

**Youth sports, when done right is...**an activity that serves the needs, values and priorities of the children playing above all, and not the adults coaching, spectating or organizing.

**PLAYING RULES.** All City of Montrose Youth Competitive Baseball League games shall be played according to the Official Baseball Rules with exceptions as noted.

**RULE 1:                    SPORTSMANSHIP/EJECTIONS**

*The Montrose Youth Competitive Baseball League is committed to promoting good sportsmanship, responsible behavior, and a positive environment for the youth of our community to play the game of baseball. Therefore, we have instituted a zero tolerance policy regarding ejections and behavior. All coaches, players, parents and other spectators will be held to this standard.*

- 1.1 Each community club is ultimately responsible for the conduct and sportsmanship of their coaches, players, parents and spectators. Similarly, each head coach is ultimately responsible for the conduct and sportsmanship of their assistant coaches, players and spectators.
  - 1.1.1 When the occupants of a player's bench show violent disapproval of an umpire's decisions, the violators shall be removed from the playing field.
- 1.2 If a head coach, assistant coach or parent is ejected because of his/her own actions, then that person is suspended for the next **Three (3) scheduled league games** played by that team. That coach **may not attend** or **be on the premises** during the entire duration of the game played. Players' ejections will result in a one (1) game suspension. Any person ejected from a game should leave the field immediately.
- 1.3 Any person (coach, player, parent or spectators) who is ejected twice during the season may not attend any more league games during that season without approval from their league coordinator/Board and the Montrose Youth Competitive Baseball League Coordinator and City Manager.
- 1.4 Umpire incident reports are due within **24 hours** from the Umpire in Charge. If no umpire incident report is received within 24 hours to the league coordinator or Board President of the home team, then any suspensions or other sanctions imposed shall be rescinded.
- 1.5 Specifics: Avoid contact rule and language:
  - 1.5.1 **Avoid contact rule:** Whenever a tag play is evident, a runner must slide OR seek to avoid contact with the fielder (Runner may not jump over any player) Note: All players should slide on all close plays to avoid a collision or interference. When contact is made it will be the umpire's judgment whether the runner created rough or deliberate contact. On a close play that the runner did not slide but did try to avoid a tag and or a collision and there was no intent to contact, the runner shall not be called out for not avoiding contact. Runners may not intentionally interfere by veering towards, without sliding, at defensive players who are trying to complete double plays. At the umpires' discretion, both runners may be called out. If the umpire feels that the contact was intentional and/or malicious, then the runner will be declared out and ejected from the game (all subsequent at bats will be recorded as outs).
  - 1.5.2 **Language:** If any player or coach uses profane or obscene language, the officials may issue a warning or may remove the offender for the remainder of the game.
    - \*Upon a second offense by a **player**, the player shall be immediately removed from the game and not allowed to return.
    - \*Upon a second offense by a **coach**, his/her team shall forfeit the game.
- 1.6 A three-tiered warning system is in place and may be used for all participants of the league. Umpires, at their discretion may provide coaches with the first warning (verbal) upon their judgment of misconduct. This warning may be to the coach about the coach's behavior; it may also be for the coach to take control of their fans/spectators or players. Coaches are responsible for their fans' conduct and should communicate with the League Coordinator a spectator's removal is warranted. If after one warning to a coach, the fan continues with the inappropriate behavior, the coach risks being forced to forfeit the game based on the umpire's decision with the Program Coordinator.
- 1.7 The team in receipt of the warning is to record to whom the warning was provided, what time, and a brief review of the incident, in the incident report forms that are provided to each coach in their coaches'

packages. Incident reports are filed with the Program Coordinator along with the end-of-game scorecards at the end of each game.

**1.8** Coaches may NOT complete their own incident report forms (available at [www.cityofmontrose.org/baseball](http://www.cityofmontrose.org/baseball)). Umpires who call warnings on coaches will report them.

**1.9** Umpires may provide a second warning to coaches at their discretion, confining a coach to their dugout for the remainder of a game; however, dugout confinements may be skipped in lieu of removing a coach from the game for instances that permit such measures. The second warning is also recorded by teams in the incident reports.

- a. Coaches may be required to retreat to the dugout and are not permitted back on the field for the remainder of the game.
- b. If an umpire must warn a coach about the same offending spectator more than once, the offending team may be required to forfeit a game at the umpire's discretion.

The third offense by a coach permits the umpire to eject a coach from the game, immediately. Games will not proceed until the offender has been confirmed to leave the premises. Should an offender not voluntarily leave the field, police protection will be called and the offender will be forced to leave. Upon a third offense by a coach, the Umpire will create an incident report at the end of the game which is submitted to the Program Coordinator.

The offender shall meet with the Program Coordinator and other City staff as is determined appropriate to address the issue in order to be permitted back onto City property for game attendance again. Failure of the offending individual to comply with these processes may result in their permanent removal from league participation for the remainder of the season.

Any offender (whether a coach, assistant coach, or a spectator) is required to submit a written letter in review of the instance(s) leading up to and including the elimination. Additional materials required include a step-by-step resolution for preventing similar circumstances from occurring in the future. The Program Coordinator and any additional City staff requested will review the letter and upon interviewing the offender and any other relative individuals to the occurrence, determine whether to permit the individual to re-engage on City property for the remainder of the season. No offender will be permitted to attend future games without official written consent.

## **RULE 2: SCHEDULING & POSTPONING GAMES**

**2.1** The date, time and location for all league games will be determined by the league coordinator with individual club Board Presidents.

**2.2** The home team's league board president or league coordinator is the only entity that may reschedule postponed games.

**2.3** With consent of the home team's board or league coordinator, games may be postponed for any reason by an official of the home field club (or an official of the club whose field is being used). A game may be postponed by such official due to inclement weather any time before the game commences.

**2.4** Once a game begins, **the home plate umpire** is the only person who may call the game due to inclement weather with the home team's league coordinator or Board President.

**RULE 3:**                    **UMPIRES**

3.1 Under some circumstances, games in which two umpires are scheduled may be played with only one umpire, if approved by home team's league coordinator or Board President.

3.2 Umpires must be in full uniform.

3.3 When only one umpire umpires a game, such umpire shall work from behind home plate.

**RULE 4:**                    **SCOREKEEPERS**

4.1 Each team must supply one scorekeeper; the home team's scorekeeper shall be the official scorekeeper except during league tournament.

4.2 Scorekeepers shall check with each other at the end of each complete inning to verify the correct score and discuss any other relevant matters. This meeting shall be away from both sides' spectators, behind the home plate umpire, but outside of the field.

4.3 Visiting coach and umpire must sign home team scorebook at the end of the game.

4.4 Only paper version/handwritten scorebook can be considered an official scorebook.

**RULE 5:**                    **ROSTER & PLAYER ELIGABILITY**

5.1 All players must adhere to the Roster and Age requirements.

5.2 All team rosters must be submitted officially to the Montrose Youth Competitive League Coordinator prior to the league's official Opening Day. Players may be dropped from the roster following Opening Day, but may not be added.

5.3 No changes to the official team roster at the beginning of the season may be made for the end of season league tournament. Only players listed in the original team roster may compete in the league tournament.

5.4 Players must be on the approved roster prior to participating in any league games.

5.5 Players may only be rostered on one league team and may play on only one league team during the baseball season.

5.6 All team players must reside in the State of Colorado.

5.7 Teams violating roster and player eligibility rules will be subject to game forfeitures and the coach removed for the remainder of the season.

5.8 A copy of the official league rosters and records of player drops must be presented to the opposing team upon request. Game forfeitures may be required if rosters are not presented.

**RULE 6:**                    **UNIFORMS**

6.1 A player may not play in a game unless he is in full uniform and matches teammates.

6.2 Full uniform means baseball pants, team jersey with number on back, and matching cap.

6.3 Players may not wear jewelry items during games other than breakaway necklaces. The first offense shall result in a warning when such player hits; the second offense in the same game shall result in an out and the player being ejected.

**6.3.1 Exception: Medical alert bracelets & necklaces may be worn and be visible provided they are secured (taped) to the individual. Religious medals may be worn but must be secured (taped) to the individual and under the uniform (not visible).**

**RULE 7:**                    **REPORTING GAME RESULTS**

7.1 Head coaches for both the home and visiting teams must report game results within 48 hours onto the league's chosen reporting site (example: Team Snap).



**10.4** Should an appeal be made, the assigned Plate Umpire and Program Coordinator may determine a game to be replayed from the point of the call in question, once the appeal has been reviewed (NOTE: AT A LATER TIME).

**10.5** No games will be stopped during their regularly scheduled times to determine a call. The appeal will be made with the time, score, etc. listed so that if a replay is determined to be necessary, the game may proceed from the appropriate point.

**EXAMPLE: If an appeal is made in the bottom of the fourth inning with a score of home team: 3 and away team: 2, the replayed game will pick up at the bottom of the fourth inning with the same score (home:3, away: 2) and proceed from there.**

**10.6** Games should NEVER be stopped for rule review. Umpires may proceed with disciplinary measures should any league participant cause a disruption associated with these policies and procedures.

*Any complaints may be filed by the person with the complaint by completing the complaint form (Attachment A), which is available at [www.citofmontrose.org/baseball](http://www.citofmontrose.org/baseball). Complaints must be filed within 24-hours of the occurrence or they will be dismissed. The completed form with the appropriate documentation must be emailed to home team's League Coordinator or Board President. Complaints made in person or on the telephone will NOT be addressed at the time of the complaint. Complaints filed through the appropriate means will be addressed within 48-hours of receipt of the form.*

**RULE 11:                    PLAYER POOL—ALL DIVISIONS**

This rule is established in order to accommodate teams whose overall numbers place it at risk of game forfeiture due to the absence of adequate players to conduct a game as well as to provide players who seek to play additional games with the consent of their parent/guardian. The intent of the rule is for regular season games. Player pool is not intended for tournament play. A decision should be made at the beginning of each season whether the player pool will be used throughout the league for the season.

**11.1** Interested players from the proper age division may sign up to participate in the player pool with parental consent, no later than Opening Day and their contact information will be shared with all coaches within their division, to assist in game scheduling throughout the season.

**11.2** No player pool participants may be used on a host team if that team has 9 of their own players in attendance at game time.

**11.3** No player pool participant may be used in the pitcher position on the host team.

**11.4** All player pool participants must be inserted into the bottom of the batting order of the host team.

**11.5** Coaches will be issued two extra uniform jerseys for player pool participants to use as necessary.

**RULE 12:                    10-RUN RULE (Mercy Rule, all age divisions) & 5 RUN RULE**

**12.1** Games shall end due to mercy rule if either team is losing by an excessive number of runs. If the losing team is losing by the number of the mercy rule runs after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning (at bat) is complete, the game is over. The inning does not need to be complete to invoke the mercy rule.

**12.2 Five run rule** (applies only to 9-10 division). Each half inning prior to the sixth inning (unless an inning such as the fifth is declared to be the final inning by the umpire prior to the start of the inning) will end when the first of either of two situations occurs:

- Three outs are recorded
- 5-runs have been scored.

This rule constitutes a hard stop on runs, including during the final inning (in other words, the five run rule is in place for every inning throughout regular season play). Any tournament modifications to this rule should be considered and announced prior to the tournament.

\*A hard stop means that no batters proceed after the fifth run has been scored; the team on defense subsequently takes their position at-bat on offense. For example: If a team has a score of four, has three

runners on base and scores one run, the inning is declared over (even with the ball in play). The two runners on base are not allowed to score.

**RULE 13:**                    **TIEBREAKERS**

**13.1** If two or more teams are tied at the end of the season (based on winning percentage), the following tie-breaking rules will be followed without exception:

**13.1.1** Head to Head (Note: Only applicable if 2 teams are tied. If 3 or more teams are tied, the tiebreaker moves to rule 13.1.2)

**13.1.2** Fewest runs allowed per games played

**13.1.3** Play-off game (Board President/League Coordinator discretion)

**13.1.4** Coin flip (Performed by League Delegates)

**RULE 14:**                    **UNNECESSARY or WILLFUL DELAYS**

**14.1** Teams must appear on the field promptly and any unnecessary or willful delay will result in forfeiture of the game, as determined by the plate umpire.

**14.2** Pitchers will receive 8 warm up pitches upon entering a game. A pitcher that returns for his or her subsequent inning will be allowed only 5 warm up pitches.

**RULE 15:**                    **TIE GAMES**

**15.1** For all age divisions during regular season games, if at the end of the official game the game is tied, then the game will be declared a tie and recorded as such.

**15.2** For all playoff games, the California Tiebreaker will be used. Rule 15.2 will continue until a winner is declared.

**California Tiebreaker:**

The “last recorded out” in the previous at bat is placed on second base and the inning is played starting with one out. Each team will have two outs for their turn at bat. If the game is tied after one extra inning, the following innings, the last recorded out will be placed at 3<sup>rd</sup> base until a winner is declared.

**RULE 16:**                    **PRE-GAME**

**16.1** Lineup sheets shall be exchanged 15 minutes prior to scheduled game time to each team’s official scorekeeper. The sheet will include the player’s full name and number that is on the official roster. If requested, the team must produce the official roster.

**16.2** The home team score book is the official book of record in the event of a dispute.

**16.3** Equal time practicing on the infield prior to the start of the game is allowable, depending on the home field’s rules. Local rules apply and should be adhered to.

**16.4** A pre-game equipment/player check-in by home plate umpires is mandatory. This includes checking players in from the roster and inspecting cleats (this rules applies to both regular season and tournament play).

**RULE 17: GENERAL PLAY**

17.1 The hidden-ball trick shall not be allowed in any age division.

17.2 Saying “swing” is not allowed. Neither player nor spectator may shout or verbalize swing to the batter after the time of the pitch.

<b>Age/Division</b>	<b>9-10</b>	<b>11-12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Leadoff Allowed</b>	No (pg.12)	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Walks Allowed</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Stealing Allowed</b>	Yes, after ball crosses plate	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Infield Fly Rule in effect</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike in effect</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Bunting allowed</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

17.3 Only players, substitutes, or coaches shall occupy the bench or dugout during the game.

17.4 The offensive team shall position no more than two base coaches on the field during its term at bat, one near first base and one near third.

17.5 Base coaches shall be limited to two in number and shall be in team uniform and be within the coaches box at all times. **Penalty:** the offending base coach shall be removed from the game and removed from the playing field.

**Rule 18: CONCUSSION CERTIFICATE POLICY**

18.1 All coaches/adults on the field at any time during any event are required to have proof of concussion certification.

**Rule 19: TRAINING & BACKGROUND CHECKS**

19.1 Umpires, coaches and other volunteers who provide service to the league and/or have repetitive access to or contact with players or teams in the league are required to complete all mandatory training requirements and pass the annual league background check prior to participation.

**Rule 20: SUSPENDED GAMES**

20.1 If a game is suspended **AND IS NOT** an official game, at the discretion of the home team League Coordinator/Board President, the game will be continued from the point where the game was suspended, resuming at a later date with the original lineups.

20.1.1 If a player on the original lineup is absent when the game is resumed, his position in the lineup will be skipped without penalty.

20.1.2 If a player was not on the original lineup and is present when the game is resumed, the player shall be added to the bottom of the lineup.

20.2 If a game is suspended **AND IS** an official game, the home team is leading AND is at bat, the game is over.

20.2.1 For all other situations, the score will revert back to the previously fully completed inning to declare the winner. If the game is tied at the end of the previously fully completed inning, at the discretion of the League Coordinator/Board President, the game will be continued from the point where the game was suspended, resuming at a later date with the original lineup or may be declared a tie.

**Rule 21:****FIELD DIMENSIONS**

<b>Age Division</b>	<b>9-10</b>	<b>11-12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Infield</b>	60 ft. square	70 ft. square	90 ft. square	
<b>Pitching Distance</b> (measured from front side of pitcher's plate and home base (rear point of home plate))	46-feet	50-feet	Refer to page 32 in the Babe Ruth Rule Book (1.04)	<b>Same as 13</b>
<b>Pitcher's Plate Height</b>	6 inches above home plate	8 inches above home plate	Refer to page 32 in the Babe Ruth Rule Book (1.04)	
<b>Base Distance</b>	60-ft base path	70-ft base path	Refer to page 32 in the Babe Ruth Rule Book (1.04)	<b>Same as 13</b>
<b>Catcher's Box</b>	6 feet, 4 3/8 inches to the rear of home plate. It is determined by extending each foul line 9 feet beyond the back point of home plate.	6 feet, 4 3/8 inches to the rear of home plate. It is determined by extending each foul line 9 feet beyond the back point of home plate.	Refer to page 32 in the Babe Ruth Rule Book (1.04)	
<b>Coaches' Box</b>	4 ft X 8 ft and not closer than 6 feet from the foul lines	4 ft X 8 ft and not closer than 6 feet from the foul lines	Refer to page 32 in the Babe Ruth Rule Book (1.04)	
<b>Batter's Box</b>	Rectangle, 6 ft. X 3 ft.	Rectangle, 6 ft. X 3 ft.	Refer to page 32 in the Babe Ruth Rule Book (1.04)	
<b>Home plate to fence/obstruction</b>	Minimum 200 feet	Minimum 225 feet	Refer to page 32 in the Babe Ruth Rule Book (1.04)	

**RULE 22: OFFICIAL GAME**

22.1 The following table summarizes an Official Game at all levels of play, however, the League Coordinator/Board President reserves the right to make changes to and of an Official Game subject to special circumstance.

Age Division	9-10	11-12	13	14
Official Game	6 innings, or 4 if the game is called of if home team has scored more runs in 3 ½ innings than the visiting team has scored in 4 complete innings. (Regular season play)	6 innings, or 4 if the game is called of if home team has scored more runs in 3 ½ innings than the visiting team has scored in 4 complete innings. (Regular season play)	7 innings. Otherwise refer to Official Babe Ruth Rule 4.10	Refer to Official Babe Ruth Rule 4.10

22.1.1 Regulation game shall consist of 6-innings, minimum of 3 ½ to 4 innings. Any game called due to a time limit shall be considered a regulation game regardless of the number of innings played; the winner will be the team with the most runs at the last completed inning. When the ball is put in play at the beginning or at any time during the game, all fielders other than the catcher shall be in fair territory.

22.1.2 The batting order shall be followed throughout the game unless a player is substituted or injured.

22.2 At the start of the game, the umpire shall notify both coaches of the official start time. The players of the home team shall take their defensive positions, the first batter of the visiting team shall take his/her position in the batter’s box, the umpire shall call play and the game shall start.

22.3 A new inning **starts immediately after the 3<sup>rd</sup> out is made** in the bottom of the previous inning.

22.4 No inning shall start after the Official Game time limits listed below.

22.5 **Inclement weather protocol:** When inclement weather approaches, especially for lighting, please take cover immediately. When lightning or rain is in the area, the umpire will postpone the game for a time period up to 30 minutes, teams and players must stay around as the game resume once any lightning danger or rain has subsided. If ti is determined after 30 minutes the danger exists still or the fields are unplayable, the game will be called and resumed at a later date from where the game left off.

22.6 In the event of inclement weather or darkness, an Official Game shall consist of the allotted time limits or four innings, or three and one-half innings if the home team is ahead at the time.

22.7 An Official Game must be umpired by at least one umpire. Any game played without an umpire will be deemed “no contest” and rescheduled.

22.8 All regular season games can end in a tie.

22.9 All playoff games will determine a winter through an additional inning: A California Tie Breaker will be used. This will continue until a winner is declared.

**RULE 23: DUGOUTS**

23.1 The home team (as listed on the league schedule) shall occupy the 3<sup>rd</sup>-base dugout and the visiting team the 1<sup>st</sup> base dugout at all games, including tournament.

**RULE 24:                    PITCHING**  
**24.1**

<b>Age Division</b>	<b>9-10</b>	<b>11-12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
Pitch Count	82 pitches per day	92 pitches per day	Adhere to Babe Ruth rules (innings)*	Adhere to Babe Ruth rules (innings)*

The head or acting coach shall remove a pitcher who has reached the limit of pitches in the age division as listed. The player may remain in the game in another position.

**NOTE:** If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in regulation for his /her age division while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until one of the following occurs: 1) the batter reaches base; 2) the batter is out; 3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning.

**24.1.1** Each team must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either a manager/coach or any umpire. Coaches are responsible for knowing when a pitcher is no longer eligible. Umpires/others are not responsible for providing pitch count warnings. Teams should inform the plate umpire when a pitcher has delivered the maximum limit of pitches per game. The plate umpire will inform the pitchers manager that the pitcher must be removed. Failure to notify an umpire or coach does not relieve the coach of his/her ultimate responsibility to track pitches and manage players accordingly.

**24.1.2** Players may not pitch in more than two games per calendar day in the regular season.

**24.1.3** Withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after the pitcher has been announced or after a warm-up pitch has been delivered, but before the player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation.

**24.1.4** Pitches delivered in games declared “Tie game” or “Suspended Game” shall be charged against pitchers’ eligibility.

**24.1.4.1** In suspended games resumed on another day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of their eligibility for that day, provided the pitcher has observed the mandatory days of rest.

**24.1.5 Rest Rule**

<b>Age Division</b>	<b>9-10</b>	<b>11-12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
>20 pitches in one day	0	0		
21-35 pitches in one day	1 calendar day	1 calendar day		
36-50 pitches in one day	2 calendar days	2 calendar days		
51-65 pitches in one day	3 calendar days	3 calendar days		
66+ pitches in one day	4 calendar days	4 calendar days		

**24.2** A calendar week is Monday at 12:00 A.M. through Sunday at 11:59 P.M. A new week starts on Monday at 12:00 A.M.

**24.3** One pitch constitutes an inning for age divisions 13 and above

**24.4** Coaches must track (record) pitches for each pitcher on the home team's scorebook. Any pitching violation will result in an immediate forfeit.

**24.5** If a pitcher exceeds the weekly pitching limit, the opposing team may protest the game. The scorebook shall be marked showing the moment of the protest, and the game shall continue. The penalty for this infraction may include forfeiture of the game as determined by the home team Board/President WITH the Montrose Youth Competitive Baseball Coordinator.

**24.6** If a pitcher hits four batters during the game, the pitcher must be removed as pitcher for the rest of the game.

**24.7** Balk warnings and rules

Age Division	9-10	11-12	13	14
Balk Called				
Balk Warning				

**24.8** Any player on a regular season team may pitch (there is no limit to the number of pitchers a team may use in a game).

**24.9** Once a pitcher is removed from the mound, he may return as a pitcher. A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, may return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game. But, only once per game (**Note:** pitch count shall resume from the point the player was removed from the mound).

Legal pitching delivery: There are two legal pitching positions—1) the wind-up position and 2) the set position. Either position may be used at any time.

Pitchers shall take signs from the catcher while standing on the mound.

Pitchers may disengage the mound after taking signs from the catcher but may not step quickly onto the rubber and pitch; this may be judged a quick pitch by the umpire. When the pitcher disengages the mound, he/she must drop his/her hands to their side.

Trips to the mound: the second trip to the mound in the same inning to the same pitcher shall automatically result in the pitcher being removed from the game as the pitcher only.

If a coach goes to the catch or infielder and that player then goes to the mound or the pitcher goes to that player before there is an intervening play (a pitch or other play) that shall be deemed a trip to the mound.

Any attempt to evade or circumvent this rule by a coach going to a catcher or infielder then that player going to the mound to confer with the pitcher shall constitute a trip to the mound.

**RULE 25: EQUIPMENT**

**25.1** The pitcher’s glove may not, exclusive of piping, be white, grey, nor in the judgment of the umpire be distracting in any manner.

**25.1.2** No pitcher shall attach to his glove any foreign material of any color different from the glove.

**25.1.3.** The plate umpire shall cause a glove that violates any official rule to be removed from the game.

**25.2** Protective headgear shall be worn on deck, at bat, while a base runner and by players in the coach’s box, during practice and all games. Such headgear shall cover the top of the head and have extended earflaps, which covers both ears and properly fits the player wearing it. **Penalty** if a player refused to comply with the above rule, that player is immediately removed from the game.

**25.2.1** Helmets must be approved by the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) that are in good condition.

**25.3** Catcher’s mask and throat guard shall be worn by any player, coach or manager warming up a pitcher at home plate. It is recommended anyone warming up a pitcher at any other location wear a protective mask and throat guard. **Penalty:** any player refusing to comply with this rule shall be removed from the game.

**25.4** All age division shall play with Babe Ruth approved regulation baseballs.

**25.5** Bat regulations

<b>Age Division</b>	<b>9-10</b>	<b>11-12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
Length		Not to exceed 33”		
Diameter		Not to exceed 2 ¼”		
Notes		Only 2 ¼” barrel non-wood bats marked BPF 1.15 will be allowed.		

**25.5.1** If an illegal bat is discovered prior to the batter completing the turn at bat, the bat is removed from play and the at-bat continues.

**25.5.2** A player who uses an illegal bat or non-conforming barrel and hits a fair ball shall be ruled out. No advancement of bases is allowed and any outs during the play shall stand. This is an appeal play. The at-bat will be considered legal once a pitch has been thrown to the next batter.

**25.5.3** Any bat discovered prior to the game that does not conform to the above rules shall be directed to be removed immediately and not allowed for use during the game.

**25.6** Cleats: Replaceable or fixed nylon (plastic) cleats must be worn by players in division 9-10 and 11-12. Any player 12 and under who uses metal cleats during any game will be declared out and removed along with the head coach for the remainder of the game.

**RULE 26: BATTING, SUBSTITUTING & PLAYING TIME**

**26.1** All players present will bat in full rotation at all levels of play. A player must be able to occupy both offensive and defensive roles on the field to be eligible to play. For instance, a player may not exclusively play in the field and not occupy his spot in the batting order.

**26.2** Free substitution will be observed at all levels of play.

**26.3** A player who arrives late to a game may be added to the bottom of the line-up provided his team’s lead-off hitter has not batted twice in the game. Once the lead-off batter has completed a second at-bat, the late player is not eligible to participate in the game.

**26.4** If a team starts a game with nine (9) or more players and because of illness, injury or ejection the lineup drops to 8 players, the team may continue to play with the remaining players with a penalty of an out when the last removed player is due to bat. The sick, injured and/or ejected player may not return to the game.

**26.5** The batter shall take position in the batter's box promptly when it's their time at bat and shall not leave that position in the box after the pitcher comes to the set or wind-up position. **Penalty:** If the pitcher delivers a pitch, the umpire shall call a ball/strike as appropriate. If after the pitcher starts his/her position or windup with runners on, he/she does not complete the pitch because the batter has stepped out of the box, it shall not be called a balk or illegal pitch. Both the batter and the pitcher have violated a rule and the umpire shall call time; the play restarts.

*If the batter refuses to take position in the box during their time at bat, the umpire shall call strike on the batter, the ball is dead and no runners advance. After the penalty, the batter shall take his/her position in the box and regular ball/strike count shall continue. If the proper batter does not take their position in the batter's box before three strikes are called, that batter shall be declared out.*

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**26.6** A batter is out when:

- His/her fly ball (other than a foul tip) is legally caught by a fielder.
- A third strike is legally caught by the catcher, legally caught means in the catcher's glove before it touches the ground. It is not legally caught by the catcher, legally caught means in the catcher's glove before it touches the ground. It is not legally caught if it lodges in the catcher's clothing or paraphernalia, or touches the umpire and is caught on the rebound.
- He/she bunts foul on a third strike.
- An infield fly is declared.
- He/she attempts to hit a third strike and the ball touches him/her.
- His/her fair ball touches him/her before touching a fielder.
- After hitting or bunting a fair ball his/her bat touches the ball a second time in fair territory. The ball is dead and no runners may advance. IF the runner drops his/her bat in fair territory interfere with the course of the ball, the ball is alive and in play.
- After hitting or bunting a foul ball, he/she intentionally deflects the course of the ball while running to first base. The ball is dead and no runner may advance.
- After a third strike or after he/she hits a fair ball and he/she or the first base is tagged before he/she reaches first base.
- An infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball or line drive, with first, first and second, first and third, or first, second and third base occupied before two are out. The ball is dead and the runner or runners shall return to their original base or bases.  
**Approved ruling:** In this situation the batter is not out if the infielder permits the ball to drop untouched to the ground, except when the infield fly rule applies.
- A preceding runner shall, in the umpire's judgment, intentionally interfere with a fielder who is attempting to catch a thrown ball or to throw a ball in an attempt to make any play.
- Each player of the offensive team shall bat in the order that his name appears in the team's batting order.

**RULE 27:                    REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

**27.1** Birthday date cutoffs for division qualification:

<b>9-10, 11-12 Division</b>	<b>13+ Divisions</b>
July 31	May 1

**27.2** For safety purposes, players may opt to “play up” a division from their age bracket, IF they designate their intent to do so and complete player evaluations with the division in which they intend to be evaluated. Players who do not complete evaluations in the age division in which they wish to play will be considered only for the division they’re eligible to compete in based on birth dates.

**27.3** No players may compete in divisions younger than the division for their age range for safety purposes.

**27.4** Players must provide a copy of their birth certificate at registration to be eligible to play.

**27.5** Player fees must be paid in full prior to player evaluation.

**27.6** Should a player be recommended to a non-competitive league following player evaluations, their full registration fee will be refunded.

**27.7** Player evaluation does not guarantee any player a position on a team. Also, no players are guaranteed a minimum play time at any level.

**27.8** All clubs’ complete rosters and birth certificates must be submitted to the Montrose Youth Competitive Baseball League Coordinator prior to opening day.

**9&10 Division**

**Rule:** When a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher’s plate and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher’s box ready to receive delivery of the ball, base runners shall not leave their base until the ball has been delivered and reaches home plate. Once the catcher has secured the ball and the runner has stopped his/her forward progress, the runner must immediately return to their base.

**11&12 Division**

This division will play by the official playing rules including, leading off, stealing, dropped third strike and balk rules.



**BABE RUTH LEAGUE, INC.  
BIRTH CHART FOR 2016 – BASEBALL DIVISIONS**

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
<b>January</b>	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>February</b>	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>March</b>	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>April</b>	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>May</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>June</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>July</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>August</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>September</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>October</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>November</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>December</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

All player ages are determined by the birth chart shown above. May 1 in any year shall be the deciding date.

*\*Babe Ruth League has not changed the Playing Age Determination Date.*

**Season of 2016:**

**Cal Ripken** – Any player born prior to May 1, 2012 and on or after May 1, 2003 will be eligible for Cal Ripken Baseball League competition.

**13-15** – Any player born prior to May 1, 2003 and on or after May 1, 2000 will be eligible for Babe Ruth 13-15 League competition.

**16-18** – Any player born prior to May 1, 2000 and on or after January 1, 1997 will be eligible for Babe Ruth 16-18 League competition.

**Official Baseball Rules Not Applicable to Cal Ripken Major/60 Division**

Base Running - rules 5.09(h), 7:04(d) and 7.07

6.09(b) is not used in 10U and younger

# OFFICIAL 2018 MYB LEAGUE ADDENDUM TO BABE RUTH LEAGUE, INC. RULES

*This document constitutes the Montrose Competitive Youth Baseball League rule modifications for all ages.*

## 2016 BABE RUTH LEAGUE CHANGES AND CLARIFICATIONS

The International Board of Directors has approved the following rule changes beginning with the 2016 season. These changes will be reflected in the 2016 Babe Ruth League, Inc. Rules and Regulations.

- ***Cal Ripken Division – Fake Bunt – Slash Bunt*** – A batter is out for illegal action when the player fakes a bunt and then takes a full swing, thus eliminating a player from fake bunting the ball. **Penalty:** Batter is out, the ball is dead, no runners may advance.
- ***Cal Ripken Baseball and Babe Ruth Baseball*** – Any Cal Ripken Baseball or Babe Ruth Baseball League may elect to use a pitch count during local league games. For more information on Pitch Counts, please visit [www.baberuthleague.org](http://www.baberuthleague.org) and click on the “Pitch Smart” link.
- ***CLARIFICATION - Cal Ripken Baseball, Babe Ruth Baseball, and Babe Ruth Softball*** – Rule 11.05, Paragraph 10 - All protests concerning player eligibility must be presented in writing from the protesting League President with clear indication of proof for the protest.
- ***CLARIFICATION - Babe Ruth Baseball, Cal Ripken Baseball, and Babe Ruth Softball - ALCOHOL/TOBACCO (All Divisions)*** – Babe Ruth League prohibits the use of all alcohol and tobacco products on all field and dugouts for both local league and tournament competition. These products include smokeless tobacco, **E-cigarettes, vapors**, and all related alcohol products.

