

ROOKIE BALL RULES

1. GENERAL

MAXIMUM RUNS THAT CAN BE SCORED - 6 per inning

NOTE: Teams may field as many as the opposition, up to 12; and bat as many as 12 in any given game. Players that exceed the normal nine **MUST** occupy fielding positions in the outfield.

NOTE: It is important to note that at this age level, all emphasis should be on games and modified games that are used to help develop basic motor skills and basic Baseball skills.

2. PLAYING RULES

A designated pitcher is defined as: a coach or other delegated person from the batting team that pitches the ball to that team's batters. The designated pitcher must be 15 years and above.

BATTING

- A) Should the batter hit the ball into the designated pitcher, the batter will be awarded a single base hit (all other runners advance one base **only**). Designated pitchers should wear a glove for self-protection, but **must make every effort to avoid touching any batted ball**.
- B) Only **ONE** baseball is allowed **on the playing field** at any given time.
- C) There are no Base on Balls in Rookie Ball.
- D) Each batter will have three (3) swings after which a tee will provided for the batter to hit off. The batter will continue his/her at bat until such time as he/she hits the ball into fair territory. (Only full rubber tees or fold up tees are to be used.)
- E) When the tee is in use the batter must hit the ball a minimum of 15 feet from the tee before the ball is considered to be in fair territory.

BASE RUNNING

- A) Base stealing, or advancing on passed balls and wild pitches, is prohibited.
 - B) Runners may not leave their base until the batter makes contact with the ball.
- Penalty:** Should the umpire observe such an infringement, the runner is sent back to the base last legally occupied. If the pitch is hit into fair territory, the infringing runner is ruled out. **All** other plays resulting from that hit stand.
- C) Runners may not advance beyond the base they are approaching on the call of "time." "Time" may only be called by the umpire once the ball is in the possession of a player in the infield and it is deemed that no other plays will reasonably take place.
 - D) On overthrows at **any** base, the ball is automatically declared dead. **NO** runner(s) including the batter/runner, may advance beyond the base they are approaching.

FIELDING

- A) The fielding pitcher **is not considered** an infielder. Infielders **must** assume their initial fielding position **behind** the base paths. Outfielders **must** be well behind their infielders before play can resume. An appropriate distance is approximately 5 meters behind the infielders. **All** fielders shall remain relatively stationary when the umpire calls "play ball."
- B) The Infield Fly rule (**see rule 2.00 of the Official Rules of Baseball**) does not apply to Rookie Ball. Therefore, if any fly ball is caught by an infielder, the batter is out, the ball becomes dead and **NO** runner(s) may advance or be put out.

NOTE: Coaches should teach players how to "tag up" in the event of a fly ball.

ROOKIE BALL RULES (Con't)

PITCHING

- A) The designated pitcher (coach) is to pitch from a kneeling position. The pitcher is required to throw a flat trajectory pitch either over arm or under arm, at a speed that is conducive to the batter's ability **to make contact with the ball.** (See Playing Rules; Batting C) **Battery operated pitching machines are permitted on low settings only.**
- B) The fielding pitcher must be positioned approximately an arm's length to either side and behind the designated pitcher.
- C) 2nd year Rookie ball players will be eligible to pitch in the second half of the season. These players will be limited to a maximum of 35 pitches per game and can only pitch in one game per day. These players will pitch to their own team and emphasis should be placed on pitching strikes to their team that can be hit.

3. COACHING

- A) Coaches are **only** permitted on field if positioned **behind** their infielders. When on field, coaches may not physically touch a hit ball, or a player in the act of fielding.

Penalty: Batter/runner is awarded first base; all other runners advance one base **only**.

- B) Appeals by a defensive coach for **(1)** runners leaving early, **(2)** bat throwing, or **(3)** for taking extra bases on "Time," may only occur at the conclusion of said play. Such appeals **must** be in the form of a question and **must** occur prior to the first pitch to the next official batter.
- C) Coaches must wear at least the club uniform shirt and cap and be neatly attired at all times. Open-faced shoes of any type are prohibited.

NO LEAGUE OR PERSONAL STATISTICAL DATA IS REQUIRED AT THE ROOKIE BALL LEVEL. HOWEVER, PITCHING DATA IS TO BE KEPT WHEN A SECOND YEAR PLAYER IS PITCHING.