

2021 Combined In-house 9/10 Rules

Middle River, Rosedale, Essex, Bear Creek

PLAYING RULES: This league will use the Official MLB rules as the official reference with the rules below being the exceptions:

FIELDS: Bases will be 60 feet. Pitching is 46 feet.

BATTING:

- The batting order will be continuous with free substitution for all positions except the pitcher.
- All players must be placed in the batting order at the beginning of the game and will bat in that order during the duration of the game.
- Late arriving players will be placed at the end of the batting order, regardless of the time he or she arrives.
- If a player leaves the game for any reason, his next at bat will be an out (ONE TIME ONLY).
- In the case of a player's ejection, an out will be recorded at each of his following at-bats.

PITCHING:

- Players will be allowed to pitch a maximum of three (3) innings per game.
- Any pitcher removed from the mound may not return to pitch in that game. One pitch constitutes one (1) inning.
- Pitchers who hit two (2) batters in the same inning or three (3) batters in the same game, **MUST BE REMOVED** from the mound.
- A pitcher may play any other positions on the field, once removed from the mound, they may not pitch again in that same game.
- No balks will be called.
- Any violation of pitching rules will result in a forfeit.

EQUIPMENT:

- Catchers **MUST** wear a protective cup. This does not apply to female catchers.
- Catchers **MUST** use a catcher's mitt.
- No player will wear metal cleats or spikes; only plastic or rubber spikes allowed.
- Batters **MUST** wear full batting helmets with ear flaps on both sides.
- Players coaching any base during play **MUST** wear a batting helmet.
- Players in the batting circle **MUST** wear a batting helmet.
- Players warming up the pitcher, between innings, **MUST** be wearing a protective cup and catcher's mask with cap.
- Each team will supply one Little League or equivalent baseball to the umpire at the start of the game. In the event additional baseballs are required, the home team will supply the first, and then the visiting team will supply the next (alternating replacements).
- Bat diameter is a maximum of 2 1/4 inches with no weight restrictions.
- All managers should encourage players to purchase the USA Baseball stamped bats. It is not mandatory at this time. Anyone using a USA Baseball stamped bat will have no diameter or weight restrictions placed on them.

PLAYERS:

- A team may choose to play four (4) outfielders, in the grass, in the 9/10 age bracket regardless of the other team's choice.
- A team must start and finish with at least seven (7) players.
- A player who is injured and cannot bat when their spot comes in the batting rotation will count as an out only one time.
- All players, arriving on time, must play defensively at least three (3) innings in a six (6) inning game.
- Infielders will be allowed to make fielding plays in the base paths, but, the baselines belong to the base runner at all other times.
- Infielders **MUST NOT** block any bag without the ball or anticipation of catching the ball.
- **PLAYERS MUST SLIDE OR AVOID CONTACT.** Head first slides will not be allowed at any base.
- Infielders must play a thrown ball in front of all bases in order to make a swipe tag.
- The first baseman must avoid, when possible, crossing the baseline in front of the bag in an effort to catch a thrown ball.

ROSTERS:

- Changes to a team roster must be submitted to the league chairperson for review. Rosters must include players name, jersey number, birth date and team manager information. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action until such time as it is turned in.
- Any player, who is playing below his age group, can only play one of three outfield positions, subject to discretion of Commissioner.

PLAY:

- Games will be six (6) innings in duration.
- Forfeit time will be fifteen (15) minutes after scheduled game time.
- The home team will use the first base bench.
- Games will be official after four (4) innings or three and one half (3 ½) if the home team is leading.
- If a game is postponed, before becoming official, the managers of both teams may reschedule it on a mutually agreeable future date. The game will begin where it left off and played until completed. **All 9/10 innings will consist of three (3) outs or once a team scores 5 runs.**
- The last inning, of the game, will be played until three (3) outs are recorded.
- Stealing will be allowed, in 9/10, but the runner cannot leave the base until the pitched ball passes home plate.
- **Stealing of home plate is not allowed.**
- A player, on 3rd, may run home if a play is made on any runner.
- **Clarification:** An overthrow from the catcher to the pitcher, following the pitch is **not** a play on a runner. A throw to any base, to try to get a runner out or stop him from advancing, is a play on a runner and he or she or any other runner may advance at their own risk.

- After a batter has been walked, it is a dead ball for batter.
- A courtesy runner will be allowed for the catcher, to avoid delays, while putting on equipment. The courtesy runner may only be used after the second out and must be the player that made the second out.
- There is no infield fly rule.

SLAUGHTER RULE:

- A twelve (12) run slaughter rule will be in effect after the team behind in runs has batted at least four (4) innings.

DARKNESS:

- The ability to start another inning is due to darkness will be determined by the County field leader in charge of the site. If the field leader is unavailable, then the determination will be made by the managers and umpire. No inning will begin after 8:15 pm unless being played on a lighted field.

PROTESTS:

- Every effort is to be made to resolve all protests at the game. Failure to resolve the protest must be reported to the League Chairman by the team manager within 24 hours of the scheduled start of the game. League Chairman will resolve the protest as he deems fit within seven (7) days.

END-OF-SEASON-TOURNAMENT:

- Seeding will be determined by a blind draw. All games must be complete. Both managers are responsible for reporting their score to their respective League Chairman ASAP after the game.

AWARDS:

- Trophies will be given to the 1st and 2nd place teams participating in the end-of-season tournament.
- All costs of trophies/awards will be split equally among all league commissioners participating in this age group.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- All managers should try to make-up all postponed games. It is the responsibility of the respective managers to attempt to find a mutually agreeable date and field.
- The home team manager should contact his league to see if a field is available at their site. If not, then the visiting team will see if their program has a field that can be used.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:

- Unsportsmanlike conduct by players, managers, coaches or parents will not be tolerated at any time.
- The use of profanity, fighting, razzing, or throwing equipment will result in the removal from the game of the players or people involved.
- The removal of a player or coach from the game will immediately disqualify that person from the next scheduled game.
- The “suspension” will only count if the player is at the next game, in uniform and sitting on the bench for the duration of that game. This person will remain disqualified until the

suspension” is performed. The manager who has been “suspended” will not be allowed to attend the next scheduled game.

CONDUCT:

- Managers are responsible for their team, their team’s conduct, and the conduct of the parents and fans.
- Failure to control the teams will result in a forfeit, by the umpire, after he deems proper warnings have been issued.
- NO SMOKING on the field.
- Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on County property by anyone at any time.