

# Muscatine Youth Baseball

## Juniors Rules

### Forward:

The Board of Directors (BOD) wants to extend our words of "Thank You" for volunteering to help with the Muscatine Youth Baseball program (MYB). In the spring season of 2022, MYB has transitioned fully to use USSSA rules. However, the BOD has reviewed the rules and has made some amendments out of the best interest of the players in our organization. Those amendments, as well as other general rules and helpful information are found in this packet. The following rules you hold in your hands need to be reviewed prior to the start of the season and, if any, problems arise; this can be used as a quick reference. MYB has the right to change or make amendments to the rules at any time being that we are a private organization; any time a change to rules or amendments are made, they will be brought to the attention to all volunteers with-in the MYB program. IF you have any questions regarding any of the rules or other topics, please contact the MYB-BOD. We wish you the best of luck in the coming season, and thank you again for volunteering your time for the youth of Muscatine and our surrounding Counties.

### 1. Volunteers:

A. All Volunteers in order to help/work with MYB must:

1. Register on MYB
2. Submit information for Background checks
3. Read "Zero Tolerance"
  - Located on MYB Website
4. Read "MYB Child Protection Plan"
  - Submit, signed agreement

B. Each team can up to five (5) volunteers

1. One (1) Manager/ Head Coach
2. Three (3) Assistant Coaches
3. One (1) Scorekeeper

A. A scorekeeper can be run by an assistant coach if needed.

C. During Games only three (3) volunteers are allowed in the dugout at one time.

D. All volunteers must complete all parts of section 1A before they are allowed inside the dugout.

## 2. Game:

- A. Home Team will be in the third (3rd) Base Dug-out- Visiting Team first (1st) Base Dug-out
- B. Game shall run 7 innings or an hour and 40 mins, which ever comes first
  - 1. Once an inning is started it will finish unless Mercy Rule (see section 2.E) goes into effect.
- C. Scorekeeper must be next to the dug-out during the game, with-in a close distance of the dug-out.
- D. A Team may score a maximum of seven (7) runs per inning

### E. Mercy Rule

1. The game is over, when the opposing team is mathematically eliminated from scoring enough runs to win or tie the game

### 2. Run Differential Chart:

Length of Game	Run Differential	Started Inning
7 inning	15	4th Inning
7 inning	8	5th inning

D. Teams may start a game with a minimum of eight (8) players, the ninth (9) batter shall be declared an out each turn at bat.

E. The “Infield Fly Rule” shall be in effect

F. Third (3rd) drop strike shall be in effect

G. The Ball is always a live ball unless “Time” is called by an umpire

1. Umpires calling “Time” have been instructed to give large signals by raising both of their hands in the air, also calling out loud enough for the base umpire or other umpire on the field is able to hear the “Time” called.

2. If a play or pitch is made during a called “Time” it will be declared a ‘Dead Ball Play’ and runner will return to the base they was on, or pitch will not be effected (pitch count or safe/out, ball/ strike counts.)

3. When play resumes, the ball must be presented by the pitcher on the mound to the home plate umpire, and the Umpire shall state “Play Ball” or motion to pitcher that “Play Ball” may resume.

H. The away/visiting team must provide a Base Umpire

1. Base Umpire must an adult over the age of eighteen (18)

2. Home plate umpire will have an extra counter for the Base Umpire (provided by MYB)

I. All Team equipment shall be maintained in the dugout, not with-in the playing field.

1. Responsibility for keeping bats & loose equipment off the playing field of play is assigned to the team's manager or coach.

J. One Coach must always remain in the dugout during the game if one is available

1. A parent volunteer is also acceptable as needed only if a person with a completed background check is unavailable

1a. If this person continues after single game to help in the dugout a background check will need to be done for this person, to continue their volunteer status.

K. Players may not wear watches, rings, pins, etc. during practices or games

1. Medical devices are allowed, but must be notified to umpire so they are aware for safety purposes.

L. Players must be in correct uniform for all games, this includes: Jersey, hat and pants. A player may wear closed toe athletic shoes if the player does not have cleats\*\*. If a player fails to have complete uniform they will not be allowed to play.

1. Steel cleats are pretermitted

M. All Players are required to play a minimum of six (6) consecutive defensive outs and minimum of one (1) at bat per game

1. First infraction: Warning to manager

2. Second infraction: One game suspension of the Manager

N. "Hidden Ball Trick" is strictly prohibited

1. The use of a Hidden Ball Trick is strictly prohibited in MYB games

A. If used the Head Coach will be Removed from the game and will receive a one (1) game suspension

2. Pitcher Must present the ball to the home plate umpire for play to resume after a "Time" as been called.

O. Base runners are allowed to lead off/ steal while the ball is in play unless "Time" has been called

P. Home Team manager or head coach shall report results and pitch counts of each game via GroupMe, NO LATER THAN 10:00pm the night of the game or it will be considered a forfeit for the reporting team, in effort of keeping the standing updated on MuscatineBaseball.com

### 3. Weather

A. Coaches will be notified as soon as possible concerning weather related delays or cancelations. Please do not contact Muscatine Parks & Rec. A MYB member will reach out to you concerning any weather related cancelations or postponements.

1. You also can subscribe to receive information regarding park closures via the Muscatine Parks and Rec website. But this information will be forwarded to you from the BOD.

2. Please Forward this information to all parents

B. Play will pause as soon as lightning is detected, and players are to move into dugouts off playing field.

1. Play may resume 20 mins from last nearby lightning strike with a flash-bang count of no less than 20.

C. In the event of server weather; players must move to an enclosed building (restrooms)

D. Game Postponements/Cancelations due to weather:

1. In the event of a postponement/ Cancelation, a member of the BOD will reach out to you with the information regarding the time of the rescheduled game and location.

E. If the game is called due to rain, weather, light failure, or other acts of nature and cannot be resumed it shall be a regulation game if:

1. For a six (7) inning game, if four (4) innings have been played or if the home team has scored more runs after three and half (3 1/2) innings the game shall be declared a completed game.

2. If game didn't meet the required 4 innings that game will need to be made up, and will be considered a postponed game.

#### 4. Pitching

A. Pitchers do not need to wear a heart guard, but are highly encourage by the MYB Board, this is solely left up to the discretion of the parents of the player.

B. Balks will be enforced

1. First offence: Warning

2. Second offence: Enforcement of Balk rule

C. Pick-Offs attempts are allowed.

D. Coaches are allowed to warm-up pitchers between innings, Please assist catchers with putting on gear to keep the game with-in time frame. No Long Delays waiting for catchers!

E. Pitchers are allowed to warm up during innings while on either offense or defense. If warming up while on offensive this must not delay any at bats or batting order.

1. They must be inside the fence line.

2. Catcher must have full protective gear on.

3. There should be one spotter with a batters helmet and glove to protect from any foul or ball hit in the direction of the pitcher warming up.

A. Spotter is only there to spot not to be visiting with the practicing pitch or catcher. Must pay attention to the game, and be aware of where the ball is located at all times.

1. If ball is hit in their direction the spotter shall notify the practicing pitcher and catcher to move towards the fence and out of the ball. If they come into contact with the ball they will be called for player interference.

A. If player is struck by the ball and made no attempt to move out of the ball, the team manager will be issued a warning.

B. If a player is struck by the ball a second time the violating team will forfeit their right to warm-up their pitchers in this manner for the remainder of the game.

#### E. Pitch Counts

1. MYB will be using pitch counts and rest days.

A. A violation of not meeting the mandatory days rest will result in a one (1) game suspension of the Manager/ head coach.

1. Pitcher will be removed from the position of pitcher if a violation is found.

2. Pitch counts need to be reported after the game is concluded along with the score via GroupMe.

A. When reporting: report Players Full Name, Jersey Number and total pitches pitched must be included.

#### F. Pitch Count and Required Days Rest Chart

Age	Daily Max	Required Rest (Pitches)	Required Rest (Pitches)	Required Rest (Pitches)	Required Rest (Pitches)	Required Rest (Pitches)
		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Day
7-8	50*	1-20	21-35	36-50	N/A	N/A
9-10	75*	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
11-12	85*	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
13-14	95*	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
15-16	95*	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
17-18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+

G. Intentional walks can be done without throwing pitches, but shall result in four (4) pitches on the pitch counter. Defending must announce the use of an "Intentional Walk".

1. Once a Pitch is thrown to walk a batter all remaining pitches must be pitches must be thrown to complete the intentional walk

2. Only one "Intentional Walk" allowed per batter per game.

H. While Pitching, Pitcher is not allowed to wear sunglasses.

I. Mound visits are allowed, only two (2) per inning by coach.

1. First (1st) mound visit same pitcher may remain.

2. Second (2nd) Mound visit must change out pitcher

J. Mound visits are allowed by the catcher

1. This is unlimited per inning, but please keep in mind not to allow long delays of game. Umpires will notify players if game is delayed to long.

K. If a Pitching change is made they will be allowed to warm-up their arms on the mound to the catcher.

1. Home plate Umpire will determine amount of pitches allowed for warm-up, before the game resumes.

L. The pitchers may only see one batter and maybe changed out to another pitcher.

1. Pitchers do not have to face 3 batters, they can face only one and be switched out if the need is decided by the manager or head coach.

M. Once a pitcher is removed from the mound that player may no longer return to the mound for the remainder of the game.

N. Only the designated player assigned to be the pitcher shall pick-up the official game ball. If another defensive player picks-up the game ball the Home Plate Umpire will assume that they are the new pitcher mound and they will have to pitch.

O. Pitcher to catcher, catcher to pitcher

1. A player in the pitching position may move to the catching position

A. This player may not return to the mound for the remainder of the game.

2. A Player in the catching position may move to the pitching position.

\*\* If you do use this please use caution and please do not over use your players arms out of concern for their arm wear at a young age\*\*

## 5. Batting

A. The Batting order shall constitute all present players on the team roster at the beginning of the game. Late arrivals shall be inserted at the bottom of the batting order.

B. All players on the roster shall bat before returning to the top of the batting order.

C. Teams may start a game with eight (8) players, the ninth (9) in the batting will be declared an out.

D. Batting order shall remain the same during course of the game.

\*If a team bats out of order, Defensive Coach can notify other coach/ umpire of the infraction. They then can challenge the at bat if the order is not corrected.

E. Late arrivals shall be added to bottom of the batting order and will bat once their turn to bat returns.

1. Must notify the opposing team of late arrivals, as soon as possible to be added to batting order

F. Batters must wear approved protective helmets during all practices and games.

G. Bunting is allowed

I. A player may only be 'Intentionally Walked' once per game by announcement by defensive team.

J. All bats for any division must have the USSSA or USA label on them. The use of any bat being used is ultimately up to the home plate umpire, if the bat appears to be altered in anyway, or not labeled with approved labels, that bat may be removed from the game.

## 6. Base Running:

A. Runners are allowed to lead-off and steal bases.

B. Head first sliding is not permitted except when returning to base.

1. Please use caution with letting your players slide if they slide at all.

C. A courtesy runner for catcher of the recorded previous inning maybe used.

1. The Courtesy runner shall be the player that made the previous out. If no out have been recorded in the game, the courtesy runner shall be the previous batter not on base.

2. If the team batting has not played defense yet and a courtesy runner is used for a player, the player that was run for, must assume the catching position the next inning. This scenario only applies in the first inning for the visiting team.

D. Whenever a tag play is evident, a runner must slide or seek to avoid contact with the fielder and/or catcher. Malicious contact shall supersede all obstruction penalties.

1. Malicious contact is solely up to the discretion of the Umpire.

2. If Umpire see it as a malicious contact the runner shall be called out and maybe ejected from the game at the discretion of the umpires

E. A runner who jumps over a player will be called out whether or not contact is made with the defensive player.

## 7. Defense

- A. Three (4) defensive players shall play in the field with three (3) outfielders.
- B. Teams may use free substitution on defense at any time.
- C. Catchers must wear catcher's helmet (throat guard is optional), Chest protector, shin guards (protective cup is encouraged but not mandatory. This is up to the discretion of the players family) always during practices and games. NO EXCEPTIONS!
  - 1. Managers are responsible prior to allowing a child to play in this position.
  - 2. If you do not have the right equipment for your catcher, please notify the MYB Equipment manager as soon as possible to rectify the situation.
- D. Mound visits are allowed by the catcher
  - 1. This is unlimited per inning, but please keep in mind not to allow long delays of game. Umpires will notify players if game is delayed to long.

## 8. Conduct

- A. MYB is a 'Zero Tolerance' organization
  - 1. Abuse of Umpire, Coach, BOD or other volunteers of MYB is strictly prohibited.
    - A. This includes but not limited to verbal or physical abuse
- B. Managers are responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, and parents which includes physical and/or verbal conduct. Managers should handle the situation. If additional help is needed Contact the MYB Board.
- C. All players, coaches, managers, sponsors, and spectators are expected to always conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner.
- D. The league director has the authority to remove anyone from the event at any time for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- E. Any player, coach, manager, sponsor, or spectator whose conduct is unbecoming or abusive shall at a minimum be reprimanded with a warning.
- F. If warranted, the offending party shall be ejected from the game at the discretion of the Umpires and/or league.
- G. Any Player, coach, manager, sponsor, or spectator leaving their position or base, in the field, on the bench, in the dugout area or in the grandstands to participate in a fight, brawl or altercation shall be immediately ejected from the game and maybe disbarred/ suspended.



H. Any coach, manager, sponsor, or spectator ejected from a game shall immediately remove themselves from the vicinity of the playing field and/or grandstands for the remainder of the game. If they do not remove themselves from the area a board member will be called down and further implication shall be taken. If they continue to refuse to leave the area, the Muscatine Police department will be contacted to safely remove them from the vicinity so as not to cause more issues within the confines of the ballpark.

I. Any player ejected from the game shall immediately remove themselves from the vicinity of the playing field for the remainder of the game or be confined to the dugout area for the remainder of the game at the discretion of the league.

J. Additional penalties may be assessed at the discretion of the league, in the event it continues after the initial event.

K. Under no circumstances shall anyone argue with an umpire over judgment calls (Safe/out, fair/foul, etc.)

L. If you believe the umpire has made a mistake on a ruling, signal an appeal, and only the manager/head coach can question the call. They must then be able to show in the rule book where demonstrating the call was incorrect, as soon as the issue arises during the game.

M. In all leagues, any player, manager, coach, ejected from a game is also suspended from the following scheduled game.

N. The actions on or off the field of players, managers, coaches, umpires and league officials must be above reproach.

O. Anyone involved in a verbal or physical altercation, or an incident of unsportsmanlike conduct at the game site or any other MYB activity may be subject to disciplinary action by the board of Directors. (This shall include online and social media)