

"AA" Division- 2016

Rules & Regulations

Age Structure:

- The "AA" level is made up of 7 & 8 year old players. 9 year old players can play down if their skill level dictates that they can play in this level for the needs of the league.
- Any new 9 year olds players to the league will be placed in "AA" with average evaluations, however any adjustments needed to ensure the safety of all players will be made.

Primary Objectives:

- It is important to remember that this is still an **instructional pitching league**, where the goal of teaching is our first and highest priority. Coaches will pitch for the first half of the season while players receive professional pitching instruction during practices.
- Practices are to follow league guidelines with the objective to stress baseball fundamentals and proper technique in fielding, throwing, pitching, hitting and base running.
- Coaches are to stress the proper behavior a player should exhibit on the field and in the dugout. **Players must clean the dugout before the next team enters.**
- Coaches are to also stress the importance of respect and the values of teamwork.
- Games are to be constructed so that all players learn while having fun, while being introduced to the competitive nature of baseball.
- Coaches that violate these objectives will be referred to the league board of directors.

Fielding Rules:

- There will be (9) players in the field; (3) outfielders, (4) infielders, (1) pitcher (***second half of the season***) and (1) catcher to be played in normal positions. Outfielders must play in the outfield, not on outer the edge of the infield.

- All players should be rotated in the field, playing approximately the same amount of innings. No player should sit out more than (1) inning in a row except for disciplinary reasons. A player can play the same position (2) innings in a row, but cannot play the infield or outfield more than (2) innings in a row. In the course of the season, every player should play every position at least once, including catcher and first base. If you, as coach, feel that a player cannot play these positions at least (1) inning during the year, please contact your Commissioner. At the end of the season all players who played in the same amount of games will have about the same amount of playing time.
- During the game, each coach will provide (2) new baseballs that will be used while their team is batting. On a pass ball, the catcher should hustle to retrieve the ball and keep play moving. The second ball will be used if there is a foul out of play while another player from the bench gets the foul. **One player only.**

Batting Rules:

- Batting order will be continual from the first batter to the last with no player being missed (**everyone bats**). The batting order should be rotated from game to game (except playoffs). During the season, every player should bat first and last at least once.
- The game coach (1st half of the season) and umpire (2nd half of the season) will call balls and strikes. Coaches and players may **not** argue balls and strikes.
- Only Little League approved bats are allowed, no big barrel bats are permitted. **Any questions or concerns about the use of illegal bats should be brought to the Commissioner's attention.**
- An inning ends after three outs are recorded. Coaches **should** use discretion so as not to embarrass the players.
- For balls hit in the outfield, the play is considered "live" until an infielder has control of the ball. The coach (1st half of the season) and umpire (2nd half of the season) will call the play "dead". At that point, all runners must stay at the base they are occupying (teach cut-offs). There will be a clear out of play line from the dugouts to the bleachers. If a ball crosses that line, each base runner will get the base they are going to, plus (1) additional base.
- A batted ball over the fence is a homerun; if it bounces over or rolls under the fence, it is a ground rule double.
- Bunting is allowed (get catcher involved). No slash bunting is permitted.

Pitching Rules:

- Coaches will pitch for the first half of the season.
- A pitcher shall not pitch more than (2) innings in a game.
- A pitcher may pitch not more than (6) innings per calendar week. If a pitcher delivers a single pitch in an inning, that pitcher will be charged with (1) inning pitched.
- A pitcher should not throw more than (50) pitches in a game (coaches keep track). The only exclusion to this rule is that the pitcher will be permitted to finish the current batter if he or she is above (50) pitches. Once he or she reaches the pitch count, the pitcher will be removed from the game as a pitcher. Each team must record, in a pitching log, and report to the league Commissioner the number of pitches thrown; per pitcher; per game.
- Any pitcher who walks (5) batters in an inning or hits (2) batters is to be replaced for the inning by another pitcher. This pitcher will have been deemed to have pitched the inning.
- A pitcher must have (2) calendar days rest between pitching assignments if he or she has pitched (2) innings in the game.
- A pitcher must have (1) calendar days rest between pitching assignments if he or she has pitched (1) inning in the game.
- A pitcher can return to the pitching position during the game.
- **All innings pitched** by a player, whether in regularly scheduled games, rainouts, make-up games and all-star games, shall count as innings pitched under the above pitching rules.
- Games in which an ineligible pitcher has not been used as specified in the preceding rules shall be declared forfeited.
- The balk rule does not apply in this league. However, an illegal pitch (throwing while not in contact with the rubber or executing a quick pitch) shall be deemed a “no pitch”.
- Each player who wants to pitch should be given the opportunity to pitch at least (1) complete inning during the course of the season. However, player safety and confidence may be given consideration in making position assignments.

- On the 3rd trip to the mound by a coach, in the same inning, to the same pitcher, the pitcher will automatically be removed from the game as a pitcher only and the inning will have counted as pitched.
- **Use of pitches that involve a twisting motion of the arm or wrist is prohibited.** These pitches include curveballs, sliders and screwballs. Use of any of these pitches will result in a one-time warning to the player and coaches. If the player or any other continues to throw these type of pitches after the umpire's warning, the player will be ejected from the game. The Commissioner of the league may impose appropriate penalties (up to and including suspensions) upon players and/or coaches for these actions.

Base Running Rules:

- Runners can leave the base after the pitched ball crosses home plate. There is no leading.
- A player may steal when the ball crosses home plate. The coaches will keep track and confirm the amount of steals that were used with each other (along with score) at the end of each inning (it will not be the umpires' responsibility).
 - (5) steals per team per game.
 - No leading.
 - No delayed stealing (when the ball is being thrown back to the pitcher).
 - No throwing behind the base runner.
 - No stealing home. Not even on a pass ball.
 - No advances on an attempted throw out by the catcher.
 - If (2) runners steal at the same time, it counts as (2) steals.
 - If a runner leaves too early, they will be asked to return back to the previous base by the coach (1st half of the season) or umpire (2nd half of the season)
 - If a runner leaves early and is still thrown out, the runner will be deemed out and not be able to return to the previous base.

Game Rules:

- Game length is up to (6) innings. A game is official after (4) innings have been completed or if the home team is winning after 3-1/2 innings. If an in-progress game is postponed due to rain and/or lightning or darkness, the rescheduled game will start as a new game. The league will make all attempts to make-up all games that are cancelled. Coaches should try and reschedule games with each other, and then contact the Commissioner.

- For the first half of the season, there will not be an umpire. This will be handled by the coaches. There will be an umpire at every game during the second half of the season. The coach or umpire will be the only person on or off the field making the call. **No exceptions**
- Contact Rule; if a runner attempting to reach a base intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player, he or she will be called out and ejected from the game. There is no head first sliding in Cal Ripken Baseball; it is an out regardless if there is a play at the base.
- All players are expected to attend all practices and games. Players are expected to contact their coach if they are going to miss a practice or game. Failure to do this can result in disciplinary action from the coach.
- Players are required to wear a protective cup. Failure to do this can result in disciplinary action from the coach.

League Rules:

- All disciplinary action must be reported to the Commissioner of the league.
- If an injury occurred during a practice or game, the coach will have to fill out an injury report.
- Do not discuss this with anyone.
- All coaches must be certified by the Babe Ruth coaching program and the league must approve all coaches (background check) before they can be permitted on the field.
- Any player, coach or parent showing unsportsmanlike like conduct will be asked to leave the field. Any repeat offenders will be referred to the league board of directors.
- Check the New Fairfield Baseball web site for rainouts. www.newfairfieldbaseball.com
- Game scores should be sent to the Commissioner right after the games by both coaches to avoid any conflicts with the standings. You do not have to hand in a game report after every game on your player rotation, but you will be required to keep them on hand. This will be the document that we will use if a parent has an issue with a player's playing time.
- Teams will be drafted at the coaches meeting. They are to be assembled to be as equal as possible, based on evaluations. The Commissioner reserves the right to make team adjustments in the interest of the league for competitive balance. Each team will be allowed to have the Head Coach's child, (1) Assistant Coach's child, and the Sponsor's child (if different). There are no other requests for players.

- Every team makes the playoffs. The seeding will be based on the regular season finish. Highest seed versus lowest seed.
- All other rules are to follow Cal Ripken Baseball.