**Rivermont Youth Athletic Association**

**7&8 Year Old Rules**

1. Everyone must have fun and show the highest level of sportsmanship and integrity.
2. For regular season games the home team will take the 1st base dugout.
3. Each team must field at least 6 players to start the game. This includes all infield positions (1st, 2nd, 3rd, SS, P, C).
4. Any player to come in after the start of the game will go to the bottom of the lineup for the remainder of the game.
5. All players must be in full baseball attire with cap on and shirts tucked in.
6. There will be no pickups allowed during regular season/ tournament play.
7. There is no batting tee allowed.
8. Time limit will be 60 min on weekdays and 75 on Saturdays.
9. Teams must be ready to play at game start time. If one of the teams does not have enough players to field the infield, the game clock will be started and after 5 min, the game will end in a forfeit.
10. Each batter will be allowed up to 5 pitches. Strikeouts are recorded after 3 strikes. If a batter fouls the last pitch, then the batter will continue until a pitch is hit or struck out. Any ball to hit the coach pitcher will be counted as a dead ball and will not count toward pitch count.
11. There is a 5 run limit per team per inning. If the home team is up to bat and there is 5 min or less on the clock, a new inning will not begin.
12. Games will end in a tie during weekday play.
13. Outfield players must be at least 6 feet in the grass at the time the ball is hit. All infield players must stay in the dirt until the ball is put in play.
14. No coaches allowed in the outfield on defense.
15. The player pitcher and catcher must wear a mask.
16. The player pitcher must have at least one foot in the circle at the start of each play.
17. An imaginary line from the center of the 20 ft arc continuing to 2nd base will be respected. When a ball is fielded a defensive player may not cross the line to make a play. (i.e. if a fielder fields the ball on the left side of the line,  the player must throw the ball to 1st to make a play on the batter). 2nd base and home plate are neutral. Once a player visits a neutral base he/she is able to make a play at 1st or 3rd no matter the starting point. The location of the ball when fielded will be used in determining the side of field the player may make a play. If in determination of the Umpire the ball was on the line the defensive player may make a play toward 1st or 3rd base.
18. The coach pitcher must have one foot or straddle the line for each pitch. After the ball is put in play, the coach pitcher must grab the bat and stand at the back of the backstop until the play is dead.
19. The coach pitcher must pitch overhand to all batters.
20. All batters and base runners must wear a helmet at all times until they get back into the dugout.
21. Base stealing is not allowed. Any player caught off the base will be called out.
22. Any bat that is slung after a hit will give that batter a warning. The second will be an automatic out.
23. Defensive players must make an attempt to throw the ball. There will be no run downs by either the 1st baseman to 3rd or vise-versa. The defense must respect the imaginary line between 2nd base and home plate.
24. All throws must be overhand. Rolls or underhand will not count as a throw. A throw initiated as an overhand throw and rolls to its destination will be considered an overhand throw.
25. The offense must have one 1st base coach and one 3rd base coach. Base coaches may not help the base runners by holding them up or by pushing them to the next base. The base runner will receive an automatic out. A congratulatory high five may be given after time is called.
26. The head coach is the only person who may address the umpire. Each head coach is allowed only one time out per inning.
27. The conduct of the coaches, players and spectators is the responsibility of the head coach. If the head coach can not control his coaches or spectators, the head coach will be asked to leave for the remainder of the game.
28. Both the home and visitor teams must keep a scorebook. The home team will be required to provide someone to run the scoreboard.
29. Players must bat in order as described on the lineup card. If a player bats out of order, it will be an out after the first pitch and then the correct order will be resumed.
30. Both teams must supply the umpire and opposing team with a lineup before the game starts.
31. If during live play, a defensive player impedes the base path and the player does not have the ball or is not about to receive the ball to attempt to make a play, the base runner will be called safe on the next base.
32. If a runner tries to evade a tag and runs more than a step and a reach out of the base path, the runner will be out.
33. Prior to the start of the game, each team will need to line up all of their bats for the umpire to check. All non-wood bats MUST meet USA Baseball standards for the life of the bat and MUST possess a clearly identifiable manufacture’s certification stamp. Any bat found during a bat check without this stamp will be deemed unqualified for use.
34. If a team uses a banned bat after the bat check has been done, the player who used the bat will automatically out. If it is found after the ball has been hit, the player will be out, any advancement from any other runners will be voided and the runners will go back to their original base and any runs scored will be removed.
35. A protest which involves an umpire’s judgement may not be made (i.e. Ball/Strike, Fair/Foul, Safe/Out). The only legal protest is one in which a violation of playing rules has occurred. The protesting manager must immediately notify the umpire that the game is being played under protest. The protest must then be placed in writing to the league president within 24 hours along with $100 cash protest fee. The protest will then be decided by majority vote by the RYAA board of directors excluding any members that were involved in the situation resulting in the protest (i.e. coach, assistant, umpire or team parent). If the protest is upheld the protest fee will be returned.