

## 2012 South Middleton Youth Baseball Minors AA Division

### Little League Rule Book

- At the Minor AA Division, all games will follow the Little League Rule Book **unless** otherwise stated below.

### Safety

- Player Safety should always be a Top Priority.

### Innings Played

- All games should be **4 innings long**. Some leagues have a five inning limit, but this should be discussed, and agreed upon before the start of the game by both managers.

### Runs per Inning

- There is a **4 run** limit per inning. There should be no extra innings at this level during the regular season. If after the end of 4 innings, the score is tied, the game will end in a tie.

### Fielding a Minors AA Division Team

- A team should field a maximum of ten (10) players, unless there are less than ten (10) players on the roster. If there is an injury or illness that prevents a player or players from completing the game, then the game may continue with a minimum of seven (7) players.
- If a team begins a game with less than ten (10) players, than any late arriving players should enter the game immediately to bring the number of players in the field to ten (10) players.

### Pitching Rules-Adhere to the Little League rules with the following refinements:

- The rules below are designed to strike a balance between the development of pitchers, the encouraging of aggressive batting and the need to keep the game moving.
- All player pitchers may pitch a maximum of 50 pitches (see Pitcher Rules) or 2 consecutive innings: whichever occurs first. This is designed to require the development of multiple pitchers on the team.
- An offensive team coach will call balls and strikes, both swinging and thrown, against the batter. This applies to both player-pitchers and coach-pitchers.
- Pitchers, either a player or an offensive team coach, will be given a generous strike zone. The goal being to encourage batters to aggressively swing at, but not necessarily hit the ball.
- The batter is out when three strikes are recorded against the batter. This applies to when either a player-pitchers or coach-pitchers is pitching.

- When coach-pitcher pitches: **walks are not permitted**, and a player can only hit the ball or strike out.
- Player pitchers will pitch to each batter until the batter hits the ball into fair territory, strikes out, or gets four balls.
- If a batter gets four balls, there will be no base on balls. Once four balls have been called an offensive team coach will pitch to the batter with his existing pitch count. (i.e. If the batter had a 3 balls and 1 strike count when the player pitcher threw the 4<sup>th</sup> ball, the batter would have 1 strike on them when the coach takes over pitching). The player pitcher will resume pitching once the batter has either struck out or reaches base.
- A Coach should only pitch after a player pitcher has either pitched four balls or the team on defense has exhausted the available players capable of pitching. While no Team Manager is required to place a player in the position of pitcher if the player is not...  
...capable of pitching, a Team Manager must not attempt to utilize coach pitching to create an unfair advantage against an opposing team that is using player pitchers.

Prior to the beginning of each inning the Team Manager should discuss how many player pitchers are available to pitch.

After one team has exhausted their available player pitchers and offensive team coach will pitch to the offensive team's batters. Once an offensive team coach begins to pitch due to the exhaustion of available defensive team player pitchers, a player pitcher may no longer be used by that team for the remainder of the game.

After one team has exhausted their available player pitchers the opposing Team Manager will have the option to either continue to utilize player pitchers or have a coach from the team pitch to the team's batters while on offense. If the opposing Team Manager opts to have a coach pitch to that team's batters, a player pitcher may no longer be used by that team for the remainder of the game.

- In no case may a coach pitch to the opposing team.
- Any player pitcher who hits three batters in the same inning will be removed from the pitchers position for the duration of the game.
- Pitching distances:
  - Player Pitchers who are League Age 8 must pitch from 46'
  - Player Pitchers who are League Age 7 may pitch from 41' (the pitcher's rubber will not be adjusted)

### **General Playing Rules**

- The infield fly rule will **NOT** be in effect
- Each team will bat the entire lineup and use free substitutions throughout the game. Injury will not result in an out for that spot in the lineup.

- Coaches are permitted on the field during play to instruct defensive players.
- Base stealing is prohibited. **EXCETPION:** Starting in May, the players on instructed on base stealing. Players may steal third base.
- Base coaches, for the team at bat, will make safe/out calls on the base runners and the batter.
- Bunting is **NOT** permitted
- Only one base advance is permitted on an overthrow that caused an out-of-play or dead ball.
- Play stops when the ball is returned to the infield. The infielder need not have control of the ball. In the event the runner is more than halfway to the base, allow him/her to advance to the next base.
- On an overthrow in which the ball remains inn play, the runner may advance at their own risk. Play is stopped when the runner is tagged out or the ball is returned to the pitcher.
- Umpires are optional at this level.

\*\*\* This is a developmental and instructional level that introduces players to live kid pitching. They are still learning the game of baseball, and the Managers/Coaches should take time outs during the game to explain a rule, or show/demonstrate a skill that will help this player on a particular play in the game.