MUNY– Buffalo MSBL Baseball League 35+
Playing Rules - 2025

1   <u>General</u>
- **1.1**   All moneys paid to the MUNY-MSBL baseball league are non-refundable.
- **1.2**   Participants must be at least 35 years of age to participate in the MUNY-Buffalo MSBL baseball league.
  - 1.2.1   Each team will be allowed to have 2 players 33-34 years old; the 33-year-old players will not be allowed to pitch in the league.
- **1.3**   To participate, a player must be on the roster of the team he wishes to play for.
- **1.4**   Team rosters will not exceed 25 players plus 1 manager.
- **1.5**   No roster changes can take place after July 1 of each season.
- **1.6**   All teams must have uniforms- shirts, pants and hats; no shorts will be allowed.
- **1.7**   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.
- **1.8**   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.
- **1.9**   The HOME team must supply the bases for each game.
- **1.10**   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 8, if umpires do not agree to 8 players it will be a forfeit.
- **1.11**   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.
- **1.12**   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.
- **1.13**   MLB rules are used except where different in our league rules.
- **1.14**   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   <u>Length of season</u>
- **2.1**   The league will consist of 14 regular season games, plus the playoffs.

3   <u>Equipment</u>
- **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, bamboo bats and composite bats will be required.

4   <u>Length of games</u>
- **4.1**   Starting times, dates and 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 30 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 that 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 are at least ten (10) batting positions (unless there are only 9 players at the game).

5.2   If the manager wishes to add players to the bottom of the lineup (i.e., hitting positions 11, 12, 13, 14, etc.), he may do so at any time. Any added player to the bottom of the lineup or pinch hitter must notify the opposing team manager of the batting order change.

5.3   If a player who is in the lineup leaves the game due to injury and there are no bench players, the lineup can be collapsed not incurring an out.

5.4   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.

6   Defensively

6.1   All players may be substituted for, at any time, except the pitcher. Defensive players need not be in your batting order. In regard to substituting for the pitcher, if he is removed from the mound, he may not re-enter in the same inning, regardless of whether he stays in the game (i.e. as the right fielder).

7   Courtesy Runners

7.1   Each team will be allowed to have 2 courtesy runners per game. The courtesy runners must be indicated when the lineups are exchanged before the game. The player running for the courtesy runner will be the last batted out. If courtesy runners are needed due to serious injury, they will be allowed beyond the 2. All courtesy runners must use a courtesy for the entire game.

8   Catcher Speed Up

8.1   A runner may be used on the base paths for the catcher when there are two outs.

8.2   The runner must be the last batted out.

9   Injuries

9.1   If a player gets injured, the team may play with fewer players than it started with, providing the number of players is at least eight. There will be an out recorded when the injured player spot comes up if there are only eight players.

9.2   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.

9.3   If a player in the offensive lineup is injured during the course of the game and cannot run, but will remain in the batting order, the last batted out can be designated as an additional courtesy runner for that injured player. Any other pinch runner or pinch hitter substitutions can be made according to league and regular baseball rules.

10   Player Expulsion

10.1   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.

10.2   There will be no re-entry rule for expelled players.

10.3   If a team falls below 9 players, the team will forfeit the game.

11   Playoffs

11.1   In order to qualify to play in the MUNY-Buffalo MSBL playoffs and player must have appeared in 5 regular season games. 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 tough a player does appear in 5 regular season games, he may elect to ban the player from the playoffs.

    11.1.1 An appearance will be credited if a player is in the lineup for 6 defensive outs, 2 At Bats or a pitcher must pitch one complete inning.

    11.1.2 If a player has a major injury and has not played in 5 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.

    11.1.3 All Team Managers will be exempt from minimum requirements.

11.2   Championship Playoffs – Top 6 teams will make the Championship playoffs. The higher seed will always be Home Team.

    11.2.1 Tie Breakers for determining positions in playoffs.

        11.2.1.1 Head-to-Head – Wins and Losses

        11.2.1.2 Head-to-Head – Least runs allowed in head-to-head games

        11.2.1.3 Run differential in all games played

        11.2.1.4 Coin Toss

    11.2.2 Teams are responsible for 2 new balls for each playoff games.

    11.2.3 Teams are responsible for umpire fees for each playoff game.

11.3   QUARTER FINAL ROUND

    11.3.1 Single Game, Higher place team will be home team

    11.3.2 The 3rd vs 6th place.

    11.3.3 The 4th vs 5th place.

11.4   Semi-Final Round

    11.4.1 Best of 3 series.

    11.4.2 Higher place team will be home team in game 1 and 3 (if needed).

        11.4.2.1 1st place VS lowest remaining seed.

        11.4.2.2 2nd place VS the other remaining seed.

11.5   Championship Round

    11.5.1 Best of 3 series.

    11.5.2 The Higher placed team in the Regular season is home team in game 1 and 3 (if needed).