# West Seattle Little League <br> AA Rookies Softball Manager Information 

**Make sure everything has been put away and locked up before leaving the field**

## AA Rookies Instruction Guidelines

WSLL uses the Youth Baseball Skills Matrix within our softball divisions to outline the necessary skills, team concepts, and practice construction suggestions for coaches. Outlined are:

1) Instruction Guidelines (links to appropriate matrix for that division and a checklist of

Concepts Learned by the end of the season); 2) Game Guidelines; and 3) Rules

## Skills Matrix Stage 2 - Discover (ages 7-9)

- Teach more advanced rules associated with Rookies Division
- Coaches develop their own practice plans, but ensure each practice covers: 1) having fun through Deliberate Play!; 2) skill development as outlined in USA Baseball Coach "B" Certification; 3) Situational plays


## Concepts Learned:

- Objective of the game, basic rules, positions, and terms.
- Relax, Ready, Move (page 10) pre-pitch routine
- 3Bs (Ball, Base, Back-up)
- Force out vs. tag out
- Tagging up
- Cut-offs
- Anticipate the ball coming to you. Where is the play?


## AA Rookies Local Playing Guidelines

- A normal game is 90 minutes
- Home team occupies the 3rd base dugout and is responsible for field prep and providing an official scorekeeper
- Individual games will be scored and a winner/loser known. No standings will be kept.
- Coaches should meet before the game to discuss any ground rules.
- Rookies Softball uses hybrid Player Pitch
- A regulation 11 " softball will be used for all games.
- Pitching distance will be $35^{\prime}$
- All defensive players should be used on the field. All infield positions shall be covered with remaining players being used in the outfield.
- All players should be rotated to all positions. No player can play the same infield position for more than one inning.
- If a pitch hits a batter, batter may not take a base.
- No infield fly rule.
- Last Batter rule: This rule intends to limit the number of batters in a single inning. The limit is the number of players on the roster; each player may not bat more than once in an inning.
- An inning will end in one of the following four ways:
- Defensive teams records 3 outs
- If the last batter of the inning gets a fair hit, the base runners may cross home plate until a defensive player touches home plate with the ball in their possession;
- All present team members have batted and the last batter makes an out or doesn't get a hit.
- Once the team batting has scored five runs.
- When the batter receives 4 balls from the kid pitcher, an adult coach from the offensive team will be used to pitch the remainder of the strikes. If the coach hits their batter with a pitch, the batter will get another pitch in replacement. There will be no "mulligans" for poor pitches. Coaches should use their judgment wisely on who is pitching. If the batter fails to put the ball in play after 3 strikes the batter shall be called out.
- No excessive taking bases. However, players are not limited to the number of bases they can take on a batted ball, before the ball is controlled by an infielder, who is in the infield with their hands-up, and time is called by the umpire.
- After any infielder has control of the ball (on coaches honor/and umpire call) the play ends/dead ball. The runner shall go back to the prior base touched. The umpire shall make the final call.
- No bunting.
- Bats must be no longer than 33", not more than $21 / 4$ " diameter and printed with a BPF 1.20.
- All infielders are recommended to wear a facemask.
- If needed due to injury or illness, a pinch runner may be used. The pinch runner shall be the player last recorded out.
- Managers and Coaches are allowed on the field.
- No End of season (EOS) tournament.


## AA Rookies Pitching Rules

- A regulation 11 " softball will be used for all games.
- Pitching - distance is $35^{\prime}$ for softball.
- The batter gets up to 7 pitches including 4 pitches from the player pitcher and remaining pitches from the offensive coach.
- If the coach throws a 7th pitch and the batter does not swing, or swings and does not make contact, the batter is out.
- Players playing pitcher must field the position to the side or rear of the coach pitcher, never in front. The pitcher must stay in that position without moving until the ball is released and crosses the plate.
- Coach's three total pitches count towards strike outs.
- Player pitcher's count carries over to when the coach starts pitching.
- If a player swings and misses on the last coach pitch they are out unless it is a foul ball. A batter can have as many coach pitches if they are fouled off.
- There are no called strikes with a coach pitcher. If a player does not swing on the third coach pitch, the batter is out.
- The offensive team's "coach-pitcher" is not allowed to coach/instruct the batter (adjusting stance or positioning, etc) or the runners. This is in an effort to keep up the pace of play.
- Coach will pitch from the 35 ' distance for softball. Coach may kneel or stand.
- No walks.

