



RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
Fond du Lac School District  
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## 2019 Fall Youth Baseball 5K - 2 Grade

### I. PURPOSE

First Grade baseball was organized to enable all players to learn the fundamentals of baseball, and the basics of each position. It is at this grade level that youth should learn team play and good sportsmanship. The coach should set a good example and will refrain from arguing what may be a close play.

- A. No Protests allowed in this league.
- B. There will be no trophies given or standings kept to de-emphasize winning and promote teaching at this level.

### II. PLAYING FIELD DIMENSIONS

- A. The pitching mound is 46' from home plate and baselines will vary between 60' and 65', depending on the diamond.
- B. Adults or players may coach at first and third base. Only one (1) coach will be allowed in the coaches box at a time. **Players or minors coaching a base must wear a batting helmet.**

### III. PLAYING RULES

- A. It is not within the power of the umpire or coaches to suspend any of the rules.
- B. Players completing First Grade must play in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade League (1<sup>st</sup> year coach pitch).
- C. Rosters shall be a maximum of 15 youths.
- D. Ten players will play in the field at one time. The 10th player may "not" be a short center fielder or infielder. Outfielders must start every pitch on the grass and allow the infielders to field their positions. Outfielders are allowed to **BACKUP** infield positions. Infielders must start every pitch near their normal infield positions. If an outfield arc is present, all outfielders must remain behind the arc until the ball is hit. No excessive shifting is allowed.
- E. Each player appearing on time at the game must play three innings in the field, with at least two (2) innings in the infield. Coaches are required rotate defensive positions at least every two (2) innings.
- F. Teams are required to always field a catcher behind home plate at the beginning of each play. The catcher must be in full protective gear.
- G. No fake tags will be allowed in any league.
- H. No more than six (6) innings will be played.

I. *There will be a drop dead time limit of 1 hour and 15 minutes.*

J. Infield Practice:

1. First Game: Visiting team takes infield 25 minutes prior to game time for a period of 10 minutes. Home team takes infield 15 minutes prior to game time for a period of 10 minutes. Home team's infield ends 5 minutes prior to game time.
2. Second Game: **No infield practice allowed.**

#### IV. **BATTING**

- A. A runner, not more than halfway to the next base, must return to the last touched base when the ball becomes dead on the infield.
- A. Intentional bunting or stealing bases is not allowed.
- B. Infield fly rule shall not apply and will not be called in the First Grade League.
- D. When a batted ball hits the adult pitcher, it is a fair ball and runners advance at their own risk.
- E. For all innings, five runs or three outs— the half inning is over.
- F. A runner shall be called out for leading off before a pitched ball crosses home plate. A runner may score on a batted ball in play.
- G. In an effort to promote the development of throwing and catching skills, runners will “not” be allowed to advance on overthrows.
- H. COURTESY RULE: A RUNNER “**MUST**” BE USED AFTER TWO (2) OUTS FOR THE CATCHER ONLY. THE COURTESY RUNNER WILL BE THE RUNNER WHO MADE THE LAST OUT. **THE CATCHER MUST REMAIN AT CATCHER FOR THE ENTIRE NEXT INNING. ALL THREE (3) OUTS.**
- I. A runner shall attempt to slide FEET FIRST on all close plays. Failure to slide “may” result in the runner being called out.
- J. Teams bat their entire roster.
- H. No walks or strikeouts allowed. If the ball is not put in play after 5 pitches a hitting tee **MUST** be brought out and used by the batter. Players should be encouraged to be ready to swing.
- I. All baserunners may only advance one base at a time

#### V. **DEFENSE**

- A. A ball hit to the outfield becomes dead when it is **controlled** on the infield by any player. A ball hit on the infield becomes dead after a play is made on any runner. *The exception to this is in the case of a double play - the fielding team is allowed to “finish the play” of the double play (i.e. if there is 1 out with a runner on 1B and ball is hit to SS, the SS or 2B can attempt to make a force out at 2B and continue to try for an out at 1B without the play being called dead).*

- B. A thrown ball that hits the adult pitcher is a fair ball, and runners advance at their own risk.
- C. Infield fly rule shall not apply and will not be called in the First Grade League.
- D. The defensive pitcher on the fielding team shall play beside, but not in front of the adult pitcher, and will return the ball to the adult pitcher. The pitcher must begin each play within three (3) feet of the adult pitcher.

## ADULT PITCHERS

- A. All pitchers must be 18 years of age or older.

Coaches can pitch overhand or underhand depending on the batters hitting ability. Coaches can pitch from the mound (46 feet) or choose to pitch from a closer distance based on that batters hitting ability. The pitcher should not pitch any closer than 38 feet.

Each player will be given five (5) pitches to put the ball in play. **After five pitches a tee must be brought out and the batter will finish the at bat using the tee.** A player cannot strike out or walk.

- B. Adults are to make every effort to avoid fielding or touching a batted or thrown ball. If a ball unintentionally hits the adult pitcher, it is to be considered a live ball and should be played by the defensive team. Adults intentionally interfering with play, will be reported to the league and not allowed on the field of play.
- C. Teams should place a defensive player to the left or right of the adult pitcher if on the mound. Defensive pitchers must be within **three (3) feet of the mound** at the time the ball is pitched regardless of where the ball is pitched from.

## EQUIPMENT

- A. BATS
  1. All 2 ¼" bats that have the USSSA 1.15 stamp on it. This should include all bats that players presently have. This is what we have allowed in the past.
  2. All 2 ¾" bats that have the USSSA 1.15 stamp on it. These are the big barrel bats that have been illegal in the past but will now be legal in our leagues.
  3. All 2 5/8" bats that have the USA Baseball stamp. This is the new bat standard and will be allowed in our leagues.
  4. Softball bats are illegal
  5. Taped Wooden Bats are not allowed
- B. Catchers should wear a batting helmet and stand near backstop to the side facing the back of the hitter in a position to avoid getting hit by a swung or thrown bat.
- C. Tennis shoes or rubber spikes may be worn.
- D. Pants are not required but are recommended.