

Richland Youth Association (RYA) Rec Baseball Rules

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The following rules are established by RYA, which governs all League. The association has adopted these rules. All other rules can be found in the NFHS rulebook or the RYA General Rules. Please remember that this association is made up of volunteers. Don't forget your responsibilities when it comes to picking up / putting up bases, turning off lights, locking buildings and cleaning up your area after your game. **Both teams are responsible for putting out the bases before the first game and picking them up after the last game of the day.** The home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook. Please ask your parents to assist us in keeping our park as clean as possible.

RYA Baseball Rules will be governed by the RYA Board of Directors, hereby known as the RYA Board. RYA will use NFHS rules unless it is in conflict with RYA local rules. In which case, the RYA Rules will take precedence. All rules contained herein will be adhered to. Rule changes pertaining to Section L -- "General Playing Rules" and Section M -- "Draft Guidelines --All leagues" will be voted on by RYA certified baseball coaches and approved by the RYA Board. Final interpretation and application of the rule will be at the discretion of the Baseball Director and RYA Board. As in other sports, only the highest standard of sportsmanship and conduct are expected of players, coaches, parents, umpires, and others associated with the RYA Rec Baseball program.

- **All Coaches and Parents – please remember, these are just kids that want to play the great game of baseball and have fun.**
- So, don't force them to play if they don't feel like playing. Don't yell and scream at them if they mess up, just use positive encouragement and they will understand you better and try harder.

***“You don’t stop playing because you grow old,
you grow old because you stop playing.”***

A) GENERAL:

1. The Baseball Director, along with the individual league Vice Commissioners, will conduct the day-to-day operation of the league, subject to the approval of the RYA Board.
2. Directors will establish make-up schedules for rained out or suspended games. They may be made up on the following Saturday after a rain out, but not to exceed 3 games per week per team.
3. RYA has no fundraiser, but teams are allowed to do fundraisers to raise money for their own teams.
4. At this time boundaries are open.
5. The Directors and/or Vice Commissioners will:
 - a. In conjunction with the Chief Umpire, establish whether the playing field is in good condition for a game to start. The league official in charge may postpone games in case of heavy rain, etc.
 - b. Call games off following a thirty (30) minute waiting period of game is unable to start on schedule.
 - c. Follow all rules in the NFHS Baseball Rule Book.
 - d. Appoint a grievance committee made up of Vice Commissioners from each league and other RYA Board members.

B) COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Actively participate in coaches' meetings, field maintenance, and concession duty as required.
2. It is the responsibility of each coach to comply with all rules as set forth by the RYA Board. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary actions as outlined in Section C below.
3. Each coach will comply with all RYA Rules and policies.
4. Coaches should try to settle problems through their age division's Vice Commissioner before taking it to the Baseball Director when possible.
5. Head Coaches will be responsible for all sponsor money and for reporting it at the end of the season, as to what the sponsor money was spent on. This report will be given to the RYA Treasurer at the end of the season if the team has any issues.
6. All coaches will be certified by NAYS and have a background check run, before being allowed to coach in the RYA league.

C) DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

1. The RYA Board has the authority to suspend or discharge any player, coach, umpire, or parent whose conduct is in violation of the RYA Baseball Rules and the NAYS Code of Ethics.
2. In the event of unsportsmanlike conduct by a coach, parent, or spectator – that person will be ejected from the ballpark. (Must move to the concession area or parking lot.)
3. When a player or coach is ejected from a game, they will automatically be suspended from their next game. The coach may appeal the suspension to the grievance committee before their next game. The grievance committee will be made up of all Vice Commissioners and/or RYA Board members. The Baseball Director will determine whether there is a need and time for the grievance committee to hear an appeal before the next game.
4. In the event of a second incident in one season of the sport, that person will have to appear before the grievance committee and could be suspended indefinitely.
5. If a third incident occurs, it will result in suspension from the sport and a loss of seniority in RYA.

6. Umpires shall notify the Umpire Coordinator when an ejection takes place. The Umpire Coordinator shall then notify the Baseball Director of the ejection for review.
7. In the event of a suspension an appeal can be made to the grievance committee in writing within 48 hours of the suspension.
 - 1) League Decision committee:
 - (a) As designated by RYA Grievance Committee:
 - i. The League Vice Commissioner will preside over the Grievance Committee along with the Baseball Director. The Director only votes to break a tie.
 - ii. The league grievance committee will be made up of five members of RYA Baseball, but no one from that league that is affected. It can be coaches, vice commissioners, or RYA Board members.
 - iii. The results of the grievance committee will be reported to the RYA Board and the City Park and Recreation Department. This will be done by the Baseball Director or Board President.
 - iv. Any problems that cannot be settled by the grievance committee will be carried to the RYA Board at their next scheduled meeting.
7. If the manager, coach, parent, or spectator has been ejected from the game, and another penalty against the team for unsportsmanlike conduct occurs, that team will forfeit the game.
8. If a grievance is brought to the RYA Board, all parties must be notified of the meeting. Any notified party that fails to attend will forfeit their right to the grievance procedure.
9. If there is a complaint against the Head Coach or Team Mom about sponsor money or money raised by the team in fundraisers, the Head Coach or Team Mom shall be able to account for how the fundraising money was spent.

D) REGISTRATION:

1. Dates, times, and place of registration will be set each year by the Baseball Director.
2. The registration fees will be set by the RYA Board prior to registration.
3. Players returning to the same league as the previous Spring may return to the same team. Any player who does not want to return to last year's team and so states on their registration form, will be placed in the draft. No compensation will be given to that team, player is coming off, and can be taken by any other team in the draft.
4. **All players shall participate in the Player Look prior to the Coaches' Draft and this date and time will be listed on the Registration Form.**
5. A parent can request for their child not to play for a particular coach or team. That coach or team will not be allowed to draft the player. Parents are limited to one such request per season.
6. Any player who during their first year in a league, leaves their assigned team prior to the end of the season and desires to play the following year, must return to their originally assigned team or drafted team. Any exception must be at the Baseball Director's discretion.
7. Any player registering to play will not be put in the draft unless their fee has been paid and a parent or guardian has signed their Registration Form.
8. Hardship cases must be presented and approved by the Baseball Director. Baseball Director will make decision on what happens with Hardship cases on an individual basis.

E) LATE REGISTRATION:

1. Cut off for late registration will be approximately one to two weeks from DRAFTS. All late registrations will be placed in blind draw, by teams that need players. Time and date will be set by Baseball Director.
2. No player will be assigned after the blind draw, unless there is a need; then the assignment(s) will be made by the Baseball Director.

F) REFUNDS:

1. Any player requesting a refund before draft will be given a refund, minus 3% plus \$1.25 administration fee.
2. Any player requesting a refund after draft will be refunded, minus \$20.00 administration fee. If jerseys have been ordered, the refund will additionally be less the cost of jersey items.
3. Once a player is drafted to a team, that player cannot go to another team until next year unless approved by the Director of Baseball. If a player is not satisfied, a refund will be issued.

G) CONDUCT OF COACHES:

1. Coaches are responsible for contacting their players immediately following draft and checking all kids birth certificate to verify age. Any kid in the wrong age group is to be moved immediately.
2. Coaches will not contest judgment calls made by the officials. All calls made by the officials will stand unless, after consultation with his co-officials, decides to change the call.
3. Coaches will not harass or try to intimidate officials; any coach who violates this rule will be subject to action by the RYA Board.
4. Coaches will be responsible for the conduct of their players, parents, and spectators.
5. Coaches may be replaced during the season if violations are reported to the RYA Board in writing and if the RYA Board feels such action is necessary.
6. Coaches must notify the Baseball Director of any player who drops out for any reason. Any player who drops out will be contacted by the Baseball Director or Vice Commissioner of that league to determine why that player dropped out.
7. Head Coaches will not be allowed to move to another team in the same league.
(Example: Head Coach on 8u Giants first year and second year wants to move to 8u Twins.)
8. No alcoholic beverages or drugs/narcotics of any kind shall be consumed before, during, or after practices / games / team functions in presence of players. (Violation of rule will result in immediate suspension from coaching at RYA.)
9. A coach whose conduct is not considered to be exemplary to his players, parents and spectators will be firmly dealt with by the RYA Board.
10. Coaches will have the right to protest any infraction pertaining to rule interpretations only.
 - a. Protesting coach must put up \$20 fee to protest the game at the time of infraction. The \$20 is to be given to the age division's vice-commissioner or Baseball Director and score book marked at that point of the game. The \$20 is to be turned in with the scorebook to the Baseball Director at the end of game. The coach has 24 hours to get the protest written and sent by email to the Baseball Director. If the infraction is overturned, the \$20 is returned and the game will be played from the point of infraction. If the infraction is upheld, the \$20 is retained by RYA, to be used in scholarship fund.

H) PRACTICE SESSIONS:

1. All teams are permitted to have no more than four (4) outings in a week, including games and practices. If teams play a double-header, each game counts as one (1) baseball outing. The only exception to this 4-events rule is in the case of tournaments, which count as two outings.
2. Although not recommended, practices are allowed on Sunday afternoons from 1pm-6pm, with written permission from the Baseball Director.
 - a. If a player's parent does not want to practice on Sunday evening, coaches shall not hold it against the player. The same applies to Wednesday practices missed.
3. All practices on the RYA Baseball Fields must be scheduled through the Baseball Director or the appointed Vice Commissioner over field scheduling.

I) GAME SCHEDULING:

1. Games will be scheduled on Saturday and on weekday evenings. Weekday evening games will be scheduled, if possible, with special attention to minimize late games.
2. The schedule of baseball games will be drawn up by the Baseball Director. Schedules are to be made to allow each team to play every team within its own league and/or conference. Any games postponed or suspended will be rescheduled at a later date by the Baseball Director.
3. No games will be scheduled on Sunday, unless severe scheduling problems occur; these games will be approved by the RYA Baseball Director.

J) COACHES ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Teams will be assigned to the returning Head Coach. If the returning Head Coach drops his team prior to the draft, then the team will pass on to his preceding year Official Assistant Coach only. If the Assistant Coach does not take the team for whatever reasons, then the team will be offered to the next coach on the waiting list with the most seniority.
2. Expansion teams will be offered to coaches on the waiting list, top seniority on down.
3. Seniority will be determined as follows:
 - a. Total number of seasons certified coaching (Head or Assistant of any kind) in RYA's Recreational Baseball program.
 - b. Total number of seasons certified coaching (Head or Assisting of any kind) in any RYA Recreational Sports program including Baseball, Football, Basketball or Cheerleading.
 - c. Finally, the RYA Board will vote to make final choice if still tied.
4. If it becomes necessary to reduce the number of teams, the Head Coach of a team with the least seniority will be eliminated, unless another Head Coach voluntarily vacates their team.
5. If a Head Coach has been the Head Coach of teams in multiple divisions, but the number of Head Coach volunteers exceed the number of available teams, the returning Head Coach must determine which age division they are primarily interested in returning to as the Head Coach.
6. In the event that more Head Coach volunteers exist for an age division than teams are available, the Baseball Director may give credence for the Head Coach assignment to volunteers that have children playing within that age division.
7. The Head Coach must participate in 80% of scheduled games or lose seniority and/or face action by the grievance committee, where he can present his circumstances of why he missed games.
8. No more than four adult volunteers will be on the field or in the dugout per team during games.
 - a. Maximum of one head coach and three additional approved volunteers per game.

K) PLAYER PARTICIPATION:

1. All players present during games will bat in the batting order. If players show up after the game has started, they will be added to the bottom of the lineup.
2. Free defensive substitution at any time in the game. **All players shall play at least 2 innings on defense unless there is a medical or safety concern for the player.**
 - a. If any coach does not comply with the above rules, it will be the coach's responsibility to notify the Baseball Director in writing of the reasons. Should the Baseball Director decide reason to be inadequate, he will send it to the grievance committee.
 - b. The penalty will be that the player will play the entire next game and the coach will be suspended for the next game.
3. Disciplinary action of a player, by a coach will be taken where needed, so long as player, parents and Baseball Director or Vice Commissioner are made aware of the reason. The umpire and opposing coach should be told before the game starts.
4. **GUEST PLAYERS:** Up to two guest players may be used and must be from another team registered with RYA. They should wear their own team's uniform and can only play to bring the team up to 9 players (10 players for 6U & 8U). If a team has 9 players (10 players for 6U & 8U) by the regulation start time, guest players may not be used. Guest players may only play in an outfield position and must bat at the bottom of the lineup. Guest players must be declared at the Home Plate meeting with both coaches and officials and all guest players must be approved by the RYA Baseball Director or Age Division Vice-Commissioner in writing prior to the game.

L) GENERAL PLAYING RULES:

1. Home team will furnish an adult scorekeeper. Each team will furnish a score book.
 - A. Digital scorebooks (i.e. GameChanger) are allowed and must be available for umpires and league officials to review if questions arise.
2. Visiting team will furnish an adult to run the scoreboard.
3. Home team and visiting team will occupy dugouts according to the scoreboard.
4. Managers of both teams must sign the official scorebook/scorecard after completion of game. In lieu of an official scorebook, managers will sign each other's scorebook. The official scorebook will be official on all matters; however, this does not relieve managers of each team of keeping game records to the extent of satisfying disputes over a player's eligibility.
5. Starting lineups should be turned in 15 minutes before game time to the official scorekeeper and to the opposing manager at meeting with the umpires at home plate and show NAYS or RYA Coaching ID cards at this time.
6. Games will not be delayed from starting due to the official scorekeeper or umpires' absence. In the event the umpires have not reported by game time, the visiting coach shall call bases and the home coach shall call balls and strikes. They shall rotate after 3 innings. The Baseball Director, Vice-Commissioner or RYA Board member must view this game, to settle any dispute.
7. **Length of games:** (time limits will be as follows)

3/4U:	45 minutes
5/6U:	1 Hour or 5 innings
7/8U:	1 Hour and 15 Minutes or 6 innings
9/10U:	1 Hour and 30 Minutes or 6 innings
11/12U:	1 Hour and 45 Minutes or 6 innings
13/14U:	1 Hour and 45 Minutes or 7 innings

No new inning may be started in the final five (5) minutes of time limit, but 8U and below will play up to the time limit regardless of inning.

8. Pitching Guidelines
 - A. **Pitch Count Rules:** (for kid pitch leagues)
 - 9/10U: 60 pitches per day
 - 11/12U: 72 pitches per day
 - 13/14U: 84 pitches per day

Rest requirements:
1-20 pitches = 0 days rest / 21-35 pitches = 1 day rest / 36-50 pitches = 2 days rest / 51-65 pitches = 3 days rest / 66+ pitches = 4 days rest

Exceptions to pitch count rules:
If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs:

 1. The batter reaches base;
 2. The batter is put out, or;
 3. The pitcher is removed from the mound prior to the batter completing their at-bat.
 - B. Mound Visits: Coaches get two (2) mound visits per inning. A visit is one in which a coach talks with his pitcher during the inning of play. After the 2nd visit the pitcher must be pulled from the game. Taking water out to a pitcher counts as a mound visit.
 - C. Once a pitcher is pulled from a game, they are ineligible to return as a pitcher, no matter how many pitches that player has thrown that game.
 - D. Coaches are to keep pitch counts of pitchers in a game and it is not the responsibility of the umpire crews to maintain the pitch count. Umpires will ask for pitch count of players when removed from the mound. If the coach of the pitching team cannot provide a pitch count, the opposing team will be asked. If no coach has a pitch count, the max pitch count will be given to the pitcher.
 - E. Any coach found violating Max Pitch Counts will be subject to disciplinary actions by the RYA Baseball Director and/or the RYA Board of Directors.
9. Slide Rule: There is no “must-slide” rule in any of the leagues, but if the defensive player has position on the bases and possession of the ball and the base runner makes contact in the manner that creates unnecessary roughness in the judgment of the umpire, he will be called out and ejected from the game.
10. Slashing will not be allowed in Rec Baseball.
 - A. Slashing is when a batter squares around to bunt and slap the ball to attempt to hit it past the charging 1st or 3rd baseman, to protect fielder from being hit with a line drive.
11. **In ALL leagues, teams can only score a maximum five (5) runs an inning.** The exception to the five (5) run limit is when a ball is hit over fence with base runners on base in the 9-14U leagues, then all runs count.
12. Tie Ball games: If the game is tied and time limit is up, the game stays as a tie game. If score tied at the end of regulation innings and there is time left, game is over and is a tie. For Playoff Games, a “California Tiebreaker” is used; teams will start inning with one out and bases loaded. (Bases loaded with the previous 3 batters in batting lineup.)
13. Courtesy Runner: For 9u through 14u (kid pitch leagues), courtesy runner can be used for the pitcher or catcher on base. The courtesy runner will be the player who made last out.
14. If a player is ejected the team will take an out in that spot in the batting order. For injuries or illnesses, teams will not be charged an out. Teams may start with 1 less player on the roster but will take an out in the final lineup spot.

15. Uniform Policies: All players must wear their approved RYA uniforms during RYA games.
 - A. If uniform delays have led to specific athletes/teams not having their uniforms on time for games, they will be allowed to participate in appropriate baseball athletic wear until their approved RYA uniforms arrive.
 - B. Custom jerseys are allowed pending approval from the Baseball Director and must be ordered through the chosen uniform designer for the league. All custom jerseys must still bear the current RYA logo.
 - C. Custom hats are not allowed to be worn by players. All players must wear hats provided by the league with the RYA "R" on the front of the hat if a hat is worn.
 - D. Coaches of teams using unapproved uniforms (jerseys or hats) will be subject to disciplinary action by the Baseball Director and/or RYA Board of Directors.
16. Umpires
 - A. Under no circumstances will an umpire call a game in a league he is coaching in or has a relative playing in, unless approved by the Baseball Director.
 - B. There will be two (2) umpires in all leagues except 3/4u and 5/6u.
 - C. Umpires must be certified and take umpire background check each year.
 - D. Umpires will be in control of field once game starts and control bat-throwing in all leagues.
 - E. All umpires are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and control all problems caused by players, coaches, parents, and spectators and if they can't contact the Baseball Director or another RYA Board Member.
 - F. **The umpire coordinator shall provide a list of umpires to Baseball Director each week.**
17. Managers and Coaches:
 - A. Each team will have a designated Manager and Coach. All coaches must register online or fill out a coach's application, with information for RYA to run a background check. The background check must be done before being allowed to coach on the field or be in the dugout.
 - B. All head coaches will go to www.nays.org and get NAYS CERTIFIED (per City of North Richland Park regulations).
 - C. Only certified managers, coaches and players are allowed in dugouts.
 - D. In the event of a manager or coach not being able to be present at a scheduled team game, a NAYS Certified adult will be appointed to coach a team. Only NAYS Certified adults will be allowed to coach a team in a scheduled game.
 - E. Managers and coaches not in baseball uniforms will dress in a manner befitting their position. The attention of the spectators should be drawn to the players and not to the dress of a coach.

M) DRAFT GUIDELINES: ALL LEAGUES

1. 3/4U is not a draft league and teams will be grouped together based on parents' registration requests as much as possible.
2. 5/6u through 13/14u are Draft Leagues.
 - a. When possible, RYA will hold a Player Look prior to drafting players.
 - b. Time and place of draft will be set by the Baseball Director and/or Vice-Commissioner for the utmost convenience and benefit for RYA and all coaches.
 - c. The Baseball Director will oversee the overall draft and will be responsible for rule interpretation and procedures.

- d. Total registration will determine the number of players on a team, as well as to establish the quantity of players regarding age divisions per team, so that all teams will be equally divided as to age, as best that can be done. This also applies to the Coaches' Option.
 - Example: if a team has four (4) returning older players and the maximum older player in that league is four (4), that team will not be allowed to take any older players as Coaches' options.
 - e. Teams will be allowed a maximum of two (2) representatives at the draft table, designated by the Head Coach. No players will be allowed at the draft table, unless an exception is made Baseball Directors approval.
 - f. No draft will be held until all teams have a Head Coach and/or Assistant Coach present, otherwise the Baseball Director or Vice-Commissioner will draft for the absent coach.
 - g. The draft will begin with the announcement of the Head Coaches as to their returners.
 - h. Each Head Coach will draw for their draft order. Coaches that have completed NAYS training will be given first preference. Draft shall be first to last, last to first in that order until all teams are full. There should be a minimum of twelve (12) players on a team.
 - i. Any player returning or drafted on a team, who has a brother/sister in the same league, will be drafted on the same team. (The older player must be drafted first with the younger player being the brother/sister option.) If a player is being taken as a coach's option that has a brother or sister in the same league, you must take the older child as the Coaches' option.
3. A new head coach (coach who did not head coach the previous spring season) is allowed to protect their child and any assistant coach's child, granted that their assistant coach's child did not play for an RYA Spring Rec team in the same division. Exceptions can be made at the discretion of the RYA Rec Baseball Director.
 4. A returning head coach in good standing or official assistant coach (if head coach is no longer coaching) of an RYA team in the previous Spring season is allowed two options in "freezing" or "protecting" returning players:
 - A) Protect the entire returning team from the previous Spring roster; or
 - B) Protect their player and 3 other players returning from the prior year's spring team for a total of 4 Players.
 - a. Siblings count as individual players and cannot be grouped as one player.
 - b. If the previous Spring roster had 14 players, but current registration numbers only allow a smaller team; then the coach must reduce team size to current registration number needs.
 5. A player not returning to his/her previous year's spring team must return to the draft pool.
 - a. If a player's registrations states that they do not want to return to a certain coach's team, that coach is then ineligible to draft/protect that player. However, that player is not guaranteed to any team and is now returned to the open draft pool.
 6. The draft rule runs from Spring season to Spring season. Fall season is not considered.
 - a. If a player is new to RYA in the Fall season and play on an RYA Fall Rec Baseball team, they are still subject to the open draft in the following Spring Season.
 7. If a player does not complete the Player Look in its entirety (100%) then that player will be put into the blind draft. The only exception to this is if the Player Draft is cancelled due to weather or other unavoidable circumstances.
 - a. Blind Draft: Players not attending the player look will have their names placed in the blind draft. Names will be pulled after all open draft players are drafted to a team. All registered players must be rostered to a team before the end of the draft.

8. If coaches protect 1-4 players, then those players will take the place of Draft picks 1 through 4. If coaches elect to protect their entire Spring roster, then those draft picks will be 1 through the number of returning players from the previous Spring roster.
9. The draft will be conducted in a serpentine draft style. (ex. 1,2,3,4,5,5,4,3,2,1 . . .)

N) SAFETY:

1. Metal cleats are not allowed in any league, except in 13/14u.
2. Use of a facemask on batting helmets is optional in all leagues.
3. All fence gates to the playing field are to remain closed throughout the duration of the game.
4. No kid will be allowed to leave the playing field, without adult supervision, during the game.
5. No jewelry allowed except for medical bracelets, which must be secured with tape.
6. Catcher must wear all protective equipment.
7. Batting tees are stored in each dugout on Field #3 and #4.
8. Each player is required to wear a batting helmet.
9. Gameday baseballs: only baseballs provided by RYA may be used during official RYA games. Leftover game balls from a previous season may only be used if they are the same make and model of current season's issued game balls.

O) AWARDS:

1. Awards (rings or trophies) will be awarded to all League Champions and Finalists during Spring seasons. Awards will be awarded to all 3/4u players during both Spring and Fall seasons.
2. Awards are not to be stored in the office and parents and coaches will only have a week to pick them up, before disposal.

P) PLAYOFFS:

1. RYA will have a playoff for 5/6u through 13/14u during Spring leagues if time and weather are permitting. All teams will play in the first round of playoffs and the playoffs will be single elimination.
2. Higher seed teams will always be the home team.
3. All players must play in accordance with regular season participation rules.
4. If there are ties for seeding the teams, the tie breakers are as follows:
 - a. Head-to-head during the regular season
 - b. Runs against during the season
 - c. Runs for during the season
 - d. Run differential in regular season
 - e. Coin Flip

Q) SUMMER TOURNAMENT TEAMS:

1. ALL-STAR Tournament teams will be formed with approval from the Baseball Director and the RYA Board. All coaches and rosters must be approved by the Baseball Director and RYA Board.

R) FIELD PREPARATION AND MAINTENANCE:

1. Both teams are responsible for getting field ready for first game – putting out the bases and making sure field is playable. Both teams are responsible for taking up bases after the last game, turning off the lights and locking up the storage building.
2. Both teams are responsible for cleaning their dugout and around their side of the field. Do not leave a mess for the next team or city maintenance workers to clean.

S) PLAYING RULES: 3/4u and 5/6u (Tee Ball and Modified Tee Ball)

1. This is a co-ed sport for all players.
2. A ten-foot arc shall be drawn in front of home plate, and the ball must be hit past or on the line to be a fair ball.
3. A balk will be called if the pitcher charges off the rubber before the ball is hit.
4. The Tee shall be placed on home plate.
5. Each player in 3/4u will get five swings or three strikes. A strike is a complete miss of the tee and ball. If the tee is hit, it is a foul ball.
6. Each player in 5/6u will get 3 overhand pitches from a coach, no strikes will be called on the pitched ball by a coach. If a batter does not put a pitched ball in play, they will get up to 3 swings off the tee, if ball is not put into play after 3 swings off the tee, batter is out.
7. Regulation games are 5 innings or 1 hour, whichever comes first. Three complete innings constitute a complete game.
8. No team shall score more than 5 runs in an innings. Games can end in a tie.
9. Coaches of the defensive team is allowed to station his/herself in the outfield area. One Down the first and one down the third baselines. At no time can a coach physically participate in the play.
 - a. PENALTY: If offensive coach, runner is out. If defensive coach then runner is safe and umpire can place runners accordingly, to his judgment. The defensive coach cannot enter infield, unless called in by umpire.
10. Coaches of the offensive team may be at first and third and one at home plate to help adjust the tee.
11. Coaches are to teach the players to throw the ball, not to roll it. If the ball bounces that is fine, just teach them to throw overhand.
12. If the ball is overthrown to first base and goes into the outfield, the runner can advance only to second base and no advancement past second base will be allowed, even if fielder makes play to throw him/her out. The runner advances to second base at his/her risk of being put out, on an overthrow.
13. A line will be drawn at a 45-degree angle halfway between the pitching rubber and first base from the arc at home plate. When the ball is fielded to the mound side of the line, the fielder must throw to first base. When fielded on the first base side of line of the line the fielder can run the ball to first base, to get the out.
14. The on-deck batter must remain in the dugout until the umpire calls for them.
15. Ten players are to be used defensively, with 4 stationed in the outfield.
16. A player cannot remain at the position of pitcher or first base for more than 2 innings in a game. They can rotate.

T) EXCEPTION to Rules:

1. Mercy Rule:

A game will be called on the following run rules:

- a. 15 after 3 innings
- b. 10 after 4 innings
- c. 8 after 5 innings.

This applies in all leagues, unless all players have not batted, then they are allowed to hit before game is called. **All players must have a chance to bat before game is called.**

2. 3/4u league:

- a. Only 3- & 4-year-olds may play in this league.
- b. All players bat each inning, outs and runs will not be counted; no scorebook will be kept.
- c. Catcher does not have to wear full catcher's equipment.
- d. All players will play on defense.

EXAMPLE: Pitcher, Catcher, 4 infielders and rest scattered in outfield.

3. 5/6u league:

- a. Catcher must wear at least a catcher's helmet or batting helmet with facemask.
- b. The defensive team will consist of ten (10) players, four (4) of which must be outfielders.
- c. Baserunners will stop advancing when infielder has possession of ball and raises hands OR when baserunners hesitate and infielder has possession of ball.

4. 7/8u league:

- a. 7/8u will be coach pitch league.
- b. The batter gets six (6) pitches or three (3) strikes to hit the ball. If the batter has two (2) strikes and swings at the ball and misses they are out on three (3) strikes. If the sixth pitch is fouled off, the batter continues until the ball is put in play or swings and misses.
- c. The defensive team will consist of ten (10) players, four (4) of which must be outfielders.
- d. In order to stop play the ball must be in the possession of an infielder and in the umpire's judgment the lead runner has stopped, hesitated, slowed down or is trying intimidation, time will be called, and runners adjusted to the umpire's judgment.

5. 9/10u league (Fall Only):

- a. Drop strike 3 is NOT in effect. Any strike 3 call is an immediate out for the batter.
- b. Base runners cannot steal home (but is allowed to take a leadoff and secondary position) unless it falls under the following exceptions:
 - i. The catcher OVERTHROWS the pitcher when returning the ball
 - ii. The pitcher attempts a pickoff (any base)
 - iii. The catcher attempts to throw a runner out (any base)

EXAMPLES:

- A) After a pitch is delivered, and during the attempt to get the ball back to the pitcher, the catcher OVERTHROWS the pitcher (goes past pitcher) then the base runner can advance home. If the pitcher drops the baseball at his feet, this is NOT an overthrow and the runner CANNOT advance. The ball must get past the pitcher.
- B) The pitcher attempts a pickoff move at any base with a base runner on it, then the base runner at third can advance home.
- C) The catcher attempts a throwdown to any base with a runner at 3rd, the base runner at 3rd may then advance home.