

Spring Ball Rules 2023

General Rules:

- Continuous walks are NOT allowed at any age level. **A continuous walk is described as; when a batter is walked and when moving to first base, continues their progression to second base without making a stop at first base.**

8U Rules:

Scheduling

- 10 Game regular season schedule
 - 90 minute time limit. After 90 minutes, finish the batter.

Fielding

- Catchers will be used. If standard catcher's helmet is too large, the child may wear a batting helmet, BUT MUST have a protective throat guard.
- Coaches must pitch from within the pitching circle. It is recommended all coaches pitch from the front of the circle, closest to the batter.

Batting

- 2 base max on all hits. Balls hit into the outfield can result in doubles only.
- 6 pitch limit for all batters. After 6 pitches, the tee will be used.
- There are NO strikeouts. After 3 swinging strikes (or 6 pitches, whichever comes first), bring out the tee and finish the at-bat.
- Continuous batting order. Bat your entire lineup, or 3 outs, whichever comes first.
- No stealing bases.
- 1 base advancement permitted on over-throws.

General

- Games will be umpired by Coaches from each team.
- 11 inch softballs

10U Rules:

Scheduling

- 10 game regular season schedule, plus playoffs
 - 90 minute time limit, finish the inning. No new inning may start after 1 hour 30 minutes.
If the final inning does not end by 1 hour 45 minutes, drop dead game over.
 - For Playoffs, finish inning after 90 minutes, no drop dead time limit
- There will be no standings and no forfeits

- Playoff matchups determined by blind draw. Same community teams cannot play against each other in RD1 of the playoffs.

Batting

- Bunting is allowed.
 - No fake bunts.
 - No Slapping or Slap Bunts
- 2 walks per inning
- If a pitcher walks 2 batters in an inning, any subsequent batter in that inning that sees 4 balls will stay up to bat and that team's coach will step in and pitch. The umpire will still call strikes regardless of whether the batter swings. Coaches cannot walk batters. Once the at bat is complete, the pitcher takes over again for the next batter. **Coaches will only finish out the batter when called in, they will not finish the inning.**
- Stealing 3rd base only (from 2nd base to 3rd base).
 - Limited to 2 steals per inning
 - If an overthrow occurs during a steal situation, runners may not advance
- No infield fly rule
- 10 batter limit per inning. If you get to the 10th batter, you assume 2 outs in the inning. A play must be made to get an out, throwing the ball back into the pitching circle WILL NOT stop play.
- Continuous batting order, 10th batter cannot be walked.
- Sliding is permitted.
 - Base-runners must avoid contact with fielders. This means that if they choose not to slide and make contact with the fielder covering the base, they will be called out.
- Max 5 runs per inning
- 11 inch ball

Fielding

- 10 players on the field. Must have at least 7 players on defense.
- 4 outfielders. Outfielders must start each play with both feet in the outfield grass.
- Safety bag at 1st base on all fields
- One base awarded for overthrows (excluding steal situations).
- Catchers are in the field of play. Coaches should not assist with fielding any balls that go past the catcher.
- If standard catcher's helmet is too large, the child may wear a batting helmet, BUT MUST have a protective throat guard.

Pitching

- 2 inning limit for all pitchers. 1 pitch thrown constitutes an inning.
- If a player is hit by a pitch, free base is awarded ONLY if it is a direct hit. Any pitch that hits the ground before making contact with the batter will be considered a ball and no free base will be awarded.
- If a pitcher hits 2 batters in the same inning, they must be replaced for the remainder of that inning. They can return in a future innings as long as the 2 inning pitching limit has not already been met.
- Coaches must pitch from within the pitching circle. It is recommended all coaches pitch from the front of the circle, closest to the batter.
- Mound 35 feet

12U Rules:

Scheduling

- 10 game regular season schedule, plus playoffs
 - 90 minute time limit, finish the inning. No new inning may start after 1 hour 30 minutes. If the final inning does not end by 1 hour 45 minutes, drop dead game over.
 - For Playoffs, finish inning after 90 minutes, no drop dead time limit

Batting

- Stealing is permitted with no limitations.
 - Runners may advance 1 base in the case of an overthrow during a steal situation.
- Bunting is permitted.
 - No fake bunting.
 - No Slapping or Slap Bunting
- No infield fly rule
- Continuous batting order
- 10 batter limit per inning. If you hit or walk the 10th batter, all baserunners advance 2 bases.
- Max 5 runs per inning.
- Sliding is permitted.
 - Base-runners must avoid contact with fielders. This means that if they choose not to slide and make contact with the fielder covering the base, they will be called out.
- Dropped 3rd Strike Rule in effect
 - Dropped 3rd Strike is as follows: A batter can attempt to take first base on a dropped 3rd strike when there are less than 2 outs and first base is unoccupied.
- 12 inch hard softball. Core number and compression need to be listed on the ball.

Fielding

- 10 players on the field.
- 4 outfielders. Outfielders must start each play with both feet in the outfield grass.
- One base awarded for overthrows at any bag.

Pitching

- 2 inning limit for all pitchers. 1 pitch thrown constitutes an inning pitched.
- If a pitcher hits 2 batters in the same inning, they must be replaced for the remainder of that inning. They can return in a future innings as long as the 2 inning pitching limit has not already been met.
- Relief pitchers (this represents ONLY pitchers that are brought in mid-inning to relieve a pitcher who had to be removed for hitting 2 batters) are not charged an inning pitched until they get 2 outs or face 5 batters (whichever comes first) in that inning.
- If the coach initiates a pitching change mid-inning, then both pitchers will be charged an inning.
- Mound is at 40 feet
- If a player is hit by a pitch, free base is awarded ONLY if it is a direct hit. Any pitch that hits the ground before making contact with the batter will be considered a ball and no free base will be awarded.

Official League Rules and Game Schedules can be found on the NPVGSA website at npvgsa.org

Spring Season Coordinator

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