

BLACK HILLS YOUTH BASEBALL



COACH/PARENT HANDBOOK

2026 SEASON

BABE RUTH AND CAL RIPKEN BASEBALL



2026 BHYB LEAGUE BOARD

Christian Garner President

Steven Rodriguez Vice-President

Nicole Walker Secretary

Vacant Treasurer

Bryan Bales Equipment Manager

Ashley Lillie Uniform Coordinator/Fanwear

Tiane Garner Registrar & Social Media/Communication/Website

Vacant Sponsorship Coordinator

Megan Rodriguez League Scheduler

Vacant Fundraising Coordinator

Joe Anderson Rookie Division Rep.

Bryan Bales Minor Division Rep.

Vacant Major/Minor Division Rep.

Doug LaPalm Major Division Rep.

Reid Hamblet Babe Ruth Rep.

bhyouthbaseball.org

FOR PARENTS

LEAGUE REGISTRATION

Parents/Guardians can register their player(s) online through the BHYB website. During the registration process, parents/guardians will be asked for their players uniform sizing information. If the information provided is incorrect or does not fit, the parent/guardian will be responsible for replacing the jersey/pants/hat at their own expense. Parents/Guardians will also be given the opportunity to request their player's three (3) preferred jersey numbers; numbers will be assigned by the league's uniform coordinator and the player's head coach once assigned to a team.

RAIN-OUT PROCEDURES

Rainout information for Wonderwood, Rainer Vista, and Homann Parks will be disseminated by the Division Reps as soon as it is known.

Lacey's Regional Athletic Complex (RAC) does not rain out.

If you arrive at the field and weather conditions have changed, a determination between coaches and umpire will be made on whether to play.

Days will be scheduled during the season for rainout games. Every effort to accommodate all divisions will be made. Failure to make up games is not a basis for a refund. Managers will be required to make up games if possible. Makeups will be announced at a later date based on field availability.

EQUIPMENT

Each player is expected to provide their own helmet, bat, and glove. Catchers are encouraged to purchase their own gear, though the league does have sets to be loaned out and to be utilized by lower-division teams.

PLAYER CONDUCT

While managers and coaches are responsible for the conduct of their team on the field, parents also have an inherent responsibility to communicate with their player(s) coaches any issues that may need to be aware of and any established mitigation strategies. Likewise, parents must be aware of their actions and always remember that this is "rec league" baseball where the primary focus of the league is skill development and fun. Additionally, the league would like to remind everyone that coaches are dedicated volunteers who generously donate their time and do not have formal or specialized training.

Any personal conduct violations will be adjudicated as outlined in the League By-Laws.

OPENING DAY

Opening Day will be held at the RAC on a Saturday in mid-March, at a date determined by the league. On that day, opening ceremonies will commence at 8:45 AM. Coaches must have their players on the field in full uniform at 8:30 AM. Opening day games are exhibition only and do not count in season standings. All divisions will play their opening day games at the RAC. Team pictures will also be conducted that day.

If there is a rain-out for Opening Day, every attempt will be made to re-schedule games on Sunday.

BLACK HILLS YOUTH BASEBALL FUNDRAISING

BHYB is a non-profit organization. To maintain a competitive league, there will be fundraising opportunities that we ask each player to participate in. The money raised allows BHYB to keep our registration costs down for all players, while playing at the best baseball parks in Thurston County. The major fundraiser for the league is in partnership with the Tacoma Rainiers; BHYB and your manager will communicate additional details about the fundraiser at your first practice. The league fundraiser is two-fold: BHYB will receive a share of profits from tickets sold through the league at "BHYB Day at the Rainiers" and from the raffle the league will also hold that day. Each team is responsible for supplying an item to raffle.

A one-day baseball camp will be held on Martin Luther King Day each year; watch the website for the location and additional details. Proceeds from this will also go to BHYB.

SPONSORSHIP

Each team is required to find a team sponsor to help subsidize umpire costs and field costs. A business/individual can register to sponsor a team; coaches have additional information on this opportunity. For all other questions, please contact the league sponsorship chair.

END OF SEASON TOURNAMENT

The league will host the End of Season Tournament at the RAC on the last weekend of the Regular Season in mid-May, at a date determined by the league. Teams will be seeded based on Regular Season performance. Parents should expect for their players to play multiple games that weekend. The League will make every effort to publish the time slots of potential games early in the season so parents can plan accordingly. However, parents should not expect their player's schedule to be released until the week prior to the tournament based on division seeding, rainout makeups, etc.

ALL-STARS

Black Hills Youth Baseball supports All-Star Teams that are selected in April/May. These teams will participate in tournaments after league play has finished. There are five age groups (Rookie, 9U, 10U, 11U, and 12U) for Cal Ripken All-Star selection. Likewise, the league will also facilitate Babe Ruth All-Stars. The All-Star season usually is played in the months of June and July. The tournament schedule is determined by the coaching staff. Parents should expect to play in tournaments during each weekend, sometimes with overnight travel required. If the player's respective team wins the Southern WA State Tournament, the team will qualify for Regionals which will extend the season.

When registering for league play, parents will need to consider which division is age appropriate for their player if they are planning to apply for All-Stars. All-Stars is chosen by AGE and not by Division. The league usually succeeds in filling rosters for two All-Star teams per age group each year. It is recommended that 11U and 12U players who may wish to play All-Stars play in the Major Division due to rule differences. To qualify for the 9U All-Star team, a player must play at a minimum, in the Minors. Players who have registered for Rookies shall qualify only for a Rookie All-Star team. 8-year-old players who play in the Minor Division cannot play for Rookie All-Star teams.

The Board will establish tryouts for coaches to evaluate players for All-Stars for all age groups. An All-Star list is shared with coaches prior to the voting date. All-Star selection will be based not only on evaluation day but also regular season play as well as manager recommendations. As such, coaches and managers are highly encouraged to observe players in games as evaluations may not accurately represent the player's game ability.

FOR COACHES

As the manager/coach of a team, you are an extension of The League and its Board. As such, you will be responsible for facilitating information and requirements amongst your team and its parents.

EQUIPMENT

Each team will have an opportunity to receive equipment for the season; this is not mandatory but is an option. The league will provide catcher's gear, safety helmets, and tees to the Rookie & Instructional teams. Any gear remaining available can be checked out to coaches of older divisions on a first-come, first serve basis. Gear is not guaranteed for checkout to coaches in older divisions. Coaches are recommended to have their own equipment to facilitate practices. This equipment may include, but is not limited to: baseballs, wiffle balls, nets, tees, etc. It is the manager's responsibility to make certain that league equipment is returned to the league at the end of the season. Please be prepared to return the equipment at the year-end tournament. It is the manager's responsibility to make certain this equipment is returned to the league at the end of the season.

Each team will be given a case of Cal Ripken or Babe Ruth baseballs to be used for GAME PLAY ONLY. The pitching machines and generators are reserved first for Rookie teams. They can be used by other Division teams as a practice tool but should not be removed from the park that they are assigned to without prior approval. If you have any questions, contact our equipment manager. Failure to return the league's equipment may result in criminal charges.

FUNDRAISING

The League partners with the Tacoma Rainiers to host a 'BHYB Day at the Rainiers' each year. Coaches will help encourage the sale of tickets to the game based on the timeline published by The League. Likewise, each team is responsible for donating an item to be raffled off at the Rainiers game. Further information will be published by The League's Fundraising Chair.

SPONSORSHIP

Each team is required to have a sponsor. It is imperative that each team identify its sponsor in a timely manner to ensure that uniforms are ordered in a timely manner. Failure to do so will result in a team not having its uniforms on time for Opening Day, team pictures, etc.; additional penalties such as forfeiture of games are outlined in The League By-Laws.

PLAYER/COACH CONDUCT

Managers and coaches are responsible for the actions of themselves and their players. Please communicate with your parents about the conduct of your players and work to develop mitigation strategies when appropriate and/or necessary. Likewise, parents must be aware of their actions and always remember that this is "rec league" baseball where the primary focus of the league is skill development and fun.

Any personal conduct violations will be adjudicated as outlined in the League By-Laws.

For additional resources, see:

<https://icoachkids.org/learn/inclusion/coaching-children-with-a-disability>

<https://www.brainbalancecenters.com/blog/sports-special-needs-tips-working-childs-coach>

<https://hustleandattitude.com/2023/05/19/inclusion-patience-coaching-children-with-special-needs/>

UMPIRES – IF THEY DON'T SHOW

If the umpire does not show and fields are playable, make every attempt to play the game. Coordinate with the opposing team coaches for umpiring. Official Coaches, Managers and Board Members are eligible to umpire – you may NOT have a parent umpire your game. Please let a Board member know if an umpire doesn't show.

ALL-STARS

The league will accept requests for consideration from any manager or coach within their respective age bracket to be considered to manage an All-Star team. The Board will approve the selection of each age division's All Star manager selection. Key considerations that The Board must consider, but is not limited to, include: previous All Star manager/coaching experience; seniority within The League, coaching philosophy and baseball experience, and the ability to field a full coaching staff. Additional All-Star manager responsibilities and requirements are outlined in the league by-laws.

Coaches should be prepared to facilitate a tournament schedule that prepares the team for the State Tournament in July; this will likely include fundraising requirements to facilitate tournament and travel costs. The All-Star season usually is played in the months of June and July. The tournament schedule is determined by the coaching staff. Teams should expect to play in tournaments during each weekend, sometimes with overnight travel required. If the respective team wins the Southern WA State Tournament, the team will qualify for Regionals which will extend the season.

LOCAL LEAGUE RULES

GAME TIMES AND GAME LIMITS

No new inning after 1 hour 30 minutes for the Rookie, Minor, and Major/Minor Divisions or 1 hour 45 minutes for the Major Division and Babe Ruth. Whether or not to play another inning is determined by the time the third out was recorded in the inning, not when the pitcher is ready to face the first batter.

Umpire or designee will keep time. Coaches or their designated representative, please make sure that you receive the start time from the plate umpire and the end time, and it is noted in your book; this is the responsibility of the home book.

REGULATION GAME

A regulation game is 6 innings or 4 innings if the game is called – 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead.

15- AND 10-RUN RULE

A 15- and 10-run rule is in effect for all Divisions. If after three innings, a team leads by 15 or more runs, the game ends. If after four innings, a team leads by 10 or more runs, the game ends. If the home team is ahead by 15 after 2 ½ or 10 after 3½ innings, the game ends. The game can be ended at the point the

10th run is scored by the home team even if in the middle of an inning. The manager of the team in the lead needs to notify the umpire (or manager of the other team in the Instructional or Rookie Division) of the 10-run advantage and allow the umpire or manager to call the game. In Instructional or Rookies, the teams can decide to continue to play for developmental purposes but the team ahead in the above situation secures the win and may continue without penalty.

INNING RUN LIMITS

In the Minor Division, a team's half of an inning is over after three outs, or 5 runs scored. In the Instructional and Rookie Division, a team's half of an inning is over after 3 outs or 3 runs. The last inning of the game, whether it is the 6th inning or declared last inning by the umpire based on time limit, is open with no run limit.

There are no inning run limits in Babe Ruth, Majors, or Major/Minors Divisions.

REGULAR SEASON TIE GAMES

If tied after 6 innings (4 innings if game is called), the game shall be recorded as a "tie game"; no additional innings will be played, unless there is time remaining in the allotted time frame provided by the league for each division. When extra innings are played, the game shall continue using the Kansas City tiebreaker format until the time limit is reached or a team wins the game. This format requires placing the last player called out from the previous inning on 2nd base with one out.

BAT THE LINEUP

All teams, in all Divisions will bat their entire lineup of all players present for the game. The batting order, as submitted at the beginning of the game to the umpire and home team statistician (home scorebook), will remain the same throughout the game. The home team scorebook will ultimately be responsible for final say in clarifying any discrepancies/questions surrounding the batting order and will relay this to the umpire. Teams in the Majors and Babe Ruth do NOT have the option of "batting nine and playing nine" as they will bat their lineup in each game.

INNINGS FOR ALL PLAYERS

All players must play a minimum of two (2) complete innings within the first four (4) innings (six defensive outs), and three (3) innings per six (6) innings in league play (nine defensive outs).

FREE SUBSTITUTION

Substitutions are free in all Divisions, except for pitchers. Only the starting pitcher may return as a pitcher in the same game, if that pitcher completed his last pitched inning (was not removed as a result of a mound visit) and has not reached their maximum pitch count.

MOUND VISITS

A second visit to the mound by a coach/manager in the same inning results in the automatic removal of the pitcher.

PITCH COUNTS

This is rec league baseball and arm care is important, as such, pitch counts will be strictly enforced. Coaches must gradually build work loads for their pitchers as well as gradually develop other players to build depth in their pitching staff.

See the chart below for pitch limits based on the age of the player. Note that there is a pitch limit BEFORE SPRING BREAK and a different limit AFTER SPRING BREAK. This is intentional so as to help limit workloads early and build team pitching depth.

For each division there will be a maximum number of pitches allowed for mandated rest periods. For 9–12-year-olds, if they pitch 40 or less pitches, they are allowed to pitch the next day. Prior to Spring Break, Minors and Major-Minors will be capped to 55 pitches in a game; Majors at 65 pitches; and Babe Ruth at 75 pitches. Post Spring Break, if they pitch in the range of 41-65 pitches, they must have 1 days' rest and 66+ pitches, 2 days' rest. A day of "rest" is defined as a full calendar day and is not based on hours from when the pitcher last threw. ***Note: these counts are hard counts. For example, if a pitcher reaches 40 pitches in the middle of an at bat, to be eligible.

PRE SPRING BREAK				
DIVISION	DAILY MAX (PITCHES IN GAME/DAY)	REST PERIOD		
		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days
Minors & Major-Minors	55	1-40	41-55	-
Majors	65	1-40	41-65	-
Babe Ruth	75	1-45	46-75	-

POST SPRING BREAK				
DIVISION	DAILY MAX (PITCHES IN GAME/DAY)	REST PERIOD		
		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days
Minors & Major-Minors	75	1-40	41-65	66+
Majors	85	1-40	41-65	66+
Babe Ruth	95	1-45	46-75	76+

If a player reaches the age max pitch limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until the batter is out, the batter reaches base, or the 3rd out is made to complete an inning while the same batter is at bat. If a pitcher reaches the age max pitch limit, that player cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of the game.

The managers will meet and designate a pitch count statistician before each game. Each team may designate their own statistician; however, the home team statistician (home scorebook) is ultimately responsible for final say in all matters pertaining to pitch counts and batting order. Team statisticians shall record every ball thrown from the pitcher that is intended to be a pitch, only balls thrown and declared by the umpire as "no pitch" shall not be counted. The statistician shall inform any manager/coach of the number of pitches thrown by a pitcher if asked. The managers may request the statistician to inform them when the player has delivered a certain number of pitches. The official pitch count statistician should inform the Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted above. The UIC will inform the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed. However, the failure by the pitch count statistician to notify the UIC, and/or the failure of the UIC to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.

Failure to follow the pitch count rule may result in an automatic forfeit. In addition, failure to follow the pitch count rule shall make that specific pitcher ineligible to pitch in the NEXT game the player would be otherwise eligible to pitch in.

Pitching sheets may be used to count pitches. The league may approve pitch count applications or manual pitch counters. If there is a discrepancy the home-book shall be consulted. Any significant discrepancy shall be resolved by the umpire, whose decision is final (in case of a max limit discrepancy it is the Board's position that the health of a player's arm is more important than throwing 1 more pitch or winning one game).

The home team Manager or designated representative is responsible for reporting the game's pitch counts for both teams to the respective Division Rep, by night's end on the day of the game. An official Black Hills Youth Baseball Pitch Count form (see the Black Hills website) shall be used to report these pitch counts. Both Managers must sign the form to ensure there is no discrepancy in pitch count totals. The BHYB Division Rep will compile these stats and distribute them to the Managers in their respective division no later than the day after the game is played (sooner if there are back-to-back game days). This process should ensure that all Managers will know who is and who is not eligible to pitch.

All manager/coaches – please understand the pitch count rule, as this rule is the #1 reason for forfeits – so if you have any questions, please ask your Division Rep.

STEALING

Players in Babe Ruth and the Major Division can attempt to steal if time has not been called by the umpire.

Players in the Major-Minors and Minors Division, when a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's plate and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of the ball, base runners shall not leave the base until the ball has been delivered and has REACHED home plate. Once the catcher has secured the ball and the runner has stopped forward progress, the runner must immediately return to the base. If the catcher or other player on the team tries to throw a runner out while returning to a base the play is still live and a runner can advance. If a runner does leave early (Umpire judgment call), the runner returns to the base he/she occupies prior to the delivery of the pitch, unless an out is made on the runner. If the ball is put in play the umpire will determine the hitter's base according to the hit, and the runner(s) may advance only one base in front of the hitter. If the bases are loaded and any runner leaves early, and if the ball hit is a bunt or infield hit, in no event will the runner on third score but rather be recorded as an out. All other runners will advance one base. Each team will get one warning. After the first warning, the runner will be called out if he/she leaves the base before the ball has reached the batter.

Players in the Rookie Division are not allowed to steal bases at any time. They can only advance when the ball is put in play.

HEAD-FIRST SLIDING

Head-first sliding is allowed into all bases, both advancing to and returning to, at the Babe Ruth and Major Division level.

For all other Divisions, head-first sliding is permitted when returning to a previously occupied base.

Coaches should inform players on the dangers of head-first sliding and when it is appropriate to use this technique.

BALKS

Currently, the league is enforcing the balk rule for Babe Ruth and the Major Division only. The umpire will give one warning per team for the first offense.

SLUG BUNTING

There will be no slug bunting allowed in any division. If a batter squares around in a bunting position, regardless of if the pitcher has started his wind up, the batter must either offer at the ball in an attempt to bunt or let the pitch go by. At no time during or before the pitch may a batter pull the bat back and take a full swing. If this occurs, the batter is declared out.

DROP THIRD STRIKE RULE

This rule applies to Babe Ruth, Majors, and Major-Minors Divisions. The batter becomes a runner if there is no runner on first base OR there is a runner on first base, but there are two outs. The batter must be put out in the same way as if they had hit the ball into play. If the batter is not put out, they become a runner and any other runners that would be forced on a batted ball are also forced on.

The batter is automatically out on a drop third strike in Minors whether the ball is caught. However, the ball is still live, and any other runners may advance on the play.

BAT

For Cal Ripken, the bat may not exceed 33" in length. Starting in 2018, Cal Ripken requires all bats to be "USA" stamped and allows any barrel size up to a maximum of 2 5/8" in diameter. Wood and wood composite barrel bats are allowed.

For Babe Ruth, the maximum length for a bat is 34" in length; the barrel diameter cannot exceed 2 5/8". The maximum weight for a bat is 38 ounces. For 13-15 division, non-wood bats must be "USA" stamped or be marked BBCOR .50; composite handle bats do not need to be BBCOR certified. For the 16-18 division, non-wood bats must be BBCOR .50 and have a length to weight ratio no greater than -3. Wood and wood composite barrel bats are allowed.

If an illegal bat is discovered prior to a batter completing his "at bat" the bat is simply removed from play and the "at bat" continues. A player who uses an illegal bat and hits a fair ball will be ruled out. No advancement on the bases will be allowed, and any outs during the play shall stand. This is an appeal play. The "at bat" will be considered legal once a pitch is thrown to the next batter. Any bat discovered prior to the game that does not conform to the above rule shall be directed to be removed immediately and not be allowed for use during the game.

THROWN BAT

A warning will be given to a player and manager the first time a bat is thrown by a player during the at bat. The second time the same player throws a bat, the batter shall be called out (umpire judgment call). For Instructional and Rookie Divisions, it is at the judgement of the manager whose team is playing defense.

EJECTIONS

Report any ejection to the Board. Any manager, coach, spectator or player ejected from a game must leave the park or school grounds (not within sight or sound) immediately and may not return to those premises for the remainder of the day. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit of the game by the team

associated with the offending coach or player. If a player is ejected, that player is ineligible to play in the next league game but must be in full uniform and on the bench for the entire game. A parent may petition for Board review of the suspension but not the ejection. The Board may interview the necessary parties including but not limited to the manager, coaches, umpires, and player. See the league by-laws for additional information on ejections.

PLAYER HAS TO LEAVE THE GAME EARLY OR IS INJURED DURING THE GAME:

- A. If a player must leave a game prior to the end of the game, they are not an automatic out when it is their turn to bat if the coach notifies the opposing coach prior to the beginning of the game.
- B. The player is not an automatic out if the player leaves the game due to injury and does not return to the game AND the opposing coach is notified.
- C. If a player leaves the game early and the coach has not notified the opposing coach the player will be recorded as an automatic out when it is his turn to bat in accordance with Major League Rules.
- D. If a Manager/Coach lists a player in the lineup, provided to both umpire and opposing team, and that player does not show up when it is their turn at bat and the opposing coach and umpire are not notified, that batter will be an automatic out at the first pitch to the next batter.
- E. Once the opposing team and/or umpire notices the absence of the batter and they have not been notified, that batter is out and will remain an automatic out each time he does not come up to bat.
- F. If the umpire and opposing team are notified that the batter has not shown up –PRIOR TO THE BATTER'S AT BAT – then the batter can be removed from the lineup, without being an automatic out.
- G. Teams may start with 8 players but will be assessed an out in the 9th position in their order.

For all other rule questions, please consult the official Cal Ripken or Babe Ruth Rule Book.

ROOKIE DIVISION-SPECIFIC RULES

- A. Fielders will consist of four (4) infielders and four (4) outfielders, a catcher and a pitcher. Outfielders must remain in outfield (grass area, not on infield dirt) until ball is hit.
- B. The pitcher will be placed on either side of the pitching machine for fielding purposes. The pitcher must also wear a batter's helmet with facemask. The Pitcher must start with both feet inside the circle that is placed around the pitching area. Once the ball leaves the machine, the Pitcher may move outside of the circle.
- C. The most center part of the pitching machine will be placed at 46 feet unless the machine is not able to deliver a slower speed at that distance. The machine may be moved closer only to accommodate a slower speed. Each machine is different. The idea is to make the ball as hittable as possible which means a nice flat pitch from 46 feet. To do this usually requires a speed of approx. 41 - 45 mph. Both coaches must adjust the machine and approve the speed and pattern of delivery prior to the start of the game. Please only adjust the machine ONCE at the beginning of the game and then have the hitter move up or back in the batter's box, rather than moving the machine itself during the game. You want to avoid adjusting the machine after initial setup if possible to maintain pace of play. If an adjustment is needed all managers are required to be notified. One team cannot adjust the speed to a different setting just for their team.
- D. No player may play more than two (2) innings at one position in the same game. E. Coaches should try to divide playing time between infield and outfield positions for all players.
- F. All players should play each position at some point during the season. The only exception is of course where there is a safety issue.
- G. No one player should sit on the bench (when his/her team is in the field) for more than two innings.
- H. Up to 2 coaches will be allowed on the field in fair territory during play. Those coaches are allowed to be on the field to "coach" their players but cannot purposely interfere with a live ball or touch a player.
- I. One coach is also allowed to be behind the plate to assist with pitched balls. J. An inning is considered over after three (3) outs or when three (3) runs are scored.
- K. No new inning shall be started after 1 hour and 30 minutes. At the time of the 3rd out of the inning if "any time remains" a new inning may proceed. No other aspect of the game may dictate or interfere with that decision. Both coaches shall agree as what the actual start time is. If the start time was not agreed to by the coaches at 1st pitch of the game, then the game will have been considered to have started on time and the 1:30 shall be calculated from there.
- L. The last inning played will be an open inning with no three (3) run limit.
- M. A 15- and 10-run rule is in effect (see above), if at the end of the 3rd or 4th inning a team is up by more than 15 or 10 runs the game is considered complete. However, teams may continue to play for development purposes. The winning team shall not be penalized for continued play. The victory shall stand. Games are six (6) innings. There are no extra innings, so ties are possible.
- N. Each player gets a maximum of five (5) pitches that are a hittable pitch / strike by the coach

running the pitching machine. A pitch that hits the plate or is above the batter's shoulders is not a strike and the coach at the pitching machine will call "No pitch", unless the batter swings at the pitch. The batter can swing at all 5 pitches if desired but is not out until after the 5th pitch. If the 5th pitch is fouled off and not caught by a player in the field, the batter is not out and will get another pitch. If the 5th pitch is "foul tip" and caught by the catcher, the batter is out.

- O. Stealing or leading off is not allowed. The ball is not considered "in play" until contact is made with the bat. If it is deemed that a player is leading off or leaving early, the runner will be called out.
- P. There is no infield fly rule.
- Q. Any batted ball that hits the machine, tee, or the coach is a dead ball. Batter shall be awarded 1st base. Runners may only advance to their intended bag. A thrown ball that hits the machine/tee is treated the same.
- R. For a runner to advance more than one (1) base per play they must be at least halfway to the next base prior to the ball being controlled in the infield by any fielder. If the fielder attempts to throw or tag a runner trying to advance or return to base, the play is still considered live. 3' lines at the ½ way point between each base path may be marked on the field to assist the coaches. In the absence of an umpire, the coach operating the pitching machine will make the call.
- S. If an overthrow of **first base** occurs, the runner is only allowed to **advance one base**, provided that there is **no attempt to make a play on the advancing baserunner**.
- T. A ball that is fielded by a player in an outfield position needs to be thrown in to an infield player to "stop play". The play will be dead at the point the infielder has possession of the ball, is in fair territory, and raises both hands. This signals the player has control of the ball and is stopping play. Only the infielder with possession of the ball can call "stop play". Please note, an outfield player cannot stop play. If a baserunner is beyond the halfway mark, they will be awarded the base. If short, they will be sent back to last base occupied.
- U. No intentional bunts are allowed. The batter must make a full swing at the ball. V. Safety bags at first base must be used. If the safety bag is not used the runner can be called out.
- W. Coaches with the team at bat will feed the machine/tee. The Coach at the machine/tee at the time will be considered the "Field Umpire", unless an official umpire is present. Base coaches may assist with calling "foul" or "fair" balls only and should not give any signals for "safe" or "out" calls.
- X. Coaches cannot change game rules as listed above. This has created issues with coaches and parents when playing teams that play by the rules. If a coach changes the rules without the Executive Board's approval, they must be reported to the Board and are subject to suspension.