



Radnor Wayne Little League "RWLL"

SOFTBALL RULES - ROOKIES

This document should be reviewed thoroughly by all volunteer coaches. All questions pertaining to the rules found within this document should be directed to the Softball Commissioner for Radnor-Wayne Little League.

8U Program (Rookies)

The 8-year-old and under Rookie division for 1st and 2nd graders builds upon the fundamentals learned in T-Ball and begins to stress the dynamics of the game. This is an instructional league in which we will work on basic rules, fundamentals and begin to teach pitching and catching, but also have coaches pitch to batters. The hope is by 3rd grade, Minors, your child will have basic softball knowledge and fundamentals to take it to that next level!

Ball Size – 11” softball

Game Duration

- Regulation game is 5 innings. After 60 minutes have elapsed, the inning in progress should be completed and no new inning is to start.
- Game may end in a tie.
- Last inning is NOT unlimited runs.

Field Set Up

- Back of home plate to the back of the bases: 55 feet
- Back of home plate to front of pitching rubber: 32 feet

Inning Duration

- Half inning ends when the offensive team has scored 5 runs or 3 defensive outs are made, whichever comes first.

Offense

- Batting order will be used and every player bats in the same order for the duration of the game. All players bat, even if not playing in the field that inning.
- Batters and base runners must wear a helmet.
- There is no on-deck circle.
- There are no walks.
- There ARE strikeouts.
- No dropped third strike.
- No bunting
- Managers and coaches should use their discretion in awarding the appropriate number of bases

to a batter, based upon the merit of the hit. (e.g., If a player hits a ball to one of the infielders, the manager/coach should instruct the players to take one base; if a batter hits a ball into an outfield gap, the manager/coach should instruct the player to take 2 bases; if a batter hits the ball well past the outfielders, the manager/coach may instruct the player to take 3 or 4 bases, again based on the merit of the hit, and NOT on any miscues by the defensive team.) Batters will be awarded a ground rule double when a batted ball rolls or bounces beyond the field of play in the outfield. The field of play is limited to the level playing field.

- If the ball is hit to the outfield, a runner may advance until pitcher has control of the ball.

Defense

- Up to 10 players can be used in the field.
- Positions: a pitcher, catcher, 4 infielders, and 4 outfielders.
- Outfielders must be stationed on the outfield grass or at least 15 ft away from the base paths.
- Each player must play at least 1 inning at an infield position and 1 inning in the outfield.
- No player may play more than 2 innings in the same position.
- Play will become dead when the pitcher (whether kid or coach pitcher) has control of the ball, inside the pitching circle.

Pitching

- The Coach/Adult Pitcher will also make all out calls for the defensive team.
- The Coach/Adult Pitcher is not permitted to touch any ball in play.
- A batted ball which strikes the adult pitcher is in play.
- PLAYER pitcher will pitch 4 pitches to a batter
 - If the batter has not hit or struck out, the coach pitcher will complete the remaining pitches
 - Coach pitchers throw up to 4 pitches
- Total of 8 pitches, if the last coach pitch is a foul ball, the batter is out
- Since there is no umpire, strikes are called only if the batter swings.
- After 8 pitches, if a batter has not put the ball in play or not strike out the batter is automatically out.
- No walks. No called balls.

Base Running

- No Stealing.
- Runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit.
- No infield fly rule.
- If the ball is hit into the outfield, the runners may advance until the ball is returned to the infield into a teammate who then gains control of the ball.
- Overthrows:
 - Awarded an extra base if overthrow is to second base only
 - NOT awarded a base if overthrow is to first or third base
 - We want to encourage throws to bases, especially first and third, not discourage because of fear of extra bases
- Coaching the bases may be done by adults so long as they remain off the field of play. There should be at least 1 coach (or parent) present on the bench/dugout at all times to help and supervise safety.

Umpiring

- The Coach/Adult Pitcher for each half inning will make all out calls as they will have the best viewpoint.

Safety

- No throwing bats under any circumstances. Warnings may be issued.
- There are no on-deck circles and warm up swings are not permitted in the dugout areas.
- Helmets with facemask must be worn at the plate and while baserunning.
- Protective face masks are mandatory for all players.

Role of Coaches/Adult Helpers

- Coach/Adult Helper on the mound pitching to their own team players. This coach will also be the one to make any out calls for each half inning.
- Coach/Adult Helper behind the plate collecting pitched balls to speed up the game. This coach can help with proper footing of a batter and are to move out of the way for any plays at home.
- Coach/Adult Helper in the dugout helping the team with batting order and readiness of the next batter.
- Coach/Adult Helper as base coach.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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