

**BUTLER COUNTY CAL RIPKEN ASSOCIATION**  
**2024 MINOR/MAJOR RULES**

Games are scheduled between Cal Ripken Minor League Teams (comprised of 9 and 10 year olds) and also between Cal Ripken Major League Teams (comprised of 11 and 12 year olds). The rules which shall govern game play are the Official Baseball Rules (OBR) as used by Major League Baseball, the Cal Ripken OBR Exceptions (found in the Babe Ruth Handbook), and the Local League Rules listed below. Local League rules will supersede rules as found in the OBR. Each division within Butler County Cal Ripken is responsible for providing a copy of the rules to each manager, and for ensuring that each manager is knowledgeable of these rules.

- I. **TEAMS** – Each division is responsible for creating teams, and assigning managers for each team.
- II. **MANAGERS/COACHES** –
  - a. All managers, coaches, or any other adult involved in any way may be required to submit to a background check through their division. It is also suggested to pass a course on concussion training for athletes.
  - b. Only players, 1 manager, and up to 3 assistant coaches are permitted in the dugout during game play. Umpires should instruct players who are not in the game, and coaches to remain in the dugout during game play. Exceptions to the rule: on deck batter, coaches in the coach’s box while on offense.
- III. **UMPIRES** – For all games played “Spring, Summer and Fall”  
Buckeye Elite Umpires will be used. All umpires will be required to submit to background checks and concussion certification as well, and this will be managed by the  
J. Schuster Umpire Liason 513-616-1601
- IV. **PRE-GAME** –
  - a. Infield Practice: No infield practice for 2:30pm games. For 11am games, the home team shall take the field 35 minutes prior to game time and has the field for 15 minutes. The visiting team shall take the field 20 minutes prior to game time for 15 minutes.
  - b. Ground Rules: Each manager will meet with the umpire at home plate 5 minutes prior to game time. The home team’s manager will present ground rules to the umpire and opposing manager.
- V. **EQUIPMENT** –
  - a. Baseballs: Home team is responsible for providing 1 new and 1 used, but in good condition Cal Ripken approved baseball to the umpire prior to the start of the game. The visiting team is responsible for providing 1 used, but in good condition Cal Ripken approved baseball to the umpire. Both teams are required to help keep the umpire supplied with baseballs as the game proceeds. During/after inclement weather both teams may be asked to provide more baseballs to the umpire to keep the game moving.
  - b. Bats: No bat requirements for Fall baseball.

## VI. GAME PLAY –

- a. Continuous Batting: Minor and Major League teams will use a continuous batting lineup during game play. If a player is ejected from a game, their time at bat will be recorded as an out. If a player is sick/injured during the game, their time at bat will be skipped with no penalty (see rule VI, d for the exception to this policy). However, the player will not be permitted to return to the game. Any player arriving after first pitch of game shall be added at the end of the batting order.
- b. Mandatory Play: It is mandatory that each player must play 3 innings on defense in every 6 inning game. The only exception will be games shortened due to run rule, or time limits, or at manager discretion for disciplinary reasons (this must be communicated to the opposing team during ground rules).
- c. Game Length:
  - i. Games will be played for 6 innings.
  - ii. A game is considered to be official after 4 innings (3 ½ if home team ahead). iii. No new inning will start after 2 hours, regardless of the score of the game. iv. Extra innings to break a tie are only permitted if there is time remaining.
  - v. Games suspended due to inclement weather, that have reached an official status will not be rescheduled. Games suspended due to inclement weather that have not yet become official will be rescheduled, and the game will be started over. (the only stats that will be accrued from a suspended, un official game will be pitching stats)
  - vi. After 5 innings (4 1/2) if a team is leading by 10 or more runs they will be declared the winner and the game will be over. If a team is leading by 12 runs after 3 1/2 or 4 innings the game will be considered official and the leading team will be declared the winner.
  - vii. Minors - Max runs scored per inning is 7 in the first 5 innings. From the 6th inning on there will be no limit on runs per inning.  
Majors - Max runs scored per inning is 7 in the first 5 innings. From the 6th inning on there will be no limit on runs per inning.
- d. Forfeits: No forfeits in Fall ball. If a team cannot field 8+ players they may borrow outfielders from the opposing team.
- e. Game Delays: Any time a game is delayed due to adverse weather, the umpire shall wait a minimum of 30 minutes prior to calling the game. During this time the umpire shall check with both managers to determine if playing conditions are safe and estimate a time to resume play. Once an umpire determines that a game cannot be continued due to weather, field conditions, etc both teams will be informed with the rationale for calling the game and then do so.
- f. Base Runners:
  - i. Once the catcher has secured the pitched ball and the runner has stopped forward progress, the runner must return to the base previously occupied. If the catcher attempts to throw to a base, or overthrows the pitchers the runner may advance at their own risk. (**Minor League Only**)
  - ii. A runner is out if he does not attempt to get around – “avoid contact with” – a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make a tag, or if he intentionally (maliciously) runs into a fielder. For intentionally running into a fielder; the umpire shall eject the offender from the game.

- iii. With 2 outs; if the catcher is on base, he must be replaced by a courtesy runner (no exceptions). The courtesy runner will be the last *batted* out. The same courtesy runner can only be used once in an inning. *Note – while optional, it is permitted and recommended that a courtesy runner or the pitcher be used with 2 outs as well.*
- g. Batter's Box: Each batter must keep at least one foot in the batter's box throughout their time at bat. If the batter's box is not visible, the umpire's judgement shall prevail as to its intended location. The following exceptions to this policy apply:
  - i. The batter swings at a pitch.
  - ii. The batter is forced out of the box by the pitch.
  - iii. The batter attempts to drag bunt.
  - iv. The defensive team feints or attempts a play at any base.
  - v. The pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher's plate after receiving the ball.
  - vi. A member of either team request and is granted "time."
  - vii. The catcher leaves the catcher's box area to adjust equipment or give defensive signals.
  - viii. The catcher does not catch the pitched ball.

***If the batter leaves the batter's box and none of the exceptions apply the umpire shall charge a strike to the batter. The pitcher need not throw a pitch, and the ball remains live.***
- h. Teams will have one minute to switch sides between innings. It is the responsibility of the managers to ensure their players, especially their catchers are ready for the next inning.
- i. Fielder's: Minor League teams will use 4 outfielders.

**VII UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT** – Any unsportsmanlike conduct of any nature by managers, coaches, players, fans, parents, relatives, or anyone else in attendance at a game may result in suspension from all Butler County Cal Ripken parks and from the Butler County Cal Ripken Association for an indeterminate amount of time. Relative to the ejection of a player, manager, or coach for unsportsmanlike conduct or any other reason for ejection the following policies will apply. Noted also, If a parent or legal guardian is ejected the related player is also ejected.

- i. 1<sup>st</sup> ejection – the offender shall be suspended for the next two (2) full games following that in which the ejection occurred.
- ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> ejection – the offender shall go in front of the Butler County Board, and present his or her case. The suspension will be determined on a case by case matter, which will be determined by the board officials.
- iii. 3<sup>rd</sup> ejection – the offender shall be suspended for the remainder of the season.

**TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

–The use of all tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco and e-cigarettes is prohibited by all participating personnel (coaches, players, etc.) Tobacco products such as cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc are prohibited from use within Fairfield 's Waterworks Park

**VIII BLOOD RULE** – A player or coach who is bleeding or who has an open wound shall be prohibited

- IX.** from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. If medical care or treatment can be administered in a timely manner per the umpire’s judgement, the individual would not have to leave the game. If there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform it must be changed before that individual can participate in the game.

**PITCHING** – Pitchers may throw a mx of 75 (minors) or 85 (majors) pitches or 3 innings Max Per DAY

- a. Each pitch thrown in a game counts towards the pitch count. That includes pitch outs, foul balls (including those hit with 2 strikes) as well as ball four. Warm up pitches are not included, nor are pitches thrown when a balk is called. It is not necessary to throw four pitches to intentionally walk a batter. The manager should just inform the umpire to put the batter on base.
- b. Managers/scorekeepers should compare scores, and pitch counts with each other after every inning in order to ensure accurate tracking of pitch counts. If someone is consistently difficult in this process, contact your league director.
- c. As a pitcher approaches the pitch count limit ensure that the opposing team and umpire are aware. When the pitch limit is reached, announce to the umpire and the other team that the pitcher has reached their limit. At that time the pitcher can finish the current batter, but can pitch no more after that.

The coach must remove the pitcher following completion of the current batter or be penalized.

- d. At the conclusion of the game; teams should confirm each other’s pitch counts.

**XI. PITCHING & BASE DISTANCES –**

- a. **MINOR LEAGUE** – 46’ Pitching, 60’ Bases
- b. **MAJOR LEAGUE** – 50’ Pitching, 70’ Bases

**PITCHING COUNT CHART (MINORS)**

<b>NUMBER OF PITCHES THROWN</b>	<b>DAYS REST REQUIRED</b>
75 Maximum or 3 innings PER DAY	2

**PITCHING COUNT CHART (MAJORS)**

<b>NUMBER OF PITCHES THROWN</b>	<b>DAYS REST REQUIRED</b>
85 pitches Maximum or 3 innings PER DAY	2