

2023 TYA Rookie Division Rules

TYA Rookie League is a coach pitch instructional league. There is no official score. The objective is to have fun, learn baseball and foster self-confidence in the players. Let's focus on the effort and approach, rather than the result.

Normal baseball rules apply except for the rules listed below.

Time limit: Games shall not exceed the permitted time slot. The Rookie time slot is 75 minutes, 10-15 minutes for pre-game warm-up and 60 minutes for the game. Once time expires, the game shall end immediately.

End of a half inning:

A half inning ends when 3 defensive outs are made or all players have batted once, whichever comes first.

Defensive Team: All players will play in the field each inning. Encourage appropriate positional play if possible - Including catcher (optional). Please rotate players between positions frequently (at any time). For example, flip-flop infield/outfield or rotate the players clockwise with each batter.

Offensive Team:

All players will bat.

- **FIRST 3 GAMES**

- All batters will hit off a tee for first few games
 - Purpose – is to have all kids involved (batters and fielders) and create positive experience and momentum
 - As coaches practice we will move to coach pitch for Game 4.

- **THE REMAINING GAMES**

- A batter is entitled to 5 pitches. After 5 pitches, the player must put the ball in play off of a tee.
- There are no walks, no strike-outs, no bunting, no leading & no stealing.
- An adult from each team will pitch to their own team. Once a batter hits a ball into fair territory, it becomes playable (no minimum distance); however, a batter must take a full swing. Bunting is not permitted.
- **Each adult pitching should pitch from one knee.** The ball needs to come into the batter on a flat trajectory. Standing up creates a downward trajectory and creates bad habits for the hitters.
- A second coach should be behind the catcher retrieving balls to keep the pace of play moving along.

Base-running: If the ball is hit into the outfield, the runners may advance until the ball is returned to the infield. Runners may then only advance at their own risk to the base they were running to when the ball returned to the infield.

- A ball is returned to the infield when (a) a fielder carries the ball from the outfield to inside the base lines, or (b) a fielder throws the ball and it lands on the ground or is touched by any player within the baselines.
- Time is officially called when (a) any runner has stopped because a fielder has control of the ball, either at the base occupied by a runner or the next base, or (b) the pitcher (player) has possession of the ball in the pitcher's circle.

- Overthrows: There will be no bases awarded to any runner in the event of an overthrow to a defensive player.

Safety and Sanity:

There is no "on-deck" circle and warm up swings are not permitted.

The only player who may take warm up swings is the player up to bat at home plate.

Play may be delayed at anytime for instruction and coaching; however, coaches should use discretion concerning frequent stoppages of play. With the exception of the adult pitcher and one defensive coach, the other coaches should remain in foul territory while the game is in progress.