

# Bismarck Youth Baseball 2020 AAA Division Rules

## Rules Highlights

While Bismarck Youth Baseball generally follows the rule book published for the Cal Ripken Division of the Babe Ruth League, the Bismarck Youth Baseball Board has adopted a few variations to those rules. A summary of these rule variations for the AAA Division is provided below.

## The AAA Division

Designed for players 11 to 12 years of age. The players are placed in the level where they will have the best opportunity to achieve success based upon skills evaluation scores and coaching. Players rotate positions at the coach's discretion. Level of play is more competitive. Expectation is for players to attend all practices and games. Playing time will be affected by attitude and attendance. Each player will play a minimum of 9 defensive outs in a complete game.

## Batting Roster

The batting roster consists of all players present at the game. The inning is over after three outs occur. For the next inning, the batting lineup begins where it left off the previous inning. The batting roster cannot change during a game.

## Substitutions

The only substitution a coach must report to the umpire is a pitching substitution. Although we do not require coaches to report all field substitutions, **we expect each coach will strive to win by using all players fairly.**

## Games Forfeited

**If eight or more players are present at the game, the game is official, and no penalty outs will be called.** If seven or fewer players are present, the game is forfeited. An umpire will allow 10 minutes for a coach to produce eight players before declaring a game forfeited. When a game is forfeited, the teams and umpires are strongly encouraged to play for fun - in the spirit of good sportsmanship.

## On-Deck Batter

For safety reasons, the on-deck batter must stay in the dugout until the batter is done batting. After the batter is done, the on-deck batter should quickly approach the batter's box, take a practice swing, and step up to the plate. The on-deck batter must put the batting helmet on in the dugout and be ready to go. As a safety precaution, there should be no practice swings outside the field or in dugout. **Parents and Coaches, please discourage this as soon as you see a player begin to swing as serious injuries do and have occurred because a batter is swinging the bat where others can be hit.**

## Balk Rule

For league play in the AAA division, Bismarck Youth Baseball will not enforce the balk rule.

## Dugout

**Only players and coaching staff are allowed in the dugout or on the bench.** The coaching staff is limited to three adult coaches. **The home team dugout is along first base.**

## Base Coaching

Two adult coaches can serve as base coaches. A bench coach is recommended, but not necessary.

## Uniforms

Players must be in full league uniform. Full league uniform includes all items the League provides including: hat (faced forward unless catching), jersey (**tucked in**) belt, pants and socks. Since all these items are provided by the League, failure of a player to be in **full uniform including hat** will result in the inability to participate in the game. We encourage each team Coach or Coordinator to pick a solid color of t-shirt to wear under their jersey (i.e. white, black, red etc). **Players are not allowed to wear chains, watches, pins, etc.** No metal spikes are allowed. Injured players wearing casts are not allowed to participate.

**We require all catchers to wear a supporter with a protective cup.**

## Pitching

All players on the roster are eligible to pitch. Required days rest based on pitch count are as follows: 1-35 pitches require 1 day of rest, 35-70 pitches require 2 days of rest. There is a daily pitch maximum of 70 pitches. Pitch count regulations for travel baseball players carry over from any pitches thrown on a Saturday or Sunday of a travel tournament. In addition, a player may pitch a maximum of three (3) innings per game, and is limited to six (6) innings per week. The pitcher is required to pitch from the standard 50-foot distance. Pitching week for Bismarck Youth Baseball is Saturday - Friday. The re-entry rule is not recognized in Bismarck Youth Baseball regular league games. When a pitcher is removed from the pitching position they may not return to that position again in that game. **Bismarck Youth Baseball does not permit adults to warm-up pitchers before/during an inning. All pitchers should be warmed up using another player. Any player warming up the pitcher must wear a catcher's mask.**

The BYB Board of Directors may modify the pitching restrictions for local tournament play. If the pitching restrictions are modified, coaches will be notified.

## Game Time Limit

The first game will run from 5:30 PM to 7:15 PM, with no new inning starting after 7:00 PM. The teams playing the first game MUST be off the field by 7:15 PM. **No exceptions.** The second game will run from 7:30 PM to 9:15 PM with no new inning starting after 9:00 PM. There are NO LIGHTS at the Scheels Sports Complex. Regulation games are 6 innings or, 90 minutes, whichever comes first. It is a regulation game after four (4) innings. There is no 10-run rule, only the maximum innings or the time limit rule ends a game. In the case of tie games, the game ends in a tie.

## Scoring

During regular season games, teams are allowed to score a maximum of 6-runs per inning.

## Stealing

Stealing of any base (including home) is allowed, only after the ball crosses the plate. If a runner leaves early as determined by the field umpire, first offense per team is that the runner must return to the base and the team receives a warning. A second offense per team results in runner returning to the base and a called strike on the batter. With a two-strike count, the batter shall be declared out. A third offense per team results in the runner being called out. Leading off will not be allowed. **A runner may advance on any past ball, wild pitch or overthrow – with the exception of a throw-back to the pitcher from the catcher.**

## Umpires and Game Officials

Due to Bismarck Youth Baseball's struggle to provide volunteer umpires each year, the Board of Directors has implemented umpire guidelines for officiating AAA Division league games. **The consequence of not having sufficient Umpires to officiate a league game may result in a game forfeiture.**

Each AAA Division team will be required to provide two volunteer parents to serve as official league game umpires for the season. These two volunteers will alternate officiating games throughout the season. The consequence of not providing an Umpire at a league game will result in a game forfeiture. Each set of team umpires will share an equipment bag with the necessary equipment to officiate a league game. It will be the Umpire's responsibility to see that the bag is with the proper person each game.

**\*\* (New this season)** The home team's umpire will be positioned behind the pitcher's mound. The visiting team's umpire will umpire the bases. Each Umpire volunteer will be provided with an Umpire shirt and hat. **Each team is required to have at least one person attend the Umpire clinic PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SEASON.** At the clinic, we will review our league rules as well as other baseball rules you will need to know, and distribute the umpire bags.

If a team fails to produce at least one volunteer for umpire training that team's games will be forfeited until they confirm that they have two (2) properly trained volunteers (training from prior years is allowable). Head Coaches may not serve as one of the two volunteers. Assistant Coaches may serve as an Umpire volunteer; however they may NOT perform any coaching duties during any game they are officiating.

**Complaining and ridiculing the Umpires will NOT be tolerated at any of our games.** This is the remedy necessary for our League to have a sufficient number of Umpires to officiate games played throughout the season and through the playoffs.

The umpires are charged with the responsibility of game conduct and enforcing the league rules and regulations. **A coach cannot, under any condition, dispute an umpire call on the field in an argumentative fashion. Arguing with an umpire or with another coach, player or parent will NOT be tolerated and is grounds for removal from the game, and possibly from the program by the BYB Board of Directors.** An umpire's judgment call - good or bad - **is final** and is not eligible for protest. A judgment call includes calling balls, strikes, and outs. An umpire's call involving application of the rules is subject to protest. Consult your rulebook for the proper and respectful way to protest a call or a game. **Bismarck Youth Baseball, Incorporated has adopted a zero-tolerance policy regarding this matter.** See the Sportsmanship section for more details as to the official process of handling sportsmanship issues.

### **Sportsmanship**

Coaches are responsible for their own behavior, as well as the behavior of their Assistant Coaches, Players and Player parents/family members/spectators. If inappropriate behavior is observed by an umpire, or brought to an umpire's attention, the umpire will bring the two coaches together to determine which team is represented by the individual(s) exhibiting the behavior. The applicable coach will then give a warning to the individual(s). If the behavior continues after the warning, then the umpire will stop the game, and the applicable coach will be responsible for pulling the associated player off the field and asking the offending party, player and player family to leave the field. Play should not continue until this has occurred. **This is not an option for the coach to decide, this is the policy that must be followed.** BYB has a zero-tolerance for inappropriate sportsmanship, and all parents agreed to such at the time of registration. The Board will support any enforcement of this policy undertaken by the umpires and coaches.

Should the spectator, family member, player or coach partake in unsportsmanlike behavior at any future games, the player and family will be removed from the League by the Board of Directors, and future registrations will not be considered for siblings.

By the day after a warning or ejection is given, umpires/coaches should send an email summarizing the situation to [info@bismarckyouthbaseball.org](mailto:info@bismarckyouthbaseball.org). The BYB Executive Committee will consult with the appropriate Division Director and Director of Umpires to determine if any additional action is necessary. All documentation will be retained by the League for future reference.

*Please contact the AAA Division Director (Jim Patton – 701-400-4390) should you have any questions regarding rules for the AAA Division.*