

MARION COUNTY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

RULES FOR PONY LEAGUE 2019

As approved 1/6/2019

1. The age limit shall be 16 years old and younger, but not 17 before April 1.
 - A. *P.O.I. ~ Anyone aged 15 or 16 years old before April 1, and rostered on their High School team, may play on a Marion County Pony League team once their high school season is complete.*
2. All head coaches are **REQUIRED** to complete and pass a certified concussion training course.
 - A. Coaches must keep a copy of their concussion certificate on their person during all practices and games.
3. Any team using a player over the age limit shall forfeit all wins acquired while that player was on the team roster. If age is questioned, satisfactory proof shall be furnished.
4. Pitching distance shall be 54' from the front of the pitching rubber to the back point of home plate.
5. Base distance shall be 80' between bases.
6. Game balls shall be provided by the home team. Must use regulation Pony League baseballs.
7. The home team shall furnish the home plate umpire. The home plate umpire **MUST** be a OHSAA certified umpire. **It is RECOMMENDED that 2 OHSAA certified umpires be assigned by the home team to each game whenever possible.** The visiting team may provide a field umpire if the home team has not already provided one. Managers and/or coaches may not umpire a game in which their team is participating. Parents of players participating may not umpire behind the plate unless agreed upon by mutual consent of both team managers.

8. All umpires are **REQUIRED** to complete and pass a certified concussion training course.
 - A. Umpires must keep a copy of their concussion certificate on their person during all games.
9. The HOME scorebook is the official scorebook.
10. The UMPIRE is the official time keeper.
11. A regulation game shall consist of 7 complete innings, except in the case of a called game where 4 complete innings shall constitute a complete game.
 - A. P.O.I. ~ Tournament play: 4 complete innings constitute a complete game if game ends early due to weather and/or any unforeseen circumstance.
12. Tied games shall be settled by playing extra inning or innings.
 - A. P.O.I. ~ Provided time has not expired. If time has expired, then it's a tie.
13. All games shall start no later than 7:00 p.m. (No lights) and no later than 9:00 p.m. (With lights).
14. All games shall have a 1:40 finish the inning time limit. No new inning can start after 1:40 from the start of the game. The game "start time" shall begin at the time of the 1st warm up pitch by the Home team pitcher. If the time limit is reached during an inning, then that inning shall be completed. If the home team is ahead when the time limit elapses, then the bottom half of the inning does not need to be completed or played at all. The "start time" of the new inning begins at the time of the last out of the previous inning.
 - A. P.O.I. – Game is considered complete if time limit expires before 4 innings are completed.
 - B. P.O.I. ~ Tournament games will have a 1:40 finish the inning time limit throughout the tournament.
 - Exception ~ There will be NO time limit for the championship game.
 - C. P.O.I. ~ Tournament play will follow the same game time/score format as the regular season.

- D. P.O.I. ~ Tournament games must have a winner. Tied games shall play extra inning(s) until a winner is determined.
15. The clock shall continue to run thru any play stoppages due to Thunder, Lightning, Injury or any unforeseen circumstance.
16. Any game suspended due to Thunder, Lightning or other weather shall be resumed at the point of interruption at an agreed upon date and time by the coaches.
- A. P.O.I. ~ If 4 or more innings have been completed then the game shall be declared a complete game.
17. A lineup card containing the name of players and subs must be completed by each team and exchanged with the opposing coach prior to the start of the game.
18. A team may start the game with 9 players. However, if a team has only 8 players, the game may still be played. If the game starts with 8 players the coach has the following 2 options before starting the game: 1. Playing the entirety of the game with only 8 players and not receiving an out for the vacant batting position. OR 2. Taking an out for the missing batting position and then placing a late arriving player in that position once they arrive. This must be decided on before the game starts. The umpire and opposing coach must be notified of such.
- A. P.O.I. ~ Late arriving players may be added to the bottom of the lineup and subbed into the game.
- Exception ~ If the 8-player rule is being used then the player will have to sit out the game.
19. A team beginning a game with 9 or more players may end a game with 8 players, taking an out in the spot of the player that was removed for whatever reason.
- A. A team beginning with or being reduced to 7 players shall declare a forfeit.
20. When 11 or more players are present at the beginning of the game the EP (Extra Player) must be used. The EP may be placed anywhere in the lineup. Position players and the EP may be changed during the game but not their spot in the batting order. In case of injury the EP may be put in the field for the injured player while maintaining

his spot in the batting order. An unused sub may then be subbed into the injured players batting order position. If no unused subs are available, then an out must be taken for the injured players batting order position if the injured player is unable to bat.

A. P.O.I. ~ The EP must play 6 consecutive outs on defense and bat at least once.

21. All team members present at the beginning of the game must play a minimum of 6 consecutive defensive outs and bat at least once in a regulation 7 inning game. Substitutions must be made in innings 1–5. Starters relieved for subs may re-enter in the same batting position provided their sub has played 6 consecutive defensive outs and batted once.

A. P.O.I. ~ Once a starter has been removed a 2nd time they are done for the game.

B. P.O.I. ~ Once a sub has been removed once they are done for the game.

22. Roster Batting (batting all players) is legal. When roster batting then free defensive substitution is allowed.

A. P.O.I. ~ When roster batting: if a player is removed for any reason then an out must be taken for that players batting position.

23. Courtesy runner may be used for the Pitcher and/or Catcher at any time. Must use the last out in your lineup.

24. The batter's helmet is required. Player base coaches must wear a batting helmet. Adult base coaches do not have to wear a helmet. The souvenir type plastic helmet is prohibited for any use.

25. Bats shall be 2 5/8" barrel or less with a –3 drop. Bats must have BBCOR stamp. This rule is in accordance with OHSAA rule changes (2011).

26. Wood bats are legal. If it is NOT one solid piece of wood, then it must meet the requirements of the BBCOR certification...including having the BBCOR stamp.

A. P.O.I. ~ Bamboo bats with the BBCOR certification are legal.

B. P.O.I. ~ Bamboo bats without the BBCOR certification are not legal.

C. P.O.I. ~ Bats with metal handles and wood barrels are not legal.

27. The penalties for using bats not approved will be as follows: 1st offense using an unapproved bat is the bat will be removed from the playing field but kept within umpire's view; the runners return to the previous base; the batter is out. 2nd offense will be the same as for 1st offense with the following addition: player using any illegal bat will be ejected from game. 3rd offense will be same as other 2 with the following addition: team using any illegal bat will forfeit the game.
28. All players must wear a uniform cap and shirt. All players must wear baseball pants. Cleats or tennis shoes are acceptable footwear.
29. Metallic spikes on playing shoes are legal.
30. The catcher shall wear full catching gear consisting of a catcher's helmet with throat guard (hockey style masks with elongated throat protector frame are acceptable), chest protector and shin guards.
31. All players who warm up the pitcher at home plate must wear a catcher's helmet with throat guard (hockey style masks with elongated throat protector frame are acceptable).
32. Leadoffs and stealing are legal.
33. Stealing home or any base on a throwback from the catcher to the pitcher is legal.
34. Stealing home on a passed ball is legal.
35. Sliding is allowed.
 - A. Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, the slide must be legal. Runners cannot create malicious contact. If malicious contact is created, then runner shall be declared out.
36. The infield fly rule shall apply.

37. Bunting is allowed.
 - A. A fouled bunt attempt on a 3rd strike is an out.

38. The balk rule shall apply.
 - A. There shall be 1 warning per team per game.
 - B. This rule shall apply to the Marion County Pony League Tournament also.

39. A dropped 3rd strike is NOT an automatic out. It is a live ball. If 1st base is occupied with less than 2 outs, then batter is out. However, the ball is still live, and runners may advance at their own risk. If 1st base is occupied with 2 outs, then batter is not out and may attempt to advance to 1st base. All other runners may attempt to advance at their own risk.

40. A pitcher may pitch a maximum of 7 innings per calendar day and 10 innings per calendar week. If a pitcher pitches 4 or more innings in 1 calendar day, then he must have 40 hours of rest before pitching again.
 - A. P.O.I. ~ 1 pitch constitutes 1 full inning.
 - B. P.O.I. ~ The 40-hour rule begins at the start time of the game pitched in.
 - C. P.O.I. ~ These pitching rules shall apply during MCBA tournament play as well.
 - P.O.I. ~ No extension to the 10 innings per calendar week shall be added should the tournament extend into the following calendar week due to weather and/or any other unforeseen circumstance.

41. A pitcher once relieved may not return to the mound.

42. A manager or coach may confer with any defensive player provided the conference is on the pitcher's mound. A visit with any defensive player constitutes an official visit.
 - A. P.O.I. ~ 3 official visits per game. Each additional visit requires a pitching change.

43. A base on balls is NOT a dead ball. The runner may advance beyond 1st base at his own risk.

44. Intentional Walk ~ Tell the home plate umpire and batter shall be placed on 1st base.
45. A maximum of 9 runs may be scored during any half inning of a game. The offensive team's turn at bat is concluded after 3 putouts or after 9 runs have scored, whichever occurs first.
46. If a team is leading by 10 or more runs after 5 complete innings, then the game shall be terminated and the team leading declared the winner.
47. Players and /or spectators are prohibited from standing within a 10-foot area extending behind the backstop. People in that area must be seated. Coaches and umpires need to enforce rule.
48. Coaches may NOT borrow players laterally from another Pony League team. Coaches may borrow from a Little League team from within their own organization in an emergency. All the original roster players must be used before emergency players are used. The opposing coach must be notified of the situation before the game starts.
49. During MCBA tournament play coaches may borrow players from a Little League team from within their own organization in an emergency provided that team does not already have a game scheduled that day. Players must play for the team they are rostered on if a tournament game is scheduled and played. Players may NOT be borrowed laterally from another Pony League team.
50. Team rosters complete with birth dates must be submitted to the Marion County Baseball Association President a minimum of 14 days before the first game of the season.
51. Additions to rosters for new move-in residents may be made any time up to and including May 31 of the current season. Any additions MUST be approved by Marion County Baseball Association.
52. Any person demonstrating unsportsmanlike conduct ~ such as throwing a bat or any equipment in anger, using abusive or profane language, or making unnecessary

violent contact ~ shall be immediately ejected from the game and the confines of the ballpark.

53. Any player and/or coach ejected from a game will receive the following penalty:
 - A. Player and/or coach will be suspended for the remainder of the game ejected PLUS one (1) additional game.
54. Smoking is not permitted on the playing field or in dugouts.
55. Designated coaches in dugout area will consist of 2 base coaches, 1 dugout coach and 1 scorekeeper.
56. Speed Up Rules: To speed up play, all teams will abide by the following:
 - A. Defense: Pitchers will be permitted to throw 5 warm-up pitches in the 1st inning they pitch and only 3 warm-up pitches in subsequent innings.
 - B. Defense: There will be NO infield/outfield balls after the 1st inning.
57. If a regularly scheduled game cannot be played due to special circumstances (i.e. School and/or 4-H camps and activities) and the opposing team has been contacted at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled game and has refused to reschedule, rule #58 on forfeits will be followed.
58. There will be one week between coaches to reschedule the game. If unable to come to an agreement, each coach will call their rep to get the game rescheduled. If the reps cannot get the game rescheduled, then they shall call the MCBA President. The MCBA President shall try to resolve the conflict. If not rescheduled, then the MCBA President will decide either: 1. who takes the loss for the game or 2. both teams will take a non-played game point loss. The MCBA Presidents decision is final.
 - A. P.O.I. ~ All games must be made up before the tournament drawings to count for seeding.
59. Point system will be used to determine regular season champion and seeding for tournament.
 - A. Win: 2 points

- B. Tie: 1-1/2 points
 - C. Loss: 1 point
 - D. Non-Played Game: (-1) point
 - P.O.I. ~ All regular season games shall be completed by 3:00 pm on tournament draw Saturday. If not completed, then a non-played game point loss shall be assessed for each game not played and/or completed.
60. Tournament tie-breakers:
- A. Head to Head.
 - B. Coin flip.
61. The higher seed shall be the Home team throughout the MCBA tournament.
62. Once the tournament draw is complete; all teams will be expected to compete at their scheduled time. If a team cannot play for any reason, then it will be considered a forfeit. If both teams cannot play, then both will forfeit.
63. The host tournament site, in conjunction with the MCBA President, reserves the right to alter the tournament format due to weather and/or any unforeseeable circumstance.
64. Rules not covered herein shall be referred to the Ohio High School Athletic Association rule book.
65. There shall be NO protests during regular season games.
66. Protests allowed during the Marion County Pony League Tournament only. Coach shall inform the umpire of intent to protest. Game and game clock shall stop immediately. The Marion County Pony League Tournament Director (or assigned representative) shall be summoned to hear protest. A \$25.00 protest fee shall be paid in cash before protest can be heard. Fee is refundable if protest is ruled in plaintiff's favor. Game and game clock shall resume as soon as the protest is concluded.

NOTES:

1. P.O.I. means Point Of Interest.
2. Anything in *Red* is new for 2019.