

# MARSHFIELD YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE

## AAA DIVISION – RULES & GUIDELINES

### General Information:

#### **AAA Philosophy**

- AAA is an Instructional League.
- We want the kids to have fun, enjoy themselves, learn some fundamentals and come back again next year as part of the MYBL program.
- There are no standings or records. No scores are kept during the games. Every team makes the World Series (and typically wins).
- Make your goal simply to have the kids improve as individuals and as a team throughout the year.

#### **Coaching Requirements**

- Head coach & identified assistants must agree to a CORI background check (Massachusetts Law).
- Agree to Rules of Conduct.

#### **Communication**

- Division director's contact info is on the website.

#### **Rosters**

- Stick with your team. If it is critical to switch someone, and both coaches agree, let me know not later than April 15th. Players switching, must be of the same age.

#### **Safety**

- Helmets are mandatory for batters.
- Helmets are mandatory for base runners & 1<sup>st</sup> baseman.
- Protective cups are mandatory for catchers (can be worn outside the uniform), strongly recommended for all players.

#### **Fields**

- All- police the dugout/field before and after each game for trash. Teach your players good habits.
- Home team (1<sup>st</sup> base dugout) responsible for putting bases away.
- Field availability is very tight. For any practices you want to schedule, you will need to simply “find some grass” and improvise.
- Rainouts are likely not to be made up, given the scarcity of the fields. If we miss more than 2 games, we will figure something out. The preliminary schedule calls for 12 games.

### Guidelines for Play:

#### **Pitching**

- 1st few games, coaches pitch.
- Beginning second weekend, 8 year old kids pitch weekends (MYBL rules require coaches to pitch weeknight games). Coaches pitch to their own teams.

- Suggestion: Coaches “jump in” and finish batter for pitcher after 4-5 pitches, then repeat. This keeps the game moving and allows for plenty of practice pitching for the kids.
- Mound is 36’. Move him back if pitcher throws hard or is wild.

### **Fielding**

- Defensive players in the field should be positioned in the field as follows:
  - 1 pitcher (or player fielding for coach who is pitching)
  - 1 catcher
  - 1 first baseman
  - 1 second baseman
  - 1 shortstop
  - 1 third baseman
  - 4 outfielders (spread out evenly in outfield and no short fielder)
- Remaining players to take turns on bench. Make sure everybody sits once over the course of the games before sitting a player for a second time. (Assistant coaches should be doing instructional work with the kids on the bench during their turn to sit).

### **Hitting**

- 1st two weeks are considered “Spring Training” – “bat the order” each inning. Play three innings maximum.
- Week 3 and 4: Play three outs to clear the bases, but bat the order. This begins to teach the kids about “outs”, but makes sure they are getting their swings in. Play 3 innings maximum.
- Weeks 5 until end of season: Traditional “3 out” innings, but only bat through the order. Use some good judgment near the end of the game to allow everyone a couple of at-bats – nothing is more discouraging to a 7 year old than getting one at bat a game. Play as many innings as time allows as agreed to by coaches.
- Last batter in line-up. There is no home-run hitter. This is not T-ball and we are trying to teach the kids how to run the bases.

### **Base Running**

- Use common sense and good judgment.
- Teach your players to run the bases, but let’s not make it a track meet
- Overthrows, holding the ball, and other forms of confusion with these kids is common, players circling the bases only makes it worse; therefore, allow your kids to take one base on an overthrow. If they take more, return them to the previous base.
- A player must be batted in from third to score (no overthrow runs).
- Last batter in line-up as well as base runners on base for last batter – teach the kids to take only as many bases as the hit safely allows. Again, the goal is to teach the kids how to run the bases, not to end the inning with a huge scum at home plate where there are a bunch of fielders trying to tag out every runner who was on base at home.