



Rules - Majors

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Nashua Cal Ripken Board of Directors
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Article 1: League Rules

- The Board of Directors will govern all league rules. Rules not specified within this document are specified within the Cal Ripken Division Rules and Regulations. Rules not specified within the Cal Ripken Division Rules and Regulations are specified within the Official Baseball Rules.
- The rules contained herein are the official league rules. In addition to league rules, the Cal Ripken Division of Babe Ruth Baseball Rules and Regulations shall apply as well as the Official Baseball Rules. The order of precedence shall be League Rules, Cal Ripken Division of Babe Ruth Baseball Rules and Regulations, and Official Baseball Rules.

Article II: Tryouts/Registration

- Any player aged 8 through 12 years old who is selected for a Major League or a AAA roster must play for that team.
- Any player that attends tryouts and is not selected to a Major League team shall be drafted to a AAA team. If the player was on a AAA team the previous year they would return to that team. Players 10 – 12 years old, provided they attended tryouts, may be brought up by any Major League Team to fill a roster vacancy.
- If any applicant (any individual who has completed and returned a valid application) is unable to tryout at the scheduled tryouts, he/she must tryout during a supplemental tryout scheduled by the president, provided he/she or their parents or legal guardians have contacted the league president and requested that the applicant's name be added to the supplemental draft list.
- All registration fees must be paid prior to tryouts.
- All refunds of league fees to a player (or parent/guardian of the player) who has quit or been injured during the season is prohibited.

Article III: Draft Process

- Each year the league will conduct a draft for the Majors and AAA levels. Minors, Rookie & T-Ball players will be assigned by the registrar.
- Following tryouts, the team Head Coach (or his assignee) will draft prospective players from the draft list.
- To be eligible for selection, a prospective player must have registered and performed during the tryout, or have been evaluated in advance of the tryout (if the player cannot attend the tryout). This includes children of Head Coaches, assistant coaches and brothers/sisters of players already on the team (players already on a Majors or AAA roster do not have to try out again each year).
- Parents may petition the league for an exemption from any minimum/ maximum age requirements before tryouts and the draft process. The minimum league age for Majors is 10 years old and 8 years old for AAA. The maximum league age for AAA is 11 years old. The Board may intervene for special exceptions.
- Majors will draft first, followed by AAA. All 12-year olds must be selected by the Majors unless the parent or player agent requests an exemption, or if the Board deems the player to be a safety risk.
- The Majors draft will be conducted serially according to the inverse order of the previous year's regular season final standings until all team roster openings are filled.
- A new Head Coach to the league should not automatically get an assistant coach, they would need to draft for one.
- Siblings* (who are trying out) of players already on a roster when the draft begins can be protected for the first two rounds but must be selected as the third round pick in order to be protected. The same holds true for Head Coach's children. If there is more than one sibling, Head Coach's child trying out, those children must be selected in the draft rounds immediately following the 3rd round, that is, the fourth round for a second child, fifth round for a third child, etc, if it is desired to protect those children.

** Natural, adopted, or documented legal guardianship*

Expansion Teams

- Expansion team receives the 1st pick of the draft. If two teams are required, a coin flip will be utilized to determine 1st and 2nd overall pick.

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- A Head Coach's child will be picked by the 2nd round. An exception to this rule may be made due to that player's ability. When a Head Coach of an expansion team is chosen, the Board members will then discuss and decide (at that time) that child's ability and what round in the draft he should be picked in).
 - After the first two rounds, one (1) 12 year old player will be chosen by the expansion team(s).
 - After the 3rd round, two (2) 12 year old players will be chosen by the expansion team(s).
 - After the 4th round, one (1) 12 year old player will be chosen by the expansion team(s).
 - The remainder of the draft picks will be chosen accordingly to fill in all remaining spots for each team.

Article IV: Rosters

- There shall be no more than 8 12- year old players on each Major League roster. There shall be a maximum of one (1) ten year old on each major league roster at the end of the draft.
- All major league rosters must have a minimum of twelve (12) players. In the event that any major league team has a roster spot opening during the season, the roster spot opening must be filled within one (1) league week. A league week is defined as the period of time in which two (2) or more regular season league games are scheduled. The replacement player will be determined by the Board.
- A roster opening will be created when a player is unable or unwilling to complete the season including playoff tournament. Any injury, which will cause a player to miss a league week, must be reported to the League President. Any player who does not complete the season due to injury will remain on the team's roster for the following season subject to League age guidelines. Players who quit, may tryout and be drafted by any team subject to League age guidelines.
- The League President must approve any requests to move a player to different levels based on skill and level of play. All players moved to the Majors level must have tried out.
- No trades are permitted for either players or draft choices

Article IV: League Rules

Section 1: Local League Options

- The Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Playing Rules” – Cal Ripken Division allows a number of local league options to be adopted by each league. The following are the options chosen by the League:
 - Dual participation by a player on a team or in a league of another baseball program is allowed.
 - The League will use Cal Ripken tournament pitching rules during the regular season and league playoffs.
 - If, in the opinion of the home plate umpire, a runner attempting to reach home plate intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of home plate, he/she will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. The objective of this rule is to penalize the offensive team for crashing the defensive player, rather than trying to reach home plate.
 - A home run is defined as a ball being hit over the outfield fences in fair territory. A ball hitting the yellow line on the top of the fence must clear the fence to be ruled a home run.

Section 2: Nashua Majors Regular Season Rules

MLB Rules

These rules are enforced based on MLB rules.

- No game time limit
- Infield Fly Rule
- Balks (Warnings will be issued for the first half of the season)
- Unlimited stealing
- Leading
- Dropped 3rd strike

Mercy Rule

- A game will be terminated immediately if one team is leading by 15 runs after 3 innings or leading by 10 runs after 4 innings. The home team will get their at bat if needed.

One Extra Inning

- If a game is tied at the end of regulation one extra inning will be played, if the game remains tied after the extra inning it will be recorded as a tie. The home team will submit the score, pitch counts, and game recap.

Substitution Rules

Penalty for violation of any rule contained in this section will result in automatic forfeiture of the game in which the violation occurred.

- Every player must play 6 outs in the field, and come to bat. Player injury or illness is the only exception to this rule.
- A player is not legally in the game until he/she has played in the field or has come to bat.
- A starter may reenter the game one time. He/she must reenter the game in the same spot in the batting order.
- Each team must start the game with a minimum of 9 players. Any team who does not field the minimum of 9 players automatically forfeits that game. Once begun, a game may be played with 8 players.
- The League allows re-entry of already used players if all substitutes have been used and an injury occurs. Selection of this substitute must be made by the opposing manager. This type of re-entry can only take place when an injury prevents a player from continuing in the game. The injured player, once removed from the game, cannot re-enter.
- Each team may use an EH (extra hitter) in the lineup. The same substitution rules apply. He/she must remain in the same spot in the batting order and any substitution into a field position will not change the batting lineup position at any time. In the case where an injury occurs and the team starts the game with 10 players, the batting order will be compressed to 9 players.
- Teams can use a courtesy runner for the catcher and pitcher at any time.

Pitch Counts

Monitoring pitch counts is important in developing players because growing bones and joints are more susceptible to injury than in adults. This is why Cal Ripken has established maximum pitch counts and how many days of rest pitchers need between the days that they pitch.

Pitch Counts/Rest Requirements by Age				
Age	Daily Max (pitches in a day)	Rest Period		
		0 days	1 day	2 days
9-10	75	1-40	41-65	66+
11-12	85	1-40	41-65	66+

In addition to the pitch count table above, No pitcher shall appear in a game as a pitcher for (3) consecutive days regardless of pitch count.

Tracking the Pitch Count

Both Home and Away teams count pitches for *both* teams and reconcile each half inning. During the playoffs, the coaches tell the umpire if the current pitcher is close to the pitch maximum.

Exceeding the Pitch Count

The only time a player is allowed to exceed the maximum pitch count is when finishing a batter. If the pitcher reaches daily maximum in the middle of a batter, they may finish the at-bat. If you plan to pitch a player 2 days straight, to pitch the second day, the pitcher must stop at 40 pitches. If the player throws 41 pitches, they require 1 day of rest.

Section 2.1: Nashua Majors Playoff Rules

- Playoff format:
 - Double elimination tournament.
 - Teams will be seeded based on the regular season records. Tiebreakers will be determined first by head-to-head record, and then by coin toss.
 - Higher seed is home throughout the tournament, with the exception of an 'if' game in the championship that will be determined by a coin flip.
- Two or more teams tied with the same regular season record will be seeded for playoff seeding, and drafting purposes the following year, by the following sequential tie breaking procedure:
 - Regular season wins and losses versus each other.
 - If (a) fails to break tie the teams will look at win /lose against the third place, then if the same will drop to fourth, then again through division until a difference has been met where one team has more wins against a higher seed team If all are equal with wins to the same teams then will go to total runs given up(Defensive), then if equal then go to a sudden death one game for first and second place only, All others go to a coin flip
 - In the event that the sudden death format is not feasible based on time / schedules / other conflict, a coin flip will be used to break the tie in place of the sudden death playoff format.
- Games are played until there is a winner. (All other regular season rules apply)

Section 3: Other Miscellaneous League Rules

- “Slash bunting” is prohibited. A slash bunt infraction will result in the batter being called out and the ball is dead. Player and coach ejected immediately (additional one game suspension).
- All batters, on deck hitters, and players in the batting cage must wear helmets.
- Away teams are responsible for field prep and clean-up before and after games (dragging field, lines, mound prep, trash pick up)
- Home Team Responsibilities:
 - Preparing, manning, and cleaning the concessions booth with two parents.
 - Scoreboard and announcing (if applicable)
- Both teams supply 2 new baseballs to the umpires

Section 3.1: Special Fall Ball Rules

- No games may start a new inning after 2 hours.
- Pitch count rules do not apply, however pitchers may pitch no more than 2 innings in any game.
- Substitution rules do not apply, teams may bat one continuous order with free substitution in the field.
- Balks will not be called.
- Teams may start and play with only 8 players. The opposing team shall provide 1 player to play one of the outfield positions, however that player will only bat for its official team.