

MURILLO MINOR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

3-PITCH RULES & SAFETY TIPS



1. Games are scheduled to start at 6:30 pm. The Visiting Team is entitled to the infield from 6:55 to 6:10 pm. The Home Team is entitled to the infield from 6:10 to 6:25 pm. At 6:30 pm, the umpire will start the game.
2. Games are 4 innings. Scores will not be recorded.
3. All players may play in the field every inning. Extra players must be positioned in the outfield.
4. One Coach will be allowed in the outfield with his / her players.
5. Coaches should rotate their players to different positions each inning, including the opportunity to be "Last Batter".
6. All base runners / batters must wear helmets, even during warm-ups. The back catcher must wear pads, chest protector and helmet with face mask.
7. Any player positioned in the infield "pitching area" must wear a pitching helmet.

Substitute Players

8. If a team has less than 7 players, the Coaches may have up to 3 substitute players. All substitutes must be MMAA-registered 3-Pitch Division players. If necessary, players from the opposing team can play for the team that is short players. If both teams are short players, they can have a practice game, and umpires are still expected to officiate.
9. At the discretion of the Coach, substitute players should be assigned to outfield positions to give the regular players the opportunity for infield position play.

Pitching

10. A Coach from the offensive (batting) team will be the pitcher.
11. The ball will be pitched from the pitcher's mound (about 25 ft. from home plate). The Coach pitcher may adjust their pitching distance from home plate as needed to accommodate **pitching to very small children**.
12. Each batter receives three pitches. If not hit, each pitch is a strike. It is at the pitching Coach's discretion to allow the occasional 4th pitch if pitching quality is poor, especially for new players early in the season.
13. The defensive (in-field) team players will stand in the pitcher position next to the Coach pitcher, outside the pitching mound. When the ball is hit by the batter, the Coach pitcher will not intentionally interfere with the play. If, in the umpire's opinion, the Coach pitcher intentionally interferes with the play, the batter will be called out. If the ball hits the Coach pitcher, or is caught unintentionally, the ball is dead, and the pitch does not count.

Batting & Running

14. Each team will complete their entire batting lineup every inning. A player that is called out must leave the playing field. The inning **is not** over even if three outs are achieved.
15. The Coach of the batting team must ensure non-batting players remain in the dugout. Only the next batter is permitted in the batter warm-up circle. The next batter should not be approaching the plate until directed by the Coach, making sure the play has completely stopped, and any runner has arrived at home plate.
16. First Base is a safety base. Educate the runners to step on the orange side of the safety base; and fielders to use the white side of the base.
17. Only one additional base may be taken by the runner/batter on an over-throw into foul territory or out of bounds.
18. Only one base may be taken by a runner or batter on an overthrow within the playing field. However, the runner is subject to being tagged out, as the ball is still in play.
19. Runners must "tag up" on a fly ball if it is caught by a fielder. There is no infield fly rule.
20. If a ball is hit into the outfield and is not caught, runners may advance until the ball is thrown back into the in-field. The umpire will call "**The ball is in the infield**". When this occurs, **the base runners may continue to the base they were going to, but no further**. Runners are still subject to being tagged out. **This rule does not apply on Last Batter**.
21. For safety reasons, base runners are not stop on home plate, but touch it with their foot and run back to their bench. There is no stealing of bases or sliding.
22. When the **Last Batter** is up, the Coach will announce to the umpire that this is the "Last Batter". The umpire will then announce to the field that this is the "Last Batter". If the Coach fails to inform the umpire of the last batter before the first pitch is thrown, the batter is out, and the half inning is over.
23. When the "Last Batter" hits the ball into fair territory, the runners will advance until they reach home plate safely, or the ball is held by **the back catcher or pitcher on home plate**. Runners do not have to tag up on a fly ball on Last Batter.
24. The MMAA reserves the right to amend these rules if necessary.