

1. Home team is responsible for setting up the field for play and cleaning up after the game. Home team provides at least 3 new games balls.
  
2. Coaches will be allowed on the field with the defensive players during play.
  
3. Stealing bases is not allowed during the season.
  
4. There will be no walks to the batters during coach or player pitching.
  
5. There is no on deck circle. Only the current batter may have a bat in his/her hands. Make sure no other player than the batter is holding a bat. There are bat bag hangers to be used on the inside of the back stop. All other players shall remain behind the fence in the dugout/bench area.
  
6. A half inning shall consist of three outs or five (5) runs, whichever occurs first.
  
7. Any player catching MUST wear a protective cup. All players should wear a protective cup and coaches shall remain layers (and parents) constantly. (Female players are encouraged to wear this as well and there are female versions, although this is not required.)
  
8. Nine (9) players will play in the field. Pitcher, five (5) infielders, (catcher, first, second, third and shortstop), and three (3) outfielders, (left, center, right). Outfielders should be in the outfield beyond the infield dirt. Team may play (10) fielders (four 4 outfielders) if only ten (10) players are present. We don't want to leave a single player on the bench.
  
9. All players shall bat regardless of playing in the field.
  
10. Players shall be rotated between infield and outfield each inning. The players should get a chance to play all positions and be involved as much as possible as this is 'instructional' baseball. There are a few exceptions for safety and abilities.
  - a. If a player can't catch or is afraid of the ball, they should not play first base or catcher.

- b. During player pitch, the pitchers should be able to reach the plate to pitch. We would like everyone to try and pitch, but not every player will be ready to pitch.

11. Coach pitching (first 4 games of the season). Coaches will pitch to their own team when batting.

- a. Each batter will get five (5) good pitches to swing. If the player does not get a hit, a tee shall be used for the player to make contact. There are no strikeouts or walks in the first four (4) games. This is to help the first-year players adjust and build confidence, but it is only for the first four (4) games.
- b. A player will be in the pitcher's position next to the coach while the coach is pitching. The coach is not permitted to touch the ball once it is hit. If the ball contacts the coach pitching, it will be a dead ball and the batter is awarded first base and other runners that may be on base move up one (1) base.
- c. When a player uses the tee to hit, all runners will only be allowed to advance one base.

12. If the ball is hit to the outfield, players may advance bases until the ball is returned to the infield. The ball does not need to be controlled in the infield to stop the runners from advancing.

13. After the 4<sup>th</sup> game of the season, the games will be split with regards to pitching.

- a. The coach will pitch for the first two (2) innings. This may be adjusted after we see how games progress. As above, each batter gets five (5) good pitches to swing. There are no walks, but there are now strike outs. If the batter does not swing with five (5) good pitches, they get a warning and last pitch. The batter will then be called out.
- b. Players will pitch the last three 3 innings of the game.
  - b.i. Players get five (5) pitches per batter.
  - b.ii. Coach of the batting team will stand behind the mound and call balls and strikes. Batters will be called out after three (3) strikes, whether called or swinging.
  - b.iii. If after five (5) pitches, the batter has not hit the ball or struck out, the coach will finish the batter with three (3) good pitches. The strike count for the batter will carry through to the coach pitch (ie. If the batter has 2 strikes when the player pitched, they only get one swinging strike from the coach pitch.)
  - b.iv. If a player is hit by a player pitched ball, the batter will be awarded first base

14. Players will be allowed to throw two (2) innings per game, or maximum daily pitch counts dictated by Little League for the age group. We want to develop pitchers as much as possible during the second half the season to prepare for moving up to the next division.

- a. League age 7-8, maximum of 50 pitches per day
- b. Day Rest:
  - b.i. 1-20 pitches, 0 day
  - b.ii. 21-35 pitches, 1 day
  - b.iii. 36-50 pitches, 2 days

15. Games will last 90 minutes. No inning shall start after the 80-minute mark. Coaches should use their discretion on when to end games. This is instructional and the goal is to teach the fundamentals and the players having fun learning without losing interest in the game play. We don't need to get six (6) innings in, if the players lost interest.

16. Keep the game moving to keep the players involved. Use 4-5 balls when pitching to keep the pace up the pace of the game.

17. Bases shall be set at 60ft. Pitcher's plate (rubber) will be 46ft from the point of homeplate.

18. While playing an outfield position, players cannot assume an infield position. The use of a "rover" will not be allowed.

19. Catcher must wear full catching gear.

20. Teams must bat their entire roster. Late arriving players will be added to the end of the lineup.

21. Offensive coaches are permitted at 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base.

22. Bunting the ball will not be allowed. Any attempt to bunt will be an out.

23. Stealing will not be allowed and runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball crosses the plate.

24. Players may not advance on overthrows.

25. Rubber cleats. No Metal spikes are allowed.

26. If a player leaves the game due to illness or injury, the batting sequence will move to the next batter in the lineup with no out recorded, once removed the player may not return.

27. At the completion of time limit or 6 complete innings, if the game is a tie, it shall remain a tie. No extra innings will be played.

28. Home team coach is responsible for determining whether the game can be played in event of rain. Coaches wanting to reschedule a game shall coordinate with the opposing team coach and field availability.

### **Coaches Expectations**

**Pre-game:** Head Coach and/or Asst Coach should show up at least 30 minutes prior to game time to warm up team. This is so important. It is almost another practice a week.

**Games:** All games should start on time. Understanding there could be an exception if enough players do not show up on time. The coach should be prepared to start the game as scheduled. 10 minutes late is not acceptable.

**Substitutions:** The coach should be prepared, prior to the game, to have a lineup ready and should be able to change players quickly. It is important to keep the game moving allowing more playing time for the players. Suggest developing a spreadsheet that you can use each game. If you lose 1-2 innings a game over 16 games that could be over 24 innings.

**Rain outs:** The coaches should make every attempt to make up games that are rained out. Especially early in the season since you do not know what the latter part of the season will bring. Use open fields as available. Items to remember: 1) They need to play to become better; 2) They need to have fun; and 3) They pay to play.

**Parents Meeting:** Coaches should have a parents meeting with their team within the first couple of practices. Expectations of the coach should be expressed to the parents. Things like showing up for

practice, showing up on time for practices and early for games, how they can help their child be a better player, how they can help the coaches before and after the game, etc.

**Disagreements:** Coaches make sure if you have a disagreement it is off to the side. Do not have confrontations in front of the parents or players. If one parent hears you talk about a player or another coach in a negative way then our organization looks like a bunch of individuals. **We need to be together to make *our* organization work.**

**Equipment:** Take care of the equipment as if you paid for it, because you did. Each team has their own catcher's gear that you will be responsible to turn in at the end of the year.