

# U15 LOCAL LEAGUE RULES

- Pitching distance is 42'. Base distance is 60'. Double first base will be used.
- The 12" regulation ball will be used.
- **Time Limit:** Game is 7 innings. No new inning may begin after 75 minutes of play. An inning may begin if the last out of an inning is called at 74 min, but not if it is called at 75 min. There is no mercy rule based on score differential.
- **Umpire:** Two certified umpires who are both a minimum one year older than the players are required to officiate (or one carded umpire with a certified umpire of any age is allowed)
- **Coaches:** Offensive coaches should position themselves in the coach boxes near 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base. All on field coaches must wear appropriate fully enclosed footwear.
- Players must wear long pants and proper running shoes or baseball cleats. No metal cleats.
- **Playing time:** All players should be given equal playing time and opportunity to fully develop by playing several different positions.
- Pitchers are required to wear a fielding mask while pitching. Batters must wear a helmet with a face mask.
- Anyone warming up a pitcher must wear a mask, even adults.
- 9 defensive players may be on the field. Game may be played with 7 players if short of players. The opposing team may choose to share players to make even teams.
- Free defensive substitution rule allowed
- 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.
- A courtesy runner for the catcher (the last available player in the batting order) is allowed and recommended when there are two outs.
- No intentional walks to any batter.
- Pitchers must begin their pitches with both feet touching the pitching rubber.
- If playing with less than 9 players, there will be no automatic outs at the end of the batting order.
- **Maximum Number of Runs:** There is a 6 run limit per inning per team for innings 1 through 6. No run limit per team in the 7th inning.
- **Maximum deficit:** If either team is losing by a deficit of 10 or more runs after the end of the 5th inning, or any inning thereafter, the game will end.
- **Stealing:** Players may attempt to steal a base including home once the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- **Lead Offs:** Base runners can leave base when the pitch leaves the pitcher's hand. There are no lead offs allowed. Leaving the base early will be called a leadoff and the runner will be called out. This is not an appeal play.
- **Third Strike:** If first base is unoccupied at the time of the pitch (0 or 1 out) **OR** if there are 2 outs regardless of first base being occupied or not, the batter may attempt to go to first if the third strike is uncaught.
- Infield fly rule **is** in effect.
- **Thrown Bat:** A player will receive 1 warning for throwing their bat. The next incident will result in the batter being called an out for that inning. The out will be a delayed call with the penalty to be applied after conclusion of play. Until then, defensive team can try to make additional outs and offensive team can try to score runs. No runs can score if the batter is the third out due to a thrown bat.
- At the end of each game, confirm the final score with the opponent.

- Rain outs are to be decided by 5:00 pm. After 5:00 pm, the decision to play or wait out any rain situation will be made by coaches and umpires at game time.
- 3 complete innings make a complete game (if a game is called due to weather)
- Playoffs: See Playoff Guidelines. Standings will be kept. Year-end playoffs will be in the form of a weekend tournament.