

Saskatoon Minor Baseball 2023 AA 18U League Handbook

The following rules govern league play at the AA level. Except for specific provisions mentioned in these rules, play will be in accordance with the current **Baseball Canada** and **SBA**. regulations.

A. Deadlines

1. League fees are payable on receipt of invoice.
2. SBA Membership lists for out-of-town teams must be sent to the Minor Division Administrator (Christa Parent - administrator@baseballsaskatoon.com) prior to the start of the season.
3. SBA Provincial rosters must be forwarded to SBA, Regina directly by the teams themselves. Deadlines for registration, fees, and roster forms may be downloaded from the SBA website (www.saskbaseball.ca). An SBA committee will use a ranking based on regular season and tournaments to place you in an appropriate category.
4. The Quinn Stevenson Memorial 18U Midget AA Tournament is May 26-28.
5. All teams are automatically entered in the League Championship tournament. Entry fees are included in the team registration fees.

B. General Information and Regulations

1. See 2023 Midget AA League calendar in Appendix A.
2. Game status because of weather and field conditions can be viewed at Field Conditions link on the Saskatoon Baseball website - <https://www.baseballsaskatoon.com/18u-field-conditions/>. Also, follow *Baseball Saskatoon* on Twitter (@baseballyxe) to get field condition/weather updates.
3. The decision to cancel games for out-of-town teams (excluding S5) due to poor weather will be made by 3:30 pm. Weather cancellations for games played in city including city teams and S5 will be made by 4 pm.
4. The HOME team will occupy the 3rd base side; the VISITING team will occupy the 1st base side.
5. Each team will be allowed a 10-minute infield, starting with the HOME team 25 minutes before game time and the VISITING team at 15 minutes before game time. Teams failing to start their infield on time will not be permitted to extend their designated time and delay start of the game.
6. Use of a courtesy runner for the catcher is permitted. The runner shall be the last player out.
7. There is a 90 s limit between ½ innings to keep up the pace of games. (*revised 2022*)
 - The between innings clock will be set at ninety (90) seconds.
 - Umpire will keep time with stopwatch.
 - The clock will be in effect for the entire game, including any extra innings.
 - It will be activated once the last out of the inning has been recorded.
 - The pitcher must complete and may not exceed 8 warm up pitches within the time.
 - The catcher will be instructed a throw to second base with 30 seconds left on the clock.
 - The batter must be entering the batter's box as time expires or when instructed by the Home Plate Umpire.
 - The umpire will use discretion when the catcher is a runner or batter / hitter when the half inning ends.
 - When a new pitcher enters the game, they shall receive 8 preparatory pitches, unless under emergency circumstances covered elsewhere in OBR. Each additional inning, they shall receive 5 preparatory pitches, the umpire has the discretion to extend this to 8 pitches under special circumstances, i.e. Cold weather or extraordinary long inning. Both shall not exceed 90 seconds.

8. The start time for games is 6:00 pm up to May Long Weekend and 6:30 pm thereafter.
9. It is the responsibility of a team to inform the Midget Division Coordinator if a game must be cancelled. A **72-hour notice** is required for the cancellation of games not affected by weather. A team failing to have nine players for a game at the time of game start can play up to 20 min. An automatic out will occur for that 9th missing player during that 20 min. grace period. A team failing to field 9 players by 20 min after the scheduled game start time will forfeit that game and have a score of 7-0 recorded against it.
10. No balls may be hit into any fence or the backstop during drills or warm-ups.
11. Only wood bats are allowed.
12. All games will be scheduled and played in Saskatoon. If out of town teams can agree to play a scheduled game each other at their fields rather than Saskatoon, or if an out of town team can find a Saskatoon team willing to come play a scheduled game at their field, please let me know as soon as possible (at least a week in advance). For out of town games, the Midget AA League will not be responsible for assignment of umpires but will be willing pay for the cost of umpires up to the amount we get charged per game for umpires in Saskatoon.

C. The Game

1. All games are 7 innings long with the following exceptions:
 - **there is NO time limit for game, except for mercy situations and inclement lighting/weather conditions.**
 - if a team is ahead by 10 or more runs after 5 complete innings or any complete inning after that, the game will end; 10-run mercy rule is in effect for all games. **NOTE:** If the HOME team is leading by 10 runs after the VISITING team has completed its bat in the fifth or a subsequent inning, the game will be considered complete, and the HOME team will not bat.
 - if the HOME team is ahead after the VISITING team has batted in the 7th inning.
 - when the HOME team scores the winning run in the bottom half of the 7th inning.
 - when coaches and umpires agree that light or poor weather poses a hazard to the players. Games ruled incomplete or cancelled due to weather or light conditions will not be rescheduled except for games in the League Championship tournaments.
 - if there is less than a 30 sec. interval between a lightning flash and the sound of thunder, games will be suspended until the storm has passed or the game is called.
 - A game is considered complete if 5 complete innings have been played or the home team is ahead after 4 1/2 innings.
 - The decision to stop a game due to weather or light must include representatives from both teams and the umpire, otherwise the game may be defaulted to the team not included in the decision to stop the game.
2. Games will be played as "Everybody Bats" and with unlimited substitution and re-entry of players as per SBA regulations.
3. **Line up cards NEED to be presented to the plate umpire at the pre-game plate meeting.**
4. The HOME team will provide sufficient game balls, scorekeeper, and the scorebook. Teams are welcome to use GameChanger as an official scorebook. The official scorebook regardless of whether it is paper form or electronic must show an accurate account of scoring for the game as it will be the official record for the game. *(revised 2022)*
5. The VISITING team will provide the pitch count forms and pitch count keeper. After the game, the pitch count forms are to be returned to the respective teams for their records. Each team is responsible to correctly enter their own pitch count in the TeamLinkt app under 'Statistics'. See following link for instruction to enter pitch counts <https://help.teamlinkt.com/en/articles/6187334-submitting-pitch-counts>.

6. The HOME team is responsible for entering the game score in the TeamLinkt app no later than 24 hours after finish of the game. Process to enter scores in app is similar to that for pitch count (see C. 5.).
7. The HOME team is responsible for returning the bases to the lock boxes after the game and ensuring that the box is locked.

D. League Format

1. Normal league play (18 games)
2. Use ALL league play games (win %) to seed teams into 2 playoff divisions (A & B)
3. A & B divisions will play off separately
4. League championship game will be game with A & B division winners

E. Pitching Regulations

1. Pitch count rules as per SBA pitching regulations are in effect (Appendix B).
2. Once a pitcher has been removed from the mound, he/she may not pitch again in that game but may play in any other defensive position except catcher. (*revised 2021*)
3. Updated pitch count rules (*revised prior to 2022*)
 - a. **When a pitcher reaches the maximum number of pitches allowed for a threshold (pitch count threshold table), he/she can complete the at-bat without penalty** on days of rest, if he/she does not pitch to another batter. In this situation, the number of pitches corresponding to the threshold reached will be indicated on the pitching log.
NOTE: Once the Coach informs the Umpire that a Pitcher is facing their final batter when they are 1 pitch away from a threshold, the umpire then informs the official scorekeeper and the total Pitch Count to be recorded by the Scorekeeper will be the threshold number that they just arrived at. No additional pitches will be counted as the pitcher finishes that batter before being removed as the pitcher.
 - b. If a pitcher meets the requirements to pitch on consecutive days and the pitcher does not go over the first daily threshold during game 1, they are permitted to have a 2nd appearance in the same calendar day or the next day if they do not exceed the minimum first threshold (18U: 40 pitches). **Pitchers will not be permitted to exceed the maximum daily allowable number of pitches in any two-day period.** When the pitchers two-day total reaches the maximum daily allowable number, that pitchers mandatory days rest starts the following day at 12:01 AM and is based on the total number of pitches thrown over the two-day period.

e.g., A 18U pitcher throws 40 pitches on Day 1 (Friday). On Day 2 (Saturday), that pitcher is limited to 65 pitches. The pitchers two-day total is now 105 and this combined total over 2 days is the number to be used to determine Days of Rest. In this case, the Pitcher cannot pitch again for 4 days starting at 12:01 AM Sunday.
4. Pitching violations are to be reported to the 18U Coordinator who in turn will refer them to the Baseball Saskatoon Discipline Committee.
5. Pitch counts do not roll over and start at 0 for tournaments. You are expected (honor system) to allow proper rest for pitchers leading into tournaments.

F. Affiliates

Players (affiliates) may be used/borrowed from another team for a maximum of 5 regular season games (tournament play is not included) unless arrangements approved by league are in place; e.g., small team

sizes dictating numerous pickups. In all circumstances, that player must be cleared by the coach of his regular team to play. The affiliate player is not allowed to play on a different team if his team is scheduled to play or is playing in regular league play that day. The affiliate player cannot pitch or catch. Coaches not complying with this policy will be disciplined by the Saskatoon Baseball.

H. Team Responsibilities

1. Players will stay off the field until their pre-game warm-up.
2. No balls will be hit into the screen, and teams will clean out their dugout at the conclusion of their game.
3. Teams will pick up any garbage around the diamond after the game. Any damage or excessive clean-up costs at any facility will be directly billed to the team responsible.

I. Coach Certification

Baseball Saskatoon strongly recommends that coaches have Local Respect in Sport and Online Coach Initiation module certification (see <https://www.baseballsaskatoon.com/coaching-information/>).

If your team is planning to attend Provincials see Baseball Sask Provincial Coaching Requirements (<https://www.baseballsask.ca/assets/2022-NCCP-Requirements-for-Provincials.pdf>).

J. Discipline

All players and coaches are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. Umpires have the full support of the league in discouraging the throwing of equipment, abusive or profane language, or any action deemed detrimental to the game. Abusive fans will be the responsibility of the team they are supporting, and team managers will be held responsible for maintaining control.

When a player is ejected in a game, his position in batting lineup shall be considered an out for the remainder of the game. If ejection leads to less than 9 player, the game is defaulted (7-0 win) to the other team.

Any ejections from a game will be forwarded to the 18U Coordinator for review and possible further action.

Please read 'Baseball Saskatoon Code of Conduct.pdf'.

APPENDIX A

MIDGET (18U) AA SEASON

**BASEBALL SASKATOON
2023 SEASON SCHEDULE**

May 1 OPENING DAY – All Divisions

May 26-28 Quinn Stevenson Memorial 18U Midget AA Open Tournament

July 4-14 13U AA, 18U AA League Playoffs

July 21-23 18U AA Tiers 1-5 Provincial Championships– Locations TBA

APPENDIX B

**SASKATOON MINOR BASEBALL
18U DIVISION
PITCH COUNT RULES**

Midget											
April 30 to end of season	# of pitches	Rest	# of Pitches	Rest	# of Pitches	Rest	# of Pitches	Rest	# of Pitches	Rest	Maximum pitches
	1 - 40	None	41 - 55	1 day	56 - 70	2 days	71 - 85	3 days	85 - 105	4 days	105

NOTE: A rest day commences at 12:01 am following the day the pitcher was used i.e. the number of nights of sleep a player is required to have before pitching again is always **one more** than the number of days of rest.

The following rules are also in effect:

1. Pitchers may throw 3 consecutive days in a row provided the combined number of pitches thrown on the first two days does not exceed 40.
2. Pitchers may have 2 appearances on the same calendar day provided no more than 40 pitches are thrown in the first appearance and the total pitch count for the day does not exceed the maximum pitch limit. (An appearance is defined as one pitch or more thrown in a game.)
3. A pitcher who has reached his or her maximum pitch limit while facing a batter will be permitted to continue pitching until that batter reaches base or is put out.
4. Intentional walks will be included in pitch count totals.
5. Once a player assumes the position of pitcher, he/she cannot catch for the remainder of that day.
6. A player cannot pitch on 4 consecutive days even though 40 or less pitches were thrown on each of the previous days.
7. Pitchers will not be permitted to exceed the maximum daily allowable number of pitches in any two-day period. **(Revised 2020)**

The scorekeeper is asked to advise the coach when a pitcher is within 5 pitches of the maximum allowed. Failure of a coach to remove that pitcher when the maximum pitch count is reached will result in the game being forfeited.