

MUNY- Buffalo MSBL Baseball League 45+ Playing Rules - 2025



1 General

- 1.1 All moneys paid to the MUNY-MSBL baseball league are non-refundable.
- 1.2 Participants must be at least 45 years of age to participate in the MUNY-Buffalo MSBL baseball league. December 31st will be used for determining age.
 - 1.2.1 Each team will be allowed to have 3 players 43-44 years old; the player 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 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 10 regular season games.

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, bamboo bats and composite bats will be required.

4 Length of games

- 4.1 Starting times, dates and locations will be noted in the MUNY-Buffalo MSBL baseball league schedule.
- 4.2 No new inning will start after 2 hours and 30 minutes.
- 4.3 There is a 10-run mercy rule after 5 innings.
- 4.4 There will be a 6 run maximum per inning with the following exception.
 - 4.4.1 In the last inning visiting team can score enough runs to tie the opponent plus 6.
 - 4.4.2 In the last inning the home team can score as many runs as needed to win the game.
- 4.5 Games may be shortened due to weather or darkness at the umpire's discretion.

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4.6 Game curfews

4.6.1 Any game shortened due to darkness, time curfew 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.

4.6.2 Any game shortened due to darkness or weather and is tied and has played at least 5 complete 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. Regarding 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 3 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 you at any point do not use the courtesy runner you lose it for that spot for the rest of the game.

7.2 If a player in the offensive lineup is injured during the game and cannot run, but can 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.

8 Pitcher

8.1 Pitchers will be allowed to pitch maximum 5 innings 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 8 and the umpires agree to it.

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.

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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 to 8 players, if umpires do not agree to 8 players it will be a forfeit.

12 Playoffs

- 12.1** In order to qualify to play in the MUNY-Buffalo MSBL playoffs and player must have appeared in 3 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 though a player does appear in 3 regular season games, he may elect to ban the player from the playoffs.
 - 12.1.1** 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.
 - 12.1.2** If a player has a major injury and has not played in 3 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** All Team Managers will be exempt from minimum requirements.
- 12.2** Championship Playoffs – Top 6 teams will make the Championship playoffs. The higher seed will always be Home Team. The 1st and 2nd place teams will get a Quarter-final bye.
 - 12.2.1** Tie Breakers for determining positions in playoffs.
 - 12.2.1.1 Head-to-Head – Wins and Losses
 - 12.2.1.2 Head-to-Head – Least runs allowed in head-to-head games
 - 12.2.1.3 Run differential in all games played
 - 12.2.1.4 Coin Toss
 - 12.2.2** Teams are responsible for 2 new balls for each playoff games.
 - 12.2.3** Teams are responsible for umpire fees for each playoff game.
- 12.3** Quarter-Final Round
 - 12.3.1** Single elimination
 - 12.3.2** 3rd place VS 6th place.
 - 12.3.3** 4th place VS 5th place.
- 12.4** Semi-Final Round
 - 12.4.1** Single elimination
 - 12.4.2** 1st place VS lowest remaining seed.
 - 12.4.3** 2nd place VS the other remaining seed.
- 12.5** Championship Round
 - 12.5.1** Single elimination.
 - 12.5.2** The Higher placed team in the Regular season is home team.
- 12.6** Consolation Games
 - 12.6.1** If diamonds are available, we will play 2 consolation games the same day as Semi-Final games.
 - 12.6.1.1 5th place vs 4th place, 4th place is home team.
 - 12.6.1.2 7th place vs Welland, 7th place is home team.