

MARION COUNTY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
RULES FOR FEDERAL LEAGUE 2008
As approved and adopted 2/10/08

- 1) The pitcher's rubber shall be **46 feet** from home plate. (Front of rubber to the point of home plate.) Distance between bases 60 feet.
- 2) All games shall start no later than 6:15 p.m. (No lights) and no later than 8:30 p.m. (under lights).
- 3) The following time limits are to be imposed for games that are played back to back: For games starting at 5:00 p.m., no new inning can start after 6:45 p.m. For games starting at 7:00 p.m., no new inning can start after 8:45 p.m. For games starting at 9:00 p.m., no new inning can start after 10:45 p.m. The "start time" of the new inning begins at the time of the last out of the previous inning.
- 4) Stealing home, and all bases, on a pitched ball or throwback from catcher is **allowed**.
- 5) A passed ball on third strike is an automatic out.
- 6) The infield fly rule and the balk rule shall not apply.
- 7) A lineup card containing the name of players and subs must be completed by each team and exchanged with opposing coach prior to game.
- 8) A pitcher once relieved may not return to the mound. A pitcher who hits three batters in one inning shall be removed from the mound.
- 9) Free substitution shall be observed on defensive positions. All team members present shall be in batting order.
- 10) Subs must play 6 defensive outs in a regulation 6-inning game.
- 11) A pitcher may pitch in only 3 innings per game and 6 innings per week. Exception would be if a make up game is scheduled then another 3 innings may be pitched for a total of 9 innings in a week.
- 12) The home team shall furnish the home plate umpire. The visiting team may furnish one base umpire if it wishes to do so. Additional umpires may be used by mutual consent of team managers. Umpires must be a minimum of 14 years old. Managers and/or coaches may not umpire a game in which their team is participating.

- 13) The batter's helmet is required. The base runners and base coaches may use the base runner's type helmet. The souvenir type plastic helmet is prohibited for any use. Metallic spikes on playing shoes are prohibited.
- 14) Bats shall be 2 1/4 inches or less in diameter at thickest part of barrel and 33 inches or less in length. Bats with double wall construction or containing titanium or titanium-composite are prohibited. All equipment must be checked and approved by umpire prior to the start of the game.
- 15) All players must wear a cap. The remainder of the uniform is optional, providing the player is dressed in reasonable attire. For example, cutoff shorts and muscle shirts are inappropriate.
- 16) The throat protector and catcher's helmet are required.
- 17) All players who warm up the pitcher at home plate must wear a mask.
- 18) If a team is leading its opponent by at least 10 runs after 4 or more innings have been played, the game shall be terminated and the team in front declared the winner.
- 19) A Team must field 9 players or the game will be declared a forfeit. In an emergency, players from a younger age group are permitted to fill in. If nine players are present you may sub emergency players after regular players have played 4 complete innings. Maximum of 3 emergency players. If you have to start an emergency player, he can only be replaced by another emergency player. Players of the same league (federal) cannot be used as subs under any circumstance. The opposing manager must be made aware of emergency players before the game begins.
- 20) Adults are permitted to coach the bases.
- 21) A regulation game shall consist of 6 complete innings, except in the case of a called game where 4 complete innings shall constitute a complete game.
- 22) Tied games shall be settled by playing extra inning or innings.
- 23) A base on balls is not a dead ball, and the runner may advance at risk, providing he does not hesitate or pause going to or at first base.
- 24) The age limit shall be 9 and 10 years old, but not 11 before April 1. (2007)
- 25) Any team using a player over the age limit shall forfeit all wins acquired while that player was on the team roster. If age is questioned, satisfactory proof shall be furnished.

- 26) Profane language by players, coaches or umpires shall be strictly forbidden. Smoking is not permitted on the playing field or in the dugouts.
- 27) Players and /or spectators are prohibited from standing within a 10-foot area extending behind the backstop. People in that area must be seated. Coaches and umpires need to enforce rule.
- 28) When the defensive player has position and possession of the ball, the runner must slide. If in the umpire's judgment, the runner does not slide, the runner shall be called out.
- 29) Game balls shall be provided by the home team.
- 30) Team rosters complete with birth dates must be submitted to the Marion County Baseball Association president and secretary 10 days before the first game of the season.
- 31) For a player to be eligible to play in the Marion County Baseball Association, the player must either be living in the school district or attending the school district by open-enrollment or tuition for the program they wish to participate in.
- 32) Any person demonstrating unsportsmanlike conduct - such as slinging a bat, throwing equipment in anger, using abusive or profane language, or making unnecessary violent contact - shall be immediately ejected from the game and the confines of the ballpark.
- 33) A manager or coach may confer with any defensive player providing the conference is on the pitcher's mound. A visit with any defensive player constitutes an official visit.
- 34) Designated coaches in dugout area will consist of two base coaches and one scorekeeper
- 35) Defensively teams may elect to play a 10th player in the outfield. All four outfielders shall play approximately the same depth. This is not a rover position.
- 36) Additions to rosters for new-move in residents may be made any time up to the calendar halfway point in the season. Any additions MUST be approved by Marion County Baseball Association.
- 37) A total of 10 runs is all a team is allowed to score in any 1/2 inning. When 10 runs have scored that half inning is treated like 3 outs were recorded.

- 38) To speed up play, all defensive teams will abide by the following procedure:
After the first inning there will be no fielding warm-up ball permitted in the infield or outfield. Pitchers will be permitted to throw five warm-up pitches in the first inning they pitch and only three warm-up pitches in subsequent innings.
- 39) A forfeit is declared once the home team coach has contacted the visiting coach twice to no avail. Then the home team county representative has to contact the visiting coach with a third opportunity. If no game is rescheduled then the county representative has to notify the visiting county representative and the county secretary that the game is a forfeit. All rescheduled games must be played by one week of regular season end to accommodate seeding in the tournament.
- 40) If a regularly scheduled game cannot be played due to special circumstances (ie: school & 4-H camps and activities) and the opposing team has been contacted at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled game and has refused to reschedule, rule #39 on forfeits will be followed.
- 41) Point system will be used to determine regular season standings and/or county championship.
- 2 points =====win
 - 1-1/2 points ==tie
 - 1 point =====loss
 - 1 point =====non-played game
- Note: If two teams do not play county program representatives need to be contacted to settle disputes, problems or controversies. If needed, Marion County Baseball Association Board decisions are final. **Team unable to reschedule will be charged -2 points.**
- 42) Rules not covered herein shall be stated in the Ohio High School Athletic Association rule book.