

8u League Rules *Updated 2021*

PRE-GAME

1) Field Set-up:

Field Measurements:

- 1) Arc at home plate = **5 feet**
- 2) Pitcher's mound = **40 feet**
- 3) Pitcher's Circle = **10 foot diameter**
- 4) Bases = **60 feet apart**

2) Game & Player Equipment:

- a) Home team will provide **2 new game balls** to the umpire prior to the start of the game.
- b) **NO** wooden bats are to be used. The maximum barrel size should be **2 5/8**. **Usa certified bats are not required at this level.**
- c) Helmets are **MANDATORY** for batters and runners.
- d) **All players on field must be "prepared to play"**. **This means in full uniform** - which includes personal protective gear. The parent/guardian of the player is responsible to make sure the personal gear is in place.
***The manager, coach or umpire may verbally ask the players as a group if the gear is being worn.*
- f) **Home team** is responsible for providing a copy of these rules for a pre-game meeting between managers and the umpire. It is suggested that all parties have the rules readily available.
- g) Home team is responsible to store equipment at the end of the game, lock the storage box and police the grounds - this includes emptying the garbage cans if needed.

3) Player call-ups / borrowed players:

A "call up" is defined as borrowing a player from a younger division in order to have enough players to field a team and avoid a forfeit.

Players may not be borrowed from the same division. The manager should contact the proper parties in their own league for assignment of a brought up player. Note: *Failure to comply with the call up rules can result in forfeiture.* If a last minute need arises, qualified players may be requested from T-Ball teams that are on the T-Ball field.

- a) The borrowing team's roster size must not be exceeded.
- b) The borrowing team must have at least **6 of its own rostered players** to avoid a forfeit.
- c) Players borrowed from T-Ball must be age **6**.
- d) A brought up player cannot play pitcher or catcher.
- e) The brought up player must play at least **3 innings (9 outs)**.
- f) No team may take permanent possession of a brought up player.
- g) Any one player may be brought up only one time per week and only 2 times per team during the regular season. *During play-offs this will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.*
- h) Rostered players of the borrowing team must start if they arrive on time.

4) Calendar week, Schedule, Rain Outs,

- a) Calendar week is 12:01AM on Monday to 12:00 Midnight on Sunday.
- b) The home team is listed first or on the left on the schedule.
- c) Home Team Manager is to contact the Commissioner in the possible case of a rain out.

- d) This must be done at least 90 minutes before the scheduled game time.
- e) The Commissioner, *not the team manager*, will make the final pre-game determination as to if the field is playable or not.
- f) If the Commissioner is unavailable, one of the following officers should be contacted: VP of Pinto
- g) Once the field has been turned over for play - only the **umpire** can suspend play (weather, darkness).
- h) Lightning within predetermined radius constitutes immediate suspension of play for 20 minutes. Play may resume if lightning does not strike again.
- i) Any game with 4 completed innings is considered a complete game and no make-up date will be issued. Games which will have to be replayed should start from the beginning.

Make-up Games:

h) Make-up games will be played during the earliest available slot

i) Rainouts

Games that are postponed because of rain or rescheduled for any reason must be rescheduled within **7 days** of the originally scheduled game date. (The game need not be played but scheduled within one week of the original date.) If the home team has not contacted the visiting team within 3 days, the Commissioner/Chairperson is to be notified. **If the game is not rescheduled within 7 days, the game will be played the *Sunday* after the 7th day. The game will be played at 12:00pm.**

If neither team has a field available, the game will be played at a neutral field.

The home team is still responsible for field set up and umpires. **If a rescheduled game (including Sundays) is cancelled for any reason other than weather, the team canceling will receive a loss in the standings.**

Home team is responsible for notifying the visiting team's manager at least one hour before the game if a game is to be postponed for any reason. Since we are at the mercy of the weather and park district officials, leniency will be granted if special situations arise.

5) Game Specific

- a) Regular game length will be **6 innings**.
- b) There is a **5 run maximum per inning for the first 5 innings**. Unlimited runs in the 6th and subsequent innings. ****If the umpire decides to shorten a game due to time, weather, darkness, etc. - The umpire is to notify both team managers and then call "last inning" at the top of an inning. In this case, that last inning would be unlimited runs.**
- c) **Any game with 4 completed innings is a complete game.**
- d) There is no slaughter rule.
- e) Time limits on games **2 hours. No inning shall start after 1 hour and 45 minutes.**

6) Batting

Line-up and Batting order

a) Each manager is to provide the opposing team and umpire with a **written** copy of the line-up before the game begins.

b) There will be a continuous batting order for all uniformed players, for the entire game.

Batters are not allowed to bunt

a) If a bunt attempt is made, the batter will be charged with one swing.

Bat Throwing

a) Bats must not be “thrown” in an unsafe manner. Interpretation is at the discretion of the umpire.

PENALTY = the offending team will know that all subsequent batters who violate this will be called out after one team warning is issued.

b) If a batter is called out for throwing the bat - all runners return to their starting bases.

Batter Hit by Pitch

a) If a batter is hit by a **kid pitched ball** - the umpire will ask the batter if they choose the option to take the base or to continue batting. It is up to the batter only. *The intent of this rule is to encourage keeping the batter at the plate and to teach the batter not to be afraid of the pitching, even if they were unintentionally hit.*

7) Playing the Field

All players from each respective team shall play for a minimum of 9 outs.

a) There will be a limit of **6 infielders** - (pitcher, catcher, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, shortstop.)

b) There will be a limit of **4 outfielders**. The remaining players are to be rotated in.

c) A player in the short-center position must be positioned on the outfield grass behind 2nd base.

Outfielders may not enter the infield to tag a player out or cover a base to make a force out.

Outfielders may only throw the ball to a base to make a force out.

d) **No player shall play the same position for more than 3 innings** (*consecutive or not*), in a game.

e) Each team may have **2 outfield coaches** stationed behind the outfielders and a **coach stationed behind the catcher**. Coaches may not touch a live ball.

8) Pitching

All pitches in all innings must be thrown overhand.

Specifics regarding Adult pitch innings:

a) An adult of the manager's choosing will pitch to his or her own team.

b) The adult pitcher is not allowed to interfere with or direct play while on the playing field.

c) Once a ball is pitched and the ball is hit into play, the adult pitcher must exit the field of play.

d) The adult pitcher must pitch from within the pitching circle.

e) **Any ball that hits the adult pitcher is a dead ball and does not count as a pitch.**

f) If the adult pitcher is hit with a thrown ball because there is no attempt to exit the field of play, the batter will be called out.

g) The maximum number of pitches or swings in any combination to any one player shall be no more than **6 per at bat**. If no hit occurs, the batter is called out. If the batter hits a foul ball on the last pitch from his coach he may get another pitch.

h) No walks will be allowed.

Specifics regarding Kid pitch innings:

a) Kid-pitch innings will begin **Monday May 31st, 2021. That includes rescheduled games from earlier in the season.**

b) A regular league baseball will be used for kid-pitch innings. No “Tee-Balls”.

c) The 3rd and 4th inning will be kid pitch.

d) The umpire will call balls and strikes.

e) Umpires will call the game from behind the pitcher's mound during kid-pitch innings.

- f) **Walks will NOT be allowed. After Ball 4 the Adult Pitcher will re-enter the game for 3 additional pitches only.** If the ball is not put into play after the 3 additional pitches the batter will be out. If the batter hits a foul ball on the last pitch from his coach he may get another pitch.
- g) **No child shall pitch more than 1 inning. 1 pitch constitutes an inning for the child.** *Meaning, if you pull the child after 1 pitch, they may not be put back in as the pitcher during that game. Note: The child must still play in another position for enough of the game to meet the requirement of playing 9 outs.*
- h) **If a pitcher hits two batters he must be replaced**
- i) **There are unlimited trips to the pitcher's mound.**

9) Base Running

a) **Runners are NOT permitted to steal or leadoff bases. Runners cannot leave the base until the ball is HIT.**

PENALTY = Runners will be called out after one team warning is issued.

b) Runners are encouraged to slide in order to avoid contact with the fielders. It is understood that some players are not able to slide at this age, therefore they should not be called out if contact is made with a defender.

10) There is No Infield Fly Rule.

11) Control:

- a) The pitcher or any infielder must have possession (control) of the ball inside the pitcher's circle for play to stop.
- b) If a runner is **2/3** of the way to the next base when play is stopped, the player will get that base. If the runner is not **2/3** of the way there, the play is dead and the runner goes back.
- c) If the ball is thrown from the outfield to the pitcher, the runner will be awarded an extra base. The ball must be thrown to a cut-off player. If the ball is thrown to the cut-off, is missed unintentionally, and then goes to the pitcher - the ball will be considered dead and no extra base awarded. This is at the umpire's discretion. Throwing the ball to a base is considered a cut-off throw.

12) Overthrows -

- a) There will be no base awarded on overthrows which are still in play. If the ball is thrown out of play the runner will get the base he is going to and the next base.
- b.) A ball thrown into the infield from the outfield and then thrown back to the outfield is considered a dead ball and the runners cannot advance.
- c) A ball hit to an infielder and then thrown to the outfield is a live ball.
- d) The area that surrounds home plate will be considered a control issue. The umpire will clarify this area prior to each game.

13) Participant / Player / Spectator Behavior

A "Participant" is defined as anyone the team manager has allowed in the dugout area, including themselves,

coaches, scorekeepers, etc. A "player" includes all members of the team - uniformed or not, benched or not.

- a) Only the manager, coaches, scorekeepers and players are allowed in the dugout. A maximum of 4

non-players will be allowed.

b) Participants and/or players must not act in an unsportsmanlike manner. IE: throwing equipment and/or using foul language, etc.

c) Acknowledging an offense by a participant / player during a game is the responsibility of the team manager and/or the umpire.

d) The penalty for a player acting in an unsportsmanlike manner will consist of the manager removing the player's hat, which will designate that the player is not in full uniform and "benched".

d) The penalty for a participant is to be ejected from the dugout, then ejected from the spectator area, then ejected from the park. Steps may be skipped depending on the degree of the violation.

e) The actions in Rule 13 c) or d) may be taken by the team manager or at the discretion of the umpire. If the umpire requests action by the team manager, the manager must carry out the request.

f) The Team Manager must submit a written report of such actions to the VP of the division, within 48 hours. The Board of Directors will then review participants / players who have been cited and determine their eligibility for future involvement.

g) No alcoholic beverages are allowed anywhere in the parks. No smoking will be allowed in the dugout or on the field.

h) Spectators found by the Umpire to be argumentative, interfering, or abusive – will be asked to remove themselves from the spectator area. The team involved will be expected to support the decision of the umpire.

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i) Ejections: Any manager or coach ejected from a game will also serve a 1 game suspension to be served at that team's next scheduled game. The next ejection from a game will be removal from that team as manager or coach. The manager or coach will not be allowed on the playing field for the remainder of the season.

14) Umpire's decision on any play is final and not arguable.

a) It has been agreed upon by league commissioners before the beginning of the season that judgement calls are not reversible. The call must stand. Arguing / harassing an umpire by a manager, coach, player or spectator will not be tolerated and may result in ejection from the game or park.

b) Only the team manager may question an umpire as to interpretation of rules. The manager must wait until the ball is dead before questioning a call made by the umpire.

c) Any ejection resulting from a conflict with an umpire will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and may lead to a suspension.

15) Protest

a) Whenever a manager protests a game because of alleged misapplication of the rules – the protest will not be recognized unless the umpire is notified at the time the play under protest occurs and before the next pitch is made or a runner is retired. Protests arising on a game-ending play may be filed, in writing, until 12 noon the following day with the President of your respective league.

b) A fee of \$25.00 CASH will be payable at the time of review, but prior to the review. This fee will be returned only if the ruling is decided in your favor.

c) All protests will be handled within seven days by a panel of the league Presidents.

d) Only a protest involving a rule interpretation will be reviewed. Protests involving umpire judgment will not be reviewed.