UPPER ARLINGTON BEAR CUB BASEBALL
COACH PITCH I DIVISION (AGE 6-7) RULES

1. Players are expected to attend 70% of their team's practices and games so they can improve their skills and better contribute to the success of the team. In addition, all team coaches are expected to attend 70% of their team's practices and games.

2. Players must wear the shirts and hats furnished by Bear Cub Baseball during games. The Little League patch must be ironed on to the left arm of the jersey. Directions for iron on location will be given with the uniforms.

3. All batters, base runners, and the catcher must wear protective headgear. Catchers must wear protective head (including a throat guard on the catcher's mask), body gear and leg gear. Mouth guards are highly recommended for all players at all times.

4. A team must have a minimum of 8 players to start a game or resume a suspended game. Any team not having at least 8 players within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time shall forfeit the game. If both teams fail to have the necessary number of players, both teams will forfeit.

5. The decision to postpone games due to weather or unplayable field conditions will be made by UABCB and will often not be made until just prior to game time. If lightning is sighted or thunder is heard while at the field, the umpire will delay the game until lighting/thunder has ceased for 30 minutes. Every new lightning strike or sound of thunder will restart the 30-minute clock. Once the cumulative time for all weather delays exceeds 60 minutes, the game will be postponed and rescheduled, if possible. During any weather delay, coaches should instruct players to wait in cars until play is ready to be resumed. Players should not go home until the umpire and/or the respective head coaches have decided to postpone the game.

6. Five innings constitutes a full game. No new inning will begin after one hour and thirty minutes of playing time. If a game is postponed that has not completed three innings (2 ½ if the home team is winning,) it will be suspended and continued at a later date, if possible, from the point of suspension.

7. A game shall end by run rule if one team is ahead by 15 runs after 4 innings.

8. All players reporting by game time will be included in the batting order.

9. Fielding requirements. Exceptions to these rules may be made for situations when less than 12 players are present for a game. The purpose of this rule is to ensure players have learned to play several positions during the season.

    a) Each player must play three complete innings in the field
    b) No player shall play two innings in the infield until every player has played one
    c) Each player must
        i. Play two innings in the outfield, OR
        ii. Play one inning in the outfield AND be on the bench one inning

d) Players cannot play the same position in consecutive innings.
e) No player shall sit two innings until every player has sat one inning
f) The fifth inning may not be used as a required inning
g) The batting order will consist of all players eligible for that game (roster bat), whether or not they are currently playing in the field
h) If a player arrives late, they must be placed in the last spot in the batting order

10. Players may leave or enter the game as many times as necessary to maintain an even distribution of playing time. Other than in cases of injury, substitutions are to be made only at the beginning of an inning. Players are to play the entire inning in an assigned position; moving players to other positions in an inning is prohibited. Double switches are not allowed.

11. The baseball diamond will have **60' base paths**, and the distance from the **pitcher's plate to home plate will be 35'**.

12. The maximum pitch count shall be six (6) pitches. There are no called strikes, however, three (3) swinging strikes constitute an out. Once a batter accumulates three strikes, the at-bat ends immediately, even if unused coach pitches remain. A player continues to bat should they hit a foul ball on the sixth or any subsequent pitch.

13. Coach Pitcher:
    a) Coach pitchers shall pitch from the pitching rubber **35' from the point of home plate**.

    b) The player fielding the pitcher's position shall take position always to the rear of the pitching rubber, and on the left or right side.

    c) If the Coach Pitcher is unintentionally hit by the ball the ball will be dead, the base runners cannot advance, and the play is repeated. If the Coach Pitcher intentionally interferes (in the judgement of the umpire) with a hit ball the ball shall be declared dead, the batter shall be called out, and the base runners cannot advance.

14. Out of play lines are straight lines that include both the back and forward support of the backstop extending an indefinite length into the diamond area along both the first and third base sides.

15. When not on the field, all players and coaches must stay in the designated "dugout" area. Only team members are permitted in this area. There is no on deck batting circle permitted. All spectators must stay behind the "Out of Play" line.

16. Base coaches must stay within the confines of the coaching box. One adult coach is allowed in the coaching box. Defensive coaches must remain off the field and in the dugout during live play. The only exception is when a coach is entering the field to make a pitching change or during stoppage for an injury.

17. On any batted ball that touches an outfielder, an outfielder may not record a force out by tagging the base themselves. The outfielder must make a throw to an infielder who is positioned on or moving toward the base. Any play in which an outfielder possesses the ball and then directly records the force out—without an infielder receiving the throw—is ruled safe at that base.

18. Code of Conduct: The coaches will set a good example for the kids to follow at all times. Coaches, players and spectators may not protest judgement decisions. Interpretation of rules may be discussed with the umpire and must be done with both coaches present. "Hassling and Baiting" the umpires is absolutely forbidden. **Zero tolerance policy is in effect.** If in the umpire's opinion, a coach, parent or any person in the bench area is causing undue disturbance, they are subject to immediate ejection and further discipline as determined by the UABCB Board of Directors. Remember, all coaches have agreed to the Code of Conduct located on the UABCB website during registration.

19. Questions about rules interpretation should be settled at the time they arise. If agreement cannot be reached at that time, and play has not continued, a protest may be filed. Rules for filing protest follow:

    a) Only rules interpretations may be protested, no judgment decision may be protested.
    b) The umpire and opposing coach must be notified that a protest is to be lodged BEFORE play is resumed.
    c) The condition of the game at that time must be recorded (batter, pitcher, score, outs, innings pitched, players on base, etc.) and signed by all three parties.
    d) A written protest stating the facts of the protested decision, and agreed to by the umpire in charge, must be notified by the protesting head coach to the respective League Commissioner following the contest.

20. Teams are allowed to bring in substitute players (as many as needed to reach the maximum number of 9 players) to avoid forfeits under the following conditions:
    a) The substitute is currently playing Bear Cub Baseball in the Tee-Ball Division.
    b) The substitute player(s) must wear their Tee-Ball jersey, can only play the outfield and must be at the end of the batting order. The fielding requirements in Rule 9 do not apply to substitute players.
    c) The team has 8 or fewer registered players available for that game.

21. **RULES OF PLAY** are those adopted by the Little League Baseball, with the exceptions listed herein:

    a) There will be no base on balls or base awarded by the batter being hit by the pitch. No bunting is allowed.

    b) Any time an infielder attempts to make an out and throws errantly past a defensive player, the base runners get the base they were running towards only. On a ball hit to the outfield, once the outfielder makes a throw towards the infield, the base runners may advance to the base they were running towards only and at their own risk.

    c) The infield fly rule does not apply.

    d) No leadoffs are allowed. Runners may not leave the base until contact with the ball is made. One warning per team will be issued. A second violation of this rule will cause the runner who left the base early to be called out.

e) No fielder, except the catcher who must stay behind home plate until the ball is hit, may be within 35' of home plate at the start of the play. **The fielding pitcher must begin the play parallel to and no further than 3' from the pitcher's rubber.** Positions must be played as in regular baseball with the exception that there will be four outfielders who must start play in the grass.

f) All bats must be approved under the Little League of America USA Bat Standard and include the USA bat logo. No tee-ball bats will be allowed. On the first offense the batter is out, and on the second offense the batter and coach are ejected. If a coach is ejected from two games, additional penalties are possible based on Board discretion.

g) Throwing the bat is prohibited. One warning per team will be given. A second violation will result in an immediate out. The ball is dead and the base runners cannot advance.

h) Once the contest begins, the use of training equipment (hit sticks, batting tees, etc.) are prohibited. The current batter is the only player allowed to have a bat in their hands during play. There is no on deck circle. If the umpire witnesses a team violating this rule, both teams will be issued a warning. Subsequent violations of this rule by either team will result in the offending team (if they are the offensive team) immediately being assessed one out. The batter remains up unless the out was the third out of the inning, in which case the same batter begins the next inning with a new count. No player on the defensive team may be holding a bat at any time.

i) Each half inning will consist of 3 outs or 7 runs scored, whichever occurs first. The exception is in the fifth inning (and the fifth inning only), where the run limit is waived.

j) If a team has only 8 players, an out is **not** called for the 9th position in the line-up

k) OBSTRUCTION is the act of a fielder who, while not in possession of the ball, impedes the progress of any runner. Obstruction shall be called on a defensive player who blocks off a base, base line or home plate from a base runner while not in possession of the ball. A fake tag is also considered obstruction. If there is obstruction made by a defensive player, the runner is awarded the base. A runner seeing a fielder with the ball should attempt to avoid a collision. If the base runner causes a collision that could have been avoided by sliding or legally going around the defensive player, the runner is out.

22. "Taunting" the opposing team in any manner is forbidden. Encouragement or cheering for aplayer's own team is to be expected and helps to instill a team attitude.

23. UABCB rules prohibit the use of alcoholic beverages and tobacco in any form on school property.

Sportsmanship is the essence of Upper Arlington Bear Cub Baseball. Please lead by example.