

## 2021 FCKLL Rookies Special Playing Rules

### 1) Games

- a) A complete game consists of three innings.
- b) An offensive team's half inning is complete when all of the players on the team have batted one time regardless of how many outs the defensive team may record.
- c) No new inning may begin one hour and 10 minutes after the scheduled start time of the game. All games must end within one hour and 30 minutes of the scheduled start time.
- d) Neither game scores nor won/loss records are kept in Rookies either officially or unofficially.
- e) There are no forfeits in Rookies, nor is there a minimum number of players for a team to play.

### 2) Equipment

- a) It is recommended each team provide at least two game balls for the games.
- b) There are no catchers at the Rookies level; the offensive team will provide a Coach to help the player at the tee.

### 3) Player Participation

- a) All players in good standing must play the entire game. The rare occurrence of playing time being reduced due to a discipline or safety issue must be reported to the level coordinator.
- b) All players will be assigned a defensive position each inning. Player positions will be rotated each inning to provide each player the opportunity to play every position during the season. The rare exception of a player not being able to play certain positions due to a safety issue must be reported to the level coordinator.
- c) All players will be assigned a position in a continuous batting order. The batting order will be adjusted each game, or even each inning, to provide every player the opportunity to bat first and last in the order during the season.

### 4) Coaches

- a) The defensive team is allowed up to three coaches on the field of play.
  - (1) Three defensive coaches may be positioned in fair territory to guide the defensive players. Two outside the base lines and one inside.

- b) The offensive team is allowed up to three coaches on the field, plus the offensive team should employ a fourth coach in the dugout to manage the players on the bench.
  - (1) Base coaches – One each in the first and third base coach’s box. There will be no offensive coach at second base. Runners on second should receive direction from the third or first base coach.
  - (2) An offensive coach to maintain the tee.
  - (3) Bench coach will manage the players on the bench.
- c) Coaches shall not interfere with play.

5) Umpires

- a) Umpires are not provided for Rookies games.
- b) Coaches will make any necessary fair/foul or out/safe decisions.

6) Batters / Runners

- a) Each batter is allowed to bat until he or she hits a fair ball.
- b) The offensive manager/coach will cover the Tee for his/her team’s batters.
- c) Batters and baserunners will be limited to running one base on a batted ball that stays in play.

Note: The “infield” is the area in front of the baselines or in front of the position of the infielders – whichever is further from the batter.

- d) When the last batter of each inning hits, the “Home run hitter” batter and baserunners will advance all the way to home plate. Once the last runner reaches home plate the inning is over.

## 7) Fair / Foul Balls

- a) When batting off a tee, a ball is foul if:
  - (1) The ball travels less than 15 feet from home plate in fair territory
  - (2) The batter hits the tee causing the ball to fall from the tee
- b) The determination of fair or foul is made by the coaches on the field. Whatever the decision, it is most important for the call to be made quickly and clearly. There is no score being kept, and batters will hit until they hit a fair ball, so there is no cause for argument with any fair/foul call.

## 8) Infield Positions

- a) Teams may position no more than five players in the infield including the pitcher (There is no catcher at this level). Players should be positioned in the traditional infield positions. Remaining players must be positioned in outfield positions. Outfielders should not move inside the baselines.
- b) The pitcher should be positioned in contact with the pitchers plate.
- c) No infielder may be positioned closer to the batter than the pitcher. Infielders should play in the traditional positions.

## 9) Recording Outs

- a) Defensive teams are encouraged to attempt to make outs (fielders should be taught to throw to bases for force outs, catch pop-ups, etc.).
- b) Batter/runners who are put out shall remain on the base, there are no outs or score keeping at this level.
- c) Only the defensive players positioned immediately adjacent to a base should attempt a forced out at that base. Specifically, the first baseman and the pitcher are the only players who should attempt a force out at first base. The second baseman and shortstop should attempt a force out at second base and the third baseman can attempt a force out at third base.

**Note:** The league is discouraging defensive players recording force outs by foot race with the batter. A few aggressive players will try to record a force out from any position. The result is fewer players involved in the play, a missed opportunity to attempt a traditional baseball putout and collisions of players at the bases. If coaches are not able to get their players to understand when they should go to the base and when they should throw the ball, the league recommends making all defensive plays a throw to first base.