

9U Division

Game Rules:

- Umpires must be provided by the Home Team.
- Each team must have a minimum of 8 players in order to play the game.
- There is a maximum of 10 players on the field with 4 outfielders. If a team chooses only to utilize 3 outfielders, they may do so but they cannot utilize a fifth infielder.
- If a team does not have enough players to start a game, coaches may mutually agree to “borrow” players in order to have a game, however, the team borrowing players will treat the game as a forfeit for league standings.
- Teams can finish a game with less than 8 players but there will be an out for any player(s) in the batting order that left the game.
- Maximum 10 batters per inning or a maximum of 6 runs per inning.
- The batting line-up for each team shall include all players attending the game **or** both teams shall match the number of the team with fewer players.
- Subs can be made at any time, but if the original player removed is put back in the line-up, they must re-enter the batting order where they originally started.
- 12U players shall not be permitted to play in the 9U division except under extraordinary circumstances where approved on a case-by-case basis by the Commissioner.
- Games will consist of 6 innings of play.
- A game is considered official after 4 innings of play (3 ½ if the home team is still ahead after the first half inning).
- No new full inning shall start after 8:00 pm and be a maximum of 2 hours on school nights. New innings can be started after 8:00 pm on non-school nights or as mutually agree upon by each coach and as daylight allows. Games on non-school nights will max out at 2.5 hours. The umpires watch will determine the actual time.

- Games can be suspended or called official (even if a tie) prior to the 6th inning, due to weather or darkness at the discretion of the umpire or as mutually agreed upon by the coaches.
- In the event of a thunderstorm, the field will be cleared and play will not resume for 20 minutes. With each new thunder heard, or lightning seen, the 20 minute clock will reset to the beginning.
- In the circumstance that extra innings are able to be played, each inning must be completed. If the inning is not completed, any part of that inning isn't counted and the game will revert back to the previous inning.
- Games can end in a tie due to weather or darkness.
- All make-up games must be coordinated between both head coaches until a date and time is agreed upon. If the game is unable to be made up, the game will not be put in the books as a win or a loss.
- There is a 6- run limit per inning, per team. The final inning of the game in unlimited runs for each team.
- All players must play defense in at least 2 innings per game or one at bat.
- Bats must be labeled "USA BASEBALL". Players using illegal bats can be called "out" at the umpires discretion.

Uniforms:

- Uniforms consist of a team shirt, cap and pants. Players should be in uniform for each and every game. When a shirt is unavailable, a shirt of the same color must be worn.
- Defensive players in the field must be wearing a hat while in play. All offensive players must be wearing a helmet when in the field of play.
- All male catchers must wear a protective cup and full catcher gear.
- Metal spikes are prohibited in this league.
- Pitchers cannot use glove with white marking. Any white marking not on uniform is not allowed. Example: wrist bands.
- Pitchers are not allowed to wear mirrored sunglasses.

Pitching:

- Each player may pitch no more than 3 consecutive innings in one game.
- All pitching must be done from the pitching rubber. Pitchers may not move forward.
- Once a pitcher leaves the pitching position, the player may not return to that position the rest of the game. One ball thrown will constitute as one inning pitched towards the 3 inning maximum.
- One base on balls (4 balls=walk) will be allowed per inning per team where the batter will be awarded first base. This only applies for the first base on ball occurrence. After the first occurrence, no more base on balls are allowed in the inning.
- After the first base on balls occurrence, if a pitcher reaches 4 balls on a batter, a coach will pitch to the batter until there is a hit ball (fair ball or caught foul) or a strike out. The Coach will pitch from the pitching rubber.
- Hit by Pitch:
 - If the batter is hit by a ball thrown by the pitcher, the batter is awarded first base.
 - Batters hit by a ball thrown by a coach do not result in a batter being awarded first base.
 - Batters hit by a pitcher thrown ball do not count toward the one base on balls per inning rule above.
 - If a pitcher hits 3 players in a game, pitcher must be removed from the pitching position and replaced by another player.

Batting:

- The dropped third strike rule is not in effect.
- Throwing of any equipment will not be tolerated, whether it is intentional or not:
 - If, in the umpire's judgment, the bat was thrown unintentionally, they may give a warning. If the bat is thrown a second time, the batter shall be called out, the ball declared

“dead” and all runners will return to the base held at the start of the pitch.

- If, in the umpire’s judgment, the bat was thrown intentionally, he may, without a warning, eject the player from the game. The batter is out, the ball is declared “dead” and all runners will return to the base held at the start of the pitch.
- The “infield fly rule” is not in effect.
- Bunting is allowed.

Base Running:

- Play is declared dead when the ball is in the possession of an infielder and the player calls “time” or “time-out” which is then acknowledged by the umpire.
- No leading off.
- No runner may leave a base until the pitched ball is hit.
- No stealing bases.
- In the event that a runner leaves early, the ball will be declared dead and a warning will be issued on the first offense. On the second offense, the ball will be declared dead and the base runner will be called out.
- All base runners must slide feet first into a base when a fielder is in possession of the ball, or in the act of making the play. Meaning, the ball is traveling to the fielder and is within a reasonable distance of the fielder. This will be determined by the umpire and their discretion. If a player does not slide and makes contact with the fielder attempting to make the play, the runner can be called out, at the discretion of the umpire.
- A fielder may not block a base, base path, or home plate without possession of the ball. If a fielder impedes a runner’s progress without the ball, the umpire shall call obstruction, and the runner will be awarded the base they would have safely reached in the umpire’s judgment. If obstruction occurs while a play is being made on the runner, the runner is automatically awarded the next base.

Coaches/Conduct:

- Coaches are responsible for the behavior of themselves, their assistant coaches, players, and spectators.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct, including throwing equipment, swearing, yelling, arguing calls, bullying, or making threats, may result in suspension or expulsion from the league.
- Each team is allowed one first base coach and one third base coach while batting. Coaches must remain in the dugout when their team is on defense.
- Coaches may not argue or debate judgment calls made by the umpire (e.g., balls, strikes, fair/foul calls).
- If a coach seeks clarification on a call, they must first request time and then approach the umpire in a professional manner. The umpire's decision is final.