

Minors 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
 - Always treat umpires with respect
- Coaches can umpire games from the field if needed
 - Fielding Team's coach will call balls and strikes from behind the mound
 - Batting Team's coach will call plays made on the bases
 - Be sure to provide a positive experience for the players and call fairly
- Visiting team bats first
- Home team keeps the official Scorebook
 - Visiting team should also keep score but the Home Scorebook governs if discrepancy cannot be resolved.
- 5 run limit per team per inning
- Games are 5 innings or 1:20 time limit (Set Clock to 1:00)
 - Time Clocks are now provided. Time will start on the first pitch of the game.
 - Once the alarm is sounded on the clock, the current inning will be completed and the next inning will be the last inning.
 - An inning starts the moment the final out was made in the previous inning
- Open scoring during the final inning (no 5 run limit)
 - Final inning is either the 5th inning or any inning that starts with less than 20 minutes remaining (at 1:00 or later). Umpire will announce the last inning.
 - 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 the 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 norfolkrebaseball@gmail.com
- Pitch from 46' / 65' Bases
- Stealing Limited to only passed balls or wild pitches.
 - No leading off
 - No balks
 - Any dropped ball by the catcher or ball bounced in the dirt by the pitcher will allow any base runner to steal (except home - see below)
 - No dropped 3rd strike rule in Minor Division - The batter will be called out on 3rd strike even if it is a dropped 3rd strike

- Home is closed
 - Players can't steal home on a passed ball or wild pitch or throw by the catcher intended for the pitcher
 - 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
 - Rest time is Calendar days, not 24 hours from the time the last pitch was made.
 - If a pitcher pitches less than 40 pitches, then 1 calendar day of rest is required.
 - If a pitcher pitches 40 pitches or more, then 2 calendar days of rest are required. That means if he pitched 41 pitches on Tuesday, then no pitching on Wednesday and no pitching on Thursday - Eligibility is fully reinstated on Friday.
 - Strict 60 pitch limit for any pitcher in any game.
 - **Pitch limits are in place to protect the pitcher.** This means all pitches thrown competitively - including Select level baseball – must be accounted for.
 - Pitchers that throw 41 pitches or more cannot play catcher that day.
- Substitution rules
 - 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 re-enter.
- Mandatory play
 - All players must bat once.
 - All players must play 2 innings in the field.
 - 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 the previous game. (If Adam did not bat and played one inning in the field in the 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.)
 - 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.
 - Extra hitter(s) are allowed during the regular season and recommended but not required.
- Minor League games that are rained out will be made up in place of scheduled practice times and subject to availability.

● **End of Season Tournament Modifications - Minors Division**

- All Minor League Playoff Games are 5 innings or 1:20 time limit
 - Final inning is either the 5th inning or any inning that starts with less than 20 minutes remaining (at 1:00 or later). Umpire will announce last inning.
- A winning team must be determined - Ties are not allowed

- Extra hitters will not be allowed - 9 batters in the lineup
- Pitch counts strictly enforced
- Tournament will be seeded based on regular season results.