



# Northampton Baseball

## Rookies Division

*Effective: April 24, 2018*

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### **Times and Practicing**

To schedule practices, coaches may reserve fields at R.K. Finn Ryan Road School by contacting the Parks & Recreation Department at 587-1040 – after phone reservations are made, it is highly recommended that you obtain a reservation slip, directly and in person from Parks & Rec Depart.

It is highly recommended that Rookie Division coaches schedule at least one practice weekly, this in addition to weeknight games. This allows coaches to reinforce skills for appropriate development.

Practices should be limited to no more than 90 minutes

The Parks & Rec Department attempts to prioritize the use of the Ryan Road fields for Rookies division however the reservation process is on a first come, first served basis.

Please note that rescheduled games take precedence over practices, even if you are holding a reservation slip from the Recreation Department.

Note: Field #5 is used as a last resort, so we recommend booking this field to minimize the chances of being bumped.

### **Games & Arrival:**

Coaches will reach their own team understanding on arrival times to games.

Northampton Baseball recommends teams arriving 20-30 minutes early to games for stretching and throwing warm ups, again coaches will determine what is best for their team.

Games are to begin timely @ 6:00pm Monday thru Friday with weekend times being set by the league and/or coaches and based on available fields

## **Rainouts and Make-ups**

The Northampton DPW is directly in charge of field maintenance, and thus has the option of calling off games prior to 3:30pm on weeknights, and 8:00am on the weekends.

Should games be cancelled, parents are advised to check one or both these:

Northampton Baseball website – [www.northamptonbaseball.com](http://www.northamptonbaseball.com)

Northampton Parks & Rec Department hotline – 413-587-1044

Northampton Rec website - [www.northamptonma.gov/recreation](http://www.northamptonma.gov/recreation)

After 4:30pm, parents are advised to check the Northampton Baseball website as it's the league's discretion whether to play or cancel games up until game time.

Should no notifications be found the website(s) at least one hour before game time, teams should arrive at the fields ready to play.

Once at the field, cancellations are at the discretion of the team managers.

When in doubt, please err on the side of caution.

Should lightening be in area, game is immediately cancelled and rescheduled with coaches and NBL determining together, when game can be rescheduled.

## **Team Uniforms**

### **PRACTICES:**

Players are required to wear their practice shirts and hats

### **GAMES:**

Players are required to wear their full game uniform for each team game, this includes:

*pants, socks, belt, practice shirt, uniform top and hat – shorts are not allowed.*

Cleats are optional in Rookies – Northampton Baseball does highly encourage players to complete their uniforms with plastic cleats (no metal)

Coaches shall wear their coaches t-shirt or their polo as supplied by the league

All uniform items supplied to player are theirs to keep at conclusion of the season.

## Equipment and Safety

Each team is issued its own equipment, including a complete set of catcher's gear (AA), USA bats, balls and helmets fitted with face shields, along with a first aid kit.

Throw down bases and batting tees are available in the sheds @ Ryan Road

### NOTE ABOUT BATS:

Players may use their own personal bats, however any bat brought from home MUST bear the USA Baseball stamp

Also "personal" bats often create "use" problems, with other players wanting to use that bat, please be aware of potential issues – bats brought from home will be treated as "team" bats.

### BASEBALLS USED:

ROOKIES A – Will use Reduced-Injury-Factor - RIF # 1 baseballs

ROOKIES AA – Will use Reduced-Injury-Factor - RIF # 5 baseballs

Each team will receive a supply of RIF baseballs for the season, to be allocated at the team manager's discretion.

ALL batters are required to use helmets fitted with a face shields.

If personal helmets are brought for game use, they must be outfitted with face shields these shields are required for all games and practices.

Any damaged helmet must be removed from play immediately, even if you must borrow from the opposing team while awaiting a replacement.

Equipment must be stored in or behind the dugout

No equipment is permitted on the field of play except those in active use.

The offensive team's coaching staff should make every effort to retrieve bats quickly and without interfering with the action on the field

Note: Coaches are advised to instruct their players NOT to throw bats

Only the batter may have a bat in his/her possession at any given time.

There is no on-deck circle - No offensive players other than the batter at the plate may be in front of the dugout or be in possession of a bat.

This is a national rule.

Players must not wear watches, rings, pins, jewelry, or other metallic items, with the exception of jewelry that alerts medical personnel to a specific condition

## **Rules of Play for SINGLE A (full time coaches pitch) Baseball:**

Games are six (6) innings in duration

Monday thru Friday – Game is 100% complete at/by 7:30pm

Weekend games - No inning started after 1:50 minutes of game time with a goal of no game lasting more than 2 hours, Ok to play extra innings after completion of 6 inning game if time allows.

Coaches must understand and agree to timing before game begins

Coaches pitch full game, seated or on knee

Five (5) players on infield during an active inning – there shall not be players in position of catchers or pitchers at A level.

All other non-infield players are in outfield working practice drills with a coach (no player shall sit idle)

These players swap each inning so equal in game versus practice time is achieved.

Continuous batting order, move players around throughout season

When three (3) outs or five (5) runs are scored – inning is over

Players are given a total of five (5) pitches – after this, batter shall use batting T

Overthrows / plays to a base results in runner remaining at their current base, no advancement shall be allowed on overthrows

Once a fielder is in possession of the ball, base runners must stop at the based they are approaching. Fielder should be instructed to throw to the correct base.

Balls hit to the outfield, players are encouraged to take a single extra base and based on fielder's possession of the ball. *Example: stretching a single to a double when hit into the outfield*

Players who throw a bat after their time in batters box will be spoken too and given a warning. A player who throws their bat again and after their first warning will be asked not to bat again that game.

*Bat throwing is dangerous and players must learn to control this.*

## Rules of Play for DOUBLE AA (half coaches/half players pitch) Baseball:

Games are six (6) innings in duration

Monday thru Friday – Game is 100% complete at/by 7:30pm

Weekend games - No inning started after 1:50 minutes of game time with a goal of no game lasting more than 2 hours, Ok to play extra innings after completion of 6 inning game if time allows.

Coaches must understand and agree to timing before game begins

Coaches pitch first three innings from seated or knee position and players balance of game – as season progresses players will pitch first – *this will be subject to coaches discretion*

Regular baseball positions apply at this level.

Those who are not assigned a position in the field will be outfield working practice drills with a coach. (no player shall sit idle)

Coaches will rotate players between positions and practice drills to ensure fairness and player skill development

Continuous batting order, move players around throughout season

Coaches Pitch: Batters are given six pitches, should player swing and miss three times, its recorded as an out and player returns to dugout, there are no walks when coaches pitch

Players Pitch Batters are given three (3) strikes or four (4) balls to consider an at-bat complete

When three (3) outs or five (5) runs are scored – inning is over

Bunting shall not be used at AA level

Overthrows / plays to a base where ball is overthrown results in runner advancing one base.

Once a fielder is in possession of the ball, base runners must stop at the based they are approaching. Fielder should be instructed to throw to the correct base.

Balls hit to the outfield, players are and should be encouraged to take an extra base and based on fielder's possession of the ball. *Example: stretching a single to a double when hit into the outfield*

Umpires will be utilized at this level

Balance of 46/60 size field baseball rules shall apply

Players who throw a bat after their time in batters box will be spoken too and given a warning. A player who throws their bat again and after their first warning will be asked not to bat again that game. *Bat throwing is dangerous and players must learn to control this.*

## **Officiating / Umpiring**

Officiating is to be done at the DOUBLE AA level only and by youth umpires – they will be 11-14 years of age and are learning at the same time our youngest kids are learning.

Patience all the way around is expected – they are all kids and learning, adults shall control themselves.

## **Sportsmanship**

Coaches from both teams should be encouraging of all players and are responsible for monitoring the actions of their players at all times.

In games that are one-sided, coaches are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship in restraining the "enthusiasm" of the players, and should adjust tactics (station-to-station base running, etc.)

## **Smoking**

Please remind spectators that smoking is PROHIBITED anywhere on school property – this is a Massachusetts State Law

# Ryan Road – Field Layout

