

# MUNY AA- Buffalo MSBL Baseball League Playing Rules – 2024



- 1 General
  - 1.1 All moneys paid to the MUNY-MSBL baseball league are non-refundable.
  - 1.2 To participate, a player must be on the roster of the team he wishes to play for.
  - 1.3 Team rosters will not exceed 25 players plus 1 manager.
    - 1.3.1 A manager must designate himself as a player/manager or manager only before the start of the season. Manager only cannot ever play in a game. A player/manager is regarded as a player and falls under the same rules as a player.
  - 1.4 No roster changes can take place after July 1 of each season.
  - 1.5 All teams must have uniforms- shirts, pants and hats; no shorts will be allowed.
  - 1.6 Teams or players will not dispute an umpire's judgment or decision. Consistent hassling of an umpire will result in immediate ejection of the player(s) from the game. Players or teams can also be suspended from the MUNY-Buffalo MSBL baseball league.
  - 1.7 All players must submit a signed waiver form to the league before they can play in the MUNY-Buffalo MSBL baseball league. Team managers must also sign a team waiver.
  - 1.8 The HOME team must supply the bases for each game.
  - 1.9 A team must finish the game with the same number of batters as it started, unless pre-arranged before the game by the managers or due to injury. At no time may the number of players be less than 9.
  - 1.10 Any team forfeiting two games in a season shall be eliminated from the league for the rest of the season and may not be invited back into the league for the next season.
  - 1.11 There will be no collisions at Home Plate, umpires will rule the play as to whether it is a collision or not. Their decision is final.
  - 1.12 MLB rules are used except where different in our league rules.
  - 1.13 Once a player signs a waiver for a team for a season he cannot play for another team unless they receive a release from their current team. After each season players are free agents.
- 2 Length of season
  - 2.1 The league will consist of 16 regular season games, plus the playoffs.
- 3 Equipment
  - 3.1 Proper protective equipment is essential and required.
  - 3.2 Helmets must be worn at the plate and on the base paths.
  - 3.3 Regulation baseballs are required (minimum - RO-200 or equivalent). Each team must present 2 new baseballs to the umpires before each game.
  - 3.4 Teams must supply their own equipment.
  - 3.5 The use of wooden, composite or bamboo bats will be required.
- 4 Length of games
  - 4.1 Starting times, days and field locations will be noted in the MUNY-Buffalo MSBL baseball league schedule.
  - 4.2 There is a 10-run mercy rule after 5 innings.
  - 4.3 Games may be shortened due to weather or darkness at the umpire's discretion.
  - 4.4 No new inning will start after 2 hours and 15 minutes.
  - 4.5 Any game shortened due to darkness or weather and is not a regulation game (losing team has not batting 5 times) will be deemed suspended and play will continue from that point at a future date.
  - 4.6 Any game shortened due to darkness or weather and the game is tied and has played at least 7 innings will be deemed a tie and both teams will be given .5 win and .5 loss.
- 5 Offensively
  - 5.1 Each manager has the prerogative to bat as many players in his initial lineup as long as there is a minimum of nine (9) batters.
  - 5.2 If the manager wishes to add players to the bottom of the lineup (i.e. hitting positions 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, etc.), he may do so at any time. Any added player to the bottom of the lineup must notify the opposing team manager of the batting order change.
  - 5.3 Each manager has the prerogative to bat an A/B batting position at any point in the lineup. The A batter will bat first time through the order the B batter will bat the second time through the order and so on

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- 6 Designated Hitter
- 6.1 There can only be one Designated Hitter for a team.
  - 6.2 The Designated Hitter must be announced with the starting lineup prior to the start of the game.
  - 6.3 The Designated Hitter can bat in place of any position player.
  - 6.4 The pitcher can be designated as a pitcher / dh
- 7 Defensive substitutions
- 7.1 Any defensive substitutions can be made freely among player's already in the lineup and is not a Designated Hitter.
- 8 Pitcher Re-entry
- 8.1 A pitcher may re-enter as a pitcher only if he was removed to a fielding position (not EH), this may happen once per game.
- 9 Catcher Speed Up
- 9.1 A runner may be used on the base paths for the catcher when there are two outs.
  - 9.2 The runner must be the last batted out.
- 10 Injuries
- 10.1 If a player gets injured, the team may play with fewer players than it started with, providing the number of players is at least nine.
  - 10.2 A player that was removed from the lineup may re-enter the lineup to replace an injured player, but only if there are no players on the bench that have not played.
  - 10.3 If the team is batting more than 9 batters and an injury occurs and there are no players to enter the lineup, there will not be an out imposed when the injured players spot in the lineup comes up.
- 11 Player Expulsion
- 11.1 If a player is expelled from a game and the team has no extra players to enter the game the team will take an out each time the expelled players spot comes in the order.
  - 11.2 There will be no re-entry rule for expelled players.
  - 11.3 If a team falls below 9 players, the team will forfeit the game.
- 12 Playoffs
- 12.1 In order to qualify to play in the MUNY-Buffalo MSBL playoffs and player must have appeared in minimum of regular season games as outlined in section 12.1.1 below. The visiting team's scorebook will act as proof. The spirit of this rule is to ensure players are committed to the league and not just a "rent a player" for the playoffs. If the president deems the spirit of the rule is not met even though a player does appear in the minimum regular season games, he may elect to ban the player from the playoffs.
    - 12.1.1 The minimum regular season games are as follows:
      - 12.1.1.1 A Position player must appear in 5 regular season games. An appearance will be credited if a position player is in the lineup for 1 plate appearance.
      - 12.1.1.2 A Pitcher ONLY player must pitch in 3 games and face a minimum of 28 batters. Pitcher ONLY player must be declared before the start of the season or immediately when added to a roster after the start of the season. Regardless of the fact he plays another position or qualifies under rule 12.1.1.1 above, he will only be able to pitch in the playoffs. He can hit for himself when he pitches.
    - 12.1.2 If a player has a major injury and has not played in the minimum regular season games the league president may allow him to play in the playoffs, this will be decided on an individual basis. The player must appear on the final July 1 roster in order to be considered.
    - 12.1.3 In addition, a manager may request from the league President exemption if he feels a player has circumstances beyond 12.1.1 above. This will be dealt with on an individual basis. The player must appear on the final July 1 roster to be considered.
    - 12.1.4 All Team Managers will be exempt from minimum requirements.

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- 13 **Championship Playoffs** – Top six teams make the Championship playoffs. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place get Quarterfinal bye.
- 13.1 Tie Breakers for determining positions in playoffs.
    - 13.1.1 Head to Head – Wins and Losses.
    - 13.1.2 Head to Head – Least runs allowed in head to head games.
    - 13.1.3 Win / Loss record vs. the other playoff teams.
    - 13.1.4 Coin flip.
  - 13.2 Teams are responsible for 2 new balls for each playoff games.
  - 13.3 Teams are responsible for umpire fees for each playoff game.
  - 13.4 **QUARTER FINAL ROUND**
    - 13.4.1 Higher place team will be home team in game 1 and 3 (if needed).
      - 13.4.1.1 3<sup>rd</sup> place team vs 6<sup>th</sup> place team – best of 3
      - 13.4.1.2 4<sup>th</sup> place team vs 5<sup>th</sup> place team – best of 3 games.
  - 13.5 **SEMI-FINAL ROUND**
    - 13.5.1 Higher place team will be home team in game 1 and 3 (if needed).
      - 13.5.1.1 1<sup>st</sup> place team vs lowest remaining team – best of 3
      - 13.5.1.2 2<sup>nd</sup> place team vs other Quarter final winner – best of 3 games.
  - 13.6 **CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND**
    - 13.6.1 Best of Three.
    - 13.6.2 The Higher placed team in the Regular season is home team in game 1, 3 (if needed).