

West El Paso Baseball League Midgets Division Rules 2009

- This is a recreational and instructional summer league. Teams will consist of non-select players of all skill levels.
- No protests will be permitted. Games will not be replayed. Report misapplications of the rules to the League and let the League handle the situation through the officials' association.
- Age (7 and 8 y/o) limit will be determined as of **April 30, 2009**. Younger age players can play with league approval.

Game Length

- Games will consist of 6 innings. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 30 minutes of play. Teams will complete the inning in progress unless the home team is at bat and already leading.
- Tied games will not be extended to determine a winner unless both coaches agree.
- Games that complete 2½ or 3 full innings will be considered "official" and will not be rescheduled.
- Games will not be "forfeited" due to a lack of players. Teams will borrow players from another team in the league (player must be on an official roster) in order to play. Games must be played. Borrowed players must play the outfield.

Home team will keep the official scorebook and occupy the first base dugout. Home team will notify league of the game results: who won, the score. Email results to westelpasobaseball@comcast.net Subject: Division, team name and score (Midgets: Muckdogs 13 vs Bats 3)

Participation

Only players that are officially registered and paid can participate. The league must have received payment; registration and waiver forms must be completely filled out.

- Player participation will be, at a minimum of any 6 of 12 defensive outs.
- Every player present for the game must play 2 of the first 4 innings. Players that will not receive their minimum playing time (due to injury, illness, or discipline) must be identified to the opposing coach prior to the start of the game. Free substitution for all defensive players.

- Ten (10) defensive players will play in the field with four (4) outfielders. The fourth outfielder may not be allowed to assume an infield position. All outfielders must stay behind the baseline, and on the grass.
- Any player, manager, coach or spectator that is ejected from a game will depart the area and also be suspended for the team's next game. A second ejection will result in suspension for the remainder of the season.
- Any player, manager, coach or spectator that is an active participant in a physical confrontation will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
- Each team is limited to five runs scored per inning for each inning through the first five. Unlimited runs are permitted to be scored by each team in the final inning. If time is running out, coaches must agree on prior to the beginning of the next inning that the upcoming inning will be the last.

Pitching Machine Rules

- The pitching machine and extension cord will be stored in a dumpster between fields 1 and 3 at El Pomar Fields. The coach of each midget team will have the key to the dumpster.
- Pitching Machine: The home team is responsible for setting up and putting away the pitching machine, locking up the dumpster. When putting away the pitching machine please make sure the motor is facing up and the machine is resting in its wheel. The extension cord is rolled up and set around the machines stand.
- Distance between home plate and pitching machine: The front edge of the pitching machine will be set at forty-two feet (42'), usually the first rubber to the back point of home plate.
- Recommended pitching speed is **35 M.P.H – 37 M.P.H.**
- Players have a maximum of seven pitches through the pitching machine for the first two weeks of the season from June 15th to June 28th. The league will allow players to swing and try to hit the ball fair using up to seven pitches. After the seventh pitch without putting the ball in fair play the batter will be out. The first two weeks will be a time for players to acclimate to hitting off a pitching machine. Beginning on June 29th any combination of three strikes (swings attempted) will result in an out or failing to hit the ball fair by the seventh pitch without striking out will result in an out. An example would be: batter looks at two pitches, next pitch he swings and misses, the next two pitches he fouls off. Batter has a count of two strikes with only two pitches left to make contact. On the very next pitch batter swings and misses...batter is out. There are no walks.
- When a batted ball hits the pitching machine the ball is dead, the batter is awarded first (1st) base and all runners advance one (1) base.

- Fair Ball Arc – There will be a twenty-foot (20') arc drawn from 1st baseline to 3rd baseline in front of home plate. A batted ball must go past this line to be fair.

Batting Rules

- The batting order will consist of all players present for the game. This order will not change throughout the contest. If a player leaves the game for any reason (ie; is injured or leaves early), the order will move up and the team will not be charged with an out for the missing batter when that spot comes to bat.
- Players arriving late may only be added to the bottom of the batting order.
- No on-deck batter. All other players must stay in the dugout.
- No Bunting

***No Big Barrel Bats**

***NO BPF (Bat Performance Factor) required in the league**

Base Running Rules

- * Over Throw: One base on an overthrow.
- "Pinch" base runners needed due to injury will be the last player that recorded an out.
- It is the responsibility of the base runner to avoid a collision. The runner must slide, give up, or attempt to return if the infielder is in position and has possession of the ball or is simultaneously receiving the ball. Runners may not attempt to dislodge the ball. The penalty is an out and ejection for unsportsman-like conduct at the discretion of the umpire. Malicious contact will supersede any fielder's obstruction.
- Players may not lead off and must wait for the ball to be hit before leaving the base.
- 60 ft distance between all bases
- Stealing is not allowed.

- Two adult coaches may be used as base coaches at first and third base only.
- One umpire (parent) on the field. Will be provided by the home team.
- Home team will keep the official scorebook and occupy the first base dugout.

Safety Rules

- No metal cleats are allowed. All catchers must wear a hard cup. All players must wear appropriate athletic supporter, and should be encouraged to wear a heart guard.
- Only players enrolled as team members may participate in league games.
- Helmets must remain on base runners until they arrive in the dugout.
- No soft toss or batting practice will be allowed against the fences of any fields.
- No on-deck batter.

Weather Cancellations

- Cancellations will be posted on the website at www.westelpasobaseball.com or you can call the league line # 648-5171. The league has no control over the playing conditions of the fields. El Pomar Youth Sports Complex grounds crew will have the final decision over fields' readiness for games and safety.

West El Paso Baseball will continue to update bylaws as needed.