



OFFICIAL LEAGUE RULES

BB - Rookie League

2021 Playing Rules

1. The Rookie Baseball League shall follow 2021 NFHS Rules with the following exceptions and amendments which shall supersede the NFHS rules. In the case of a conflict, these amendments and exceptions shall be controlling:
 - A. Players shall not be older than 8 years old (certain exceptions apply TBD by AAA)
 - B. The defensive team may field 10 players with 4 outfield spots. If teams only have 9 players “traditional” positions should be fielded.
 - C. All outfielders must position themselves beyond infield positions (no “loading up the infield”)
 - D. When the Youth Pitcher has possession of the ball within the 10 foot pitching circle, and, provided that the batter runner has acquired first base, or has been put out, the Umpire shall immediately call “Time.” Runners who have advanced halfway and beyond will be rewarded the base they are attempting to reach. All runners that have not reached the halfway point must return to the last legally acquired base and be able to return without the worry of being put out by the defense. ***The Adult Pitcher must determine the pitcher’s intention before calling time out. Is the pitcher going to make an attempt on a runner? Is he looking to stop the baserunners’ actions by asking for time out?
 - E. Lines will be chalked evenly between bases and be used by Adult Pitcher to make calls on whether the halfway mark has been reached for determining if a base will be rewarded or if the runner must return to previous base at the conclusion of a play.
 - F. Base runners must remain in contact with their bases until the ball is hit.
 - G. Continuous batting order has been adopted. No batting “out of turn” penalties (correct & move on, or resume order next time up)
 - H. Free defensive substitution.
 - I. No player will sit twice before every player sits once
 - J. No 10 run “Mercy Rule” (as explained in NFHS 4-2-2)
 - K. Five Run/”Batted around” limit per half inning (Five Run Limit shall not apply to last inning, but the last inning will end when **3 outs** are recorded.
 - L. The only exception to the batted around limit would be for a team with 9 players. The player who was up 1st in the inning will have a chance to bat again. The offensive team will then have scored 5 runs or obtained 3 outs.
 - M. Batter shall have 5 pitches to put the ball in play or be struck out. A foul tip/foul ball will continue at bat on 5th pitch.
 - N. If fair batted ball contacts adult pitcher or coach, the ball shall be immediately dead. Batter receives a 1 base award and all other runners advance only if forced.
 - O. Only one defensive coach is permitted on the field for instructional purposes, and must remain in the outfield at all times.
 - P. Each runner shall be awarded 1 base when fielder throws ball out of play.
 - Q. When an umpire is not used, out/safe calls shall be made by the offensive team coaches.
 - R. On-Deck Batter is not permitted. Batters waiting to bat must remain in the dugout.
 - S. At Least One Adult Coach shall be in the dugout at all times.
 - T. Bat shall not exceed 30” in length, “Big Barrel” bats are allowed not to exceed 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ”

- U. Six innings is a regulation game. If a game is called due to weather or darkness it will be deemed a regulation final if 4 innings (3.5 if home team is ahead) have been completed.
- V. Runners will be declared out if he slides head first while advancing.
- W. Runner is out if he does not slide or “attempt to get around” fielder who has ball and is waiting to make tag. Runners must make effort to avoid collisions.
- X. Bunts are not permitted.
- Y. No infield fly rule.
- Z. No player shall play more than 2 innings in any one position in a game

Have Fun and Enjoy the Great Game of Baseball!!!

AAA Rookie League Director –

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