

## **ROOKIE DIVISION**

### ***General Divisional Information***

The Rookie program is a co-ed program for children ages 6-8. This is a Coach Pitch division. This division is an instructional division where all players will be given the opportunity to play each position.

This division typically meets once a week for a two hour session. Each session consists of one hour of practice and one hour of game time.

Practice will happen during the first hour. The "away" team will take the infield first. The "home" team will practice in the outfield. After 30 minutes the two sides will switch. This will leave the "home" team on the field ready to play. The "away" team should stop practice a little early to get back to the dugout and get the batter ready to hit before game start time.

One hour for game time typically allows two complete innings. Scores and statistics are not kept. A full inning should always be played. If time allows subsequent innings can be played but with modified rules to speed up the game. The modified rules are called out in the following sections and are noted by *italics*.

### ***Offense***

1. Roster Batting
  - a. The lineup includes all players present that day.
  - b. If a player leaves or gets injured his spot in the order will just be passed over. No OUT is recorded.
  - c. Players who arrive late get added to the bottom of the batting order.
2. Batting Order must change every week
  - a. Coaches should print out a random batting order every week prior to game time.
3. Five Pitches per Batter (first two innings)
  - a. Batter cannot be struck out
  - b. If the player has not hit a fair ball after 5 pitches, the player will hit off a Batting-T.
4. *Three Strikes per Batter (third and subsequent innings)*
  - a. *The batter will be called out after 3 swings without putting the ball into fair play*
  - b. *The batter will be given one extra swing if they foul off their third swing*
  - c. *Four swings total MAX.*
5. Three outs per inning
  - a. If a player is called out running the base paths they will go back to the dugout.
  - b. After three outs the offensive team will take the field.
  - c. If three outs are not recorded then the offensive team will stay at bat until their entire batting order has been up once.
  - d. All players must bat at least once
    - i. Players will not necessarily have the same number of bats due to Offensive Rule 5b. *However, the following exceptions will take place to give every batter at least one at bat if time is an issue:*

1. *Away Team: An extra inning will be played until all batters get 1 at bat. Outs will not be recorded if more than 3 players still need to get up.*
  2. *Home Team: Team will stay at bat until all players have batted at least once.*
6. No stealing
  7. No leading
  8. No head first slides

## **Pitching**

1. Batters are pitched to by a coach from their own team.
2. Coaches will sit on one knee to pitch the ball
3. Pitches will be thrown overhand
  - a. As the season progresses and/or stronger players, try pitching speed should increase.
4. An extra base can be used to support the coach
5. Mound distance will vary
  - a. For weaker players move the mound forward
  - b. For stronger players and as the season progresses move the mound back.
6. Coaches will not field the ball (except to protect themselves).

## **Defense**

1. All players must play every position over the course of the season except catcher and only if a player is afraid to play catcher
  - a. Outfield is considered one position
2. Only six players in the infield
  - a. Players should rotate positions every inning.
  - b. The catcher position should be manned by a defensive player
    1. A coach should be nearby to help the catcher with equipment, find passed balls, etc.
    11. Player must be wearing protective gear
      1. Chest Protector
      2. Mask
      3. Shin Guards
    111. Player will use their standard fielder's glove, not a catcher's mitt.
  - c. The pitching mound should be manned with a "pitcher"
3. All other players are in the outfield
  - a. Outfield is considered one position
  - b. Outfielders must be on the outfield grass c. No limit to the number of outfielders
  - d. Outfielders should be spread evenly across the outfield