



SYB Major League Rules

Modified January 11, 2010



- 1) PONY Baseball rules for Major will apply except where Sycamore local rules supersede Pony league rules.
- 2) Games will consist of 7 innings.
- 3) No inning of the first game may start after 7:15. No inning of the second game may start after 9:15 pm. You need to make every effort to start your games on time!! (Once school is out, no inning of game 1 will start after 7:30, and the last inning of game 2 will not start after 2 hours from start of the 2nd game. This applies on Friday games all during the year).
- 4) A ten run rule will be in effect after 4 ½ innings if the home team is up by ten or more runs and after 5 innings if the visiting team is up by ten or more runs. A maximum of 5 runs per inning may be scored. The only exception to this rule is in the final inning, whether it is the 7th inning, or after 4 ½ innings if the 10 run rule is in effect.
- 5) All players shall bat in rotation and must play a minimum of 3 innings in the field. Players needing to leave the field temporarily will be allowed to return to the game. Each manager is responsible for maintaining a documented rotation for his own team consistent with this rule.
- 6) Forfeiture time is 5 minutes after your scheduled start time. The second game will start as soon as possible after the completion of the first game with no on field warm ups allowed.
- 7) A team will be allowed to field 8 players and still be a legal team. If playing with 8, there will be no automatic outs. Failure to field a legal team constitutes a forfeit.
- 8) When batting, 1 coach may be used per coaching box. One coach must remain in the dugout with the team to maintain order.

- 9) Intentionally running into a catcher or any other player constitutes an automatic out. No fielders, including catchers, shall stand in the base path unless they already have the ball. If a runner is unable to reach a base because a fielder has blocked his path, the umpire shall declare the runner safe.
- 10) A batter shall use a Little League approved bat with a barrel diameter no larger than 2 ¼ inches. Bats must be stamped “Approved by Little League Baseball” or similar designation. If a team is caught using a Big Barrel bat during a game, the umpire shall take all runs up to that point in the game away from the team using the illegal bat.
- 11) There will be NO butcher boy, slug bunts! A player squaring to bunt and swinging away will be called out.
- 12) Pitchers are limited to 3 innings per game and 9 innings per week. A pitcher may not return to the mound after being removed from the game. One pitch in an inning constitutes an inning.
- 13) There will be no intentional walks.
- 14) If any pitcher hits 2 batters in any one inning, he must be removed. If a pitcher hits 3 batters in a game, he must be removed.
- 15) Coaches may visit the defense including the pitcher during the game. Visits should be limited to 1 minute or less. On the second trip in the same inning to visit the defense with the same pitcher on the mound, that pitcher must be removed.
- 16) The runner may attempt to steal but cannot leave until the ball crosses home plate. Runners who leave early will be forced to return to the base from which they came on the first offense. On the 2nd offense, the runner will be called out. Base runners must slide to avoid contact. However, it is the Umpires judgment as to whether or not the runner should have slid.
- 17) Lead Offs. In Majors, a player may take a lead until the pitcher comes to The set position. Once the pitcher has come to his set position, the base Runner cannot make any advancement towards the next base until the ball Has crossed home plate (No secondary leads).

- 18) Pick Off Attempts. If the pitcher attempts a pickoff throw, the base Runner must return to the base he is leading off from. The base runner may Not advance to the next base on a pickoff attempt unless, the ball gets passed the fielder. In order for the base runner to advance, the fielder must have turned his back to the field of play and ran after the passed ball. If the fielder drops the ball at his feet, this is not considered a passed ball and the runner may NOT advance. If a pickoff attempt is thrown by the catcher, the runner at his own risk may attempt to steal the next base. Clarification: If the pitcher attempts a pickoff at 1st base and there are runners on 2nd and/or 3rd, those runners may not advance unless the pickoff throw get's passed the fielder as explained above.
- 19) Balks will be called as follows: 1 balk called by the ump, warning to the team's bench, 2nd balk called by the ump, the base runner is awarded the next base.
- 20) Infield fly rule is in effect.
- 21) Protective Cups. It is strongly encouraged that all players at the Major League level, wear a protective cup. The Catcher must wear a cup if he is going to be at the Catchers position.
- 22) Bullpen Catchers. If a player is warming up a pitcher in the bullpen, he must wear a protective catcher's mask.
- 23) Dropped third strikes are allowed in Majors.
In regard to dropped third strikes, first base must be open in order for the batter to advance to first. If the runner walks back to the dugout without attempting to take first on a dropped third strike, he shall be called out.
- 24) Courtesy runners may be used for injured players. Courtesy runners may also be used for catchers after 2 outs in order to speed up the game. The player who made the last out will be the pinch runner.
- 25) If a player is injured while at bat and has to leave the game, the player who Made the last out will assume the at bat including the count that the injured Player had before leaving the game. If this player is unable to return to the Game, his spot in the lineup will be skipped and will NOT be considered an automatic out. If the team has a substitute, that person will sub in for the injured player.

- 26) The pitching rubber will be 48 feet from the back of home plate (point) to the front of the rubber.
- 27) The distance between bases is 70 feet from back of home plate (point) to outfield side of bases at 1st and 3rd, from foul line side of bases at 1st and 3rd to center of 2nd base. All bases are inside the 70foot square except 2nd base.
- 28) Rainouts will try to be made up on a Saturday night or Sunday afternoon after the rainout has occurred based on field availability. The league commissioner must approve any and all rescheduled games. It may be that games are not made up. It is built into the schedule that a couple games may not be played.
- 29) Only approved equipment is to be used. **NO METAL CLEATS!** Equipment may not be modified and any broken equipment should be turned in ASAP to be replaced. Contact league commissioner for any replacements.
- 30) The HOME team is listed second on the game schedule and will take the field for warm ups ½ hour before game time. VISITING team, listed first, takes the field 15 minutes before game time. The visiting team occupies the first base dugout and the home team occupies the third base dugout.
- 31) The HOME team is responsible for setting up the field prior to the game including the placement of the bases and putting them away if they are the last team to play that evening. The VISITING team is responsible for raking out the pitcher's mound and batters boxes after the last game. Each team is responsible for providing one new baseball for the game.
- 32) No player may be deleted or added to a team by either the manager or coach. As soon as a team loses a player, the manager must notify the league commissioner. New players will be assigned from the waiting list, if any. No new players will be added in the last 2 weeks of the season. Players in SYB "A" league may be added on a per game basis to sub for missing players. This can be done if you are down to 8 or fewer players. The player called up must be from the same "A" league team designation. The players to be called up shall be determined by the "A" league Commissioner.

- 33) Coaches are responsible for crowd control. If a parent or spectator becomes unruly, they will be asked to leave the park. If they refuse, then their team will be forced to forfeit the game.
- 34) Sportsmanlike conduct is expected, and must be observed at all times! There will be no yelling at, or arguing with the umpires, other coaches, or players at any time. Managers or coaches violating this rule will be reviewed by the appropriate SYB committee (Commissioner, President, and Umpire Coordinator). This review could result in suspension and/or dismissal from the league.
- 35) No smoking or alcohol is allowed in the dugouts or on the playing field. The designated smoking area is out at the end of the outfield fences. Upon completion of the last game of the evening, each team is responsible for cleaning their area and at least half of the field. Teams failing to clean the field area will be warned on their first offense and forced to forfeit their next game.
- 36) Scoreboard Remote Controls. For each game, the HOME team will select one person over the age of 18 to run the scoreboard for their game. It is the coaches responsibility to take the remote control out and set it up for the game. Once the game has ended, it is the Coaches responsibility that the remote gets put back into the locking cabinet inside the light shed. The scoreboards were donated to Sycamore Youth Baseball by a sponsor. The remote controls cost approx. \$600 per control. It is **CRUCIAL** that the remotes get put back into the cabinet and locked up after each game.
- 37) If lightning is seen, it's too close. If lightning is seen, a time frame of 20 minutes must pass with no other strikes before a game can be started or continued.