

# AABA Minor League Rules

January 2008

1. Any candidate who will attain the age of 6 years before May 1<sup>st</sup> and who will not attain the age of 10 before May 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in question shall be eligible to compete.
2. Each team is permitted one (1) manager and four (4) coaches. All managers and coaches must be approved by a simple majority of the operating personnel of the AABA.
3. Adults are permitted to coach 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Any player of the AABA, ages seven (7) to nine (9), must wear full protective helmet when coaching the bases. Only one base coach is permitted at each base at a time.
4. All batters, on-deck batters, and base runners must wear full protective helmets. The catcher must have an approved catcher's helmet.
5. A team may use 4 outfielders. They must play in outfield positions only. A team that does not start with an extra outfielder will not be permitted to use one that game. A team that starts with an extra outfielder will be required to use one as long as they have ten available players.
6. Any umpire may remove any player, manager, coach or fan that he/she feels is disrupting the game. All teams are responsible for the conduct of their fans. If a manager or coach is thrown out of a game, he/she will be suspended for the entire next game. A second ejection will require a review from the Executive Board.
7. No inning may start after 10:00 P.M. Sunday through Thursday from the start of the season until June 3<sup>rd</sup> inclusive.
8. Managers will make every effort to play the scheduled game, but if the teams do not have enough players to start the game after a 15 minute wait, the game will be canceled and referred to the Executive Board.
9. All players present for a game must play a minimum of six (6) defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time. If a player who is present for the game does not play the required amount of time, he/she must start the next scheduled game. Coaches may discipline players, but must inform the league's scorekeeper before the start of the game.
10. A ½ inning will consist of three (3) outs or a team batting the nine (9) or (ten (10) if the team starts the game with 4 outfielders) players presently in the game (whichever occurs first). The batting order will be continuous throughout the game. It will not start over each inning.
11. All players must be in uniform. Coaches should make every effort to have players in the correct level's uniform (Minor League or Major League).

12. The ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) or tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) if the team starts the game with 4 outfielders, batter of the ½ inning must hit the ball or strike out. If he/she is hit by a pitch, he/she does not get the base. If he/she is injured, he/she may be pinch hit for. When the ninth (9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>) batter hits the ball he/she is forced at 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and home plate provided the batter and all base runners have advanced at least one (1) base. Any runs scored before the force out count. If the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) out is recorded in a normal fashion, no runs or advances are automatic.

13. All substitutions must be by the rulebook. A copy of the book will be available in the press box. A starter who is substituted for may re-enter in any position in the order provided his substitute has batted and has played a minimum of six (6) consecutive outs on defense.

14. The following will not be used during the game: wild pitches, passed balls, stolen bases, balks, infield fly rule, intentional walks, bunting, protests or appeals of missed bases. An umpire has the authority to return a runner to a base if in his judgement the runner has deliberately missed a base.

15. If the home team has a ten (10) run lead after three (3) ½ innings or the visiting team after four (4) innings, the score section of the scoreboard will be turned off and the two teams will continue to play with only balls, strikes, and outs being recorded. No half inning will be started after 1 hour and 35 minutes. If a game is stopped after the top of an inning due to the 1 hour 35 minute rule, the score will be calculated by reverting back to the last completed inning. There will be no extra inning games. Games can end in a tie.

16. A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher after two (2) outs in a ½ inning. The courtesy runner must be one of the non-participating nine (9) players (if a team has less than ten (10) players, a player from the opposite end of the batting order should be used). The use of a player as a courtesy runner does not affect any substitutions.

17. When a fielder is in control of a batted ball, base runners must stop at the base where they are (if between bases they may advance to the next base). The umpire will issue a warning to any team “running” after a ball is in control of a fielder on the first offense. If a team sends a runner a second time (or more) in the same game and does not voluntarily bring that runner back, the umpire will call that runner out.

18. No player will enter the perimeter fence of the batting cages without a full protective helmet. No player warming the pitcher in the bullpen area will be without an approved catcher’s helmet, and the maximum number of players in the bullpen shall be two (2).

19. No awards of any kind will be permitted unless sponsored by or approved by the AABA.

20. Players and their parent/guardian must fully participate in the Opening Day fundraiser. If these provisions are not met, the player must be deemed ineligible

## AABA Minor League Pitching Rules

1. Any player is eligible to pitch. A player may pitch in both Major League and Minor League, however his/her rest and inning restrictions are cumulative. Player(s) will pitch three (3) innings or a combination of three (3) innings per game after which the manager or his/her representative will pitch the remainder of the game to his/her team. Days of rest will still apply according to Article IV Pitchers of the AABA Regulations in the AABA Official Playing Rules.

2. If any player is obviously uncomfortable batting, upon notification by the offensive coach, the coach may pitch to his/her batter. If there is more than one (1) in the line-up they will bat in order, (one after another), to keep the game moving. The coach pitching is not permitted to field a batted ball. Any ball hitting the coach is in play.

3. After three (3) consecutive walks or four (4) walks in any  $\frac{1}{2}$  inning the coach will finish the inning for the pitcher without removing him from the pitching position. He may return the next inning to finish his/her pitching assignment providing he meets all other regulations.

4. When the game is completed, the official scorer will record the innings pitched of all pitchers who have pitched for both teams in the "Pitching Book" (which will be supplied by the AABA and remain in the Press Box at all times). Either managers or their representatives should initial this record after every game immediately upon the conclusion. It will be the official account from the day forward and will not be changed regardless of the accuracy it contains. The responsibility rests with the managers.

5. If a game is stopped before it is a completed, any pitchers used will be credited with the innings that he/she pitched. The throwing of one (1) pitch constitutes one complete inning pitched.

6. All other rules will apply according to the official rulebook adopted by the AABA for the current year.