



## Rookies Rules 2023

1. Each player must be given 2 innings in the infield per game. Ideally, each player should also play at least 1 inning in the outfield. A "game" is defined as 4 innings for the Rookie division.
2. No player sits twice before everyone has sat once (per game).
3. Minimum rule play Rule #1 & #2 must be met with no exceptions. Failure to do so will result in manager suspension for one game first offense and removal from team on second offense. A defensive card to be provided before each game for validation.
4. Game shall not exceed 90 minutes in length (1 hour 30 minutes).
5. Home team shall use the 1st base dugout and visiting team the 3rd base dugout.
6. Time Limit - No new inning can start after 75 minutes (1 hour 15 min). The time is determined by when the last out of the inning was recorded. In order to play all 5 innings, the 4th inning must be completed before the 75 minute mark. If the managers determine a 4th inning will not be completed within 75 minutes, the managers can agree to make the 4th inning the "last inning."
7. Run Limit - Maximum 5 runs per inning until the "last inning" of the game, which is an open inning (this is the 5th inning, or inning declared "last inning" by umpire/Managers). In the last inning the run maximum is off and 3 outs must be recorded to end the inning.
8. Kid Pitch - The kid will pitch from the mound. Balls and strikes will be called by the defensive team's manager who stands behind the mound (unless an umpire is present). If the pitcher throws 3 strikes the batter is out. Once 4 balls are recorded, the coach comes in to pitch.
9. Coach Pitch - After 4 balls are recorded from the kid pitcher, the batting teams coach comes in to pitch and inherits the strike count. The coach can throw up to 3 pitches. The batter will either put the ball in play or strike out, there are no walks. If the batter has 2 strikes and the coach pitches strike and the batter does not swing, it is a called strike and the batter is out. If the last pitch (3rd pitch) is fouled off, the batter gets an additional pitch. There is no limit to the number of fouled off pitches.
10. Only the manager or official SCLL registered (rostered) coaches shall be allowed to pitch to the kids. The coach pitching is to remain behind the chalk line to the best of their ability (even after delivery).
11. Batter hit by kid pitch: Coach comes in, the count is cleared and the batter receives 3 coach pitches to swing at will. Unless both managers agree the kid is unable to continue batting, then the he/she is awarded first base. If a kid hits more than 4 batters or 3 batters in a row, the manager shall change pitchers.
12. Hit by pitch does not count when hitting the dirt first unless the player is truly injured on the pitch. We want to encourage the spirit of kid pitch opportunities not coach pitch opportunities. Also a hit batter means a contact hit to the body, agreed between coaches or umpire.
13. If the batter is hit by a coach pitch on the last pitch, they get one more pitch.
14. Strike zone is box to box, shoulders to knees.
15. Batter and baserunners have the opportunity to advance a maximum of 2 bases on a hit to the outfield grass. Advancing a runner from second base on a ball that is hit at or near the edge of the grass is acceptable. Deflecting off a player does not count, it must be a clean hit to grass edge.
16. Runners may advance one base on an overthrow. If two overthrows were to happen in the same period then runners can advance, but no more than **two** bases from where they started. The maximum amount a runner can advance under any scenario is **two** bases.
17. No runner may advance on past balls, wild pitches or on a throw back to the pitcher.
18. No steals are allowed.
19. No infield fly rule.
20. Sliding feet first is allowed. Head first slide is only allowed when returning/retreating to the runners last base. All other head first slides are an automatic out. On a close play at home, sliding is important for safety and could be a judgment call by umpire for calling the runner out- Also see Rule #23
21. In the event a batted ball hits the pitching Coach or ball bucket, a dead ball is declared and the batter is awarded 1st base. There must be a reasonable attempt by the Coach to get out of the way. In the event the pitching Coach did not attempt to move, the batter will go back up to bat and the last pitch is replayed.
22. A base runner will be called out if hit by a batted ball.
23. A base runner who makes contact with a fielder attempting to make a play on the ball is out.
24. A 4th outfielder can be used for defense until April 3rd, 2022 Starting April 4th 2022, only 9 fielders will be used on the field for defense (no 4th outfielder).



25. Hitting team must maintain a continuous batting order. Latecomers will be added to the bottom of the lineup. No batting substitutions are allowed.
26. Any protest must be resolved before the next pitch is thrown.
27. All volunteers are to remain off of the field during play, unless they are a base coach, the coach pitching or an umpire.
28. Borrowed Players— A team may borrow one or more players in order to field nine defensive players. The borrowed player must be from the same division and must play in the outfield. No borrowed players for regular season (seeded games) or TOC.
29. Managers are responsible for controlling the conduct of their players, coaches and fans. A code of conduct has been signed by each family and must be adhered to. If there are any issues, the offender will be asked to leave the field.
30. Field prep and cleanup— Both teams are responsible for grooming and preparing the field for play, as well as grooming and cleanup after the game. Home team to lead in pre-game preparation and visitors to lead in post-game cleanup duties.
31. The home team shall provide an umpire (can use a coach or approved league volunteer).
32. Home team is responsible for the official score book (picked up at the snack bar) and updates our google document.
33. Visiting Team shall do official pitch count and verify minimum play rules by checking next to each player each time they reach infield.

Pitch Count:

Rookies: maximum number of pitches is 50 (regardless of league age)

\*The pitcher is able to finish the last batter when they have reached their maximum pitch count.

Days Rest:

Number of Pitches in a Day	Number of Calendar Days Rest Required
36-50	2
21-35	1
0-20	0

\*any pitcher that throws 41 or more pitches in a game cannot catch in that same game.

\*\*any catcher that catches more than 3 innings in a game, cannot pitch in that same game.

\*\*\*Pitchers may complete pitching to a batter and revert back to the count at the start of the at bat for the days rest determination.