

# BETHEL BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (BBA)

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## *2019 MINOR LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS*

### **1) Player Eligibility**

Player eligibility for BBA Minor League is determined as follows:

- a) The player must be a resident of the Municipality of Bethel Park; or, the player's legal guardian(s) must pay taxes to the Bethel Park School District at the beginning of the regular season.
- b) The player must complete an official registration form prior to the deadline for player registration; registrations received after the deadline may be rejected by the BBA Board of Directors (Board).
- c) The player must attain the age of seven (**7**) prior to May 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season; and, the player must not attain the age of nine (**9**) prior to May 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season.
- d) The player must not be a member of any other recreational, community-based, non-affiliated baseball league.
- e) Any player who has not reached the age of seven (**7**) prior to May 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season, but has completed a successful tryout with league officers. In order to be eligible for a tryout, the player must have completed at least one (1) year of BBA TBall.

### **2) Player Draft and Official Team Rosters**

- a) Roster size and Number of Teams. Prior to the player draft, the Minor League Commissioner (Commissioner) will set the number of teams so as to have a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 12 players on each team. The Board will appoint a Manager for each team.
- b) Annual Player Draft. Prior to each season, the Commissioner will conduct a player draft. Managers will select players for their team according to the draft format established by the Commissioner. All players will be drafted each season. Second-year players will not remain with their previous-year team. The draft format shall be designed to result in evenly competitive teams.
  - i. Every player who played BBA Minor or BBA TBall baseball the previous year received an end-of-year evaluation from his/her manager and/or the BBA Board. Summary information from the manager evaluations will be made available to selecting Managers to aid in the draft process. Live pre-season "tryouts" or evaluation sessions will not be held. Players who did not play BBA baseball the previous season will not be evaluated.
  - ii. The child(ren) of a manager must be selected by the Manager in draft rounds commensurate with the draft format.
    - a) Any Manager who does not wish to have his child(ren) on his team must make this known to the Commissioner in advance of the draft; and the Commissioner must inform the other Managers that this child is eligible to be selected by any team.
    - b) Unless condition (i), immediately above applies, the child(ren) of a Manager may not be selected by any other Manager.
    - c) Siblings will be drafted together. Any team that selects a player with an eligible sibling(s) immediately and automatically uses subsequent picks to select the sibling(s). The

Commissioner shall ensure that groups of siblings are selected prior to the final draft round to avoid roster size imbalances.

- d) If the parents or guardians of the siblings wish for the players to be on different teams, they must make this known to the Commissioner prior to the draft, in which case the siblings will be drafted separately.

### 3) Player Participation

- a) Only officially rostered players may participate in a BBA Minor League game. Calling up of BBA TBall players is not permitted.
- b) A game may not be started unless both teams have at least 8 players present
- c) Late arriving players must be present prior to the conclusion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning in order to play. They must be inserted at the end of the batting order; and they must play at least 1 defensive inning
- d) All players present and eligible will bat in a continuous order for the entire game.
- e) Players may be freely substituted on defense
- f) Players present at the beginning of the game must play a minimum of 5 defensive innings (unless the game is called early on account of weather or darkness, and qualifies as a complete game)
  - i. Of the 5 defensive innings, a minimum of 3 must be played at an infield position
  - ii. Of the 5 defensive innings, a minimum of 2 must be played at an outfield position
- g) No player may be kept on the bench for a second defensive inning until all players have spent one defensive inning on the bench.
- h) BBA permits participation by league players in affiliated, non-recreational spring leagues such as the West Penn League and the Pittsburgh Metro Baseball league. However, BBA Minor League games take precedent over affiliated league games. Any player or Manager who misses a BBA Minor League game to participate in an affiliated league game is subject to the following penalties:
  - i. Managers: Any Manager violating is ineligible to manage a Travel team for the current year, and ineligible to manage any BBA team the following year
  - ii. Players: Any player who plays in less than 50% of the BBA games is in violation of item (h) resulting in a suspension from the affiliated team for the remainder of the season, is ineligible to play BBA travel baseball in the current year, and is ineligible for an affiliated spring team the following year.

### 4) Equipment

- a) Catchers must wear shin guards, chest protector, and a helmet-mask with throat protector
- b) Pitchers-helper position must wear a helmet with facemask and a heart guard, no exceptions.
- c) A standard number 1074 baseball or equivalent shall be used for games
- d) Metal-cleated shoes are not permitted
- e) USA Baseball Approved bats are recommended to be used, but not required
- f) Maximum bat barrel diameter
  - i. 2 ¼ inches if using USSSA 1.15BPF bat
  - ii. 2 5/8 inches if using USA Baseball-Approved Bat
- g) All USA Baseball stamped bats, including composite, hybrid, and alloy, no matter the size or weight, are permitted and approved for use for all ages of BBA recreational baseball.
  - i. Wood bats and full-metal bats are permitted

- h) A player and the player's Manager are deemed to be in violation of the composite-barrel bat rule if the player steps into the batting box with a composite-barrel bat. Whenever a violation occurs, both Managers must notify the Commissioner within 24 hours. Penalties for the composite-barrel bat rule are as follows: (Second and third violations are for violations occurring during the same season as the first violation)
- i. Penalties against the Manager:
    - a) **First violation:** A warning will be issued to the Manager (However, there will be no Manager violation if the offending player's Manager identifies the violation during player's at bat)
    - b) **Second violation:** The Manager will be ejected from the current game and will receive an additional 1-game suspension. The second violation need not be committed by the same player that committed the first violation
    - c) **Third violation:** The Manager will be ejected from the current game and will receive an additional 3-game suspension. The Manager will be ineligible for a BBA managerial position for the remainder of the current year and the entirety of the following year.
    - d) If a violation occurs during a game in which the Manager is not present; it shall count as a violation nonetheless
  - ii. Penalties against the Player:
    - a) **First violation:** Batter is out and ejected from the current game and receives an additional 1-game suspension
    - b) **Second violation:** Batter is out and ejected from the current game and receives an additional 3-game suspension. The player is furthermore ineligible for Travel Baseball during the year in which the second violation occurred, and is ineligible for any BBA-affiliated non-recreational teams, such as West Penn or Metro teams, the following year.
    - c) **Third violation:** Batter is out and ejected from the current game and receives a suspension for the remainder of the current year and the entirety of the following year. The suspension applies to any and all BBA or BBA-affiliated teams.

## 5) Playing Rules and Regulations

All Minor League contests shall be conducted and played according to the latest playing rules and regulations set forth in the Little League Baseball Rule Book, except as follows:

- a) No player is permitted in the coaching boxes. Occupants of the coaching boxes must be coaches or non-player representatives designated by the manager
- b) Weather and daylight permitting, both halves of all six innings shall be played, regardless of score
- c) Extra innings (beyond 6) will not be played to break ties during the regular season
- d) The defensive team shall consist of not more than 10 and not less than 8 players
- e) At no time is a rover permitted. A rover is an outfielder who plays behind and within 20 feet of 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
  - i. Any outfielder must play at least 20' beyond the dirt infield
- f) There are no balls/called strikes
- g) There are no walks
- h) Cleanly missed swings are strikes; foul balls are strikes when there are fewer than two strikes in the count
- i) Upon strike three, batter is out. There is no dropped third strike rule. Batters are out on strike three, whether the catcher fields the pitch cleanly or not

- j) All players will receive up to **eight (8) pitches per at bat**. If the eighth or any subsequent pitch is fouled off, the player may receive an additional pitch
- k) Batting tees will no longer be used for any player in BBA Minor league
- l) Bunting is not permitted
- m) Batted balls that come to rest in fair territory within 10 feet of home plate (as marked by arc centered on home plate) are considered foul balls
- n) Pinch runners are permitted for injured base runners. The pinch runner shall be the last player to make an out
- o) Leading off or stealing a base is not permitted. Runners must remain on base until the ball is put in play by the batter
- p) For plays at any base, the runner must slide or otherwise avoid contact with a field attempting a putout on a runner. Contact is permitted as long as the runner slides prior to contact. Sliding is not required if the runner successfully avoids contact. Failure to slide or avoid contact will result in the runner being called out.
  - i. Head first slides are not permitted when advancing to a base; runners sliding head first to a base will be called out. Runners returning to a base may slide head first.
- q) Runners who have left the base and make contact with a fielder attempting a play on a batted ball are guilty of interference and will be called out
- r) The Infield Fly rule is not in effect
- s) The defensive team may have 2 coaches positioned in the outfield
- t) Infield Possession (Dead ball in Infield) occurs when an infielder has possession of the ball in the infield (the dirt) in fair territory.
- u) There is a **five (5) run scoring limit per inning**. Once the batting team scores five runs, the inning is over. Additional runs scoring (Continuation Scoring) on the same play with the fifth run do not count.
- v) An **unlimited amount of runs can be scored in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning** or until the fielding team records 3 outs.
- w) There is no 10 run rule that stops a league game early, but a maximum run differential received for either team per game is (+/-) 10 runs
- x) Throwing of helmets and bats is not permitted. One team warning shall be issued on the first occurrence of a player throwing a bat or helmet. Any subsequent violation will result in the offending player being called out.
- y) Coach pitchers must pitch overhand from within the designated pitching circle
- z) Coaches from each team's games will act as umpires for the regular season.

## 6) Grievances

- a) From time to time incidents may occur wherein disputes within the Association will require resolution to restore harmony and well-being to the organization. Accordingly, the Board of Directors has established a "Grievance Committee" that will bear the responsibility of resolving disputes pertaining to the players, managers, coaches, and parents in the opinion of the Commissioner, warrant committee action.
- b) Grievances shall be submitted in writing, within 72 hours of the event causing the grievance, to the Commissioner, who will take the grievance to the Grievance Committee.

## 7) Ground Rules

- a) Field dimensions for Minors League are as follows:
  - i. 40' from the back tip of home plate to the center of the pitcher's circle
  - ii. The pitchers circle shall have a diameter of 10' (radius of 5')
  - iii. 60 feet between bases ("permanent" bases are installed at all 'MINORS' fields)

- iv. Fair/Foul line 10' from back tip of home plate/marked by arc
- b) A fair ball bouncing over, going under, or sticking in an outfield fence is a ground rule double.
  - i. Where no fence is present, a fair ball leaving the field and entering an unmaintained area is out of play, and is ruled a ground rule double, whether the player retrieves the ball or not. (all players move 2 bases)
- c) A fair ball over the fence is a home run, whether or not touched by an outfielder.
  - i. Batted ball hit into weeds in outfield on a fly is a Home Run (Park Ave)
- d) Overthrown balls that go out of play are dead. Runners are entitled only to the current base. There is no advancement to the next base.
- e) If the player reaches the previous base prior to a "Dead Ball in the infield", he is entitled (at his own discretion) to advance to the next base.
- f) Only Managers, coaches, and players are permitted to be on the bench, in the dugout, and in batter warm-up areas.
- g) Pre-game warm-ups:
  - i. Home team 15 minutes starting 30 minutes before game time
  - ii. Away team 15 minutes starting 15 minutes before game time
- h) Any batted ball that hits a coach in fair territory is considered a dead ball.
  - i. Pitch does not count
  - ii. All runners must return to their bases

## 8) Championship Playoff Tournament

- a) All Minor League Teams are eligible to participate in the Championship Playoff Tournament (Playoffs) following the regular season
- b) The format for the Playoffs will be determined by the League Commissioner, who will submit the plan to the Board for approval prior to the end of the regular season. The format must be communicated to the league Managers upon approval
  - i. Within the approved format, seeding will be determined by the final regular season standings
  - ii. To break ties in the season standings, the following tiebreakers will be applied:
    - a. Head-to-head record
    - b. Division record (only if divisions were set by commissioner prior to start of season)
    - c. Run differential in head to head contents (max of +/- 10 runs per contest)
    - d. Coin flip
- c) Extra innings will be used to decide tied games, weather and light permitting
- d) Umpires of Playoff games will be BBA Youth Umpires
- e) A determination of how suspended playoff games will be decided must be part of the Playoff format that is approved and communicated to the Managers prior to the end of the regular season. The determination must address:
  - i. Whether or not the complete game criteria used for regular season games to playoff games. This may change according to playoff round (e.g. quarterfinals, semifinals, etc..)
  - ii. The specific procedures for suspension and continuation of playoff games

## 9) Miscellaneous

- a) Each manager is required to assign a “Team Manager”. The Team Manager’s primary responsibility is to collect 50/50 money for each of their team’s home games. A BBA Board member will contact each team manager prior to the season to instruct them how to post the funds collected on the BBA website and collect the money at the end of the season.
- b) 50/50 drawing is to be conducted by the HOME team of each scheduled BBA Minors league game (including PLAYOFFS).
- c) Each manager must provide a list of player eligible for JRLI call ups to MINORS commissioner prior to the start of the regular season. These players MUST be 8 years old prior to April 30 of the current year.
  - i. Called up players to JRLI are not eligible to Pitch
  - ii. Called up players to JRLI cannot miss a MINORS game to play in JRLI
  - iii. Called up players to JRLI must play a minimum of 3 defensive innings
  - iv. Called up players to JRLI will be last in the lineup
  - v. Call ups to JRLI are not permitted for JRLI playoffs
- d) Each manager can select an “Assistant Coach” prior to the draft. This coach and his son/daughter will automatically be placed on his team.

## 10) Security Clearances

All parents associated with the team MUST have all the required security clearances. This includes team manager, all assistant coaches, and scorekeeper. If you have an active volunteer badge from your child’s elementary school, this is sufficient. The BBA will need a copy of that badge on record.

## 11) Intra-League All-Star Game

- a) One All-Star Game will be conducted; one for players aged 8 prior to April 30th of the current season
- b) The All Star Game is typically held on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.
- c) The specific structure and format of the All-Star games will be determined by the Commissioner, who will submit a plan to the Board for approval.
- d) Players representing their teams will be selected by a vote of their teammates.
  - i. Managers will prepare ballots and distribute them to the team.
  - ii. The team Business Manager will collect the ballots and tally them.
  - iii. The Manager will observe the tallying of ballots by the Business Manager.
  - iv. The Manager will break any ties.
  - v. The Business Manager will report the results to the Commissioner.
- e) All-Star team managers will be designated by the Commissioner. Traditionally, these will be the managers of the teams leading in the season standings as of a predetermined date shortly before the All-Star game. Other Managers may serve as coaches at the pleasure of the All-Star team Manager.
- f) All-Star team participants must play at least 4 defensive innings.

## 12) Awards

- a) Trophies for the winning team in the Playoffs
- b) Trophies for the runner-up team in the Playoffs
- c) Participation trophies to remaining league players
- d) Trophies to all players elected to the All Star Game

## 13) Updates

Last Update 1/1/18 EP

USA Baseball bat info