**Rules 8U Boys Baseball**

**Games:**

* Games will consist of six (6) innings.
* We will play extra innings with the tie breaker rules (1 out, last out of previous inning on second, 1 strike count, 4 pitch’s left).
* There will be a 1:30 minute time limit for each game. If an inning is started before the time limit expires, both teams will get their turn at bat.
* The “Run Rule” is: 15 run lead after 4 innings, or 10 after 5 innings.
* A team must have 8 players to start the game. There will be an automatic out in the 9th spot if you only have 8 players. If a team only has 8 players, they may call players up from the Junior Division. These players will bat last and play in the outfield. Only enough players can be called to get to 9. No call-ups for tournament.
* Players arriving **after** the game has started will be added to the **bottom** of the batting order.
* No player should set more than 1 consecutive inning unless he refuses to play.

**Pitching:**

* This is a coach’s pitch division. THE BATTER SHALL RECEIVE FIVE (5) PITCHES TO ACHIEVE A FAIR-BATTED BALL, unless the batter swings and misses at three pitches prior to the five-pitch count. Failure to achieve a fair-batted ball will result in an out unless the fifth pitch or subsequent needed pitches are fouled, then another pitch will be thrown until the batter hits the pitch fair or strikes out.
* After the 5th game, the first inning of each game will be kids pitch. No player shall pitch in back-to-back games. On ball 4, the coach will finish the bat. Number of pitch’s remaining will be based off what the strike count was when ball 4 was thrown.
* Tournament time we go back to all coach’s pitch.

**Defense:**

* Each team will field 10 players, with 4 outfielders, when they have 10 payers. **No short fielders**.
* The pitcher’s helper must have one foot in the pitching circle, and no closer than the pitching machine.
* The pitcher’s helper may only be switched once an inning.
* There must be catcher.
* One coach is allowed in the field with the defensive team. This coach must be in the outfield.
* Pitcher’s helper must wear a heart guard and a batting helmet.

**Batting:**

* There will be a continuous batting order for each team. (All players bat).
* Teams can only score 6 runs per inning except for the last inning.
* When the batter becomes a batter/runner, the coach is **NOT** allowed to speak to **ANY** runner. If a batted ball contacts the pitcher coach, the ball will be dead and ruled a base hit.
* If a batter throws their bat after hitting the ball and does not contact the umpire or another player, the umpire will issue the team a warning. If it happens again during the game, it will be ruled a dead ball and the batter will be called out at that time. All runners will return to their previously occupied base at the time of the pitch.
* If a batter throws their bat after hitting the ball, and contacts the umpire or another player, it will be ruled a dead ball and the batter will be out at that time. All runners will return to their previously occupied base at the time of the pitch.
* If a player throws their bat or helmet in anger, a team out will be assessed, the player may be ejected.
* Players will not be allowed to challenge an umpire’s call in any way!
* When the batter becomes a batter-runner, they must run to the ORANGE safety base. If they hit the ball to the outfield, they can use the white of the base to advance further.
* Batters must have a mask on their batting helmets.

**Runners:**

* If a play is being attempted by the defensive team on the runner (except at first base) the runner must slide, or they will be called out.
* There can be a courtesy runner for the catcher at any time. The last out will be the runner.
* It will be the umpire’s call on whether a runner should slide. To be safe, the runner should slide unless they are rounding the base to continue to the next base or to home plate. Most umpires will let the runner know if they do not need to slide at home.
* A player will be ejected for malicious contact. This will be the umpire’s decision.
* Base coaches are not allowed to contact the runner while the ball is live. If they make contact, the runner is automatically out.
  + Examples:
    - Runner rounds third base, and the coach grabs the runner to stop them.
    - Assisting the runner to advance by pushing or shoving.
    - **In both examples, the runner will be called out.**

**Other information:**

* No steals. Base runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit. If the ball is not hit or if the batter strikes out, the base runner must return to the base.
* If a runner misses a base (umpires’ opinion) and does not return to touch, then after the play the runner will be called out.
* If a runner leaves the base early: First time will be a team warning. After that, they will be out,
* All equipment must be kept inside the “Dead Ball Area”.
* The Head Coach is the only person allowed to converse with an umpire. Comments from another person can lead to that person being ejected from the game.
* There are six things that will not be discussed:
  + Fair/Foul
  + Safe/Out
  + Balls/Strikes
* Coaches need to lead their teams by example. If a coach, player, or fan gets unruly they will be asked to leave, and the game will not continue. If they do not leave after 5 minutes, the team will forfeit the game. ZERO TOLERANCE!
* For the safety of players at the “pitchers’ helper” position, helmets with face masks must be

Worn as well as a heart guard.

* Infield fly rule and dropped third strike will not apply.
* No bunting will be permitted in Rookie League.
* The distance from home plate to pitching rubber will be no less than 40 feet.
* The umpire has the authority to call “time” after the lead runner has been stopped. (Intent to eliminate cat & mouse game). The umpire also has the authority to call time if a player has the ball on the infield and asks for time, and the runners stop. As a league, we are asking that coaches teach the kids how to play baseball. Example…If a runner at first is a foot off the base, and the first baseman is standing next to him with the ball and the runner just starts running, the umpire reserves the right to call time and send the runner back. If at any point during the season this rule is causing problems or the rule is being taken advantage of, the rule could be revisited and changed. It comes down to teaching the kids the correct way to play, not taking advantage of a rule. This is rec baseball.
* Bats must not exceed 33” in length, any barrel bigger than 2 ¼ must have the USA label.
* If a player slides dives – he will be called out UNLESS he is coming back toward the base.