

Bismarck Youth Baseball

2022 AA 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 AA Division is provided below.

The AA Division

Designed for players 9 years of age. Players rotate positions throughout the season. Regulation baseball rules are utilized. Scores are recorded but wins/losses do not affect tournament seeding.

Team Rosters

If a coach needs to add players to their roster during the season due to someone leaving the program, or they have repeated difficulty in fielding a team due to absentees, contact ***your division coordinator***. **All players added to teams during the season must be approved by the President and the Division Coordinator.**

Player's Attendance at Games and Practices

Without just reason as approved by the division director or player agent, a player must attend 85 percent of the games and practices, including playoffs. Failure to attend 85 percent of the games and practices may result in a player's ineligibility to participate. The determination as to whether a player should be found ineligible due to absentees cannot be made by a coach and must be made by the division director and player agent. Games may be played with 8 players (NO automatic out). No games may be played with less than 8 players.

Playing Time

Each team may field a maximum of 9 players on defense per each ½ inning of play. No extra fielders are allowed. Players who do not start in the field for the 1st game should start in the field for the next game, etc. A coach may reduce playing time for injuries, unexcused absences, or unacceptable behavior (e.g., throwing equipment, taunting, profane language, or other unsportsman-like conduct). Coaches will inform the umpire and opposing coach before the start of a game if a player will not be playing. Infield and Outfield rotation is recommended for all players; however, players will be rotated through positions they can perform to their best abilities. Equal playing time is encouraged but may be affected by player attitude and lack of attendance, and or, ability to play a skilled position, i.e. pitching, catching, or first base.

Batting Roster

Batting order is set at the beginning of the game and cannot be changed once the game starts. All players will be on the batting lineup regardless if they played in the field that ½ inning or not. If a player is injured, the next batter in the lineup bats for that player and the order continues, no out is recorded for the injured player. Each ½ inning will be 3 outs or a maximum of 6 runs scored, which ever happens first. For the next inning, the batting lineup begins where it left off the previous inning. Batting order should change every game. You need to create a lineup at the beginning of the season and whoever is on deck at the end of the game one day, becomes the leadoff hitter the next game. This ensures every player gets a chance to hit in every spot and it will also give all your players an equal number of at-bats for the season.

Legal Bats

Only bats with the USA Baseball Marking are legal. The bats with the stamp and up to a 2 5/8" Barrel Maximum are also legal. **NO BBCOR BATS.** <https://www.baberuthleague.org/bat-rules.aspx>

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 of the field or in the 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.

Substitutions

The only substitutions 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 PLAY BY USING ALL THE PLAYERS FAIRLY.**

AA Division Pitching

We will use the pitching machines for the first ½ of the season, with the players pitching the second ½. When using the machines, the batter will get 3 strikes from the machine. If the third strike is fouled off the batter continues until striking out or putting it in play. A coach from the team batting will run the machine.

In order to better develop the players at this level for both hitting and fielding there will be no walks once the players start to pitch. Once the fourth ball is thrown the coach from the team batting will step in and continue the at bat until the hitter puts the ball in play or strikes out. The pitcher will remain on the field and defend their position. Once the sequence is done the player will pitch to the next batter.

All players on the roster are eligible to pitch. A player may pitch a maximum of two (2) innings per game. If a pitcher delivers one (1) pitch in an inning, they shall be charged for one (1) inning pitched. The pitcher is required to pitch from the standard 46-foot distance. Pitching week for Bismarck Youth Baseball is Sunday – Saturday. The pitch count rule also applies to travel players who pitch in a tournament over a weekend; they will need to take the required rest days before pitching in a league game. 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. **Coaches can be used to warm-up pitchers before/during an inning. 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.

AA Division (9 years old)	Daily Pitch Maximum	1-day Rest Period	2-Day Rest Period
Max: 2 innings per game	60	1-24	25-60

Balk Rule

Cal Ripken does not enforce the balk rule.

Game Time Limit

The first game will run from 5:30PM to 7:15PM, 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

Teams can score a maximum of 6 runs per inning.

Stealing/Advancement

- Stealing of Second base **IS ALLOWED** after the pitch has crossed home plate – either directly or on a wild pitch or passed ball.
- Stealing of Third base or Home **IS NOT ALLOWED**, even on a wild pitch or passed ball.
- Leading off **IS NOT ALLOWED**. Runners must be on the base until the pitch crosses Home Plate.
- Batters **CANNOT** advance to 1st base on a dropped 3rd strike, they are out.
- Runners at Second or Third base **MAY NOT** advance on an overthrow by the catcher back to the pitcher.
- Runners at Second or Third base **MAY NOT** advance on an overthrow by the catcher on a steal of Second base.
- If the ball is not put into play, runners at Second or Third base must return to their respective bases before every pitch.
- Delayed Stealing **IS NOT ALLOWED** in the AA Division.
- Courtesy Runner **IS ALLOWED** for the catcher or an injured player. The runner must come from the bench, and if possible, it should be the player that made the last out.

Bunting

Bunting is allowed, whether for a base hit or a sacrifice.

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, earrings, watches, pins, etc.** No metal spikes are allowed. Injured players wearing casts are not allowed to participate. **We require all players to wear a supporter with a protective cup.**

Tournaments

The League will hold a season-end tournament for the AA Division. Bracket assignments are determined by a random drawing. Additional information will be provided as the season progresses.

Umpire Guidelines

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

Each AA 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. The Head Coach may keep the umpire bag with your equipment bag.

The home team's umpire can be positioned behind the pitcher's mound. If they want to umpire behind the plate, that is still the best way to do it. During the first half of the season when we are using the pitching machines, we will not need a home team umpire as the coach that is using the machine can determine if it was a strike or not. The **visiting team's** umpire will umpire the bases.

Each Umpire volunteer will be provided with an Umpire shirt. **Each volunteer is required to 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.

If a team fails to produce two volunteers for umpiring training that team's games will be forfeited until they have supplied two (2) properly trained volunteers. 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. 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.