

# **A-Division**

**5 & 6 year olds**

**Rules, Policies and Guidelines**

## **Primary Objectives**

1. Practices are to follow League guidelines. Coaches should concentrate on baseball fundamentals and proper technique in fielding, throwing, hitting and base running. Game situations are **NOT** to be stressed.
2. Games are to be structured so that all players learn while having fun!
3. All players are to be treated fairly in both fielding opportunities and batting order.

## **Rules**

*A Division rules have been certified by the New Fairfield Baseball Board of Directors and MUST be followed in their full and complete context. Under no circumstance will the coaches be permitted to alter, modify or dismiss any rules stated herein. If a situation warrants a change, the commissioner will contact the coaches. Any violation will result in immediate suspension or expulsion from the league.*

### **Safety:**

- New Fairfield baseball recommends all players to wear an athletic supporter with protective cup.
- In case of injuries, coaches are required to complete an Accident Report (JUST FACTS) and file with the league commissioner promptly. Do not discuss the nature or the cause of the accident with anyone!!

### **Fielding:**

- 9 defensive players (fielders) in the field every inning; a fourth outfielder may be used (10 fielders).

- All players must play a minimum of 4 innings in the field per game and in the aggregate (based on games eligible to play) should receive the same amount of playing time.
- Players must be rotated between infield and outfield positions, and are to play a minimum of 2 innings in the infield. This is **NOT** debatable. All infield positions must be played by all players by the end of the season. This is **NOT** negotiable.
- Player pitching will **NOT** be used. Coach pitch should be used.
- If a situation arises, contact the commissioner.

### **Batting:**

- Batting order will be continual from first to last player on a team, with no player on a team missing a turn at bat;  
BATTING ORDER MUST BE ROTATED FROM GAME TO GAME
- Each batter receives a maximum of 4 strikes and then a Tee will be used. A batter may continue batting if the 4<sup>th</sup> strike is a foul ball. There are no walks.
- Coach pitching is preferred. However, if using the pitching machine, speed should not be adjusted to accommodate player skill level (average speed 35 mph).
- If a team bats through their line up in any inning, their turn at bat is over and the team in the field takes its turn at bat.
- No tape is allowed on bat barrels, only aluminum bats are permitted. Batting gloves are permitted.

*Please use sound judgment with regards to speed and number of pitches to the batters. WE WANT THEM TO SUCCEED!*

### **General:**

- All coaches must be approved by the league commissioner before they participate in any practice or game. A background check is mandatory.

- This is an INSTRUCTIONAL league.
- Practice and Games – All players are expected to attend each and every practice and game. Players are responsible to contact their coach if they intend to miss a practice/game due to illness, family commitment, school work, or circumstances beyond the player’s control.
  
- Game length is 6 innings. A game is official after 4 innings have been completed. Games that are called due to inclement weather (rain-outs) will be posted on the website at [www.newfairfieldbaseball.com](http://www.newfairfieldbaseball.com) . The games will be made up. Check with the commissioner for field availability.
- A minimum of 4 new balls should be used for each game – 2 provided by each team.
- There are no standings kept, and there are no playoffs.
- There is no mercy rule. Avoid extremely lopsided games.
- As much as you can, limit coaching from the bench.
- The coach pitcher or coach at pitching machine will be the umpire, and only the coach in this position will make the calls. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this rule.
- This is an instructional league. Therefore 2 defensive coaches will be permitted on the field.
- For balls hit to the outfield, play is considered over once the ball is thrown into the infield. Runners advance or return to the nearest base when the play is declared over.
- Balls hit over the outfield fence on a fly are a homerun
- Balls that bounce over or go under the fence are ground-rule doubles.
  
- Stealing and bunting are NOT permitted. “Swinging” bunts are considered in play; base runners are permitted to advance only after the ball has been legally hit into play.
- Contact Rule – if a runner attempting to reach home plate, or any other base, intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of the base, he/she will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. This is an umpire (coach pitcher) judgment call.

## **Conduct:**

- All player disciplinary problems are to be reported to the league commissioner.
- After being warned, any player, coach, or parent showing unsportsmanlike conduct will be ejected from the game or field. Repeat offenders will be referred to the league for permanent ejection.

## **Message from the Commissioner**

Remember... this is an instructional league. Keeping baseball FUN- especially in the early stages of youth baseball – is the primary concern. Our main goal is to help every player learn the sport of baseball in a safe, fair and fun environment.

Thank you for volunteering your time to the league. Please contact the commissioner if you have any concerns, questions or suggestions.