

## 8 Year Old Rules

### Basics

- \*all games and practices are played at the Birches
- \*must attempt to play all 6 innings
- \*kids must wear protective cups
- \*must use only 4 infielders-3 outfielders-a pitcher and a catcher
- \*must use a running batting order (i.e.can't start from the top of the order each inning)
- \*all players must bat regardless if they play the field during the inning
- \*there are no dead balls. All balls are in play unless foul. There are catchers.
- \*all players should play at least 4 innings. Two in the infield
- \*only base coaches are allowed in the field. No coaches allowed in the outfield or infield.
- \*no leads and no steals
- \*5 runs per inning limit

### Pitching

\*\*\*ALL PLAYERS SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PITCH!! DO NOT USE THE SAME PITCHERS FOR EVERY GAME!!!

- \*kids pitch the odd innings (1-3-5)
- \*try to have the pitcher throw from the rubber if possible. If they can't reach the batter- move them up a few steps
- \*we will use a normal pitch count (3 strikes, 4 balls) 3 strikes- the batter is out- 4 balls- batter walks
- \*only head coach or assistant coach of the batter will call balls and strikes- the coach will stand behind the pitcher
- \*use a modified strike zone- if the ball is around the plate- you can call it a strike
- \*a pitcher can only pitch a maximum of 1 inning. The pitcher can only pitch a maximum of 30 pitches during that inning until May 1,2008 Then 45 total for the remainder of the season!!!!!!!!!!
- \*a coach can substitute a pitcher at anytime, however, both the substitution and original pitcher cannot throw any additional innings REGARDLESS OF THE COUNT!!

\*\*\*Please try to work with the players during practices on how to turn away from a ball coming at them!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- \*if a pitcher hits 3 batters- they must be removed
- \*if a batter is hit, they are granted a free pass to first base.

- \*coaches pitches even innings (2,4,6)
- \*only head coach or an assistant coach should pitch to his own team
- \*please have the coach throw from the rubber if possible. It will not be beneficial to the kids in the future if the coaches are too close

\*during the coach pitch- they should only have 3 strikes- example (if they swing and miss 3 times- they are out) example (if they foul off the first 2 pitches and then swing and miss- they are out). You don't have to call balls for a walk.

### Batters

- \*batters cannot throw their bats after hitting the ball . 1st time warning second time they are OUT!!!
- \*batter and runner may advance only 1 base on an overthrow
- \*batter may advance more than 2 bases on a hit to the outfield (triple or homerun) with the following exceptions:

\*if the ball reaches the infield and the fielder shows some type of possession (i.e. can be on the ground between feet), the

runner may advance to the next base if he is halfway or better to the next bag. If the runner is not halfway, then they should go back to the previous bag.

\*remember, the ball is still alive. The batter doesn't automatically get to advance to the next bag. If the infielder decides to make a play on the runner advancing and is tagged out, the runner is out. If the infielder overthrows the ball, then all runners advance one base.

#### Fielders

\*helmets for the pitcher and first basemen are not mandatory. Coaches should use discretion.

#### Coaches

\*you can be competitive but it's for the kids and there is no official scoring.

\*use your score books

\*all coaches should evaluate players on both teams. The evaluations are essential in next years draft and for tournament selection process.