

MARION COUNTY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
RULES FOR PONY LEAGUE 2008

As approved and adopted 2/10/08

- 1) The pitcher's rubber shall be 54 feet from home plate. (front of rubber to the point of home plate) Distance between bases 80 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.) No game shall start later than 10:00 p.m.
- 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) Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) rules will be followed in regard to base stealing, leading off, and balk rules.
- 5) Base runners may lead off.
- 6) The infield fly rule shall apply.
- 7) The lineup card containing the name of players and subs must be completed by each team and exchanged with the opposing coach prior to the game.
- 8) A pitcher may pitch 10 innings in one calendar week and 7 innings in one calendar day. He must have 40 hours of rest if he pitches in 4 or more innings in one calendar day.
- 9) The home team shall furnish the home plate umpire. The umpire shall be a certified sanctioned umpire. *If a certified sanctioned umpire is not available, an umpire must be at least 16 years old. Managers and /or coaches may not umpire a game in which their team is participating. Parents may not umpire behind the plate of a game in which their child is participating unless agreed upon by mutual consent of team managers.
- 10) The batter's helmet is required. The base runners and players coaching bases may use the base runner's type helmet. The souvenir type plastic helmet is prohibited for any use.
- 11) Metallic spikes on playing shoes are allowed.
- 12) Bats shall be 2 ¾ inches or less in diameter at the thickest part of the barrel and 42 inches maximum length, *and a drop of -3 through -8. (2008)* Bats with double wall construction or containing titanium or titanium composite are prohibited. All equipment must be checked and approved by the umpire prior to the start of the games.
- 13) 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.
- 14) The throat protector and catcher's helmet are required.

- 15) All players who warm up the pitcher at the home plate must wear a mask.
- 16) *All players present at the start of the game must play 6 outs and have one at bat (Aug. 19, 2007) A pitcher may not re-enter the game as a pitcher.*
- 17) 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. Players of the same league (pony) cannot be used as subs under any circumstance. All original roster players must be used before emergency players are used. The opposing manager must be made aware of emergency players before the game begins.
- 18) Adults are permitted to coach the bases.
- 19) A regulation game shall consist of 7 complete innings, except in the case of a called game where 4 complete innings shall constitute a complete game.
- 20) Tied games shall be settled by playing extra inning or innings.
- 21) A base on balls is not a dead ball, and the runner may advance at own risk, providing he does not hesitate or pause going to or at first base.
- 22) The age limit shall be 13 and 14 years old, but not 15 before April 1. (2007)
- 23) 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.
- 24) Profane language by players, coaches, or umpires shall be strictly forbidden. Smoking is not permitted on the playing field or in the dugout.
- 25) Players and/or spectators are prohibited from standing within 10 foot area extending behind the backstop. People in that area must be seated. Coaches and umpires need to enforce this rule.
- 26) 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.
- 27) Game ball shall be provided by the home team. Must be pony league styled balls.
- 28) 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.
- 29) 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.
- 30) Any person demonstrating unsportsmanlike conduct- such as slinging a bat, throwing equipment, using abusive or profane language, or making unnecessary violent contact-shall be immediately ejected from the game and the confines of the ballpark.
- 31) Designated coaches in the dugout area will consist of two base coaches and one scorekeeper.

- 32) When 10 or more players are present you **MUST** use the extra hitter (EH). He may be placed anywhere in the lineup. Position players and the EH may be changed during the game, but not their spot in the batting order. Also, in case of injury the EH may be put in the field for the injured player while maintaining his batting order spot. The same player cannot EH in two consecutive games.
- 33) Intention walk-tell the home plate umpire and batter shall be placed on first base.
- 34) Additions to rosters of new-move in players may be made any time up to the calendar halfway point in the season. Any additions **MUST** be approved by Marion County Baseball Association.
- 35) To speed up play of the game, 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 5 warm up pitches in the first inning they pitch and only 3 warm up pitches in subsequent innings.
- 36) A forfeit is declared once the home team coach has contacted the visiting coach twice to no avail. Then the home team county rep has to contact the visiting coach with a third opportunity. If no game is rescheduled then the county rep has to notify the visiting county rep and the county president that the game is forfeit. All rescheduled games must be played by one week of regular season end to accommodate seeding in the tournament. Any game not made up will be considered a win by forfeit to the other team.
- 37) If a regularly scheduled game cannot be played due to special circumstances (i.e. 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 #36 on forfeits will be followed.
- 38) Point system will be used to determine regular season standings and/or county championship.
- a. 2 points-----win
 - b. 1 ½ points-----tie
 - c. 1 point-----loss
 - d. - 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 that is unable to reschedule will be charged -2 points.
- 39) Rules not covered herein shall be stated in the Ohio High School Athletic Association rule book.
- 40) Protests shall be filed in accordance to OHSAA rules. Protests brought before the county board for consideration shall be accompanied by a \$25.00 fee, refundable if protest is ruled in plaintiff's favor.