**PWYBA 1st Grade League Rules**

**(Coach Pitch)**

**GENERAL RULES**

1. A player must be registered with PWYBA for the grade they are in at the time of registration. No “playing up” is allowed.
2. A team may be given permission by its league commissioner to “bring up” a younger league player if (and only if) they are short players. Adding a younger player cannot displace an existing team member. At no point, can an older league player be used to fill in.
3. Teams will be formed primarily by school and “play with” requests can be submitted. Please note: all requests will be considered but not necessarily accommodated.

**EQUIPMENT**

1. Players must wear either tennis shoes or rubber cleat baseball shoes. Metal cleats are prohibited.
2. Players must wear their team jerseys and hats to all games. Baseball pants (not provided) are recommended, but not required.
3. PWYBA will provide each team with catcher’s equipment (helmet, chest protector and shin guards) which must be worn by any player playing the catchers position.
4. While not required, it is recommended that all players wear a cup athletic supporter.
5. No big barrel bats are allowed. Bats must adhere to Little League standards which are as follows: barrel size no greater than 2 ¼ inches and bat length no longer than 33 inches. The new NHSF rules on players using approved USSSA bats are not required at this level.

**SPECIFIC LEAGUE RULES**

1. Home team is responsible for bringing batting tee and bases.
2. Bases, if not already in the field already, need to be 60’ feet from home plate. (Approximately 15 paces if you do not have a measuring tape.)
3. Games are 1 hour. Actual innings will vary from game to game. On average, expect to play 3 or 4 innings per game.
4. No umpires are provided. Coaches on the field will make the call.
5. No scores are kept.
6. Stealing is not permitted.
7. Leading off is not permitted. A runner must not leave the base before the ball is hit by a batter.
8. Only 1 base is allowed on an over-throw – even if the ball goes into the outfield and technically still in play. Fielding teams should avoid throwing the ball around. When in doubt, players should get the ball back to the coach who is pitching. Please reinforce this and move the kids back if they advance further than 1 base.

**FIELDING**

1. Each team shall play 10 players in the field while on defense – using 4 in the outfield (left field, left center, right center and right field). **Do not play all your players at once even if you have more than 10 players present for the game.**
2. It is encouraged that coaches stand in the field to help direct. This is a better approach than yelling from the bench. Suggestion: have one coach behind short stop and another coach between 1st and 2nd base.
3. Players rotate positions during the course of the game. No player can sit out 2 consecutive innings. Additionally, players must play at least 1 inning in the outfield and 1 inning in the infield.

**BATTING**

1. Batters must wear a helmet in the batters box, on-deck circle and while running the bases.
2. Only the batter and on-deck batter can be on the field when your team is hitting. Everyone else must be on the bench.
3. Make sure the on-deck batter is ready to go.
4. Each batter receives approximately a maximum of 10 pitches but judgment is allowed on what is appropriate. If unsuccessful after 10 pitches, a tee must be used. (Reminder: home team is responsible for providing the tee.)
5. All players bat each inning.
6. After 3 outs are made, the bases area cleared and the team batting continues to bat until all players have hit. (Clearing the bases rewards the fielding team for good defense.)
7. Batting order should remain the same every inning – but change every game. The one exception, the player designated to play catcher the next inning should bat first to allow enough time to put on equipment.
8. No bunting is allowed. Batter’s full swing must go at least 2 feet. If the ball does not go that far, the batter must hit again.

**PITCHING**

1. This league is coach pitch, which means that the coach pitches to their own team (not the opposing team).
2. A coach may vary his distance to meet the needs of the batter.
3. The coach must pitch overhand from the knee. No underhand or standing overhand position allowed.
4. Use a bag of balls rather than just 1 ball. Have a bag or bucket at both the pitcher and catcher positions – rather than throwing the ball back and forth. Home team is responsible for supplying the bag and/or bucket of balls.
5. The player in the pitcher position should stand to either the left or right of the coach pitching depending on the batter.
6. The coach pitching must make every attempt to get out of the way to allow the pitcher to field the ball.