



Abbotsford Minor Baseball Association

U11 – Gameplay Rules Abbotsford Minor Baseball Spring Season

Major Changes from Tadpole 2 to Mosquito:

- Players pitch the entire game (First 2 innings must be pitched by 1st year Mosquito player.
- Any player may pitch in subsequent innings.
- **The first two innings will have a 3-run limit for the month of April**
- Stealing bases is allowed
- **Note that stealing home is not allowed for the month of April*
- **Note * Note that players cannot leave their base until after the pitched ball crosses Home Plate.*
- ** Note that players may not advance directly from Home to 2nd base on a Base on Balls.*
- Nine players are in the field. All players must play at least one inning in the outfield per game.
- No player may sit out 2 defensive innings in a row.
- Standings are kept. **Winning coach is responsible for reporting the score to the Commissioner via email.**
- Each team has regularly scheduled field practice and batting coach practice each week.

Bat size:

10U & 11U 32 inch, 2 3/4 inch max diameter, unlimited length/weight drop - Must have "USSSA 1.15 BPF (Bat Performance Factor)" stamp OR "USA" Stamp

Starting and Ending a Game:

1. Game consist of 6 innings. In the event of weather or darkness, 4 completed innings will constitute a complete game.
2. The Coach must give a copy of his/her roster to the umpire and the opposite team Coach prior the start of the game. Please arrive with a complete roster
3. Both teams must have scorekeeper and pitch counter.
4. A team may start a game with 8 players. A team with fewer than 8 players at the official start time will forfeit the game. Teams are encouraged to play exhibition game sharing players if this happen.
5. The first two innings for the month of April will have 3-run limit. Innings 3 to 5 will have 4-run limit with the exception of the 6th (or Open) inning.



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Starting and Ending a Game continued...

6. If the time does not permit 6 full innings - the 4th or 5th inning may be declared Open. The umpire in consultation with coaches will make this decision.
7. No new innings may start after 1h 45 min after the official start time (a new inning starts immediately following the last out from the previous inning.
8. The Mercy rule is in effect. Teams leading by 10 runs after 5 innings (or 4.5 innings if the home team is leading) will be declared the winner.
9. Rain Outs: When it is clear that the game will be rained out, both Coaches must agree on postponing the game and set up suitable date for make up game. The Home team coach must inform the Commissioner who will inform allocator so that umpires don't go to the field and will inform allocator with the date of the make up game.
10. Should the coaches decide to make the decision at the park, both Coaches and the umpire will together decide if the game will be played or postponed.
11. Please inform the Commissioner of all Rain Outs ASAP to make sure that the Association does not get charged for field usage.

Substitutions and players position:

1. All players must play at least 1 inning per game in the outfield (based on 6 innings game)
2. Coaches may not sit a player for 2 consecutive innings during the game. The exceptions are for reasons of injury, discipline, or late arrival , at which time the Coaches will inform the umpire and the Coach of the opposing team of the situation.
3. Coaches are encouraged to give an equal playing time to their players and to give players the opportunity to try different positions.
4. **The written lineup plan should show the intent to play all players in the outfield at least once by the end of the 5th inning.**

The Batter

- All players listed on the roster must take their turn at bat.
- The player on - deck must be in the circle behind the batter. I.e. player on - deck behind the left hand batter must be in the circle on the 1st base side and batter on - deck behind right hand batter must be in circle on the 3rd base side. To get to the far side circle the batter must cross behind the catcher.
- All players other than batter must be in dugouts. The exception is the pitcher warming up in the bullpen and the warming up catcher and mandatory spotter who **MUST** wear helmet.
- Players batting out of order will be called Out on appeal unless the mistake is caught before the batter becomes a base runner. In this case, the correct batter will replace the incorrect batter and assumes the count.



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The Batter Cont'd...

- A player who throws the bat after hit will receive one warning and will be called out after second offence. A coach is limited to one time out per inning to speak to a batter.

Baserunners

- There are no Lead offs allowed in 11U at any time except after when the pitched ball crosses the Home Plate. Baserunners leaving base early will be called Out after one warning.
- Stealing bases is allowed, however the pitched ball must cross the Home Plate before the baserunners are allowed to leave their bases. Baserunners leaving early will be called Out after one warning.
- No Head First slides allowed in 11U Division. Players breaking this rule will be called Out. Diving back to base is allowed in the event that baserunner is returning back from a Lead-Off.
- Baserunners cannot steal Home during the month of April. This rule is in place to encourage our catchers to try throw the baserunners Out at the 3rd base without the danger of paying the price for overthrow.
- If a baserunner on 3rd base stops advancing towards Home after a pitch **AND** if the catcher is standing in front of the Home Plate, the baserunner must return to 3rd base when the catcher throws back to the pitcher. This is to prevent delayed steals. If the catcher stands behind the Home Plate and throws ball back to the pitcher, the 3rd base baserunner may advance home.
- **TIP:** We should be teaching our catchers to step in front of the Home Plate after each pitch to prevent the 3rd base runner from scoring and also to shorten the throw to the pitcher. It is the best practice to have a pitcher to make a few steps towards the Home plate to shorten the distance of throw from Catcher even more.
- **AFTER APRIL** the runner on 3rd base **MAY** steal from overthrow to the pitcher or throw to other base.
- The runner reaching the 1st base on Base on Ball (Walk) **MAY NOT** advance to the 2nd base until the first pitch to the next batter. He can steal on the first pitch. Meaning - on walk you cannot take 2 bases.
- A runner who interferes with a fielder attempting to make a play will be called Out.
- Runners who don't slide or avoid at all bases will be called Out.
- A defensive player **MUST** not block base without the possession of the ball.

Umpires

- Before, during and after games coaches, players or parents are **NOT** permitted to approach an umpire for any reason.
- **Coaches and players may:**
 - Attend the Plate Meeting



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Umpires Cont'd...

- Request the Umpire to call "Time"
 - Raise safety concern
 - Request the Plate Umpire to ask their partner for help on a half swing when the Umpire call the pitch a ball but not when the pitch is called strike. The plate Umpire will consult with other umpire(s) for determination - which will be final.
 - Shake the the Umpires hand
- **Coaches and players may NOT:**
- Argue any Umpire's decision which involves judgement, such as , but not limited to, whether foul or fair ball, whether pitch is strike or ball or whether a runner was safe or out. The Umpire's decision is final.
 - No Player, manager, coach or substitute shall object to any such judgment decisions. Players leaving their position on the field or the base or coaches leaving bench or box, to argue on Balls and Strikes will be not permitted
 - The Umpire shall immediately eject any manager, coach, player or team representative that continues to approach and umpires after they already made their decision.
 - Harass or verbally abuse any official on the field of play before, during or after any game. Contravention will result in ejecting the person from the game and possible further disciplinary action by BC Minor Baseball association.
 - On a half swing, if the manager comes out to argue with first or third base umpire he/she can be ejected as he/she is now arguing over a called ball or strike

Pitchers

- Pitchers are governed by a Pitch Count using the guidelines outlined in the Pitching Section of the BC Baseball rulebook.
- A pitcher who hits 2 batters in the same inning must be replaced and may not pitch again in that game.
- A pitcher who is removed from the mound for any reason may not return to pitch again in that game.
- 1st Year Mosquito players (determined by Birth Year) must pitch the first 2 innings of each game. Any player may pitch in innings 3-6. *Coaches are strongly encouraged to play a 1st Year player at catcher position in the first 2 innings of every game.*
- When, with runners on base, the pitcher fails to deliver a pitch after beginning his/her pitching motion, the umpire shall call "Time! No Pitch! Balk" No runner may advance, and the pitcher receives a warning. A second Balk will result in a called Ball and no runner may advance.
- The Coach is allowed one visit to the mound per inning per pitcher. A second visit to the same pitcher will require a pitching change.
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Pitching Rules

(Rule 23.01 in BC Baseball Rulebook)

Pitch Counts change from time to time so it is good practice to check the numbers before you get your season underway! Check our website, the BC Baseball website, or ask our 11U Commissioner.

Notes:

- Pitches thrown in warm-up, bullpen, or ruled “no pitch” by the umpire do not count towards pitch count.
- Pitch Count is recorded after each game. A pitcher who requires rest after the first game of the day cannot pitch in the second game on the same day. ie. if a pitcher throws 26 pitches in the first game of the day, he/she cannot pitch in the second game of that same day.
- If a pitcher has two appearances in the same day his/her total pitch count for the day is combined for the purposes of rest. For example, a pitcher who throws 25 pitches in the first game and 16 pitches in the second game has thrown 41 pitches for the day, so he/she requires 3 nights rest.
- The following definition of a night’s rest: A pitcher requires 3 nights rest after pitching in a 1pm game on Sunday. Pitcher rests Sunday night, Monday night and Tuesday night. He/She can pitch when he/she wakes up on Wednesday morning.
- **Rule 23.03-** Finishing a Batter. A pitcher is permitted to exceed the maximum limit (for a day) to complete pitching to a batter. Example #1: Pitcher starts a new batter at 43 pitches. At the end of the at bat the pitcher has thrown 47 pitches and the pitcher is removed. The Pitch Count is recorded as 47 and he/she requires 2 nights rest. Example #2: Pitcher starts a batter at 93 pitches and at the end of the at bat the pitcher has thrown 97 pitches. The pitcher must be removed and his/her Pitch Count is recorded as 95.

Uniforms

Players are expected to wear white baseball pants, matching socks and belt which are all at the expense of the player. Uniform shirts and hats will be provided by the league and also must be worn.