

# 2015 LEVEL I LEAGUE RULES

## Fall 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

### (Coach Pitch)

All coaches are expected to familiarize themselves with the rules regarding *conduct* of coaches, spectators, and players.

- **Dugouts are selected on a first-come basis.** There is no assignment of dugouts. All dugouts must be cleaned after your team has completed their game.

#### **RULE 1 - Players, Field, and Equipment**

- 1-1 There shall be 9 defensive players on the field at a time: 3 outfielders, 5 infielders, and a catcher. Pitching will be done by a coach.
- 1-2-1 The diamond shall be 60 feet between bases.
- 1-2-11 The pitcher's rubber shall be 30 feet from the point of home plate.
- 1-2-9 Throw-Down bases will be provided by FCBC.
- 1-3-4 The official ball shall be a Safe-T-Ball provided by FCBC.
- 1-4-1 No metal cleats allowed.
- 1-5-4 Catchers must wear a helmet that includes ear protection. The mask must have a separate, attached throat protector. The chest protector shall have a tail that protects the groin area. All male catchers must wear protective cups. *It is strongly recommended that all players wear a protective cup.*
- 1-5-12 Jewelry shall not be worn (See 3.3.1d) except for religious or medical medals (taped and worn under the uniform).

#### **RULE 2 - Playing Terms and Definitions**

- 2-8 Bunting will *not* be allowed.
- 2-19 There is no infield fly rule.
- 2-20-2 A half inning (team's turn at bat) is over when there are 3 outs or when the number of players in attendance of the larger team have batted. A coach shall announce the last batter prior to their at bat.
- 2-35 The strike zone includes the neck and the knees, the width of the plate *plus* 3 inches to either side of the plate. Batters should be swinging. Please be liberal with this.

#### **RULE 3 - Lineups & Substitution / Thrown Bat or Helmet**

- 3-1-1 A team may start or end a game with 8 players, and an automatic out will not be charged for the missing players. If a team has fewer than eight players, that team shall borrow players from the other team in order for the game to be played.
- 3-1-1 On defense, free substitution shall be allowed. All players will play – **at minimum** – every other inning. All players should be allowed to play one full defensive inning in the infield within the **first three innings**.
- 3-1-4 On offense the batting order shall contain the entire roster of players.
- 3-3-1c A player who carelessly or unintentionally throws their bat or helmet shall receive 1 warning. Further infractions by the same player, or a player who *intentionally* throws their bat or helmet, shall result in the player being called out and in forfeiture of their next turn at bat (automatic out).

#### **RULE 4 - Starting and Ending the Game**

- 4-2-1, 2 Games shall start and end on time. A regulation game consists of 6 innings or 1.5 hours. No inning shall begin later than 1.5 hours after the game's start time.
- 4-2-3 The Fall League will not reschedule rainouts. Managers may reschedule un-played games at their option.

## **RULE 5 - Dead Ball - Suspension of Play**

5-1-1g On an overthrown ball to **any** base, base runners may only advance one base. The play is dead at that point.

## **RULE 6 - Pitching: An adult pitcher will pitch to his or her own team.**

6-1-1-6

- The adult pitcher shall be considered a defensive player.
- If a batted or thrown ball hits the adult pitcher, the ball remains live and play continues. If a batted ball lodges in the adult pitcher's clothing or is caught by the adult pitcher, the ball is dead, and the count reverts back to what it was before the pitch was thrown.
- If a batted ball hits the adult pitcher and bounces into foul territory without going past first or third base and without being touched by a defensive player, a dead-ball single is awarded the batter and base runners will not advance unless in a force situation.
- The adult pitcher should be either the coach or manager of the team, and shall pitch to the players of their team. If a coach or manager is unable to pitch, any ADULT may assume the pitching duties.
- The adult pitcher shall pitch to his/her own team overhand, from **ONE KNEE, approximately 30 feet** from home plate. There are no restrictions as to how many adult pitchers are used in one game, or on how many times the pitcher may be replaced. If a change is made in the middle of an inning, no warm-up pitches shall be permitted.
- Bases on balls are NOT awarded when an adult pitcher is pitching. *A batter hit by a pitch will not be awarded first base.* If an adult pitcher is not able to throw strikes consistently, a new adult pitcher should be brought in.
- Adult pitchers are prohibited from fielding any batted or thrown ball, except in self-defense, other than a return throw from a fielder at the end of playing action. If a batted or thrown ball inadvertently strikes the adult pitcher, refer to the rule above dealing with this issue. If an adult pitcher, in the judgment of either umpire, intentionally fields a batted or thrown ball, the batter is out and the play ends.
- Any combination of three strikes (swinging or looking) and the batter is out.
- There will be no balks called.

## **RULE 8 - Base Running**

8-2-8 Once the pitcher has control of the ball within an 8-foot radius of the pitcher's rubber, runners must remain in contact with their bases until the next pitch crosses home plate (no base stealing allowed). The first time a runner leaves too soon, a warning shall be issued to the runner. The second time, the runner shall be called out. Each runner shall be issued one warning per time on base. Warnings and penalties shall be called immediately, and the ball will be considered dead before the pitch.

8-4-1e A batter is out when the umpire, regardless of whether the ball is caught by the catcher or not, calls a third strike.

8-4-2 Sliding is allowed. *Any slide must be feet first*, and should be attempted only after proper training.

## **RULE 9 - Scoring / Record Keeping**

9-2-1 Official game scores and team standings shall not be kept in the Fall League.

## **RULE 10 - Umpiring**

10-1-1 There will be one official umpire provided by FCBC for Fall 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade games.