

Manchester Baseball Association

7/8 Rules for the 2024 Season

This is an instructional league and as such won-loss records and standings will not be kept.

MBA does not supply umpires for 7/8. A coach, parent, or responsible person is to call the game. If this person does not have protective gear they should be behind the pitcher for their safety.

FIRST HALF OF THE SEASON

Teams will have one practice day per week (designated by the league) and one game per week (typically on Saturdays, unless makeup is needed due to inclement weather).

SECOND HALF OF THE SEASON

Teams will increase to one practice day per week and **TWO** games per week. (One game during the week and one on Saturdays)

Equipment Guidelines:

Teams will use a hard ball issued by Manchester Baseball for games and practices

All batters must wear a batting helmet. Face guards (while optional) are strongly recommended for this age group

Bats – no restrictions on bat diameter for this age group. USA and USSSA are both allowed.

Catchers must wear a protective cup.

General Rules:

No balks are to be called.

The infield fly rule is not enforced.

Defensive conferences are limited to 2 per inning (Not charged if a pitching change is made). The pitcher must be removed during the second conference.

A half inning is complete after 3 outs, five runs score, or nine batters' bat - whichever occurs first.

Pitching Rules:

Pitching Restrictions:

Pitchers/Managers are required to adhere to the following pitch counts/required rest requirements for the season:

50 pitch limit (or 2 innings) per game. Pitcher is allowed to finish facing the batter if they hit 50 pitches in the middle of an at-bat

Required Rest:

0 days: 1-20 pitches thrown
1 day: 21-35 pitches thrown
2 days: 35-50 pitches thrown

Pitching/Catching Rule: If a player pitches, they are not able to play more than 3 combined innings between the pitcher and catcher positions in a game.

Other Kid/Coach Pitch Guidelines

Pitching distance for 7/8 will be 40 feet.

After a batter is pitched four balls by a player pitcher, a coach/parent pitcher comes in until the player strikes out or hits a fair ball. **(THE STRIKES WILL NOT RESET WHEN THE COACH COMES INTO PITCH)** Coach will throw no more than 3-4 pitches.

If a player pitcher hits two batters in an inning or 3 batters in a game they must be removed as the pitcher. (No discretion)

A player hit by a pitch (player pitcher or coach) has the option to take the base. Batters should be encouraged to complete their at-bat if possible.

Players/Coaches:

Defensive coaches are not allowed in the field of play except to position players before the first batter enters the batters box.

All players must play in the field. It is strongly suggested that the players play different positions. No player is to sit out more than 1 inning unless they are injured or sick.

Teams will bat all players. If a player in the line-up is unable to bat for any reason the player will be skipped and no out will be recorded. Players arriving after the game has started will be added to the bottom of the line up (even if the line-up has batted through) and will bat in that position for the duration of the game.

Coaches are encouraged to change the batting order for games to try to ensure that all players get a fair number of at-bats during the course of the season.

Since umpires are volunteers coaches are expected to address players who intentionally throw any piece of equipment in anger or disgust. The player is to be removed from the game by the coach. The president of Manchester Baseball will be notified immediately following the game to determine if further sanctions are warranted. Coaches are expected to inform players and parents of the policy before the season begins.

Adults are to be base coaches. (No players).

Other Ground/Game Rules:

Balls hit into the outfield. The ball is dead and the play is over when the ball has reached the infield area whether or not the ball is under control of a defensive player. Runners who have reached a base and have demonstrated intent to advance to the next base would be able to attempt

advancing to that base. There is no “halfway” rule. If the runner hesitates or stops, they need to return to the last base reached.

Runners are allowed to advance to the base they were running to plus one (two bases total) on an overthrow regardless of whether the ball is in play or out of play.

If the catcher is on base with 2 outs, then the catcher will be replaced with the player making the last out. This rule is in place to help speed up the game.

No head first sliding is allowed. Penalty --The runner is out.

No bunting is allowed. If a player bunts the ball is dead and a strike is recorded by the umpire.

No leading off. No stealing. Runners may leave the base they occupy once the batter has made contact with the ball.

Official Games and Team Responsibilities:

Games are 6 innings with an official game being 3 ½ innings. Any games called before becoming an official game can be resumed at the point in which it was called. Both teams are to bat in the final inning. No new inning is to start after two hours of play (includes lighting/thunder delays). Coaches and Umpires are encouraged to start the games on-time and keep the games moving.

Home team is responsible for getting equipment from the shed. Visiting team returns the equipment.

Home team lines the field. Visiting team takes away the trash

No jewelry is allowed. Medical alert and religious bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry and if worn they must be taped to the body.

No player is to be dropped off at a field unless prior arrangements have been made by the coach and it has been approved by the coach. Coaches are to ensure that all players have a parent/guardian to take care of them after the game/practice.

All teams must have a team parent and that name is to be submitted to the coordinator.

Coaches are expected to for maintain a high level of sportsmanship, fair play and professionalism in dealing with players, parents/guardians, umpires, league officers and league representatives.

Lightning/Thunder –all practices and games must be suspended for at least 30 minutes after the last lightning is seen or thunder is heard. All fields are to be cleared of children. This is the responsibility of all coaches and umpires.