



Playing Rules

Division: ROOKIE

SPRING 2024

Rookie Division Season Play

The Rookie Division is intended to be a logical transition from Tee Ball to Single A (limited player pitch) baseball. There will be a 50-foot base distance. Players develop the skills of batting, fielding, and base running in this non-competitive, developmental division while learning rules that closely resemble those of baseball. Players are taught to bat at a ball that is safely pitched to them by their own coach. Emphasis is always placed on learning the fundamentals of baseball, player safety, sportsmanship, and having fun!

1. Teams shall only use Reduced Impact Force ("RIF") or safety balls. No "hard" baseball may be used at any time, including at practices.
2. 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time, the managers shall meet at home plate to go over the rules to make sure that they are both in agreement on the time limit, cone placement, understanding of ground rule doubles and home runs, etc. or any other issues that either manager foresees.
3. 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time, the managers shall have their players line up along their respective foul lines, and the home manager shall accompany 1 player from each team to the pitcher's mound to assist the players in reciting the Little League Pledge:

I trust in God; I love my Country; I will respect its laws; I will play fair; and strive to win; but win or lose; I will always do my best; PLAY BALL!

4. Coaches/parents shall position themselves in the coach's boxes at 1st and 3rd base to assist the players as they run the bases and to determine if runners are safe or out at their respective bases.
5. The batting team's manager or designated coach shall pitch from a safe position on one knee or sitting on a ball bucket. They may wear a baseball glove.
6. Each batter is allowed 5 hittable pitches. If the 5th pitch is fouled, the coach can continue pitching until a ball is missed, fouled off, or put into play. If at that point the ball has not been put into play, the batter must then use a tee to put the ball into play. There are no strikeouts, walks, or hits by pitches.
7. On-deck batters are NOT PERMITTED. Only the player at bat may be holding a bat. All other offensive players must be in the dugout behind a fence until it is their turn to bat.

8. If a player is present in the dugout, there must be an adult in the dugout at all times.
9. A hit must travel approximately 10 feet from home plate to be considered a fair ball.
10. Teams will bat through **ONE-HALF** of their lineup each half inning. If there are 6 or fewer players present from a team, they may bat through their entire lineup.
11. Outs will be recorded. If a player is put out, he/she shall return to the dugout. A liberal interpretation of an out will be used since there is no score or standings kept in the Rookie Division. After 3 outs are recorded, the bases shall be cleared.
12. Cones will be positioned 120 feet from home plate. Any ball clearing the cones on the fly will be a homerun. Any ball that rolls or bounces past the cones without being touched by a player is an automatic double.
13. Base running shall follow the "one base at a time" philosophy. The only exception is automatic doubles, home runs, and the last batter of each half inning. On the last batter, all base runners and the batter may run all the bases until they are put out or scored. On the last batter, the defense MUST make a play at one of the three bases prior to throwing home.
14. All players shall be positioned on defense every inning, and no player shall sit out (unless by his/her own will such as due to injury). There shall be 6 infielders (including catcher), with all remaining players positioned in the outfield. Outfielders must be at least 20 feet behind the infielders.
15. The catcher (if one is used), must wear full catcher's gear (catcher's helmet with throat guard, chest protector, leg guards and catcher's glove), and shall remain a safe distance from the batter until the batter has hit the ball.
16. The defensive player playing the pitcher's position should be positioned a safe distance from home plate and either slightly to the left or right of the coach pitcher.
17. Each player shall be given the opportunity to play the infield by the third inning.
18. Defensive coaches are allowed on the field to help direct players as needed but shall not interfere with the ball in play.
19. No new inning shall start after 1:30 (one hour and ten minutes) and there is a drop-dead time of 1:45 (one hour and thirty minutes) at which point all play must cease. Managers may call a game earlier if it is their judgment that playing conditions are unsafe.
20. The home team is responsible for field preparation prior to each game. Preparation includes dragging & watering the infield, chalking the lines, and placing bases & cones. Visiting team is responsible for take down, clean up, and field lock up after the last scheduled game of the day. Take down consists of putting away bases and cones, dragging, watering, and locking storage bins and bathrooms (where applicable).
21. Each team is responsible for dugout cleanup after each game.
22. Rained out games may or may not be rescheduled based on field availability.