



# SLYBA ROOKIE RULES

## GENERAL OVERVIEW OF GAMES

- Games will run for 75 minutes or until the end of six full innings (whichever happens first). If time allows and coaches from both teams agree, an additional inning can be played.
- Each inning, all batters will bat through the line-up once.
- There are no forfeits due to lack of players. Teams can play with the number of players present and ask to borrow players from the other team.
- There is no score keeping—at least not between the adults.
- Talk and chatter will be allowed by defensive and offensive players; however, no opposing players' names shall be used. Coaches, players, and fans should always refrain from "rattling" opposing players. Yelling in unison will not be permitted. Negative or derogatory remarks are unnecessary.
- Everybody hits. Everybody runs. Everybody has fun.

## OFFENSE

- Players who are outside the bench area on the field or on deck must wear a helmet.
- There are no strikeouts. Each batter will receive up to five pitches. After five missed coach pitches, the batter should use the batting tee. When the batter hits the ball on the tee, they advance to first base. The goal is to have all players consistently hitting off of a coach pitch by the end of the season.
- Pitches from coaches should be overhand with little to no arc. Underhand with little to no arc is acceptable if the player's skill level requires it. Rotating pitching coaches and parent volunteers throughout the season is acceptable.
- A ball is considered in play if it is batted within the foul lines and past the pitcher's mound. The batter will have another opportunity to hit the ball if they hit a foul ball.
- There is no bunting.
- Runners advance only one base at a time unless it is a home run hit. A home run is considered a ball hit over the fence line.
- There are no leads or stealing bases. There is no tagging up. Runners may not advance on an overthrown ball.
- If a runner runs out of the baseline path, they are not automatically out.
- If a runner overruns 2nd or 3rd base and is tagged by the ball, they are out. Be extra cautious with plays at the home plate to avoid injury.

- The batting order should be rotated for each game throughout the season. A template is available for coaches.
- Position coaches and parent volunteers throughout the field to help keep your players' attention spans. For each game, a coach or parent should be assigned to help with 1st and 3rd base, and in the dugout to help the players with the batting order and to put their gloves and hats on when in the infield.

## DEFENSE

- All children should play all positions throughout the season. Players should rotate each inning. No player should play the same position more than once per game. Each player should play an equal amount of time on the infield and outfield.
- There will be six defensive players on the infield at one time: a pitcher, first base, second base, shortstop, and third base. Remaining players can be spread evenly into the outfield.
- Outfielders must remain on the outfield grass. They must throw the ball to make a play. They may not make a play at the base.
- When a play is a few feet away from a base, encourage your players to throw to another player at the base to make the play. If a player runs the ball to the base and makes it there before the runner, the runner is out.
- There is no designated catcher position. The 'pitcher' or another player can cover home plate when necessary. A coach or parent volunteer should remain near the backstop for each inning.
- If you feel it's unsafe with a player to play a certain position during the game, discuss that with the parent ahead of time and share that information with a coach from the other team as well.

## AFTER THE GAME

- After the game is finished, and if both teams' coaches agree, teams can line up at the home plate or 2nd base for the base race. This is just for fun.
- After the game or base race, all players and coaches should line-up and high-five or shake hands on the field.
- Players then return to the bench for a quick team huddle and are dismissed by their coach.
- Having a snack and drink after each game is up to the discretion of the coaches.
- It is the responsibility of all players and parents to check the dugout for garbage and equipment before exiting.
- Coaches should return all community equipment to the storage boxes located at each field.
- Coaches should keep their team's equipment for the next game and return it on Super Saturday.
- Leave the field promptly at the end of your time slot.
- **Always be kind and respectful to fellow coaches, players, and fans.**