

Ramsey Minor League Rules

The following rules have been adopted by the executive Board of the Ramsey Baseball Association. All rules of the various national baseball and softball organizations with which the RBA is associated will be official except where superseded by Ramsey Local Rules as published. Local rules for in-town play only.

GENERAL PROCEDURE GOVERNING CHANGES IN LOCAL RULES:

Changes in rules will normally originate within the individual leagues. The League President and managers meet and recommend changes to the rules. These recommendations are passed on to the Rules Committee in writing prior to February 1st in order to be acted on for the current season. The League President meets with the Rules Committee for the discussion of the recommendations. The Rules Committee shall present its opinion and the original recommendations to the Executive Committee for finalization.

The Rules Committee must submit any recommendations they initiate to the individual league before forwarding to the Executive Committee.

The various leagues should meet at the end of the season to discuss rules and recommend changes if needed.

DISCIPLINE:

- The manager must control the conduct of the team. The opposing manager must be advised before the start of a game if a player is being disciplined.
- 1) Bunting
 - 1.1 One bunt per inning, per team
- 2) Base Running
 - 2.1 Player may leave the base only after the ball has entered the hitting zone. In other words the ball must be over the plate before the runner leaves the base.
 - 2.1.1 First violation of this rule during a game will result in a team warning. The second and all subsequent violations will

Ramsey Minor League Rules

result in the runner being called out.

2.2 Base runners may not intentionally take the catcher out play at home. Runners must slide or avoid any contact with the catcher.

2.3 Base runners may not interfere with an infielder at any base to such a point that a play cannot be completed

2.3.1 Penalty – Base runner is out

2.4 At first, second and third bases a fielder must move out of the way of an oncoming runner if he does not have a play on the runner at the base that he is covering.

2.4.1 Penalty – Runner is awarded the next base

2.5 A runner at third base may, at his own risk, come home if the defensive team tries to make a play on him at third base. In other words, the defensive team unfreezes the runner when they try to pick him off. This does not mean that the runner at third can steal home.

3) Stealing

3.1 Only one base may be stolen by each base runner on any given play

3.2 Home cannot be stolen, nor advanced to on an overthrow by the catcher, when he has attempted to throw out a base runner stealing 2nd or 3rd.

4) Pitching

4.1 Pitchers shall get 8 (eight) warm up pitches prior to each inning.

4.2 A pitcher is removed from the game after hitting 2 (two) batters in one inning or 3 (three) batters in one game.

4.3 In the case of a batter being hit by a pitched ball that bounces before it hits the batter, the batter is awarded 1st base, but the pitcher is not penalized under the "hit batter" rule.

4.4 A pitcher must observe specific rest periods between pitching appearances. If a pitcher works in three innings or fewer, that pitcher may not work on the next calendar day. If the pitcher works in four innings or more, three calendar days' rest must be observed. In addition, a player is limited to pitching six innings in a calendar week, Sunday through Saturday.

4.4.1 If a game were played on Saturday a pitcher would not be available to pitch again until Wednesday. His three rest days would be Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

4.5 A pitcher cannot pitch more than four innings in a game.

Ramsey Minor League Rules

4.6 If a game is played on Sunday and it is a make up of a rainout from the previous week, the pitcher's innings may apply to the previous week.

4.7 Each and every inning pitched counts toward total innings for the week.

4.8 One pitch constitutes an inning.

4.9 Manager may make 2 (two) trips to the mound: On the third trip, the pitcher must be removed.

4.10 Once a pitcher is removed from the mound, he cannot return to pitch.

4.11 A violation of the Pitching Rules will result in a forfeit.

5) General Play

5.1 Every player present at a game will be in the batting order

5.2 Any player coming

5.3 Players MUST play a minimum of 4 innings in the field

5.3.1 Exception: Player on visiting team takes the field for the first time in the bottom of the fourth and there is no bottom of the sixth played due to a home team win after 5 ½. This is not a violation.

5.4 Three outs per inning or bat through the lineup once.

5.5 If one team has more players present, the number of players to bat per inning is determined by the team with the most players.

5.6 A team must field 8 (eight) players in order to start a game.

5.7 Starting with the sixth inning and continuing through game's conclusion, teams will bat until there are three outs

5.8 Mercy Rule – Applies after 4 complete innings if one team is leading by 15 runs. Game may proceed as "practice" unless field is needed for next game. Score will be recorded as the score after 4 complete innings.

5.8.1 Mercy Rule does not apply in playoff games.

6) Darkness – No inning is to start after 8:10PM and no more play after 8:20PM.

7) Length of Games – Rule 6 does not mean that there is a length of game time limit. If it is not too dark, a game is played until it is completed. Barring darkness or bad weather, baseball games DO NOT end in ties. If a game must be suspended, it's completion will be scheduled.

Ramsey Minor League Rules

- 8) Rainouts – Please make every effort to get your field ready to play. If you are the home team and rain is in the forecast please have someone from your team at the field early to rake and groom it.
 - 8.1 This does not imply that we want to play in unsafe conditions. It does mean Ramsey has a significant shortage of fields. The rescheduling of games can often be difficult.
 - 8.2 Please try to get a hold of your league president before you cancel a game.
 - 8.3 In case of lightning stop play immediately and take shelter. Wait 15 minutes to see if storm passes. Please make sure that the umpire does not leave immediately. If it is safe after 15 minutes, restart the game.
- 9) Complete Games – A game is considered complete after 4 innings (3 ½ with home team leading). Tie games after 4 innings that are called because of darkness are suspended games and will be completed at a later date.
- 10) Infield Fly Rule – Instruct umpires to make call using discretion as to what is a “routine play” at the minor league level. Any ball that will fall on the outfield grass should not constitute an infield fly call. Also, when the Infield Fly Rule is invoked, the batter is out and no runners may advance, even if the ball is dropped.
- 11) Mandatory speed up rule for catchers. With two outs, the team at bat must remove their scheduled catcher for the next inning from running the bases and replace him with a pinch runner. The pinch runner must be a player that recorded the last out while at bat.
- 12) Individual teams will monitor league rules with infractions reported to the league president.
- 13) When a league rule is violated, the league president will take necessary action.
- 14) If an ambiguous situation arises, there will be a league vote with the RBA Rules Chairman breaking ties.
- 15) Home Team responsibilities
 - 15.1 Setting out bases
 - 15.2 Lining field
 - 15.3 Wet down field if necessary (hose is available)
 - 15.4 Lights at MacFarren turned on

Ramsey Minor League Rules

- 15.5 Must supply two regulation baseballs
- 15.6 Take the first base dugout at Finch Park fields. Take the third base dugout at MacFarren Field
- 16) Visiting Team responsibilities
 - 16.1 Put bases away
 - 16.2 Rake field
 - 16.3 Put all tools away and lock equipment room doors
 - 16.4 Lights at MacFarren turned off
 - 16.5 Take the third base dugout at Finch Park fields. Take the first base dugout at MacFarren Field
- 17) All players MUST wear complete uniform while on the field. This consists of: Shirt, with tails tucked in. Pants, baseball socks and team hat. Athletic cup is recommended. Only rubber cleats may be worn.
 - 17.1 For safety reasons, catchers must wear athletic cups
- 18) Pre-game warm-ups and field time. Both teams should evenly split on field pre-game warm-up time. If possible, the visiting team should take the field 40 minutes before game time. The home team should take the field 20 minutes before game time. If less time is available, the coaches for both teams should agree on a schedule.
- 19) The home team manager should report the final game score on the RBSA web site or via email to the league president.
- 20) Playoffs
 - 20.1 The playoffs will be random seed double elimination
 - 20.2 Home team for all playoff games will be determined by a coin toss