



**MURRAY LIBERTY LEAGUE GROUND  
RULES**

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# ARTICLE I – CONDUCT RULES

## Mission Statement

We the Board of Murray Liberty League Baseball (MLLBB) believe every youth who desires to play baseball should and will have the opportunity to play the game under the practices of Safe play, fair play, and sportsmanship. We believe these kids should want to learn the basic skills of the game while having a good time and enjoying the opportunity of being in the great outdoors. We also feel that kids will have an elevated experience when friends, parents, and family come to the ball park and enjoy the game with a positive and up lifting attitude, cheering not only for the child or team they are there to see, but all the kids. For the sake of all, especially the youth, we are asking any individual attending games of the MLLBB whether they are at our home field of Grant Park or at an away field to represent MLLBB and the teams of MLLBB in positive and uplifting cheers and praises through good conduct and sportsmanship.

In the spirit of America's Favorite Pastime and good sportsmanship we are implementing;  
***Our Zero Tolerance Articles of Conduct.***

## Zero Tolerance Articles of Conduct

- 1) All Players will be examples to other players. They will conduct themselves during practices, games and each interaction with the up most respect for each player. There will be no use of profanity, calling of names, hazing, heckling, or/and razzing of any player, coaches, opposing coaches, umpires, and/or game officials.
- 2) Team Manager (Head Coach) and Coaches will be a positive role model to our players. They will conduct themselves in practices, games and each interaction with the up most respect for each player and the assistant coaches. There will be no use of profanity, calling of names, hazing, abuse, heckling, or/and razzing of any players, opposing coaches, umpires, and/or game officials. **ONLY THE TEAM MANAGER WILL ADDRESS AN UMPIRE FOR QUESTIONS BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE GAME.** Coaches **CANNOT** question a judgment call, only question the ruling of a play.
- 3) Parents will be examples to their players and all players. They will conduct themselves during practices, games and each interaction with the up most respect for each player. There will be no use of profanity, calling of names, hazing, heckling, or/and razzing of any players, coaches, opposing coaches, umpires, and/or game officials. Parents will and must let the team manager (head coach) handle all questions and concerns with the umpire before, during, and after any game.
  - a) Parents will also be responsible to see that family members and friends attending games conduct themselves in the spirit of sportsmanship. Family and friends will be examples to their players and all players. They will conduct themselves during practices, games and each interaction with the up most respect for each player. There will be no use of profanity, calling of names, hazing, heckling, or/and razzing of any player, any families and/or friends, coaches, opposing coaches, umpires, and/or game officials. Family and friends will let the

team manager (head coach) handle all questions and concerns with the umpire before, during, and after any game.

- b) Parents please let the MLLBB Board member know of any situation you feel may require our attention.
- 4) There is no fighting or fisticuffs. This WILL result in IMMEDIATE and PERMANENT expulsion from the league for the remainder of the season, NO QUESTION ASKED – NO REFUNDS. If an extended family member is involved they WILL NOT be welcome back and considered TRESSPASSING and will be removed with a Murray City Police escort!
- 5) Players and coaches will not abuse (this includes throwing, kicking or using equipment other than which it was designed for) MLLBB equipment, you will be required to replace it with new.
- 6) There will be only one warning! This may come from an Umpire and/or a League Official. After one warning if the offending individual/s persists they will be asked to go to and remain behind the center field fence for the remaining of the game. If the offending individual/s persisting in the poor conduct behind the fence, they will be asked to leave the park property, AND will be placed under a mandatory two games suspension from any attendance of a MLLBB game and will be required to meet with the board members before being allowed back to MLLBB games.
  - a) A second eviction from the field property will result in suspension for the remainder of the season and post season play with no refund, no exceptions.
  - b) Immediate dismissal from Grant Park and MLLBB field will result from any abusive, profane, and/or hostile language.
  - c) Any fighting, fisticuffs, or other acts deemed inappropriate by MLLBB Board, Umpires, and/or Game Officials will result in immediate dismissal from MLLBB games and Grant Park. You will only be allowed back at Grant Park after and pending a review by the MLLBB Board AND approval.

In conclusion winning is a very small part of the goal of the MLLBB Board. We hope for sportsmanship in losing, winning and all other parts of the game, including mistakes made on and off the field. We hope each player will be a support to their team mates, coaches and the league in recognizing the written and unwritten rules of fair play and sportsmanship. We want this to be fun for all including the parents, family and friends of the players. We hope that each time a player walks on and off the field they can do it with a smile having done their best. To a fun, safe and GREAT season, best of luck to you the players! Let's play some baseball!

**Zero Tolerance Penalty Rulings:** Murray Liberty League Baseball, Inc.'s Zero Tolerance Articles of Conduct shall be *STRICTLY ENFORCED*. This includes heckling or razzing players, coaches, or umpires. The use of profanity or abusive language will not be tolerated. Any other acts that subjects' players, coaches, umpires, board members, or spectators to negative or hostile comments or actions ***will not be tolerated. MLLB will not tolerate any abuse of any kind. If there is an accusation the board will investigate and take the appropriate measures immediately!!!!***

## COACHES

1. Warned for a minor offense. Will have a discussion with official of league.
2. First offense: Ejected for the remainder of game and suspended for the next game.
3. Second offense: Ejected and terminated as coach.
4. All coaches must sign the *"Zero Tolerance Form"*

## PLAYERS

1. Warned by umpire for minor offense.
2. First offense: Removed from game.
3. Second offense: Removed from game and suspended from next game.
4. Third offense: Removed from game and expelled from league for remainder of season.
5. All players must sign the *"Zero Tolerance Form"*

## PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

1. Our umpires have been instructed to request the coaches to ask their spectators to settle down for minor infractions. If the coach does not comply with this request, the coach will be ejected, and this will be considered his/her first offense. The coach is responsible for his/her team's fans.
2. First offense: Ejected from game.
3. Second offense: Ejected from game plus suspended from next game.
4. Third offense: Ejected from game and banned for remainder of season.
5. Parent or guardian of players must sign the *"Zero Tolerance Form"*

**ANY VIOLATOR EJECTED MUST LEAVE WITHIN 5 MINUTES OR THE TEAM THAT THE VIOLATOR IS AFFILIATED WITH WILL FORFEIT THE GAME!!!**

## ARTICLE II – ORGANIZATION

### FIELD DECORUM

1. The action of players, managers, coaches, umpires and the Corporation's officials will be above reproach.
2. One adult may be used in the coaching box. The other coach may be either an adult or a player with their headgear on. The adult coach may not change coach's box during an inning. Intent is to keep the game moving.
3. The use of TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, AND NARCOTICS in any form and the use of profanity by any person ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE 4 DIAMOND COMPLEX OF GRANT PARK AND PROPERTY THEREIN.
4. No smoking, alcohol or narcotics will be allowed in or around the snack bar or restrooms, by any persons.
5. Whenever there is a dispute over a rule, play or general protocol, and the safety of the players is factored in, in any manner, the safety of the children will always come first.

## TEAMS

1. *Murray Liberty League Baseball, Inc.* will have 3 age group divisions or leagues. 1) Rookie(Pee-Wee) for ages 6, 7 & 8, Minors for ages 9 & 10, and Majors for ages 11 & 12.
2. All players will be placed on a team via the pre- season league draft (except rookies). All players must try out (except rookies). Only the head coach will be allowed to have his child/ children on his team roster prior to tryouts. After tryouts the league will hold a "draft" for all players that have signed up. All players will be placed on a team. The draft order will be determined before the draft is started going 1 to 10 and 10 to 1 or whatever number of teams we are able to fill.
3. Unless otherwise requested by a parent, a brother and/or sister combination shall be on the same teams unless they fall into a different age division.
4. Son/daughter players of managers will be allowed to move to the manager's team or parent team if different age division. Younger player must play up to the oldest child.
5. Prior to the opening of the regular season, the Corporation shall establish the number of players on each team, with a minimum of ten (10) and a maximum of twelve (12) on the Minors and Majors. Each team should have approximately the same number of players. All efforts will be made to make all teams as even as possible.
6. Not later than seven (7) days prior to the opening game of the regular season, managers must register the team roster with the name of each player, and the number of the uniform each was issued, and the name of the manager and the assistant manager with the Recording Secretary.
7. Only players on the registered roster of a team shall be in uniform and in the dugout.
8. Players younger than 6 years old may petition the Corporation to play in the Rookie Wee division. The Corporation reserves the right to deny any player access if the skill level might lead to an injury.

## PLAYERS

1. *Murray Liberty League Baseball, Inc.* will follow the Birth Chart in the Cal Ripken rulebook.
2. To be eligible to play in the current year a player must have a league age of: Rookie (Pee Wee) ages 6, 7 and 8, Minor ages 9 and 10, Major ages 11 and 12. 6-year old's may obtain permission to play from the Corporation.
3. Acceptable proof of age is outlined on page 7 of the Cal Ripken rulebook.
4. *Murray Liberty League Baseball Inc. Ruling:* All players must have legal residence or attend school within the boundaries of the Corporation's boundaries. After league play begins, the player shall remain a player for the duration of his/her career, providing that he/she can fulfill his/her obligation to the team. Any player living out of our city boundaries may play in our leagues but is ineligible for All-Stars, unless grandfathered in by player moving out of boundaries. (BRLI Rule 0.01 (5))
5. Team managers shall play each player as follows: No player shall sit out a second inning until all other players have sat out. An exception may be made for a player who misses two (2) consecutive practices without a reasonable excuse; or because of discipline or for

- failure to show up for a scheduled game. League official in charge must approve this action before the game starts that day.
6. Any team failing to comply with the above rule (MLL Rule 3 (E) must play that player for the entire next game.
  7. Cal Ripken rule 3.17 applies except that no bat boys/girls will be allowed within the playing area to include the dugout. This is a safety issue.
  8. For all Divisions playing at Liberty League, all players will be in the batting order for the entire game.
  9. **MINORS ONLY:** All players present at the time the game roster is submitted will be placed into the lineup as position 1-10 and designated batters. At the top of the 3'd inning designated batters MUST field a position 1-10 for a minimum of six (6) defensive outs. A player arriving after the roster has been submitted will be placed at the bottom of the roster. All players will bat the entire game.
  10. **PEEWEEES ONLY:** All of the issues in item VI-3-H apply to the Pee Wee division. The Pee Wee division will also place all their players in the field on defense although only the normal fielding positions within the dirt infield will be occupied. All other fielders will play off the dirt infield or in the outfield. The intent of this rule is to keep all the players active at this age and not on the bench.

## **MANAGERS**

1. Becoming a team manager is a privilege. A background check shall be conducted on all those individuals that wish to become a manager, coach, or assistant coach. Upon a positive result of that screening the selection of team managers shall be as follows:
  - A. Returning managers shall have first option.
  - B. Moving managers, i.e., managers wanting to move from minors to majors or from majors to minors, have second option if there is a vacancy on the parent team.
  - C. Returning team assistant coaches have the third option.
  - D. League officers will fill any other vacancies. Their selection should be based on the individual's qualifications, and if all other considerations are equal, lower level managers shall have preference. All vacancies must be filled, if possible, before tryouts or a minimum of four (4) weeks before the first scheduled game.
2. The team manager shall, at least two (2) weeks prior to the first scheduled game:
  - A. A. Select one (2) assistant manager.
3. The team manager shall submit a list of players who will not be playing in a game, and his reason for their not playing, to the official scorer prior to the game. This list must be recorded in the official scorebook.
4. The manager and the assistant manager may not leave the playing field at the same time. One of them must always be with the team.
5. All managers will be responsible for all equipment issued to their teams, and for the collection and return of such equipment at the conclusion of the season, or at the request of the executive board.

6. All managers will be furnished with a current copy of these Bylaws and playing rules before the start of the regular season.
7. All managers may have up to (2) assistants.
8. If a team manager lives outside the league boundaries, and has a son/daughter of league age, his son/daughter is eligible to play ball in the Murray Youth Baseball, Inc.'s leagues.
9. The Corporation's executive board must approve the assistant manager selected by a team manager. All managers must be twenty-one years of age by the start of the playing season. Assistant managers must be at least eighteen years of age.
10. All coaches and managers must submit to a background check. The cost of the background check will be paid by the league.
11. The Corporation's executive board must approve all coaches for all divisions. The board has final decisions on all coaches.

**NOTE:** When a manager moves up or out of the league, this does not automatically entitle the assistant manager to take over the team. The executive board must still approve the replacement coach.

## **DRAFTING PLAYERS**

1. *Murray Liberty League Baseball, Inc.* Ruling: Registration of players shall be held by April of each year.
2. TRYOUTS shall be held as soon after registration as time permits for all players that will play for that season in the minor and major divisions.
3. Rookies will not tryout and will be placed on teams by administrators.
4. At that time, every player shall be given an equal and fair chance to show his/her playing capabilities with other boys/girls of the same age. It is important that all managers be present at tryouts and that each player be observed individually under the same conditions.
5. Drafting of new players shall be held immediately after tryouts for all players who have registered to play. Any player that does not try out will go into the hat and be selected after all other players who did try out have been selected. These players will be selected from the hat in the draft order established earlier for this draft.
6. Players may request to play with a friend, and it will be up to the board and coaches to try to accommodate if practical.
7. A player who registers after the draft will be assigned to the team with the least personnel. If all team rosters are equal, lots will be drawn to see which team the player will be assigned.

## **DISPUTES AND PROTESTS**

1. Murray Youth Baseball, Inc. Ruling: Disputes over a ruling on the field that is **not a judgment call** shall be corrected immediately when brought to the attention of the umpire. The President or another executive board member shall be present each night a game is played.

2. Disputes concerning these Bylaws or manager disagreements other than playing rules will be subject to a majority decision of the executive board.
3. Any disagreement requiring a vote automatically disqualifies any officer from voting who is involved in the controversy. All board members may be involved in the protest discussion, but only those not excluded will vote to decide the protest outcome.
4. All protests must be submitted in writing, in duplicate, with a copy each to the executive board and the manager of the team against whom the protest is filed. A protest hearing will be held within forty-eight (48) hours after the protest is received.
5. The procedure for playing a game under protest shall be:
  1. The manager will immediately notify the umpire that the game is being played under protest with the rule number he/she is protesting.
  2. The manager will notify the scorekeeper who will note the point of protest in the official scorebook, and the number of minutes played.
  3. The manager will notify the opposing team manager.
  4. If a game is not completed because of a protest, it will be continued from the point of the protest. The same lineups **MUST** be used, and the pitching rule will be in effect for the week the game is completed.

#### **APPOINTMENTS OR ELECTIONS**

1. Appointments for all supporting positions shall be made by the Vice President and approved by the Murray Youth Baseball, Inc. Executive Board. Elections may be held if deemed necessary.

#### **ARTICLE III – GENERAL RULES & GAMERULES**

1. Rules to be followed will be those found in the Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken rulebook. The divisions that are played at Liberty League are those of the Cal Ripken age group. General rules for our leagues such as catcher's equipment, shoes, etc. can be found under Cal Ripken Division 13 – 15 Division 16 - 18 Division (Including Prep League).
2. Any changes to these rules will be covered within these Ground Rules. All other situations not covered by these bylaws. All other situations not covered by these Bylaws the Official Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Rule Book shall be considered binding.

#### **FIELD AND GAME TIME**

1. Game times will be set after registration and prior to beginning of season. This will be determined by the number of teams that are required. American League game duration will be 1 hour and 15 minutes until day light will allow 1:20 game duration.
2. Each team will be given 10 minutes of infield prior to the game **if time allows**.
  - A. There is no pre-game batting practice except in designated soft- toss areas.



3. A team may take the field with seven (7) players. The penalty for having only eight (7) players will be by taking an automatic out in the 8th batting position.
4. A catcher will wear a protective cup in all practices and games. THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED!! Murray Liberty League Baseball, Inc. encourages all players to wear a protective cup.
5. Bat boys/girls are not permitted. This is a safety issue.
6. Only the manager, (1) assistant coach, and (1) trainer are allowed within the playing field with the team just prior to and during the game. The intent of this rule is so the children on the opposing team are not intimidated by a greater number of adults on opposing team than on their own.
7. Only the batter, base runner, player on deck, and coaches at first and third bases are allowed on the field during the game. All other will be in the bullpen or on the benches, in their dugouts.
8. All the extra equipment, bags, gloves, balls, boxes, bats, stools, etc. shall be in the dugout at all times with no exceptions. The umpire has been instructed to stop play if these items have not been removed.
9. Once a uniform number has been assigned to a player, it must remain with that player for the entire season. If a change in uniform must be made, it must be reported to the Statistician or the President. Failure to do so could result in forfeit of game. All team members are to have matching pants of the same pant color. Preferred color is gray. Pants are to be purchased by the player. The league will not be supplying pants for season play.
10. All scorekeepers must be in place with lineups ready five (5) minutes before the start of the game. Failure to do this may result in forfeiting the game. Managers oversee making sure there is a scorekeeper for their team. If one cannot be supplied the game may be forfeited at their expense.
11. For Rookie Division: Teams will bat through their entire lineup once or until there is three outs whichever comes first.
12. For Major and Minor Divisions: Teams can score a maximum of 8 runs per half inning or three outs whichever comes first.

## MANAGERS

1. Murray Liberty League Baseball, Inc. Ruling: No manager or coach will be allowed behind the backstop while that team is playing, except to make a change in the lineup. **All managers or coaches must remain on their side of the field when the opposing team is at bat.**
2. All managers and coaches will keep the game moving without unnecessary delay. Only the manager, coach and scorekeeper may talk to the umpire during a game.
3. After every game the head coach must come up to the official scorekeepers and sign the official scorebook and approve all stats for this game.
  - A. After the game and books are signed the stats become official.
  - B. Any unsigned book by the end of that day's play also becomes official and no changes can be made to the scorebooks.

## PITCHERS:

**(The Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken rulebook does not care about wins or losses, it cares about the health and safety of the children that we are charged with. Murray Youth Baseball, Inc. agrees that this is the primary concern.)**

4. Murray Youth Baseball, Inc. Ruling: Any pitcher who is removed from the game as a pitcher may not return to pitcher in that game. He may play any other position and the batting order remains the same.
5. No more than five (5) pitchers shall be used in one game.  
**EXCEPTION:** In case of injury to a fifth pitcher, an additional pitcher maybe used.
6. Pitching distance for Rookies will be 38 feet and 46 feet with the pitching machine. The major and minor leagues will be per Cal Ripken Rules.
7. Violation of any section of Cal Ripken rules or amendments to those rules by these bylaws may result in protest of the game in which it occurs.
8. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after that pitcher is announced, but before a ball is pitched, shall not be considered a violation. League Officials are urged to take precautions to prevent protests. When a protest situation is imminent, the potential offender should be notified immediately. (See protest section of Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken rulebook.
9. Pitch counts (Recommended by the American Medical Association and the American Sports Medicine Institute) will be for the American League (Nation league will follow Cal Ripkin pitch count rules and regulations;

**Rookies** 36 Pitches per assignment

**Minors** 75 max pitches per assignment

**Majors** 85 max pitches per assignment

1-40 pitches; 0 days rest

41-65 pitches; 1-day rest

66+ pitches; 2 days rest

**\*\*\*Although these pitch counts are regulation every attempt should be made to limit number of pitches per assignment to protect our kids from unnecessary injury.**

*This includes ALL pitching assignment both in league and out of league.*

\*\*Scorekeepers will oversee keeping pitch count

\*\*Managers are responsible to ensure that pitch count is being kept.

## Things to watch for in pitcher fatigue

- a. Watch and respond to signs of fatigue (such as decreased ball velocity, decreased accuracy, upright trunk during pitching, dropped elbow during pitching, or increased time between pitches). If a youth pitcher complains of fatigue or looks fatigued, or looks fatigued, let him rest from pitching and other throwing.

- b. No overhead throwing of any kind for at least 2-3 months per year (4 months is preferred). No competitive baseball pitching for at least 4 months per year.
- c. Do not pitch more than 100 innings in games in any calendar year.
- d. Follow limits for pitch counts and days' rest.
- e. Avoid pitching on multiple teams with overlapping seasons.
- f. Learn good throwing mechanics as soon as possible. The first steps should be to learn, in order: 1) basic throwing, 2) fastball pitching, 3) change-up pitching.
- g. Avoid using radar guns.
- h. A pitcher should not also be a catcher for his team. The pitcher catcher combination results in many throws and may increase the risk of injury.
- i. If a pitcher complains of pain in his elbow or shoulder, discontinue pitching until evaluated by a sports medicine physician. Inspire youth pitchers to have fun playing baseball and other sports. Participation and enjoyment of various physical activities will increase the youth's athleticism and interest in sports.

## **NEW BATTING RULES EFFECTIVE PLEASE REVIEW**

1. Starting in 2018 all non-wood bats must have USA bat marking (Insurance will not cover any injury with a non-USA stamped bat). USSSA stamped bats are not legal they must be USA only!!!
  - a. The barrel maximum is 2 5/8"
  - b. No BBCOR bats are permitted in the Cal Ripken division.
  - c. This rule applies to National league teams starting in January 1, 2018

## **Schedules**

There will be 16 games scheduled in the regular season.

\*However, if rains outs are excessive then a total of 12 games played will be considered the seasons end, although every attempt will be made to get all 16.

## **ARTICLE IV – TOURNAMENTS**

1. If Murray Liberty League or Babe Ruth League is hosting a Regional or World Series tournament.
  - A. All players wanting to participate in these tournaments must play in the respective leagues in the current and prior year to the tournament. **EXCEPTION:** An exception to this rule may be made for a player that is a new move in to the city and with the approval of the Murray Youth Baseball, Inc. Executive Board.

**\*\*\*\*\* Murray Liberty League Board reserves the right to change these articles during the year or whenever it sees fit for necessary change.**

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