

# U8 HOUSE LEAGUE RULES

- Base distance is 45'. Double first base will be used. Coaches should pitch from 30', no closer.
- The 10" safety ball will be used.
- Players will wear batting helmet while batting and running bases. A face mask is not required.
- **Time Limit:** No new inning may begin after 60 minutes of play. A new inning shall begin if the last out of an inning is called at 60 minutes, but not if it is called at 61 minutes.
- Teams will shake hands after the game is concluded.
- **Playing time:** All players are given equal playing time and opportunity to fully develop by playing all positions. Players should rotate to a new position every inning in some systematic order.
- Game may be played with 5 players if short of players. With less than 5 players, the opposing team may choose to share players to make even teams. Fill in players from the Trimite league are allowed but only to make a maximum team of 9 players.
- 9 defensive players may be on the field. Game will be played with an adult catcher and up to 4 outfielders in order to speed up play. A player may play the pitcher position behind and to the side of the adult pitcher. The adult catcher and adult pitcher should avoid physically participating in the play when the ball is alive.
- **Coaches:** Offensive coaches should position themselves in the coach boxes near 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base and a coach may assist the batter. Up to three defensive coaches may be on the field to assist the defence play.
- All players are placed in the batting order. Late players will be added to the end of the batting order. All players should get the opportunity to bat lead-off during the year. Batting order should be shuffled each game.
- Pitching will be done by a coach or a parent of the offensive team.
- The batter receives up to 5 pitches. The player will either hit the ball or be called out.
- Fouling off of the 5<sup>th</sup> pitch (or greater) will result in an additional pitch.
- When the ball is hit the players may continue running until the ball returns to inside the baselines. If between bases at that time, runners may continue to the next base but not beyond. Defensive players may try to make an out at a base during this time. The ball is then returned to the coach pitcher.
- **Overthrows:** Players are not to advance on an overthrow at any base or throw back to the pitcher.
- **Lead offs:** There are no lead offs allowed. Runners will receive a warning. Base runners can leave base when the pitch is hit.
- **Stealing:** No stealing is allowed.
- **Maximum Number of Runs:** A maximum of 5 runs per inning or 3 outs.
- Infield fly rule **is not** in effect.
- **Thrown Bat:** Coaches are to encourage players to drop the bat not throw the bat when running to first. If necessary, the offensive team coach may choose for the batter to be called out for a player that throws a bat on multiple occasions.
- Bases are to be removed from the diamond and placed in the dugout if no game is coming on after the U8 game. Foam plugs should be in the dugout to place in the holes.