

Beginner Ball Rules

Rules of Play

General:

The shortest bases shall be used (i.e. 60' or 65')

A semi-hard baseball (i.e. practice ball Rif 5) will be used

Each team will supply 2 balls for the game

Players:

Play will be limited to five and six year olds. A four year old may register, as long as they are going to kindergarten in the fall (i.e. turning five over the summer).

All players will play defense. Extra players must go in the outfield.

Teams are encouraged to limit their rosters to 12 players maximum if possible

Teams will roster but all players that are present.

Outfielders must position themselves behind the outfielder boundary prior to the pitch being made (10ft behind the bases). Outfielders may NOT play the ball inside the boundary line, nor may outfielders make force out plays at bases.

Infielders must position themselves no closer than 5' inside the baseline.

How to play:

Defensive players will take their positions as described above

Offensive player (with helmet) takes position in batters box

Offensive Coach takes position at mound with three baseballs in hand

Defensive coaches may position themselves in the outfield with their players

Coaches will make three pitches to each batter. If the batter does not contact the ball, the fourth ball is placed on the tee for him/her to hit.

Coaches have the option to for-go the pitches and just have their player hit the ball off of a tee if they are not ready to hit a tossed ball. We do not want any player to be scared and not want to play anymore. All players will bat each inning. Once you have batted through the lineup the half inning is over. Bat quickly!!!

Once the ball is contacted, it is a “live” ball. The defense can make an attempt to get the batter out at first base or where there is a play.

If an out is made that player leaves the base and goes back to the dugout. However; even after 3 outs the inning still continues until everyone has batted.

Game will consist of 3 innings. Teams should bat as fast as possible to keep the total game time to less than 90 minutes.

Should a batter hit a ball beyond the outfield boundary line, they may (at the discretion of the coach) continue to advance one additional base.

Miscellaneous Items for Coaches:

Encourage the kids to run off and on the field between innings, keeping the pace of play fast.

Encourage the use of “chatter” to keep their interest.

Do not permit offensive or abusive vocalizations or behavior.

Do not stretch the rules in regard to advancement of runners

Teach your players the fundamentals of fielding, hitting, throwing, and base-running.

DO NOT allow your outfielders to make plays at bases.

DO NOT position your infielders closer than 5’ inside the baseline, as this creates an unfair advantage for the defense, not to mention is a safety issue.

Rotate your defensive players. The balls are hit hardest to the pitcher, first, and third baseman.

Encourage infielders to throw to (and cover) bases on batted balls. It doesn’t matter if the baseman catches the ball or not. Teach the basic concepts!

Most of all have fun....it’s a short season so enjoy it!