

Howard County Baseball Alliance

RULES 2008

AYRA (Atholton Youth Recreation)

EYO (Elkridge Youth Organization)

HCYP (Howard County Youth Program)

SBGC (Savage Boys and Girls Club)

SYKESVILLE

WHCYBL (Western Howard County)

Sponsored By : The Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks

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I

Policy Matters

A. The Alliance league will consist of two age groupings:

A 13/14 League of teams of 13-year-old and 14-year-old ballplayers; and,

15/18 Seniors League of teams of **15-year-old, 16-year-old, 17-year-old and 18 year old ballplayers must be in High School.**

B. Age and Eligibility

This Alliance of teams from participating leagues is formed for the benefit of:

13 and 14-year-old baseball players, male and female, as determined by April 30, 2008

15,16,17 and 18-year-old(**must be in high school**) baseball players, male and female, as determined by April 30,2008.

C. Team Registrations and Rosters

Only players registered with the baseball leagues participating in this Alliance may play in this league. Any manager or coach who substitutes a ballplayer who is not registered with his league shall be expelled from the Alliance for the remainder of the regular season and post-season. Any game played with unregistered players shall be forfeited. All team must register with and pay a \$40 fee to the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks. Players who have been on a full time travel team roster during the 2008 season are ineligible for Alliance league play. **Varsity pitchers and players 18 years of age, cannot pitch any games.**

D. Official Rules

The rules of Major League Baseball, as modified by these rules, will apply to the baseball Alliance formed by the participating baseball leagues. The primary purposes for modifications to the rules are:

- (1) the safety of ballplayers,
- (2) the need for standardized rules acceptable to the participating leagues;
- (3) respect for the authority vested in the umpire;
- (4) The concern that good sportsmanship should override competitiveness in the conduct of managers, coaches, assistant coaches, ballplayers, parents, and spectators.

E. Official Game

Games will be played for seven (7) innings, weather and field conditions permitting. Only the umpire is designated to call a game due to darkness, weather or field conditions once Recreation and Parks and/or the Board of Education have deemed them playable. Every attempt should be made to play games during the regular season. The following rules will apply to the end of tournament. For a game to be official when called on account of darkness, weather, or field conditions, the losing team must bat at least 4 full innings. An inning should not be started in an evening game or in any game for which the field must be relinquished within a prescribed time period, unless the plate umpire believes that there is adequate time for both teams to bat. In such case, the umpire shall notify both managers that the new inning is the “last inning” of an official game. If a game should end in a tie, it shall be treated as a suspended game.

F. Slaughter Rule

A twelve (12) run rule applies after 4-1/2 innings if the home team is ahead or after 5 innings if the home team is losing.

G. Official Scorekeeper

The “home” team as designated in the playing schedule is responsible for paying and scheduling the umpire(s), keeping the official score, and notifying the plate umpire of the score at the end of each half inning. Umpires are NOT responsible for keeping the official score. It is the responsibility of the “Visiting” team’s scorekeeper to confer periodically, at least once each inning, with the official scorekeeper in order to minimize scorekeeping disputes.

H. Reporting Scores

The manager or coach of the winning team for the 15-18 league shall email **Brian Hubbard** hubbardbs@verizon.net to report the score. The manager or coach of the winning team for the 13-14 league shall email or call **Jean Shea** Jshea@howardcountymd.gov 410-313-4626 to report the score. Scores should be reported the night of the game and tournament game within 4 hours of its completion or suspension. Each manager shall maintain a record of the final scores and innings played of all official games and suspended games including date of play, time, and field location.

I. Continuation of a Suspended Game

If a game is called earlier than as stated in paragraph “E” above, play will be considered “suspended.” Continuation of a suspended game will not be necessary unless it is in the tournament. If such is the situation, the game will be continued from the point of suspension.

J. Umpire - Home team will provide and pay the umpire

II

Special Pitching Rules

A. Innings Pitched

The following restriction on “innings pitched” applies to regular season games and post-season tournament play: ***A pitcher may pitch no more than four (4) innings per game.*** If a pitcher throws a minimum of one pitch from the mound to a batter in a scheduled game, the pitcher is considered to have pitched the entire inning. Once a ballplayer has been removed from the pitching position, the ballplayer may play any other position **but may not return to the pitching position for the rest of the game.**

B. Pitching Styles

A pitcher may throw any type of pitch including curve balls.

C. Balks

The umpire will call “No pitch - dead ball” call for the first balk by each a pitcher in a game. The umpire will immediately call time and explain to the pitcher the basis for the warning. Any succeeding balk call on that pitcher will result in baserunners advancing one (1) base. This includes a runner at third base advancing home. If there are no runners on base on a succeeding balk call, the umpire will award the batter a “ball” call.

D. Forced Removal from Pitching Position

More than one trip by the manager or coach or assistant coach to the mound per pitcher in any inning, other than for an injury time out called by the plate umpire, will result in the immediate removal of the pitcher. Upon hitting a second batter with a pitch in the same inning or a total of three batters in the game, the pitcher shall be immediately removing from the pitching position.

III

Modified Rules of Play

- The home team **MUST** schedule and pay the officiating fee to the umpire prior to the start of a regular season game. The 15-18 league requires two umpires and the 13-14 league requires one umpire. Each team will be responsible for half of the tournament game umpire fee's.
- Six (6) run scoring limit per team with no run limit in the seventh inning or “last inning” as stipulated by the umpire in any game which cannot be played to 7 innings due to darkness or deterioration of field conditions.

- The pitching rubber is set at approximately 54 feet for 13/14s; 60 feet 6 inches for 15/18s; bases are to be spiked or fixed at 80 feet for 13/14s and 90 feet for 15/18s.
- All catchers must wear a mask and protective gear. Male catchers **MUST** wear a cup.
- The entire bench bats and all players **MUST** bat in order. Players must be on the bench and ready to play before their names can be placed in the line-up. Players arriving after the line-ups are completed and/or play has begun must be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
- Only nine (9) players play the field with free substitution except for pitching position. Minimum of eight (8) players to start and to finish a game (no automatic outs).
- A team fielding less than eight (8) players will forfeit. **Forfeit rule only applies to tournament play.** During regular season every effort should be made to play regular season games, which may include using players from the other team.
- If catcher becomes a baserunner with two outs, the last player that made an out **Must** be used as a substitute baserunner.
- If pitcher is a baserunner with two outs, a substitute baserunner who made the last out may be used.
- Base runners **MUST slide, give himself up or step around** if there is the clear possibility of a defensive play at 2nd base, 3rd base, or home. The decision as to whether there is a “clear possibility” of a defensive play is a judgment call of the umpire. If the umpire determines that there was or could have been a defensive play, the runner shall be called out.
NO CONTACT
- NO HEAD FIRST SLIDES EXCEPT UPON RETURNING TO A BASE.
- Each player **MUST** play a full inning in the field in the first 3 innings. Each player **MUST** play a minimum of three innings in the field in a 7-inning game.
- In the event of lightning or thunder, the umpire **MUST** suspend play immediately and all ballplayers, managers, coaches, and assistant coaches **MUST** promptly leave the playing field and take shelter, preferably in automobiles. Play may only be resumed if there has been neither sighting of lightning nor sound of thunder for **thirty minutes**. It is entirely the judgment call of the umpire whether to resume play.
- The home team provides two (2) new game balls to the umpire prior to the start of the game. Visiting team provides one (1) good.
- No tie games. See rule for continuation of a suspended game as prescribed in Chapter 1, Section I. This applies only to tournament play.
- Starting time for games scheduled on Monday through Friday evenings is 6 p.m. Friday games at Western Regional Park may be scheduled at 7pm. Each team is allowed a 15-minute grace period. The visiting team has the field 15 minutes prior to the start time for practice.

The umpire is allowed the same 15-minute grace period. If the umpire has not arrived by 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time for the game, the home team shall select an umpire from among the managers, coaches, parents, or spectators with the mutual agreement and concurrence of the opposing manager.

- **No Metal spikes are permitted in any game or practice in the Alliance League.**
- Bats for the 15-18 league are -3 and $2 \frac{5}{8}$
- Bats for the 13-14 league are $-8 \frac{2}{5}$

IV

Incidents and Injuries

A. Incident Reports

In the event that an incident takes place or a player suffers a serious injury, it is the responsibility of both team managers/coaches to prepare reports of the incident or injury and to obtain the names of witnesses to the incident or injury.

B. Information Required

The manager/coach may use the reporting form provided by the organization to which the team is a member. Information that needs to be documented in the report includes:

- The date, place, and time of the incident or injury.
- The name(s), addresses and telephone numbers of the person(s) involved.
- The name(s), addresses and telephone numbers of any witness(es).
- Were police or EMS called? Did they respond? Was a formal police or EMS report prepared?
- A description of the events that took place before, during and after the incident or injury.
- How was the matter resolved?
- What additional issues, if any, need to be resolved?

C. Submission of Reports

The manager or coach of each team shall notify the representative of his/her league orally within three hours of the incident or injury. Formal written reports must be submitted within 24 hours of the incident or injury to the representative(s) of the league(s) to which the parties in the incident or injury belong.

V

Disputes

A. Expectations

Managers, coaches, assistant coaches, and ballplayers are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and cordial manner at all time on and in the vicinity of the playing field. Losing tempers or other obnoxious or threatening displays over an umpire's decision will not be tolerated. Disrespectful language and actions by managers, coaches, assistant coaches, ballplayers, parents and other spectators towards umpires or towards one another have no place in this Alliance.

B. Disputes

Interpretation of these rules during the conduct of a game is within the authority, judgment, and discretion of the umpire(s) assigned to work the game. Any discussion regarding a rule or its interpretation will be resolved immediately with the umpire having the final decision. If a second umpire is working the field, the plate umpire and field umpire may confer with one another over a controversial call.

C. Protests

NO PROTESTS WILL BE ALLOWED.

D. Complaints

Complaints regarding the conduct of managers, coaches, assistant coaches and ballplayers during games and practice sessions and, most importantly, when wearing uniforms, shall be brought to the attention of the Michael Milani, Recreation Sports Supervisor, Howard County Recreation and Parks 410-313-4706, mmilani@howardcountymd.gov

E. Conduct of Parents and Spectators

Managers and coaches are responsible for the conduct of parents and spectators. The name of any parent or spectator ejected by an umpire from the viewing area or field complex shall be reported within 24 hours of the ejection by the manager or head coach of the team with which the parent or spectator is associated to the representative of the league to which that team belongs. The league representative shall notify the representatives of the other participating leagues of the ejection.

F. Code of Conduct for Managers, Coaches, Ballplayers, and Parents

Where a league requires a code of conduct to be completed, as a prerequisite for managers, coaches, ballplayers, and parents for a team that is participating in the Alliance, managers, coaches, ballplayers, and parents shall abide by the terms of such code for all Alliance practices and games.

G. Ejection from Game

If a manager, coach, assistant coach, parent, or spectator is ejected from a game, the individual **MUST** leave the playing complex entirely within 5 minutes of being ejected. If a player is ejected and his parent or guardian is present, the player must leave the playing complex under the supervision of the parent or guardian. If a player is ejected and his parent or guardian is not present, the player shall leave the field and dugout areas and sit in the spectator area for the duration of the game. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the game. A “forfeited game” call is solely within the authority and judgment of the plate umpire and may not be protested.

- By noon of the day following the incident, the plate umpire will notify the umpire-in-chief of the name of any manager, coach, assistant coach, or player ejected from a game and the circumstances leading to such action. The umpire-in-chief shall be the Recreation Sports Supervisor, 410-313-4706.
- If any manager, coach, assistant coach, or player is ejected from (1) game including playoff games, the individual must meet with Michael Milani. They are barred from league participation for the remainder of the season unless reinstated by the Sports Supervisor.

VI

Post Season Play

A. Post Season Tournament

The post season will consist of a seeded double elimination tournament. Seeding will be determined by the following:

1. Wins
2. Head to Head
3. Coin Toss

B. *Championship Awards*

Each ballplayer on the team that finishes first in the post-season tourney for the 13/14 and the 15/18 League will receive a championship trophy for their respective age grouping. No other honors will be awarded by the Alliance. The trophies will be paid by Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks.

C. **During the tournament teams will split the umpire fees.**

D. **Host team will provide the umpire**

VII

Board of Directors,

Each league participating in the Alliance will have one voting representative who will serve during the season as a member of the Alliance's Board of Directors. The members of the Board of Directors shall vote on all policy and rulemaking matters. The Recreation Sports Supervisor will serve as the Chairperson, and shall serve collaboratively as the arbiters for any disputes that may arise during the course of the season and post season. The members of the Board of Directors are not empowered to overturn decisions rendered by umpires during games.