



2024 Knee Hi Division Rules

1. Coaches

- a. Coaches will be responsible for the conduct of assistant coaches, players and parents. If poor conduct continues after a warning (from either the umpire or the coach), the offender will be asked to leave. Refusal to leave will result in the game being stopped and the situation turned over to the league commissioner and executive committee.
- b. Coaches are responsible for keeping the backstop clear of all distractions. Parents are not permitted to sit or stand behind the backstop during games.
- c. Rattling of fences, yelling or trying to distract the opposing team/players is strictly prohibited and must be monitored by the head coach.
- d. One head coach and 3-5 assistant coaches are the maximum allowed on the playing field and bench area during a game. All coaches must have their appropriate clearances.
- e. Coaches must make sure that there are no 'unregistered' players, siblings, friends, etc. in or around the bench area and the playing field area.

2. Game Governance

- a. Warm Up and Game Times
 - teams are to split the outfield for warmups while the infield is being prepped
 - At 5:50pm the head coaches should meet to review the rules and discuss any points of clarification.
 - The game begins at 6:00pm and will last 6 innings.
 - No new inning will start after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the first pitch.
 - Doubleheader games on lighted field:
 1. All doubleheader games will be 6 innings or a time of 1 hour and 30 minutes.
 2. The first game will begin at 6:00pm and has a hard stop time of 7:30pm.
- b. Playing Field
 - The home team will occupy the bench along the third base line.
 - Both teams are responsible for having the field ready to play, batter's box put down, foul lines drawn and the pitcher's mound made playable.
 - The home team is responsible for supplying game balls to the umpire.

-Both teams are responsible for seeing that the field is drug, pitcher's mound and bullpens are raked and that everything is put away and locked up. Please make sure that all dugouts are cleaned up and that no trash is left behind.

-The distance from the front of the pitching rubber to the back of home plate is 46 feet.

-The distance from the tip of home plate to the back corner of first/third base is 60 feet.

c. **Suspended Games**

-In the event of darkness or inclement weather that does not allow a game to be played in its entirety, a game will be considered complete after 4 innings (3 ½ if the home team is ahead). However, the schedule may not allow for the suspended game to be finished, so the game may be considered final after three innings. The score will revert back to the last completed inning.

-When a game is rescheduled, play will resume exactly where it left off (outs, counts, runners, etc.) The home team score book will be the official record.

-Tied Games: If the score is tied after the regulation number of innings, the game will end in a tie.

3. Players

- a. All players must be fully registered with BMBL and be placed in the divisions listed based on their age on or before April 30th of the current year: Knee Hi 7-8 year olds
- b. The only players permitted off the bench are the on-deck batter and those preparing for entry into the game as instructed by the coach.
- c. No players can be base coaches.
- d. Any player warming up a pitch must wear FULL GEAR which includes a protective cup.
- e. Free substitution will be allowed.
- f. The batting order will consist of all players in uniform batting in rotation regardless if they have a position in the field or not. Any player arriving to the game late will be added to the bottom of the batting order. (Late arriving players must be announced to the opposing team upon arrival and entry into the game.)
- g. Playing Time:
 - I 6 inning games, players must play at least four innings with at least one inning in the infield.
 - II A player playing the position of catcher may not catch more than 2 innings per game.
- h. The coach for the fielding team may stand behind the infield or behind the pitcher to help them as they go.

4. Pitching

- a. Our Knee Hi Division is a coach pitch/Kid pitch division. The first half of the season will be coach pitch; the second half of the season will be kid pitch. The Knee Hi Commissioner will advise on the date of the transition.
- b. Coaches are encouraged to work with every player from the very first practice on pitching. We want to provide an opportunity for every player to pitch in a game environment.
- c. Coach Pitch Guidelines

- I coaches should provide 8 hittable pitches to every batter
- II If the batter does not hit any of the pitches, the batter will return to the dugout
- d. Kid Pitch Guidelines
 - I A pitcher may not pitch more than one (1) inning per game and no more than two (2) innings per week.
 - II A pitcher may not be permitted to throw more than 25 pitches per game.
 - III A pitcher may not pitch in consecutive games.
 - IV The batter can strike out but this will NOT be counted as one of the three outs. Three Outs must be made in the field.
 - V Players shall pitch a complete at bat to each batter. If the result of the at bat is a strike out (3 strikes), the player is out. If the result of the at bat is a batted ball, the result of that batted ball shall stand based on the result of the play. If the result of the at bat is a walk (4 balls), a coach shall step in and provide 3 strikes to the batter to hit. Three swinging strikes from the coach and the batter is out. Strikeouts will not count as an out. The three outs must be made in the field.

5. Base Running

- a. A runner may not leave the base until the ball is hit.
- b. If a runner leaves early, one warning will be issued per game, per team. A second occurrence will result in the runner being called out. In all occurrences, all runners must return to their original base.
- c. There are NO walks.
- d. A play will be considered over when the ball is controlled in the infield. The infield will be considered anywhere in the direct area of the infield, not just the base paths.
- d. Head first sliding is forbidden and will result in the runner being called out with no warning, unless the runner is going back to the base.
- e. Contact Rule: Runners must attempt to avoid contact with a player making a play on him/her. If, in the judgement of the umpire, a runner makes avoidable contact, the runner will be called out. NOT a must slide rule.
- f. Any runner, who in the judgement of the umpire, maliciously runs over a player will be called out and will be disqualified for the rest of the game. A second offense will result in a two-game suspension. A third offense will result in the player being suspended for the remainder of the season, including league playoffs. Any malicious conduct must be reported by the head coach to the commissioner immediately.
- g. Players cannot advance on passed balls.
- h. Stealing, sliding or tagging up is not permitted.
- i. Runners may NOT advance a base on an overthrow.
- j. There is a four (4) run limit per inning, including the last inning.

6. **Batting**

- a. All batters and base runners MUST wear a batting helmet.
- b. Any batter who throws the bat will receive ONE warning. A second occurrence by the same player in the same game will result in the batter being called out with no advancement of the runners.
- c. A batter will NOT be called out for stepping out of the batter's box to hit the ball.
- d. The batter can strike out.
- e. Coaches should introduce bunting skills during practice but should NOT use bunting in games.
- f. There will be NO right field assists at first base permitted.
- g. There will be no unassisted force outs from the outfield positions permitted. The outfielder must throw the ball to a base to record an out.
- h. Hits should be limited to singles unless the hit ball would result in a legitimate double. That means when a ball is hit hard down the line or line drives past the middle infields or a fly ball over an outfielder's head. Not routine ground balls that find their way to the outfield. Please use your discretion, if you're not sure, hold them to a single.
- e. Players may use their own bats but, if need be, those bats must be made available for use by all players on the team.
- g. All bats must have a USA Baseball stamp. Full composite bats are NOT permitted to be used in BMBL events unless it carries a USA Baseball stamp. If a player uses an illegal bat without the USA Baseball stamp, the following will occur: the bat is removed from the game, the batter is out and the Head Coach will be removed from the game

7. **Umpires**

- a. The role of umpire will be filled by coaches from both teams.
- b. The 'umpire' can stand behind the pitcher to call balls and strikes.
- c. There is no questioning balls and strikes of the umpires by any coach, player or parent. Also, there is no need to react negatively to calls with any loud or demonstrative behavior.

**For any rules not mentioned above, please refer to the Cal Ripken Rulebook.

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Knee Hi Commissioner

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