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Important League Dates & Details

April 2nd

- Rookie League 11U, 13U & Jr. RBI (15U) Roster completed on global drive
- Agency Rosters due to Youth Sports

April – 6th

- Coaches Clinic ~ 6:30 p.m.
- Logan Park ~ 370.4927
- 690 – 13th Ave. N.E.

April 24

- Scheduled Games Begin
- Coaches who have registered for the Play Ball! MN Conference will not have games scheduled this date.

May 6th, 7th & 8th

- MPRB Diamonds Tournament
- All teams in the MPRB leagues will participate in this tournament

May 14th

- Final roster completed on global drive
- Tournament entries due on global drive
- Sr. RBI Roster completed on global drive

May 24th

- Sr. RBI coaches meeting

June 1st

- Summer rosters completed on global drive

June 7th

- 18U Sr. RBI Games Begin

June 12th, 14th & 15th

- Invitational Tournament Dates

June 21st

- Scheduled summer games begin

July 26th – July 29th

- Invitational Tournament Dates

MPRB Tournaments

- MPRB Diamonds Tournament will be a tournament for all league teams
- The MPRB invitational tournament will be held at the end of the season (optional for teams)

Coaches Certification

Coaches must be MPRB certified to coach a MPRB team. Please contact your center director for details.

Age Waivers

Contact your Park Director for Age Waiver Policy information.

Game Specifications

Division	Ball Size	Regulation Game	Pitching Distance	Base Line
Rookie Lg. 11U	11"	6 Innings	35 Feet	60 Feet
Rookie Lg. 13U	12"	6 Innings	40 Feet	60 Feet
Jr. RBI 15U	12"	7 Innings	40 Feet	60 Feet
Sr. RBI 18U	12"	7 Innings	40 Feet	60 Feet

Called Games

Division	Size of Lead	At End Of:
Rookie Lg. 11U & 13u	10 runs	5 Innings
Jr. RBI 15U	10 runs	5 Innings
Sr. RBI 18U	10 runs	5 Innings

1. **Rookie League 11U, 13U, Jr. RBI 15U & Sr. RBI 18u** - No new inning will begin **1 hour 50 minutes** after the actual start of game.
2. A team must have 8 players in the field to begin the game or the game shall be declared a forfeited. A team which fails to show up for two consecutive games will automatically be dropped from the league.
3. Games are considered official at ½ of scheduled innings, unless the home team is behind, in which case the home team must complete its half inning. There will be no extra innings, games will remain a tie.
4. Games will be delayed once lightning has been spotted. Games may be re-started when / if weather conditions improve. If a game is not continued due to bad weather and has not completed the number of innings necessary to become a complete game, the game will be cancelled.

Game Cancellation Policy

1. Games will **not** be rescheduled due to non-weather related conflicts.
 - a. Two games have been added to the schedule to guarantee the minimum number of games. A team's first two games cancelled due to bad weather will not be rescheduled. Additional cancellations due to weather will be rescheduled.
 - b. **If make-up games are needed**, the teams involved should work with their park director(s) to determine a make up date. Once a date and field have been secured, the park director will contact the league director to request an umpire.

Equipment

1. A catcher must wear a protective helmet with full ear protection (hockey style helmet), throat protector, chest protector and shin guards.
Penalty: Correction must be made for player to participate.
2. Tennis shoes or shoes with molded cleats are mandatory. Players wearing sandals, or attempting to play barefoot will not be allowed to play.
 - a. Rookie League 11U & 13U – Metal spikes are **not** allowed
 - b. Jr. & Sr. RBI (15U & 18U) – Metal spikes are allowed
3. All batters, on deck batters, runners & player/coaches will be required to wear approved protective helmets with facemasks.
Penalty: Correction must be made for a player to participate.
4. Only bats labeled "Official ASA Softball" may be used.

Equipment Cont'd

5. Jewelry – Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous must be removed and may not be worn during the game. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body so the medical alert information remains visible. ASA Rule 3, Section 6, F

MPRB League Rules: All Divisions

Rookie League 11U, Rookie League 13U, Jr. RBI (15U) & Sr. RBI (18U) Divisions use Fast Pitch Rules published by the ASA (Amateur Softball Association) with Park Board modifications listed in this bulletin.

1. Maximum Roster Size: 20 (Spring & Summer)
2. **Batting Order** – The batting order shall include all players in uniform, and they will bat in this order throughout the game. Late arrivals will be added to the bottom of the batting order. If for any reason a player has to leave the game that position in the batting order will be left blank.
3. **Participation / Substitution** – All players in uniform must play a minimum of two complete innings (6 outs) in the field, before the start of the last inning. Defensive substitution shall be unlimited including the pitcher up to the maximum number of innings / outs allowed.
Penalty: Game Forfeit
4. **No pinch-running**-A base runner who is injured will be replaced w/ the player who was last put out.
5. Coaches have the authority to withhold a player from competition for disciplinary reasons. They must inform the umpire and opposing coach prior to the start of the game.
6. A runner is out when she does not attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag, or if she maliciously runs into a fielder. Malicious contact will also result in the offender being ejected from the game.
7. The home team will occupy the third base bench. Home team will be determined by coin flip.
8. Team benches will only be occupied by the team players and certified coaches.
9. Infield Fly Rule will be called at all levels.
10. Pitch according to the ASA fast pitch / MN State H.S. league rules. A windmill rotation is not required.
11. The Balk Rule will be called
12. **Foul Tip Definition** – A foul tip is a batted ball, which goes directly from the bat, not higher than the batter's head, to the catcher's hand(s) or glove, and is legally caught by the catcher. It is not a catch if it is a rebound unless the ball first touched the catcher's hand(s) or glove and does not touch the ground, batter or umpire.
Effect – The ball is in play and runners may advance with liability to be put out. The batter is out if it is the third strike.
13. There is NO inning limit that a softball pitcher may pitch.
14. A starting or substitute pitcher must pitch until a batter completes her turn at bat or until the side is out (whichever occurs first).

Speed Up Rules

Starting pitchers – At the beginning of each half inning, or when a pitcher relieves another, not more than one minute may be used to deliver not more than five pitches. Play shall be suspended during this time. For excessive warm-up pitches, a pitcher shall be penalized by awarding a ball to

the batter for each pitch in excess of five. This does not apply if the umpire delays the start of play due to substitution, conference, injuries, or other umpire responsibilities. A pitcher returning to pitch in the same half inning will not receive warm-up pitches. There is no limitation as to the number of times a player can return to the pitching position as long as the player is legally in the game. (ASA Rules)

Courtesy Runner - At any time, the team at bat may use a courtesy runner for the catcher or the pitcher. A courtesy runner must be the player who was last put out. A player who violates the courtesy-runner rule is considered to be an illegal substitute. Should an injury, illness or ejection occur to the courtesy runner, he/she must be replaced with the player who was last put out.

Rules of Play by Division

League Rules: Rookie League 11U

1. **Ten players** are allowed in the field at any one time.
2. **New 2010** ~ Stealing will **not** be allowed.
3. Runners on third may only advance on a batted ball or forced walk home.
4. Once the pitcher has the ball in her glove, & is within 6 feet of the rubber, the umpire may call Time Out - preventing any base runners from advancing.
5. 5-Run per inning rule (In effect for the first 5 innings of the game). The half inning will end after 3 outs are made or 5 runs have been scored, whichever comes first. This rule will be waived in the fifth inning OR the last inning (which will be announced by the umpire).
6. On a dropped 3rd strike, the batter is out.
7. On a walk, the batter-runner is awarded 1st base only.
8. Base runners must return immediately to their bases unless the ball is put into play.
9. The Regulation Fast Pitch &/or Modified Pitch will be allowed for 11U.
 - a. A legal modified pitch is a flat pitch delivered with a limited wind-up. (ASA Rule Book)
10. If a pitcher delivers an illegal pitch & the batter hits the ball (fair or foul) or becomes a base runner, the coach of the team at bat shall have the option of the result of the play or the penalty for the illegal pitch.

League Rules: Rookie League 13U

1. **5-Run per inning rule** (In effect for the first 5 innings of the game). The half inning will end after 3 outs are made or 5 runs have been scored, whichever comes first. This rule will be waived in the sixth inning OR the last inning (which will be announced by the umpire).

Rookie Minor League Rules

1. Follow Rookie League 13U rules w/ the below exception.
 - a. The regulation fast pitch &/or the modified pitch will be allowed.

League Rules: Rookie League 13U, JR. RBI (15U) & Jr. RBI (18U)

1. **Nine players** are allowed in the field at any one time.

* MPRB League Director(s) reserve the right to make additions &/or changes for the betterment of the program.

Registration

- 1. MPRB Teams:** Team must be registered on an official MPRB youth sports roster form. District Supervisors, Park Directors and Coaches will sign rosters. The coach/parent must submit birth certificates, baptismal certificate, immunization card, certificate from school administration, etc. to Center Director for age verification. 80% of the team roster must live within the Minneapolis city limits.
- 2. Outside Agency Teams:** Agencies are welcome to participate in Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board youth sports leagues. Agencies must submit an agency application form and rosters directly to the appropriate League Director in the MPRB office. Proof of age must accompany each player on the roster. These documents may be one of the following: birth certificates, baptismal certificate, immunization card, certificate from school administration. 80% of the team roster must live within the Minneapolis city limits.
- 3. Age Waivers:** Coaches and/or parents wishing to waive a player to another age division must contact their park director for information on this policy.
- 4. Roster size:** Any deviation from this rule must be approved by the League Director. Please see specific sport rules for roster size limit.

Eligibility, Protest, Suspensions & Restrictions

1. Jewelry Restriction

During games and practices, all jewelry, such as rings, watches, bracelets (including friendship), earrings of any kind (including starters), chains or necklaces are illegal. Any player who fails to remove his or her jewelry may not participate until it is removed.

- a. Please delay your daughter's/son's first ear piercing until after the conclusion of their sports season so that they can enjoy both the game and wearing earrings.

2. Eligibility

- a. **Age:** All participants listed on the roster must fall between the correct age guidelines and/or completed the appropriate age waiver.
- b. **Assumed Name:** A player must register under their legal birth name.
- c. **Multiple Teams:** Players may register with one MPRB youth team. Transfer from one team to another will not be permitted after a player has played in a scheduled game.
- d. **Middle School & High School:** Check with your high school and/or middle school to confirm your eligibility, if you are playing on both a MPRB team and a school team.

3. Protests

- a. Only player eligibility protests will be allowed.
- b. The coach must request the protest during the game to the official/umpire.
- c. The player in question must sign the official scorebook/card with name, address & birth date. Refusal of a player to comply with the request will be considered proof that the player is ineligible; resulting in forfeiture of game.
- d. Coaches must submit eligibility protest in writing to their Park Director and League Director, no later than 2 working days (48 hours) after completion of the protested game.
- e. This procedure must be followed to prove that a player actually participated in the game. If both teams use ineligible players, both teams will be given a loss and the game will not be replayed.

4. Suspension

- a. Any player fighting will be suspended from that game and will be suspended for:
 - i. First Offense: Next three games
 - ii. Second Offense: The remainder of the season
- b. Please see specific sport rules for Game Disqualification details.
- c. Any player or coach who physically assaults an official will be suspended indefinitely. Further disciplinary action up to and possibly including a permanent suspension from MPRB coaching/playing shall be determined by the MPRB youth sports panel.
- d. A player that is ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior will also be suspended from that game and the next regular season or tournament game.

4. Eligibility, Protest & Suspension Offenses

A player that is proved to play on two MPRB teams, using an assumed name, participating in the wrong age division and/or playing while under suspension will cause a loss of game(s) in which the player participated. The ineligible player will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

6. Head decoration and headwear

The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board may on an individual basis allow a player to participate while wearing a head covering if it meets the following criteria:

- i. For medical or cosmetic reasons – In the event a participant is required by a licensed medical physician to cover his/her head with a covering or wrap, a physician's statement is required before the MPRB can approve a covering or wrap which is not abrasive, hard or dangerous to any other player and which is attached in such a way it is highly unlikely that it will come off during play.
- ii. For religious reasons – In the event there is documented evidence provided to the MPRB that a participant may not expose his/her uncovered head, the MPRB may approve a covering or wrap which is not abrasive, hard or dangerous to any other player and which is attached in such a way it is highly unlikely it will come off during play.

*** MPRB League Directors reserve the right to make additions and/or changes for the betterment of the program.**

Coaches Certification

The MPRB is creating and implementing a new user friendly certification process for all coaches. The new certification program will be in place for Fall 2006. It is required that all coaches participate in the process to be eligible to coach in a MPRB Youth Sports Program. Please contact your local recreation center director for details about the certification program.

Sportsmanship Code For Spectators

The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board is taking a serious approach to ensuring that youth participating in our athletic programs have a safe, healthy, and positive environment in which to play and develop their skills.

Please adhere to the following Sportsmanship Code while attend MPRB youth athletic events:

- Keep cheering positive
- Respect the opposing team and fans
- Learn and understand the rules of the game
- Respect the judgment of the officials

(Even if you disagree with them)

- Accept winning or losing with dignity

Examples of Unsportsmanlike Behavior

- Disrespectful or derogatory yells or gestures (such as pointing and chanting “you, you, you”)
- Loud negative reaction to officials’ calls
- Distracting players attempting free throws by yelling or stomping your feet
- Swearing
- Coming on the playing field/court at any time
- Chants or yells with inappropriate content (racial, sexual, or gender connotations)
- Degrading yells about a player’s body size or shape
- Degrading yells about a player’s lack of skill or ability
- Encouraging players to inflict injury on other players
- Throwing objects onto the field/court
- Arguing with coaches, officials or other fans

If a spectator exhibits behavior that is inappropriate or unsportsmanlike, the staff person will hand the spectator a card that reads:

We appreciate your attendance at this youth sports event.
Our participants need your positive support and encouragement.
Abusive or unsportsmanlike behavior towards players, coaches or fans
Will not be tolerated.
If your behavior continues, we will stop the game
Until you leave the premises.

*If a spectator consistently uses unacceptable behavior, MPRB staff will stop the game until the person leaves the premises. If a spectator refuses to leave the premises, the officials will declare the game to be over.

Inclusion Statement

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all Minneapolis Park and Recreation services, programs and activities.

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or computer disk.

If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, affectional preference, disability, marital status, or status with regard to public assistance he or she may file a complaint alleging to discrimination with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board 612-230-6400, or 2117 West River Rd. Minneapolis, MN 55411.