

ATWATER BOMBERS FALL BASEBALL

2025 MINOR DIVISION GROUND RULES

- 1) **FIELDING PLAYERS:** A team may field ten (10) defensive players. Exception: A team may begin and end a game with eight (8) players.
- 2) **MANDATORY PLAY:** Every player on the team roster present will participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) consecutive defensive outs.
- 3) **BASE STEALING** is allowed. Leading off a base is not allowed. The pitch must cross the home plate before a runner can leave the base.
- 4) **BATTING:** Teams will use a “Continuous Batting Order” (CBO). All players must have at least one (1) at bat.
- 5) **SUBSTITUTIONS:** A player may be entered and/or reentered defensively in the game at any time, provided they meet the requirements of mandatory play.
EXCEPTION: If a pitcher completes three (3) full innings, they cannot move to the position of catcher. If a pitcher throws one pitch in the third inning, it will be counted as a full inning. If a catcher completes three (3) full innings, they cannot move to the position of pitcher. If a catcher catches one pitch in the third inning, it will count as a full inning.
- 6) **SLIDING:** Feet first sliding is allowed at any base except first base. If a player slides into first base they will be called out. Head-first sliding is not allowed except when diving back to a base previously occupied (including first base).
- 7) **BUNTING** is allowed.
- 8) **REGULATION GAME:** Six (6) innings. Exceptions: Mercy Rule and Time Limit Rule.
- 9) **FIVE (5) RUN RULE:** Teams can score no more than five (5) runs each half inning, Exception: open innings.
- 10) **MERCY RULE:** will apply as follows:
 - a. 8 runs after 5 innings (4 ½) if the home team is ahead.
 - b. 10 runs after 4 innings (3 ½) if the home team is ahead.
 - c. 15 runs after 3 innings (2 ½) if the home team is ahead.
- 11) **TIME LIMIT:** One (1) hour and forty-five (45) minutes for regular season games. A minimum of three and one half (3 1/2) innings must be played to be a regulation game. There is a two (2) hour Drop Dead time in this division. No new inning may start with ten (10) minutes or less remaining.

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- 12) **TIE GAMES:** Regular season scheduled games may end in a tie. (see Bylaws for playoffs and championship games).
- 13) **OPEN INNING:** The umpire may call the 4th inning “open inning” if the game clock and pace of play determine that the 4th inning may be the final inning of play. It is not mandatory that games have an open inning, and games can end without the umpire calling for an open inning. The 5th and 6th innings will be played as open innings- Open innings have no limit on runs scored.
- 14) **COURTESY RUNNER:** The offensive coach may elect to utilize a courtesy runner for the catcher whenever there are at least two (2) outs. The runner who comes into the game must be the player who made the last out.
- 15) **BATS:** Only USA/USSSA bats with a 10/8 drop, and a barrel diameter that does not exceed 2 3/4 inches may be used for Minor Division games.
- 16) **PITCHING:** 9-10 yr olds only may pitch in the minors: 75 pitches maximum per game.
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| a. | 1-20 pitches | 0 days rest |
| b. | 21-35 pitches | 1 days rest |
| c. | 36-50 pitches | 2 days rest |
| d. | 51-65 pitches | 3 days rest |
| e. | 66-75 pitches | 4 days rest |
- 17) **RELIEF PITCHER:** A player is allowed to warm up on the inside of the fence only, in a safe area for the pitcher and catcher so that no one gets hit by a foul ball; it must also be a safe area for bystanders and fans. If a player warms up a pitcher the player must wear a catcher’s mask. Coaches are permitted to warm up a pitcher at home plate or in the bullpen or elsewhere at any time including in-game warm-up, pre-game warm-up, and in other instances. Coaches may also stand by to observe a pitcher during warm-up in the bullpen.
- 18) **HIT BY PITCH:** Any pitcher who hits three (3) batters in one inning must be removed as a pitcher, but may play another defensive position.
- 19) **PLAYOFF OR CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES:** There is no time limit or five (5) run rule in playoff or championship games. Mercy Rule applies. Playoff or Championship games may not end in a tie. Extra innings will use the International Tie Breaker Rule.

Minor Division Ground Rules of the Atwater Bombers Fall Baseball
Adopted May 14, 2025 by the Atwater Bombers Board of Directors.
Additional rules may apply, see Atwater Bombers Baseball Bylaws

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