

Majors Division Rules

Please have players arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the game.

Teams must start with a minimum of 9 players.

In the event that a team is waiting for a 9th player, that team will become the Visiting team. Once that team takes the field to play defense and still do not have 9 players, the game will then be forfeited. Play can continue from that point as a scrimmage style game by the coaches' discretion. Final Score will be recorded as a forfeit score of 8 – 0.

- Umpires – We'll attempt to provide paid umpires to as many games as possible
 - o Always treat umpires with respect
- Coaches can umpire games from the field if needed
 - o Fielding Team's coach will call balls and strikes from behind the mound
 - o Batting Team's coach will call plays made on the bases
 - o Be sure to provide a positive experience for the players and call fairly
- Visiting team bats first
- Home team keeps the official Scorebook
 - o Visiting team should also keep score but Home Scorebook governs if discrepancy cannot be resolved.
- 5 run limit per team per inning
- Games are 6 innings or 1:40 time limit (Set Clock to 1:20)
 - o Time Clocks are now provided. Time will start on the first pitch of the game.
 - o Once the alarm is sounded on the clock, the current inning will be completed and the next inning will be the last inning.
 - o An inning starts the moment the final out was made in the previous inning
- Open scoring during the final inning (no 5 run limit)
 - o Final inning is either the 6th inning or any inning that starts with less than 20 minutes remaining (at 1:20 or later). The Umpire will announce the last inning.
 - o If the home team is behind by more than 5 runs, they will bat first in the last inning. This prevents the leading team from scoring many runs during the open inning and making the margin even wider. In this case, the visiting team will bat last only if the home team takes a lead in the top of the inning.
- Ties are allowed for regular season games
- Home team needs to enter score at the end of the game to **norfolkrecbaseball@gmail.com**
- Pitch from 50' / 70' Bases
- Open Stealing
 - o Base runners can lead off and advance on a dropped 3rd strike
- Umpires will call balks at their discretion
 - o 1 balk warning per pitcher
 - o Base runners on 3rd can't be balked home
- Home is closed
 - o Players can't steal home on a passed ball or wild pitch or throw by the catcher intended for the pitcher
 - o Runners can attempt to advance home during any other play including a catcher trying to throw a runner out at second (the ball is live and in play during that situation)
- Hitters, base runners and on deck batters must wear batting helmets
- Pitch count limits

- o Rest time is Calendar days, not 24 hours from the time the last pitch was made.
- If a pitcher pitches less than 50 pitches, then 1 calendar day of rest are required.
- If a pitcher pitches 50 pitches or more, then 2 calendar days of rest are required. That means if he pitched on Monday, then no pitching on Tuesday and no pitching on Wednesday - Eligibility is fully reinstated on Thursday
- Strict 75 pitch limit for any pitcher in any game
 - o Pitch limits are in place to protect pitchers. This means all pitches thrown competitively - including Select level baseball - must be accounted for.
 - o Pitchers that throw 51 pitches or more cannot play catcher that day
- Substitution rules
 - o Batters do not have to take the same place in the lineup. They are not allowed to reenter in the lineup until their replacements have had an at bat. This means they must sit out one full lineup rotation before they can reenter.
- Mandatory play
 - o All players must bat once
 - o All players must play 2 innings in the field
 - o If playing time requirements are not met during a regulation game, players that didn't meet limits must start the following game and stay in until limits are met for the game as well as unmet requirements from previous game. (If Adam did not bat and played one inning in the field in previous rained out game, then Adam will start the following game and will bat a minimum of two times and play a minimum of three innings in the field)
 - o There is no penalty for a team if players do not meet minimum playing time limits during a rained out or otherwise shortened game.
- Players that didn't play must start the following game
- Players should be rotated in such a way that their playing time requirements would have been met if the game had been completed.
 - o Extra hitter(s) are allowed during regular season and recommended but not required
- Major League games that are rained out will be made up in place of scheduled practice times subject to availability.

End of Season Tournament Modifications - Majors Division

- A winning team must be determined - Ties are not allowed
 - o 6 innings or 1:40 time limit
 - o Final inning is either the 6th inning or any inning that starts with less than 10 minutes remaining (at 1:20 or later). Umpire will announce last inning.
- Extra hitters will not be allowed - 9 batters in the lineup
- Pitch counts strictly enforced
- The Tournament will be seeded based on regular season results.