

BERKELEY HEIGHTS – POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

FIRST AND SECOND GRADE INTOWN BASEBALL OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

(Revised March 2014)

PURPOSE:

- The purpose of this program is to teach the fundamentals of playing baseball as a team. Parents should work with their children to improve individual skills such as throwing, catching and batting. This is a *non-competitive* program with both scheduled practices and games. The players should have fun while learning.
- *All games shall end in a tie.*
- No records or scores shall be kept.

ELIGIBILITY:

- *All boys and girls in first and second grade who reside in Berkeley Heights are eligible to participate in this program.* NOTE: Children currently attending kindergarten who turned 6 years of age *before* October 1st (who could have attended kindergarten the previous year) are also eligible to participate.

BATTING:

- Players must bat in rotation with ALL the players batting. *Players should not be in the same number in the batting order in consecutive games.*
- There will be only ONE “on-deck” batter at a time. That batter MUST be located within the “on-deck” cage at all times.

BUNTING:

- Players are NOT allowed to bunt.

FIELDERS:

- *All players on the team will participate in the field.* There will be a regulation baseball infield. There are to be no more than six players in the infield. The remainder of the kids should be in the outfield at least 20 feet back from the infield.

EQUIPMENT:

- Each player will be given and is expected to wear a complete team uniform.
- Players may wear sneakers or shoes with RUBBER cleats (metal cleats are prohibited).
- All catchers must wear full protective equipment (cup included) while catching during both practice and games.
- A protective helmet must be worn by the batter, “on-deck” batter and base runners.
- Only an issued RIF (reduced injury factor) ball is to be used – no hard balls.
- *All male players must wear a protective cup.*

FORFEITURES:

- If one team is short players, the coaches may split the teams equally or play with unequal numbers. The decision shall be made by the coach who has fewer players. If the teams are split, the coach with more players will rotate his players defensively to the other team.

DARKNESS:

- Coaches shall decide when to call a game because of darkness; however, no full inning shall start after 7:45pm.

OVERTHROWN BALL:

- The runner is entitled to one base on an overthrow.

PITCHING:

- Coaches, assistant coaches or other adults will pitch to their own team and the defensive team will have a defensive pitcher.

WALKS:

- There are no walks. The batter must hit the ball or strike out.

BASERUNNING:

- A base runner may not leave the base until the ball has reached the batter. No advance by the runner can be made except on a batted ball (no pick-off plays are permitted).
- Runners must avoid contact with the defensive players. A base runner who intentionally knocks the ball or tries to knock the ball out of the defensive player's glove shall be called out.
- Defensive infielders cannot make "fake tags" to slow down the base runner or to get the runner to slide.

HIT BATTER:

- Hit batters do not go to first base (hopefully with coaches pitching, no one will be hit). If a batter is hit, the batter will remain at the plate and continue his at bat.

INFIELD FLY:

- The infield fly rule shall not be enforced.

PARTICIPATION:

- All players must participate at all times on defense (pitcher, catcher, first base, second base, third base, short stop and all other players as outfielders) and offense as governed by batting regulations. Players can be changed from any defensive position to any other position at any time during the game after time out has been called.
- Defensively, all players should have the opportunity to experience various positions. Unless a legitimate safety issue exists, players should be rotated among all infield and outfield positions. ***A player shall not play the infield for more than 3 innings per game.***

RETIRED SIDE:

- *The side is retired when there are 3 outs or 5 runs have scored, whichever comes first.*

UMPIRES:

- Volunteer umpires (parents, spectators or coaches) for each game shall be chosen by mutual agreement of the coaches.

OTHER RULES:

- The book Official Rules-Little League Baseball will apply except as stated otherwise.

PLAYOFFS:

- Playoffs will not be held.

LEAGUE STANDINGS:

- League standings will not be maintained.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

- Such acts as “riding” other ball players, “belittling” batters, etc. are STRICTLY PROHIBITED and have no place in this league. Coaches are responsible for enforcing these rules.

COACHING:

- Two coaches are permitted on the field with the defensive team during the game; however, they are restricted to the position beyond the 20-foot circle in the outfield. The coach may offer play advice to players during and upon termination of the play.
- The offensive team may have coaches at first and third bases and at the pitchers position and may offer base running advice to players during and upon termination of the play.

1st/2nd Grade Baseball - Rules and Regulations - Page 3**PITCHER’S MOUND:**

- The defensive pitcher’s mound shall be the 10-foot semi-circle behind the pitcher’s rubber.
- The coach pitcher can pitch from any of the pitching rubbers.

MAKE-UP GAMES:

- Make-up games shall be rescheduled only if agreed upon by the coaches.

ACCIDENTS:

- All accidents and injuries must be reported to Tom Barton, BH Recreation Director, within 24 hours of the incident at 464-0550. The following information should be provided: name of injured player, address, telephone number, age, extent of injury, at what field the accident occurred and witnesses. Additionally, an email of the incident must be sent as soon as possible to cdpierce09@gmail.com (Chris Pierce, PAL In Town Baseball Commissioner).

INSURANCE COVERAGE:

- Accidents must be covered by the player's parents or guardians own insurance policy.

OTHER – to be shared by coaches with parents/guardians:

- Players are to notify their coaches if they will not be able to attend a game or practice.
- In the event of rain or suspected poor field conditions, players should call the BH Recreation Department tape at 464-0625 or check the www.bhpal.org website
- Parents/guardians are not to leave players off at the field unless the coach is already there.
- Parents/guardians must pick up players immediately after a game is over. Coaches are not expected to stay with the players more then 10 minutes after a game is over.
- ***Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend all games and practices.***