



# Rookie League Rules

(PreK- 1st grade)

## Rules and Procedures

The Lake Zurich Baseball & Softball Rookie League has been established for the purpose of instructing 5- and 6-year-old participants in baseball concepts and fundamentals. This is to be accomplished by stressing SAFETY, FUN and GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP, not WINNING or LOSING.

No win or loss records are kept.

We do not keep score or outs.

- Section #1 Pitching
- Section #2 Batting
- Section #3 Fielding
- Section #4 Equipment
- Section #5 Safety Rules
- Section #6 Umpires
- Section #7 Sportsmanship
- Section #8 Manager's Responsibility
- Section #9 Base Running

Field and practice times will be assigned, starting in June of each season. Games will be played in June through early August. You can expect to play one weekday game (Monday through Thursday) and one Saturday Game. Rainouts will be attempted to be rescheduled with agreement of the two managers.

### **SECTION #1 - PITCHING**

The manager will pitch to his team using underhand pitching. Pitching distance will be at the manager's discretion, considering the skill level of each player.

### **SECTION #2 - BATTING**

Each team will bat their entire roster each inning.

**RUNS AND OUTS ARE NOT COUNTED IN THE BATTING ROTATION.**

Each batter will receive 8 pitches. If the last pitch is a foul ball, they will receive one extra pitch. If the batter has not hit by the eighth pitch, the manager will have the child hit off a tee



# Rookie League Rules

(PreK- 1st grade)

(if one is available or the catcher will roll the ball out simulating a hit ball. THERE ARE NO STRIKEOUTS OR WALKS.

Bunting is not allowed.

## **SECTION #3 - FIELDING**

Up to eleven players will play in the field every inning. We will utilize the regular 8 positions of baseball (no catcher). We will then add a short center fielder, one extra outfielder, and a back-up first base position.

We do not use a catcher.

No player can play the same position for more than one inning each game.

In the event a team cannot field eight players on defense, you may proceed with the game as long as you have enough infielders. You may also borrow players from the other team if needed.

Coaches will be allowed to stand in the field to help direct the players

## **SECTION #4 - EQUIPMENT**

Safe-T-Balls, bats and helmets will be issued to each team by LZBSA.

Each player will receive a hat and T-shirt to keep.

Home team supplies the game ball.

Coaches collaborate on umpiring the game.

## **SECTION #5 - SAFETY RULES**

If a player is not wearing proper lace-up shoes, he/she will not play in the game. **NO SPIKES ALLOWED!**

A batter **MUST** wear a batting helmet when batting or when on the bases as a runner.

All players **MUST** remain on the bench if they are not playing in the field or taking their turn at bat. They should pay attention to the game and not be running around.

A batter throwing a bat will be warned. The second time the same batter throws the bat in a game, that player will be called out.



# Rookie League Rules

(PreK- 1st grade)

The manager or coach pitching to his/her team must wear a baseball glove. The player at the pitchers position must stand to the glove side and two steps behind the adult pitcher. It is the adult pitcher's duty to catch a line drive to protect the player. If this should happen, then the batter will be awarded a single and all base runners will advance one base.

**The first sign of lightning automatically terminates the game.**

## **SECTION #6 - UMPIRES**

Coaches collaborate on umpiring the game.

The **umpires judgment** is final!

## **SECTION #7 - SPORTSMANSHIP**

**Sportsmanship** is emphasized in the league!

Players, managers, coaches and parents are prohibited from harassing other players or the umpires.

**SET THE GOOD EXAMPLE FOR OUR KIDS!**

## **SECTION #8 - MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITY**

Take charge of any and every situation! Provide a controlled fun environment for the kids to play ball.

Stress **Sportsmanship** and **fair play** with your players. Try to provide equal playing time to all your players at all positions.

Have fun and enjoy the season! Make it a pleasurable experience for the players, managers, coaches, and parents.

## **SECTION #9 - BASE RUNNING**

- 45 FOOT BASES.
- 63 FEET FROM HOME PLATE TO SECOND BASE.
- No stealing.
- No infield fly rule.
- No overthrows...



# Rookie League Rules

(PreK- 1st grade)

A batter only gets the base they are going to. In the outfield there can be more than one overthrow and the runner can continue to advance. However, once the ball reaches the infield, whether it is caught or not, the play is over and the runner can get the base he or she is going to.

The runner cannot leave the base before the ball is hit. If the runner leaves early, the team is penalized by the runner only being allowed to go to the next base (umpires decision).

A runner may not advance on a caught fly ball. A runner may only advance one base on an infield hit.

**GAME LENGTH** – 30 minutes of drills followed by a 3 INNING game. Not to exceed 1 hour 45 minutes total.

You should not start a new inning after 90 minutes. There is a hard stop after 1 hour 45 minutes.

Drills should consist of teaching the kids the basic techniques of baseball. (Throwing, Catching, Hitting, Running, and Fielding)

***Revision February 2021***