

**Humble Baseball Association
8U League Rules**

1. League games shall be six innings maximum. No inning shall begin after 1 hour 15 minutes. ***If a tie exists after six innings of play, or at the end of regulation time, the game will remain a tie. THERE WILL BE NO EXTRA INNINGS.***
2. The new inning begins when the 3rd out is made from the previous inning.
3. **At the end of regulation time, 1 hr and 15 minutes, should an inning be in progress, the inning will be completed.** If the home team is ahead after the visiting team has made 3 outs when regulation time has expired, the game is over; ***however***, if the home team is behind when regulation time has expired, the home team will get to bat.
4. If for any reason a team cannot field 8 (Fall) 9 (Spring) uniformed players no later than 15 minutes after scheduled game start time, that team shall forfeit by a score of 7-0. The Official Game Start Time will remain. *Example: Official game time 6:00. Actual start time 6:15, the clock will start at 6:00. You will lose actual playing time.*
5. If a Manager or Coach is ejected from a game, he is suspended from any coaching responsibility for the remainder of that game AND his next game. Immediately following an ejection, the manager or coach will proceed to the parking lot for the remainder of that game. The manager will notify the Board Member on duty and/or the Vice President of all violations within 24 hours.
6. If a player is ejected from a game, it is mandatory that he sit out the remainder of that game AND his next game. The manager will notify the Board Member on duty, Player Agent or Vice President of all violations within 24 hours.
7. For use with coach pitchers:
 - a. Coaches or managers shall pitch from a pitching plate 38 feet from the point of home plate. **COACHES MAY NOT PITCH WITH THEIR KNEE'S TOUCHING THE GROUND.**
 - b. The player fielding the pitcher's position shall take a position always to the rear of the pitching plate, and on the left or right side of the coach pitcher.
 - c. **While playing in the pitcher position, the player is required to wear a helmet with facemask while ball is being hit. The player may take helmet off after ball is in play.**
 - d. If a batted ball strikes the coach pitcher, the ball is dead, the pitch counts as a foul ball and no runners shall advance.
 - e. Intentional interference by the coach pitcher with any defensive player shall result in the batter being called out.
 - f. At no time shall the pitching coach offer any coaching or encouragement to the batter except to position him at the plate.

8. A maximum of 5 pitches will be allowed each batter. A batter failing to hit after 5 pitches or after 3 swinging strikes shall be declared out, even if the catcher drops the third strike.

9. Ten defensive players will be allowed on the field, with the tenth being a fourth outfielder. No more than 6 infielders will be allowed.

10. Substitute players must participate in at least 3 consecutive defensive outs every other inning, unless being disciplined by the manager. If a player is being so disciplined, it shall be noted in the official score book prior to the game. Exceptions to this rule should be reported to the Board of Directors in writing. If a uniformed player is not scheduled to participate for any reason, the manager shall inform the opposing manager, umpire and official scorekeeper prior to the game

11. In the event that one team has fewer players on the game roster than its opponent, the batting rosters will consist of the number of players of the team having the least number of players. The extra player or players will be listed to the right of the batter they will alternate with and those batting positions will alternate every other at bat. Failure to comply with this rule will result in batting out of order. Application of this rule shall be at the option of the manager having the greater number of players.

12. The 5 run/3 out rule will apply to the 1st through 4th innings. The 5th and 6th innings will be open, only the 3 out rule will apply – no run limit. If a team is ahead after by 15 runs completion of 3 full innings of play (2-1/2 innings if the home team is ahead), the game shall be considered complete. The 10 run rule is in effect after the 4th and 5th innings.

13. Base runners are not allowed to lead off or steal bases and must remain in contact with the base during a pitch until the ball is hit or crosses the plate. Penalty: Runner is out, ball is dead, and the pitch does not count and no runners advance.

14. There is no infield-fly rule.

15. When the ball is in possession of an infielder and in the judgment of the umpire the lead runner's advancement has been halted, the umpire shall call time out, the ball is dead and runners must return to the base to which they are legally entitled.

16. The catcher will assume a defensive position behind the plate in order to field the pitched ball. The catcher shall wear all approved equipment, with the exception that he shall have the option to use any glove. Due to the difficulty of mastering the catcher's position at this age level, it may be advisable to have the catcher stand away from the plate until the batter has swung.

17. The batter is not allowed to bunt or intentionally swing easily at the ball. Penalty: The batter is called back to the plate, the ball is dead, no runner may advance and the pitch shall be considered a foul ball.

18. A manager shall be limited to 1 offensive time out and 2 defensive time outs per inning, upon permission of the umpire.

19. **Appeal plays shall be made by the manager only. Appeals must be made immediately following the contested play and prior to another pitch**, at which time the umpire shall call time out, hear the appeal and rule accordingly.

20. No manager or coach shall be allowed to walk behind the infield area to coach outfielders.

21. Batting orders will consist of the entire team roster, so that substitutions during the game are made only for defensive purposes. Should it become necessary, because of an injury, to substitute for a base runner, the player having made the last previous out will be substituted for the injured runner. **THERE SHALL BE NO COURTESY RUNNERS FOR ANY OTHER REASON.**

Items not covered in HBA local rules are covered under the Nations Baseball rules and then MLB rules. In particular please note: per Nations Baseball rule F.18 - The coach pitcher must be in the "pitching position" and is prohibited from coaching while in this position. MLB rule 8 allows for 2 legal pitching positions and both require that a pitcher be standing with at least 1 foot in contact with the rubber