows:
- i. Each age group, if applicable, will be drafted separately. The players in the higher age group will be selected first, beginning with round 1 (best evaluations).
  - ii. For each age group, the League President will randomly assign the selection order for each "odd" round of the draft (beginning with round 1). The selection order of each "even" round of the draft will be in the reverse order of the previous "odd" round. For instance, let's say that during round 1 of the draft, the Cubs drafted first, followed by the White Sox, Yankees, and Cardinals. Because the Cardinals drafted last during round 1, they would then draft first during round 2, and therefore the draft order for round 2 would be the Cardinals, followed by the Yankees, White Sox and Cubs. An optional weighted system can be used to determine the draft order after the first round. The weight is based on the player rating and the lowest scored teams will pick before the higher scored teams. This method is to be used at the discretion of the League President and must have the approval of the Commissioner.
  - iii. Each team will be able to choose a player in each round or the next round for each age group, unless coaches' children are assigned to those rounds. The process will continue for each round to the conclusion of the rounds in that age group. At the end of the age group, if there is an uneven amount of players remaining to complete another round, they will be pooled with the remaining players at the end of the next age group to make a final round.
  - iv. On each team, the Manager's sons/daughters and one Coach's sons/daughters will be drafted in the round assigned. If two coaches' children from one team are in the same round the child with the lower score will drop to the next lower round and be selected during that round. The player with the highest score from the lower round will move up to the higher round to take the place of one of the coaches children. For example if the Cubs have two coaches children in the second round, the child with the lower score will drop to the third round and be selected then. The highest scoring player from the third round will move to the second round to take the place of the coaches' child
  - v. Trades are permitted (max. 2/team) upon completion of the draft. The trades must be between players of the same age/grade group and must be approved by the League President prior to leaving the draft.
- g) The league will provide jersey, pants, socks and a baseball cap. These uniforms are to be worn properly (tucked in and on straight). Teams may opt to put last names only on the backs of shirt and/or number on the hats at their own costs. No other alterations can be made without the permission of the league.
- h) Rubber cleats can be worn at any league level. Metal cleats can only be worn at the Pony League or higher level.
- i) Each year each league will conduct an All-Star game selected from in-house players.
- i. An equal number of players will be selected from each team.
  - ii. All players regardless of their age will be eligible for selection.
  - iii. Players will be selected by having the Managers collect ballots from each player. Managers should have the assistant coach assist with the tallying of the

## GBA BASEBALL SPRING RULES 2019

votes. If the manager and coach feel that a player was voted in by popular vote instead of being deserving, they can select the person with the next highest votes. If a person who is selected is unable to make the game, then the next highest selection is invited to play in their stead.

- iv. The league president will divide the All-Star players up into teams and they will play at their assigned time.
- v. The league presidents will assign one manager for each All-Star team. The rest of the Managers are welcome to serve as coaches for the event.
- vi. Pitchers will only be allowed to pitch a max of one inning during the All-Star Event.

### 3. **SAFETY:**

- a) Umpires and coaches are responsible for the safety of the players and spectators at all times. Umpires have the final say.
- b) Players are to be properly equipped at all times.
- c) Players can't wear any jewelry unless it is secured (taped down).
- d) Catchers are required to wear protective cups while catching. It is highly recommended that all players wear protective cups at all times.
- e) Catchers warming up pitchers are required to wear a face mask and chest protector. If warm-ups are conducted on the field down the foul lines a spotter with glove must be used. **Failure to comply may result in a coach warning or suspension!**
- f) Warm-ups should be conducted in a safe place for the players and spectators.
- g) Games should be discontinued when playing conditions are no longer safe due to weather or darkness or lightning. If anyone sees lightning, they are to report it to the umpire. **For lightning, everyone should clear the field area and seek shelter in their cars. A mandatory 20 minute wait time from the last occurrence of lightning will be in effect.**

### 4. **GAME PLAY:**

- a) All games must start within ten (10) minutes of scheduled time except in the case of umpiring or field difficulties.
- b) Teams may warm up a minimum of thirty minutes prior to the start of the first weekend and weekday games. The visitors will have the first 15 minutes and the home team will have the last 15 minutes. For example, a 9:00am start for a Saturday game, the visiting team will have the field from 8:30am – 8:45am. Home Team will have the 8:45-9:00am slot.
- c) League Field and Playing Differences:

|                          | Base Distance | Pitching Distance | Leadoffs Allowed | Balks Called | Steals Allowed | Infield Fly Rule | Dropped Third | Score on Pass Balls |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| <b>Rookie</b>            | 50'           | 40'               | No               | No           | No             | No               | No            | No                  |
| <b>Mustang</b>           | 60'           | 42'               | No               | No           | No             | No               | No            | No                  |
| <b>Minor</b>             | 60'           | 44'               | No               | No           | Yes            | No               | No            | *Yes                |
| <b>Major</b>             | 70'           | 50'               | Yes              | 1 Warn       | Yes            | Yes              | Yes           | Yes                 |
| <b>Pony</b>              | 80'           | 54'               | Yes              | 1 Warn       | Yes            | Yes              | Yes           | Yes                 |
| <b>Colt</b>              | 90'           | 60.5'             | Yes              | 1 Warn       | Yes            | Yes              | Yes           | Yes                 |
| * - starts after 3 weeks |               |                   |                  |              |                |                  |               |                     |

## GBA BASEBALL SPRING RULES 2019

- d) If an umpire fails to show by game start time, both managers will agree on a suitable umpire substitute. This umpire substitute will be the only umpire allowed on the field and will remain for the entire game or until the scheduled umpire arrives.
- e) A regulation game is 6 innings for Minor and below leagues and 7 innings for Major and above leagues.
- f) A game is considered official after 3.5 innings if the home team is winning or 4 innings if the visiting team is winning for 6 inning games and 4.5 innings if the home team is winning or 5 innings if the visiting team is winning for 7 inning games.
- g) All regular season games will have a time limit in effect unless there is no game following their game. If it is known whether a game follows or not, both coaches should agree before the game when they will stop and abide by that decision. If it is not known, and they find out later that there is no game behind them, then the game will continue until completion or dark unless BOTH coaches get together and agree on shortening the game. In either case, once an agreement is made coaches are to stick with that agreement. Coaches should take into consideration school nights when making the decision to continue. For time limits, no inning shall start after the following times (from the scheduled start time):

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <u>Rookie</u>                           | 1 ½ hours |
| <u>Mustang, Minor, Majors, and Pony</u> | 2 hours   |
- h) A new inning begins the exact moment that the third out is made, in the previous inning, for the purpose of determining the time limit. The score of any game terminated due to darkness or field availability shall revert back to the last completed inning unless the Home team is at bat and scored the go ahead run. In the case of a suspended game, the pitcher can reenter at that same position. Standard pitching rules will still apply.
- i) Before the game begins, the umpire shall identify an official game clock in collaboration with the opposing coaches.
- j) For Minor and up, in the event a game is tied at the end of the time limit, the game will proceed with California Rules (last out on second base, one out and a one and one starting count for each batter) in place for the remainder of the game. If after 2.5 hours the tie is still not broken then the result will be recorded as a tie.
- k) Postponed or suspended games are to be re-scheduled through the league president if possible and applicable.
- l) Mercy Rule: After the losing team bats in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, if losing by 15 runs the game will end. After the losing team bats in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, if losing by 12 runs the game will end.
- m) Managers of kid pitch leagues will be responsible for tracking inning counts for pitchers during the season and to report those on the website within two days of the event. This will help us protect player's arms.
- n) Managers will be responsible for reporting game results on the website within 2 days of the game for Minors and up.
- o) Standings will be posted for Minor and up leagues. Standings will NOT be used to determine post season seeding for any leagues.
- p) Home team responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - i. Provide an official scorekeeper for the game for Mustang and up.
  - ii. Raking the field.
  - iii. Lining the base paths and batters boxes prior to the game if necessary.

## GBA BASEBALL SPRING RULES 2019

- iv. Placing bases prior to the game. (Check distances of bases and pitcher's mound for those fields that service multiple leagues).
- v. Providing two (2) new game balls.
- vi. Securing all league equipment and locking all facilities after the game if last game.
- vii. Put the field to rest by filling in holes around bases, home plate and pitcher's mound.
- viii. Promptly informing the respective league president of any concerns with fields, grounds, facilities, equipment or supplies.

The Visiting team is expected to assist with these responsibilities.

- q) Home Team will utilize the third base dugout. Visiting team will use the first base dugout.
- r) A game must start with a minimum of eight (8) players and may go to seven (7) as a result of an injury. There will be no penalty for batting 8 players but if a team drops down 7 players they must take an out for the missing 8<sup>th</sup> player.
- s) In order to provide a source of replacement players, Managers may call-up players from their designated call-up team(s) or player siblings for the immediate lower league. If there are no suitable players available from this pool, a team can request to call-up a player from other immediate lower league teams with permission of the league president. In all cases, the league president, opposing coach and coach of the call-up player should be notified.
  - i. Call-ups: When a manager has knowledge that he will have less than nine (9) players for a given game, he may arrange for replacement. Replacement players must bat last in the lineup and will not play more defensive innings than a regular rostered player. Replacement players may not pitch or catch. The emphasis and priority is towards your rostered players not the call-ups.
  - ii. Call-ups may not be used in a Pool play, Bracket play and/or playoff game if a team has 9 or more current roster players available at start of the game. If there is a call-up and the team have 9 roster players available, then the player that has been called up MAY NOT participate in the game. Managers should consult their league presidents for any rulings around call-ups.
- t) Only the designated Manager, or active players, can ask the umpire for a time out.
- u) The throwing of helmets, bats or equipment will not be tolerated. Managers will discipline as necessary. Under no circumstances will there be any arguing on the field. Managers are to be responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches and parents. Any such actions need to be reported to the league president.
- v) Disciplinary action toward a player or member (beyond benching during a game in progress) must be reviewed by the league president.
- w) Any player or coach ejected from a game is not eligible to participate in the next game played. Appeals of rejections should be submitted in writing to the league president.
- x) Both teams are to remove all equipment and trash from their dugouts immediately following their game.
- y) When a game has not played sufficient innings to be called a complete game, and because of weather or darkness needs to be suspended, the teams will have the option of completing the game at a later date. When the continued game is played, it will resume exactly where it was when the game was suspended. As with any game, substitutions can be made for those players who are not present at the continued game, however, any player who was not at the original game that will play in the continued game must be placed at the bottom of the batting order. If a player at the

## GBA BASEBALL SPRING RULES 2019

original game is not at the continued game, their spot in the line-up will be skipped (with no consequence), and their position played by a substitute (if they were in a defensive position when suspended) or pitch runner (if they were on base when suspended). Any player from the original game, who then left the game, can re-enter the continued game at any position EXCEPT as pitcher, if they were already relieved as pitcher in the original game."

- z) Game protests are prohibited. In the event of a dispute during a game, managers are encouraged to reach out to their respective league presidents for immediate rulings. If a league president is not available, then contact the GBA Commissioner. If he is not available, then contact the Director of Umpires.

### 5. **BATTING:**

- a) All team members present at the game will bat in continuous rotation.
- b) Team members who arrive after the start of the game can be added to the end of the batting order.
- c) Each team will provide written lineups to the opposing team prior to the start of the game. The lineup should include the name, number and experience level (1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> year player for Minors and up).
- d) For Mustang and below during the regular season, a player can be skipped in the batting order for injury or illness reasons with no penalty and may reenter at a later time. Although, players should be encouraged to not skip their turn if possible. For leagues Minor and above and for all leagues during play-offs, players can be removed from the game with no penalty or they may be skipped and left in the game by taking an out. This rule is in place to not encourage players to feign injury or illness.
- e) On-deck hitters need to be in the on-deck circle on the same side of the baseline as the batter.
- f) For all Rookie, Mustang, Minor, Major and Pony Leagues - Bat Restrictions: Bats must be stamped BPF 1.15, BBCOR, or be made of wood. If a player is found to be using an illegal bat, that player will be called out and the bat removed from the dugout. If after a player reaches base and prior to the next batter facing a pitch, it is found that an illegal bat was used, then the player on base will be called out. If there are any other base runners, or if any player scored on the play in which an illegal bat was used, they must return to their original bases prior to the infraction and any run(s) scored are disallowed.  
Players in all leagues may use bats commonly known as "big barrel" or 2 ¾" diameter bats..
- g) Slashing is not allowed (show bunt then swing away on same pitch). The batter will be immediately called out and the ball is dead.

### 6. **PITCHING:**

Pitching Eligibility Rules for all leagues:

- a) Pitching limitations are based on a player's experience age/grade level based on how they were listed in the draft depending on league level. The rules will specify 1<sup>st</sup> year or 2<sup>nd</sup> year players in Minor, Major and Pony Leagues.
- b) In the Minor League, teams will be limited to two (2) innings of second year players during the first four (4) innings of a game. In the Major and Pony Leagues, Teams will be limited to three (3) innings of second year players during the first five (5) innings of a game. Any appearance by a second year player counts as an inning towards this

GBA BASEBALL SPRING RULES 2019

limitation. For example: If you remove a first year player during an inning, you must replace the pitcher with a first year player to not count towards the second year limitation. If you replace a first year player with a second year pitcher then this will count as one of your innings towards a second year pitcher. There are no age/grade limits for innings after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning in the Minor or after the 5<sup>th</sup> inning in the Major and Pony Leagues.

- c) Pitchers will be limited on the number of innings/pitches they can pitch in a given game and will be required to rest a certain amount of days depending on the number of innings pitched. Delivery of a single pitch constitutes an inning and restrictions are in place even for extra innings. A calendar week will begin at 12:01AM Monday and will end at 12:00 midnight on the following Sunday.

**Pitching Matrix**

|   | Max Innings / Game | Max Innings / Day | Max Innings / Week | Max Days in a Row | Recommended Max Pitches / Week | Rest Req for 3 Innings Pitched in a Day | Rest Req for 4+ Innings Pitched in a Day |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Mustang</b>  | *1 to 2            | 2                 | 6                  | 2                 | 75                             | NA                                      | NA                                       |
| <b>Minor</b>  | 2                  | 2                 | 8                  | 2                 | 90                             | NA                                      | NA                                       |
| <b>Major</b>  | 4                  | 4                 | 9                  | 2                 | 110                            | 1 Day                                   | 3 Days                                   |
| <b>Pony</b>   | 5                  | 7                 | 11                 | 3                 | 140                            | 1 Day                                   | 2 Days                                   |
| Example of rest days: 1 Day - pitched Monday must rest Tuesday can pitch again on Wednesday. 3 days of rest after pitching on Monday would mean must rest Tue, Wed and Thurs and can pitch again on Friday.<br>* - See Mustang specific rules for restrictions. |                    |                   |                    |                   |                                |   |  |

- d) Once removed as a pitcher, that player may not pitch again in the same game.
- e) Pitching rule violations in any league can be subject to forfeiture of that game and will be reviewed by the league president.
- f) If a pitcher hits 2 batters in one inning or 3 batters in a game, that pitcher must be removed from the mound.
- g) Pitchers can't wear any light or bright colored (distracting) apparel below the elbow on either arm while pitching. The umpire has the final decision on whether it is distracting or not.
- h) In order to speed up play, the pitcher will be allowed a maximum of five (5) warm-up pitches at the beginning of an inning. A relief pitcher will be allowed a maximum of eight (8) warm-up pitches when he enters the game.
- i) No intentional walks are allowed except for Pony League and higher.
- j) For Minor and Major Leagues the throwing of breaking pitches is not allowed. Change-up pitches are allowed. If, in the opinion of the home plate umpire, a breaking pitch has been thrown, the umpire(s) shall immediately call a ball and warn the pitcher that repeated violation of this rule can cause the subject pitch to be called a ball and the pitcher removed from the pitcher's mound. Should the pitcher thrown a breaking ball following the warning, the pitch shall be called a ball and the pitcher removed from the pitcher's mound.



**7. FIELDING:**

- a) All team members present at a game will not sit out two (2) consecutive innings nor will they sit out a second inning before all players have sat one (1) inning. No member will sit out more than two (2) times during a six (6) inning game and three (3) times in a 7 inning game. (The intent is that all players present play a similar number of defensive innings per game.) The exceptions to these rules include injury, illness, and last minute lineup scrambles due to player availability.
- b) Players will be limited in the number of innings they can play a position as follows. *(Extra inning games will negate these restrictions)*

| Position       | Pioneer / Rookie / Mustang/ Minor | Major / Pony |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Pitchers       | 2                                 | 4 / 5        |
| Catchers       | 2                                 | 4            |
| Other Position | 2                                 | 3            |

- c) Players are required to play at least two innings in the infield and one inning in the outfield per each regulation game except for Pony where there will be no restriction. Note: Pitcher and Catcher positions count as infield for this requirement. For the Major League, players must play a minimum of 1 inning in the outfield during any of the first five innings of a game.
- d) Coaches are encouraged to utilize players in many different positions for instructional purposes especially at the lower leagues. Care must be taken in assigning players, keeping in mind safety, skill and ability.
- e) Injuries, illness, early leaving and late comers are exceptions to the above rules.
- f) Please try to control feigning injury / illnesses to circumvent this rule. See Rule 5d above.

**8. BASE RUNNING:**

- a) Any player who intentionally removes his safety helmet will be called out and play is treated as a hit baseman.
- b) No head first sliding (except when returning to a base): If a runner slides head first they will be called out. (This is done for the safety of the players).
- c) Umpires judgment will be used to protect all fielders. If a play is made at a base, a player must attempt to avoid contact preferably by sliding on plays at any base (except first base). A player may not jump (leave the ground) over the catcher to avoid contact with the catcher. If it is determined by the umpire that the player jumped over a catcher to avoid contact that player will be called out and the ball is dead. If unintentional contact is made, the runner may be called out and the ball would be dead (umpire's discretion). If the act is determined to be flagrant, the offender shall be ejected. The umpire's decision on the sliding rules is final.
- d) All fields will use a safety base at first base. If there is a play at first base, the runner should use the safety (orange) base unless the 1<sup>st</sup> baseman sets up on the orange side of the base to receive a throw from the foul side of the field. If there is no play at

## GBA BASEBALL SPRING RULES 2019

first base the runner has the right to either base and the 1<sup>st</sup> baseman must give the runner a clear path to advance.

- e) Adults can coach base paths during at-bats, and for the purpose of instruction, can allow a helmeted player in the coach's box for Major Leagues and higher if desired.
- f) To speed up game play a base runner that will be catching the next inning is required to be replaced by the runner who made the last out when two outs have been reached.
- g) Players who are ill or injured may be replaced by the player who made the last out when necessary. If the same player is involved twice in the same game they should be removed from the game.

### 9. **Post Season Playoffs:**

- a) Playoffs for Mustang, Minor, Major and Pony will consist of a double-elimination, single-elimination, Round Robin, or Pool Play style tournament based on the days available and number of teams. All playoff schedules and formats are subject to change based on weather conditions.
- b) The seedings for playoffs will be random for Mustang, Minor, Major and Pony leagues and not based on final regular season standings or record.
- c) During Pool play home team will be determined before each game by a coin toss with both Managers or Coaches. During Bracket play home team will be determined by the seeding based on the results of the Pool play. Highest seed from Pool play will be home team for the game in Bracket play.
- d) All playoff games must be completed games. Games shortened due to darkness and weather will be resumed at a later time.
- e) All other regular season rules will remain in place.
- f) The league reserves the right to change rules based on constraints of scheduling and format of tournament.
- g) See section [4.s.ii](#) for call-up rule for post season tournament.

## **Rookie Specific League Rules**

### **ROOKIE: AGES 6, 7 (Grades Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup>)**

**PURPOSE:** This is a non-competitive, instructional league to learn the basic skills of baseball; i.e. positions, hitting, running, defense and sportsmanship. A safety ball (flex ball) and safety base at first base will be used throughout the season. Players will start off by hitting off of a batting tee and will progress to coach pitch.

#### **1. GENERAL:**

- a) No score will be kept.
- b) **An inning consists of continuous rotation of all players present. This rule will continue until June 1<sup>st</sup>, at which point the rule is amended to add that all player present shall bat in an inning or three defensive outs, whichever comes first.**

#### **2. BATTING:**

- a) The batting lineup should be rotated throughout the season.
- b) Pitching will be done by an adult of the team up to bat. Pitches should be over handed and attempted to be as flat as possible. A batting tee or soft tosses will be utilized after

## GBA BASEBALL SPRING RULES 2019

five pitches, independent of balls, strikes or foul balls. Catchers will return the balls between batters.

- c) No strike outs or walks.

### 3. **FIELDING:**

- a) If a batted ball hits the (coach) pitcher, the ball shall immediately be declared dead, the batter shall be awarded first base, and all other runners will advance one base from the base they occupied at the time of the pitch.
- b) Every player shall be given both an infield and an outfield positions every game. Every effort shall be made to play all players in every position during the season. Care must be taken in assigning the players, also keeping in mind safety, skill and ability.
- c) The pitcher must wear a batting helmet with a facemask.
- d) Catchers must wear full catcher's gear (shin guards, chest protector, mask and protective cup) while playing the position of catcher in all games and practices.
- e) Two (2) defensive coaches are permitted on the field, to instruct and serve as umpires.
- f) The defense may field ten (10) players, utilizing four (4) deep outfielders.
- g) An outfielder is not permitted to make an unassisted putout in the infield.

### 4. **BASE RUNNING:**

- a) Base runners should be removed from the field if they make an out.
- b) No base advancement on an overthrow. Runners must stop at the base they are at or are running to as soon as the ball enters the infield area.
- c) Sliding is allowed where appropriate.

## **MUSTANG LEAGUE SPECIFIC RULES**

AGES 8 Yr (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

**PURPOSE:** The Minor 8 League is considered to be a developmental league with an introduction to competition and kid pitch.

### 1. **GENERAL:**

- a) One coach from the defensive team shall be located in the outfield during the game for instructional purposes. During the Instructional Period a coach from the offensive team will be on the mound calling balls and strikes.
- b) The pitching team will place one coach with two additional game balls behind the catcher to keep the game moving.
- c) **Instructional Period: For the first three (3) weeks of the season, a player will pitch until he/she has four (4) called balls. Therefore, a pitcher may pitch more than four (4) pitches taking into consideration strikes and foul balls. No walks will be allowed during this Instructional Period. If after four (4) called balls the batter has yet to reach base or make an out, a manager or coach will then pitch up to four (4) additional pitches from the mound. After the coach's four (4) pitches, a batting tee will then be utilized. Three (3) strikes either by missed swing or called strike will be a strike out. Coaches will umpire games during this period. Balls and strikes will be called by the**

**umpire (coach) on the mound. This includes called third strike. The dates will be determined based on the season calendar and announced during draft night.**

- d) Umpires will be supplied and will call the game at the conclusion of the instructional period.
- e) At the Mustang level the strike zone is slightly expanded. The strike zone is considered the width of two (2) extra balls high, two (2) extra balls low, two (2) extra balls to the outside, and one (1) ball on the inside (closest to the batter).

## **2. BATTING:**

- a) Each half inning will be limited to either three (3) outs or four (4) runs with the following exceptions. There is no limit to runs in the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) & sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) innings.
- b) Bunting is NOT allowed.

## **3. FIELDING:**

- a) All players must rotate positions throughout the season.

## **4. PITCHING:**

- a) This is an Instructional League with an emphasis on skill development. All players that want to pitch will be given an opportunity to pitch during the season. All players will be taught the proper pitching techniques, and encouraged to try to pitch.
- b) Only one (1) player per game can pitch more than one (1) inning, including extra inning games. Other pitchers must be limited to 1 inning in order to promote pitcher development.
- c) During all six (6) innings a pitcher is allowed two (2) walks per inning. If after two (2) walks by the pitcher in an inning, that pitcher throws four (4) balls to another batter, then the coach will step in to pitch to the batter, since no more walks are allowed in that inning. After the batter has either gotten on base or gotten out, then the coach will step off the mound and return to the dugout and the pitcher will then pitch to the next new batter. This way, the pitcher pitches to every batter in the inning. **The purpose of this league is to develop pitchers, so we need to have the kids pitching, not the coaches.** We also need to keep the game moving. Each half inning will be limited to either three (3) outs or four (4) runs with the following exceptions. There is no limit to runs in the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) or sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) innings. Pitching will proceed this way for the remainder of the season and into tournament play. Umpires will continue to call the game.
- d) Pitching Helmet Agreement. All players pitching in the Mustang League are required to wear a batter's helmet fitted with a caged face mask or sign the waiver to permit them to pitch without the helmet. Each manager will provide a Mustang Pitching Helmet Agreement listing the team roster. The parent must select a 'Yes' or 'No' option to wear or not wear the helmet when pitching. Parents may also choose to keep their player off the mound altogether by selecting the 'Do Not Pitch' category. Either way, the parent's signature is required. All completed forms must be returned to the League President prior to the start of the first game played.

## **5. BASE RUNNING:**

- a) Base stealing (including passed balls) is not allowed at this level. This includes wild pitches and balls thrown from the catcher to the pitcher.
- b) When the ball reaches the infield from any outfielder, all runners must stop at the closest base. All runners get one (1) base on an overthrow. **ABSOLUTELY UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAY YOU TAKE HOME ON AN OVERTHROW.** For example, if there is a runner at 2<sup>nd</sup> base, and there is an overthrow to 1<sup>st</sup> base, the runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> base would only advance to 3<sup>rd</sup> base. If there is a play at 3<sup>rd</sup> base resulting in an overthrow at 3<sup>rd</sup> base, the

## GBA BASEBALL SPRING RULES 2019

runner may NOT score home. The runner must stay on 3<sup>rd</sup> base. The runner may NOT take home on an overthrow. YOU MAY NOT GO HOME TO SCORE A RUN ON AN OVERTHROW.

### **MINOR LEAGUE SPECIFIC RULES** **MINOR: AGES 9 Yr (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade) and 10 Yr (4<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

**PURPOSE:** This is a competitive league with emphasis on full skill development and good sportsmanship.

#### **1. BATTING:**

- a) Each half inning will be limited to either three (3) outs or five (5) runs with the following exceptions: Minor - There is no limit to runs starting in the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) inning.

#### **2. FIELDING:**

- a) All players must rotate positions throughout the season.

#### **3. BASE RUNNING:**

- a) Base Stealing - Base stealing is allowed in the Minor League. Runners cannot leave the base they occupy until the ball has crossed the plate or has been hit. **Stealing of home plate will not be permitted until after the third week of the season.** At that time, stealing of home plate is allowed on passed balls and wild pitches. No stealing or delayed steals permitted for balls thrown from the catcher to the pitcher.—Additional clarifications include: The wild pitch or passed ball must extend passed or behind the catcher to allow the runner on third to advance home. Specifically, if the catcher blocks the ball and it remains in front or next to the catcher, the runner cannot advance. If the catcher catches the ball but it bounces out of the mitt in front of the catcher, the runner on third cannot advance. The intention here is to allow stealing of third to home when the ball clearly gets away.
- b) Advancing on overthrows for batted balls: Minor: Runners may score on overthrown balls.
- c) A runner on third cannot advance home on a pick-off play by the pitcher, catcher or any other fielder. If a pitch results in a passed ball or wild pitch, the catcher throws to third as the runner attempts to get back to the base, the ball is missed by the third baseman, the runner may attempt to steal home because it started with a passed ball or wild pitch.
- d) When a runner on first is attempting to steal second, a runner on third cannot advance to home plate even if the ball goes into the outfield.
- e) There are no delayed steals.

## MAJOR and PONY LEAGUE SPECIFIC RULES

**MAJORS: AGES 11 and 12 (5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> Grades)**

**PONY: AGES 13 and 14 (7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> Grades)**

**PURPOSE:** This is a competitive league with emphasis on full skill development and good sportsmanship.

See Batting rule [5.f](#) for bat restrictions pertaining to certain Major and Pony games.

For Pony and Major, since the Spring League is being combined with Batavia Youth Baseball (BYB) and St. Charles Baseball (STC) leagues, the following rules (taken from our Fall League Rules) will be used in addition to the All League Common Rules referenced above. **Any duplication of rules shown, the Fall League Rules shall supersede:**

### 1. **PITCHING:**

- a) Player may pitch no more than four (4) innings in a one game week; eight (8) innings in a two (2) game week; and eleven (11) innings in a three game week. For the purpose of counting games in a week, each week begins at 12:01 am Monday and ends the following Sunday at Midnight. For the purpose of this rule a single pitch thrown during an inning constitutes 1 inning pitch in regards to this limitation.
- b) Pitching limitations for 2nd yr players (Note: Option B below must be declared prior to starting the game otherwise Option A is in effect. You cannot switch during the game):

**Option A:** Teams will be limited to three (3) innings of 2nd yr. pitching during the first five (5) innings of a game. Any appearance by a 2nd yr. pitcher counts as an inning towards this limitation. For example: If you remove a 1st yr. pitcher during an inning, you must replace the pitcher with a 1st yr. pitcher to not count towards this limitation. If you replace a 1st yr. with a 2nd yr. pitcher this will count against your 3 innings for your 2nd yr's. Pitchers after the first five (5) innings may be 1st or 2nd yr. players. Pitchers may not re-enter if removed earlier, or if they have used up their (4) innings of eligibility for this game. For purpose of this rule, a 1st player is defined as a player who has not played before in the current league (excluding the previous fall season). The rule does not pertain to age and/or grade, but rather to experience only. For example, in 2015 spring league a player played in the Major League. In the fall of 2015, that player played in the Pony League. For the 2016 spring season, that player would be categorized as a 1st yr. Pony League player. If in fall 2015 that same player played in the Major League, then for 2016 spring, the player is categorized as a 2nd yr. Major League player.

**Option B:** Teams may elect that if they are short on 1st yr pitchers to declare the option of throwing a 1st yr player 1 inning during the first 4 **innings**. They will then be limited to 1 inning each of 2nd yr players for the duration of the regulation game. In essence, no 2nd yr. player can pitch more than 1 inning in that game, unless the game goes into extra innings, then the limitation is lifted and a 2nd yr. pitcher could pitch into

## GBA BASEBALL SPRING RULES 2019

the extra innings. Note: During the course of the game, a team may throw a 1st yr player more than one inning but the 2nd yr restriction will still be in place. .

- c) Pitchers will be allowed to pitch on back to back days, but not 3 days in a row.
- d) For Major, the pitching rubber shall be 50 feet from the furthest point of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber. Bases are to be 70 feet apart. For Pony, the pitching rubber shall be 54 feet from the furthest point of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber. Bases are to be 80 feet apart.
- e) Intentional walks are allowed, however, the pitcher must deliver at least four legal pitches.
- f) Umpires will have complete control and authority of all games. Prior to the game, the home team or host organization shall rule on field conditions. Once the game starts, the Umpire governs delays or whether the playing field is safe. Exception: At facilities equipped with lightning detection systems, the guidelines for the detection system must be followed.
- g) Metal spikes will be allowed in all league play.
- h) Batting helmets and catchers helmets must be worn during play.
- i) Continuous batting lineups shall be used and submitted prior to the game. No designated hitters are allowed.
- j) Unlimited defensive substitutions shall be allowed.
- k) Catchers may have an optional courtesy runner if they reach base or are on base with two outs in an inning. The courtesy runner must be the player who recorded the most recent out.
- l) Game times are to be respected, but traffic may cause game delays or reasonable time. Forfeits for game delays are discouraged, and are only approved by the league committee.
- m) A 12 run mercy rule is in affect after 5 innings (4.5 if home team is winning) or 10 runs after 6 innings (5.5 if home team is winning).
- n) Jewelry shall not be worn, except for religious or medical medals. A religious medal must be taped down and worn under the uniform. A medical alert must be taped down, but may be visible.
- o) Games stopped prior to becoming official will be resumed at the exact point they left off.
- p) Unsportsmanlike conduct is behavior that is unethical or dishonorable. It includes, but is not limited to, disrespectfully addressing an official, any flagrant behavior, intentional contact, taunting, criticizing, or using profanity directed toward any other individual.
- q) Slashing is not allowed (show bunt then swing away on same pitch). The batter will be immediately called out and the ball is dead.
- r) A Pitcher will receive one warning when a balk is committed. After subsequent infractions, all base runners will be awarded a base.
- s) For games played at field's #'s 5, 6 & 8 at Eastside Sports Complex, note that these are turf fields and specific rules apply. No metal spikes, only gym shoes or turf shoes. Bat bags need to be hung out on the fence outside of dugout. Water or Gatorade is allowed, but no gum, seeds, or candy. If a player does not have gym shoes, turf shoes, or rubber spike they will not be able to play on these specific fields.

**GBA only rule pertaining to Manager & Coaches Conduct**

The GBA has implemented the following policy with respect to a complaint that is brought to the attention of a League President (LP), and the LP believes that, after the initial review, the complaint merits further investigation. The LP will form a committee with the Commissioner and Director of Coach/Player Development, and then request a meeting with those involved within 5 days of first receiving notice of the incident. This will be a mandatory meeting, and any refusal to attend will be met with expulsion as a manager/coach for the remainder of the season. The committee also reserves the right to a longer ban should the complaint warrant such action.

Those that do meet with the committee will be given every courtesy as one who is innocent until proven otherwise. If after this meeting, it is determined that there is validity to the complaint, the committee will pass down sanctions they deem appropriate based on the infraction. Examples of such sanctions could be the implementation of certain restrictions or requirements that must be met prior to being allowed to manage/coach again, suspension, or expulsion. Any suspension longer than 2 games, or any expulsions will need to have GBA Board knowledge & approval before enacting.