

2010 AJB League Rules and Regulations

League #1	Ages 7-8	Rookie League
League #2	Ages 9-10	American League
League #3	Ages 11-12	National League
League #4	Ages 13-14	Minors
League #5	Ages 15-18	Majors

GENERAL RULES

1. *All players must be registered for the season before they are allowed to play and no later than June 5th assuming there are rosters positions open. No player may be registered in the AJB program if the player is on another travel team roster. (Renegade, BNBA, Pony, etc.)*
2. *Players must wear the shirt, cap and pants provided by the program. It is recognized that a player or two may lose track of a hat or jersey but the intent is to promote program continuity and the team sponsors.*
3. *No player, coach, parent or fan shall use profanity, tobacco or alcohol at any AJB function or game.*
4. *Coaches, players and parents shall not argue with or chastise an umpire. A coach, player or fan is prohibited from arguing balls or strikes called by the umpire. The umpire may deem the game a forfeit should a coach, player, or fan's behavior become inappropriate, intimidating or unprofessional.*
5. *Concerns related to an umpire's performance shall be addressed with the AJB office, and not at the playing field. The league will do its best to educate umpires and handle legitimate concerns. Please keep in mind it is youth baseball, adults are the role models and the purpose of the program is to provide recreational baseball for the players!!!*
6. *Please observe the various field use agreements the AJB maintains with the Town of Normal, City of Bloomington and local school districts. These are posted to the website under the League Rules tab.*
7. *Coaches shall meet with the umpire prior to the start of the game for introductions, to review the rules, and address any outstanding questions. This is a good time to remind the umpire to be vocal. There shall be a maximum of three coaches in the dugout or bench area per team.*
8. *Each team shall provide one new baseball to the umpire at the start of the game. AJB provides 18 new baseballs in the equipment bag at the beginning of the season. All baseballs should be returned at the conclusion of the season.*

REPORTING GAME SCORES:

Scores should be reported to the AJB office immediately after the game. The Pantagraph needs scores by 9:00 pm the day of the game!!! Sponsors appreciate being associated with the AJB and the exposure. Identify teams by number or sponsor and report scores via answering machine at 829-2129 or e-mail ajb.baseball@verizon.net.

FORFEITS & 10-RUN RULE:

A team must have at least 7 players and must place an out in the batting order for each player they are short of 9. Outs can be placed where desired but must remain in the same spot of the lineup throughout the game. A team failing to field 7 players within 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the game shall forfeit. Home teams leading by 10 runs after 3-1/2 for Leagues 1 & 2, or 4-1/2 innings for Leagues 3 - 5 are declared the winner. The home team does not bat in the bottom of said inning (4th or 5th) when leading by 10 or more runs.

LEAGUE SCHEDULE

*Week night games will start at 5:30 pm or 7:45 pm. Coaches will be given keys to the field box which will contain the light key needed for late games. **Coaches are responsible for shutting the lights out at the end of the 2nd game of the night at lighted fields. Please be sure to return the light key to the field box at the game's end.** Saturday game times will vary so please refer to the website schedule.*

AJB will schedule practices for each team the two weeks preceding the regular season. A few practices will be scheduled in season for leagues 1 & 2. Beyond this AJB will NOT schedule or reserve in season practices.

The schedule will be abbreviated during the July 4th holiday based on the calendar. AJB will notify coaches if there is a necessary change in schedule. We will attempt to e-mail or phone coaches when games are re-scheduled and also post additional make up games to the Master Schedule on the website. Games are not re-scheduled unless a team has at least 2 rain-outs.

For pre-game infield warm ups: On weeknights, the visiting team (listed first on the schedule) has use of the field from 5:05 to 5:15 pm and the home team from 5:15 to 5:25 pm. On Saturdays, visiting teams will warm up 25 minutes before and the home team 15 minutes before game time. The warm-ups shall be equally abbreviated if games are running behind schedule in all cases.

PLAYERS & SUBSTITUTIONS

No more than 14 players will be assigned to a team and AJB reserves the right to balance rosters for the benefit of the league. Unlimited substitution is permitted with the exception of the pitcher who can not be re-entered as a pitcher in the same game.

In League 1, eleven players may play in the field. Nine players must first be assigned to the ordinary positions and the 10th and 11th shall play the outfield. In League 2, ten players may play in the field, adding a fourth outfielder (Left, Left Center, Right, Right Center). In League's 3, 4 & 5 nine players are assigned to the ordinary positions.

All players should play approximately the same number of innings each week and for the entire season. If a player does not start a game, he should be in the starting line-up for the team's next game. Players shall be given the opportunity to play different positions during the season. A coach reserves the right to position a player based on their ability so as to prevent injury or dangerous situations to the player.

PITCHING

In League 1 each coach will pitch to his or her own team and throw overhand. A player will be assigned to field the pitcher's position; coaches shall not field a batted ball unless protecting a player.

Leagues 2-3: A player may not pitch more than 4 innings per game and 10 innings in one calendar week, (Monday through Sunday). Any player that pitches in an inning may not pitch the next day. If a player pitches 4 innings they may not pitch the next 2 days.

Leagues 4-5: A player may not pitch more than 5/6 innings per game and 12 innings in one calendar week, (Monday through Sunday). (See attached chart.) Any player that pitches in an inning may not pitch the next day. If a player pitches 5/6 innings they may not pitch the next 2 days.

Leagues 2 – 5: Each team is responsible to record the pitchers used per inning in their scorebook and this information should be available to the AJB office upon request.

BATTING

All players must be in the batting order regardless of whether they are playing in the field. Coaches shall make every attempt to rotate lineups so that each player gets approximately the same number of at bats throughout the season. Any player in the field of play, and on deck hitters, shall wear a batting helmet at all times. If helmets are damaged please contact the AJB office for a replacement.

Bat Sizes Leagues 4 & 5 Only:

Bats of 2-5/8" in diameter or greater and over 30" in length are limited to a -3 length to weight differential. Bats less than 2-5/8" in diameter and less than 32" in length are not restricted by a weight differential.

BASERUNNING

League 2 & 3: Steals are limited to three per inning, and a double steal constitutes two steals. A runner advancing on a wild pitch or passed ball counts as a stolen base. Stealing of home plate is not permitted unless a play is made on the runner at third base. Advancing on overthrows should be limited to one base at a time. There are no lead-offs in League 2. If a runner(s) is eligible to steal a base they may leave the base after the pitcher releases the ball. No Lead-offs in League 3 after 3 Successful Steals.

League 4 & 5: Steals or advancements are unlimited. Stealing of home plate is permitted and base runners must always slide at home plate in a steal attempt. In play other than a steal attempt, and there is no obvious play made at the plate, the catcher may not unnecessarily block the plate. If the umpire deems there was no obvious play attempt at the plate he may waive the slide requirement.

A base runner attempting to reach a base, (except 1st base), shall slide if an attempt is being made for a put out and coaches shall do their best to direct a player to slide when appropriate. It is an umpire's discretion to call a runner out for not sliding. The intent is to prevent potential collisions between runners and fielders.

RULES BY LEAGUE

League Designations	Rookie (7-8)	American (9-10)	National (11-12)	Minors (13-14)	Majors (15-18)
Game Length	6 Inn. or 1:40	6 Inn. or 1:40	7 Inn. or 2 Hr.	7 Inn. or 2 Hr.	7 Inn. or 2 Hr.
Complete Game	4 Inn.	4 Inn.	5 Inn.	5 Inn.	5 Inn.
10-Run Rule	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6-Runs Per Inning	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Base Length	55'	65'	70'	80'	90'
Pitching Distance	38'	42' (44-46)	45' (50)	54'	60'-6"
Strikes for Out	4	3	3	3	3
Balls for Walk	No Walks	4	4	4	4
Pitching Per Game/Week	NA	4/10 Innings	4 /10 Innings	5/12 Innings	6/12 Innings
Lead-Offs	N	N	Y, No after 3 steals	Y	Y
Steals	N	3 Per Inn.	3 Per Inn.	Unlimited	Unlimited
Stealing of Home	N	N	N	Y	Y
Base Advancement	N	1 Base	1 Base	Unlimited	Unlimited
Bunting	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bat Size	Not Limited	Not Limited	Not Limited	2-5/8" over 30" Maximum -3	2-5/8" over 30" Maximum -3
Infield Fly Rule	NA	NA	NA	Applies	Applies
Drop Third Strike	NA	NA	NA	Applies	Applies
On-Field Players	11	10	9	9	9

WEATHER RELATED CANCELLATIONS AND GAME STATUS:

AJB does not cancel games based on forecasts. In case of rain or wet fields, there are several ways to determine if games will be played. Your first source of information should be the AJB website at www.ajbbaseball.com. This information will be available at the top of the front page of the website posted in "red" where you see "Cancellation Information". Please remember to refresh your browser for updates each time you visit the website. A second source of cancellation information will be available at the local radio stations WJBC and WBNQ after 4:00 pm on week days and as early as possible on Saturdays. Coaches, players and parents are discouraged from calling the baseball office regarding weather related game status, but AJB will attempt to update the office phone message to reflect game status in the event of cancellations.

Under no circumstances shall play be continued where thunder or lightning are observed. The umpire shall clear the playing field play shall not resume until 30 minutes have elapsed from the last observation of thunder or lightning. Adults should be aware of weather conditions and be prepared to call the game in the event of dangerous weather. AJB fully respects a coach's or parent's decision to remove their players from a game based on weather conditions.

A forfeit will not be called if a coach or umpire is of the opinion the weather conditions are unsafe for play. This does not have to be a common decision between opposing coaches. With 30 fields across the community, AJB cannot assess the severity of the various locations and relies on the adults present to make these decisions.

In the event of weather delays in a scheduled double-header, the first game shall not play beyond the scheduled start time of the second game regardless of the game status. If the required number of innings has been played to constitute a legal game, the game is over. If not, the game may possibly be continued at a rescheduled date.