

## **Sandlot 2021 (7&8yr olds)**

### **General Guidelines (Similar to Single A Spring League Format)**

#### **Batting**

- Except for last inning, the earlier of 3 outs or batting through the entire line-up
- Strikes will be called and a batter can strike out on a called or swinging third strike
- When coach is pitching, please error on the side of calling balls so player has an opportunity to swing (coaches should use their judgement regarding calling strikes and moving game along)
- If batter gets hit with ball, they take 1st base
- There are no walks. 4-balls will re-set the count.
- Batting order - everyone's line up should be rotational. Please keep the same order but remember who made last out of game so the next kid who would have gotten up, leads off next game (best hitters do not get more At-Bats than everyone else)

#### **Pitching**

- Players may pitch only one inning per game
- Encourage only 1 player pitching per inning to keep the game moving
- Pitchers can pitch in front of the rubber when pitching (coaches should use their judgement based on players ability to reach home plate), but it should be clearly marked and to the extent possible, the pitching distance should be the same for both teams unless agreed upon by coaches
- Pitchers are allowed to throw 4 balls before coach takes over pitching

#### **Fielding**

- 10 kids maximum in field, 4 must be in outfield (in the grass)
- Don't allow outfielders to creep into infield and make sure players are spread out in field at actual positions (to the extent possible)
- Instruct players to not throw the ball around. Throw the ball to pitcher and all runners must stop
- Once the ball is back to the pitcher, any runners on base are frozen and must return to the base from which they came unless they have reached the next successive base by the time the pitcher has the ball

#### **Base Running**

- No stealing or leading
- Players may only leave the base after pitched ball has crossed home plate or upon contact; however, no advancement on passed balls is allowed
- Tagging up is allowed
- Base-runners may advance ONE base on an overthrow
- Slide or avoid rule at all bases except 1st base

#### **Coaching**

- Coaches are encouraged to be in the field (with team) to help alert kids regarding # of outs, where they can make a force play, general positioning, and keeping them focused
- When team is hitting, the Coach (of the hitting team) should be behind pitcher
- Coach assumes pitching duties after 4 balls (keep game moving)

**Mercy Rule:**

- 15 runs after 3 innings, 10 after 4 or 5 innings.
- NO run maximum for the 6th inning of any game

**Game Length:**

- At Lynch Fields, no inning may start after 10:00 PM
- At all other fields, no game inning may start after 8:00PM
- In the event that there is a subsequent game scheduled on a field, no new inning may start after one hour and forty five minutes have elapsed from the actual starting time of a game. This rule has been adopted to ensure that games are completed within approximately 2 hours of their scheduled/published starting time. In all games, Managers must make every effort to move the game along as quickly as possible (i.e., make sure the catcher has his/her equipment on when your team finishes its at-bat, be sure players run on and off the field, limit pitchers to 8 warm-up pitches or 1 minute at the start of each  $\frac{1}{2}$  inning). Although, baseball is a game not governed by a clock, this rule has been implemented due to limited field availability and out of fairness to all teams.
- A new inning is presumed to have started the moment the third out is made in the previous inning.
- If a team does not have a minimum of nine (9) players by ten minutes after the scheduled start time of the game and thereafter during a game, a forfeit will be declared by the Umpire. In either event, managers are encouraged to play or finish a so-called scrimmage game.
- An official game is three and one-half (3.5) innings if the home team is ahead or four (4) innings if the visiting team is ahead.
- Any game not completed because of darkness, weather, or time limits shall revert to the last full inning played to determine a winner.
- Games that end in ties are recorded as such.
- A called game ends at the moment the umpire terminates play.
- Play/no-play decisions are in the hands of League Officials until a game is started. Once a game commences, halt/resume decisions are in the hands of the umpires. The presence of lightning in the immediate area shall be grounds to call a game