



## 2009 SPRING SEASON – MAJOR DIVISION RULES

- Official Game:** 6 innings or Time Limit (whichever comes first).
- Time Limit:** No new inning can start after **1 hour, 50 minutes.**
- Pitching:** **SEE PITCH LIMITS BELOW.**
- Batting:** Everyone bats.
- Substitution:** Nine defensive players. No child sits twice until everyone on the team has sat once.
- Mercy Rule:** 12 runs after 3 ½ (visitor) or 4 (home) innings.
- Minimum Players:** 8 team players needed to start game. One player may be called up from Minors to make nine. Borrowed players must bat last and can play anywhere but pitcher and catcher. During the regular season, a team may call up the same player twice and, during the Playoffs, only once.
- Scoring:** Each team provides a scorekeeper. Verify scores with the umpire after each half-inning. Managers must submit scores to the Commissioner within 24 hours of the game.
- Field Maintenance:** Both teams are responsible for raking the infield, mound, home plate area and basepaths.

### Offense

- No limit to extra bases on an overthrow (whether to the pitcher or to a base).
- Bunting is allowed.
- Stealing is allowed but no leadoffs.
- Infield fly rule is in effect.
- A runner may tag up on a fly ball.
- If there are two outs and the catcher is on base, he/she **MUST** be substituted for by the player who made the last previous out to speed up play.
- One offensive time-out per inning.
- If a player leaves for any reason other than a legitimate injury during the game, the next time up in the batting order, he/she shall be considered out. This can only occur once in the game.

### Defense

- Maximum of 9 players. No player may sit twice until every other player has sat once.
- The catcher is NOT allowed to block home plate without the ball. There is no mandatory slide rule. If the catcher does not have the ball and is not blocking the plate, the runner does not have to slide.

### Coaches

- Up to three (3) adult coaches at least 18 years old are allowed in the dugout at any one time.
- Only managers may talk to the umpires. Managers may not argue or question an umpire's call but may ask for time to discuss a rule. A ZERO tolerance policy exists in manager interactions with the umpire.
- At the conclusion of the game, please gather your equipment and clean and vacate the dugout immediately. Prepare the field for the next game. If you choose to hold a post-game team meeting, please do so off the field so the next teams can get ready for their game.



### Safety

- No on-deck batters allowed.
- No child may hold a bat unless he/she is at the plate. Players may NOT take swings in the bullpen areas.
- All batters and runners must wear a batting helmet with a NOCSAE-approved face mask.
- Batting donuts, hitting sticks or other weight devices are not permitted at the complex.

### Pitching

- Pitch limit during **pre-season** games = **MAXIMUM OF 45 PITCHES** or **TWO** innings per pitcher per game.
- Pitch limit during **regular season** and **playoff games** = **MAXIMUM OF 60 PITCHES** or **THREE** innings per pitcher per game
- One pitch thrown constitutes an inning.
- The pitcher may complete an at bat without exceeding the pitch limit (i.e., pitcher must face a new batter with 44 pitches or less during the pre-season; 59 pitches or less during regular season or playoffs)
- Base umpire to keep track of pitch limit. Umpire's count is official, whether right or wrong.
- Intentional walks. If at any time during the count a manager wishes to intentionally walk a player, then the batter is immediately awarded the base. However, the number of balls remaining until ball four will count toward the pitch limit.
- A pitcher must be removed on the 2nd visit in an inning or a 3rd combined visit in the game.
- A maximum of eight (8) warm up pitches prior to each inning or for a relief pitcher during an inning. Warm up pitches DO NOT count toward the pitch limit.

*Last updated: March 31, 2009*