

2009 GVAA Majors RULES

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GAME

All games are played in a 50/70 field configuration and under the official baseball rules and regulations of Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken except for the local exceptions as noted below.

1. Managers are responsible for the conduct of their team and staff and are the only people permitted to question a rule interpretation with the umpire. Judgment calls **may not** be disputed or protested. Inappropriate behavior will be subject to disciplinary action.
2. Only the team manager can discuss a call or situation with the umpires, the assistants may only in the case the manager is not present.
3. There will be absolutely no questioning of balls and strikes. The umpires, at their discretion, will give a bench warning regardless if it is the Manager, coach or player questioning the calls. On the second infraction, the umpire will eject the team's Manager for the duration of the game. The Manager will also be suspended for his team's next played game.
4. Managers must keep an accurate score book in case of protests, rainouts, player eligibility, etc.
5. Games are to begin on time. During the regular season any team that does not have enough players to start the game may borrow players from the opposing team without penalty. The borrowed player is not to be used in their skilled position, bat and cannot pitch for the team borrowing the player. The borrowed player will continue to bat in his assigned slot.
6. The "10 run rule" will be in effect.
7. A "regulation game" will be 6 innings long, unless interrupted by time or weather. Four (4) innings, (or 3½ if home team is ahead) constitutes a "regulation game".
8. There is 2 ½ hour time limit for games. No new inning should start after 2 hours except for games played on Friday night or Saturday.
9. If a game is suspended before it has become a "regulation game" and the umpire declares it a "no game" the pitching eligibility is the same as it was prior to the beginning of the "no game" situation. (0.06.6).
10. All postponed games must be rescheduled as soon as possible.
11. Bats must meet Cal Ripken specifications 2 ¼" barrel 33" length (1.10). NO "Big barrel bats".
12. Players must participate in at least 50% of the team's regular season games to be eligible for the playoffs. Games missed due to injury or illness **ONLY** will count as participating. All final eligibility requirements will be determined by the commissioner.

PITCHING

1. Managers must use their common sense and judgment when assigning pitchers.
2. A pitcher CANNOT pitch in more than 1 game per day including external games.
3. Managers are required to keep a pitch count, record it in their score book and report to the commissioner after each game.
4. The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:
 - a. League Age: 11-12 75 pitches per day

5. Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in #4 for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until that batter reaches base or is put out.
6. Pitchers must adhere to the following rest requirements:
 - a. 61 or more pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - b. 41 - 60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - c. 21 - 40 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - d. 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest must be observed.
7. A pitcher must be removed from the mound on the second visit to the mound by the team Manager or Coach in the same inning. (8.06)
8. Once removed from the game as a pitcher, the pitcher cannot return to the mound in that game. The player can take any other defensive position and bats in order.
9. Games in which an ineligible pitcher has been used shall be **declared a forfeit**.
10. **Balks:** warning - without penalty up to and including games through May 2. Beginning May 3 and continuing through the playoffs the normal balk rules will be enforced.

SUBSTITUTIONS

1. Players may be substituted in the field at will. All players must play in the field for three innings or at least one-half of the game. No player shall sit the bench more than one inning at a time. All players must play in the field every other inning.
2. All players in attendance will bat in order (universal batting order). No changes to the batting order will be allowed after the initial batting order is established.
3. Late arrivals will be added to the **END** of the batting order and not in the middle.
4. Players departing early will be skipped in the batting order and no penalty shall be assessed.
5. A courtesy runner should be used for the catcher if on base with 2 outs to speed up play. If a courtesy runner is used it shall be the player that made the last at-bat out.

BASE RUNNING/STEALING

1. Batter MAY attempt to gain 1st base on dropped 3rd strike (6.09(b)). This will be reviewed as the season progresses.
2. Slide or veer is in place. Runner must avoid contact with players in the field or will be called out and possibly ejected from game. This is a judgment call by the umpire and not disputable!
3. Runners **ARE** permitted to take leads.

FIELD MAINTENANCE

1. Both teams coaching staff must assist with outlining the base paths before the game as well as rake the base paths and pitchers mound. All equipment and bases must be put away in the locker after the last game of the day.
2. Do not Rake mud onto the turf or onto the outfield grass.
3. Both teams coaching staff need to groom the base paths and the pitchers mound after a game. Use the Gator or Smithco if available. Be sure the pitching mound and batters boxes are properly filled in.

SCORES/RAINOUTS

Both managers **MUST** e-mail in the score, pitching innings and pitch counts to Greg Santore at gsantore@comcast.net immediately after the game is complete. Do not forget to report partial innings as full innings. All scorebooks must be maintained properly to resolve any protests.

In case of rain, the managers in agreement with the umpires make the call on a game cancellation. Once the game is under way, the umpire has full control on calling a game for reasons he sees fit. Notify the umpires at least thirty minutes prior to a game start of rain or other cancellation.

Playoffs

1. Players must have participated in at least 50% of the team's regular season games to be eligible for the playoffs. Games missed due to injury or illness count as participating. The Score book will be used as documentation if there is any dispute or protest.
2. Playoffs will be double elimination format.
3. Total points accumulated during the regular season will determine seeding for the playoffs. Regular season points will be accumulated as follows:
 - a. 2 points for each win
 - b. 1 point for each tie
 - c. 0 points for each loss
4. The higher seed will be the home team for each game unless they are coming out of the "loser's bracket".
5. Teams will not be permitted to borrow players if they are short. All players on the roster should be there. If there are not 9 players an out will be recorded where the player is missing until a player arrives to fill that spot in the batting order. For instance, if a team has only 8 and bats 1 through 8, the 9th position will be an automatic out and they will only play 8 on defense.
6. Pitching innings will be monitored by the 4-0-4 system. Meaning that if a player can pitch no more than 4 innings in 2 consecutive games. If a pitcher pitches 4 innings in game one he cannot pitch in game two. If he pitches 3 innings in game one he can pitch 1 inning in game two, etc.
7. Use of an illegible pitcher based on rule #6 will constitute a forfeit.
8. Rest rules will not apply during the playoffs.
9. There is NO time limit during playoffs; all games must be played to completion.