



8U IN-HOUSE LEAGUE RULES

Games and Practice:

- Practices will begin at 5:15pm or 6:30pm (1 hour 15 minutes in length; see team schedule for specific start times).
- Games will begin at 6:30 and end at 7:45pm.
- **For games, players should arrive 30 minutes before start time for warm-ups.**
- **For practices, players should arrive 15 minutes before start time.**
- Games and practices will be held at Lakeview Elementary on Tuesday and Thursday.
- All equipment must be placed back into the Jo Box after each practice/game.

Game Rules:

- Games will be 7 innings long or 75 minutes (average 4 innings).
- **All batters will hit each inning, or until 3 outs are made, whichever comes first.**
- **10 defensive players may play at a time. The 4 outfielders should stay on the edge of the grass.**
- **2 defensive coaches** are allowed on the field to provide direction for the players.
- Coaches should rotate the batting order fairly each game.
- Coaches must rotate players each inning.

Batting & Base Running:

- The strike zone is from shoulder to mid-calf, with wide inside and outside corners.
- No infield fly rule. If a batter hits a pop-fly to the infield, they are safe if the fielder drops it.
- **No walking batters and no striking out. (Still, teach what the strike zone is and what swinging at good pitches means and utilize it in practices and games).**
- **Batter will receive 4 pitches from the machine and then will hit off of the tee if no contact is made. Please follow this rule closely so the game keeps moving.**
- Batter must make an attempt to not get hit by the ball.
- Once the ball has reached the pitcher, the play is dead and the runners cannot advance to the next base.
- Base runners cannot advance bases on overthrows.
- **Base runners may advance more than one base when the ball is hit past the infielders.**
- Stealing is not allowed.
- Bunting is optional.
- Sliding is optional.
- **Players can "lead off" the base once the pitch is released from the machine.**

Cancellations:

- Games will be cancelled when lightning is present or rain is hard enough to close the fields.
- The League Director will inform coaches via text if a game or practice is cancelled due to weather.
- It is the coach's responsibility to notify the parents ASAP in the event of a cancellation.
- If the teams are rained out and would like to make up a practice/game, they can do so on a Friday evening or a Saturday. This is up to the coaches and they must inform the players, parents, and In-House League Director.

Sportsmanship:

- All players, parents and coaches will keep their team cheers positive, name calling is not tolerated.
- All players will give 100% effort, regardless of the score, and be respectful of their teammates, coaches, and opponents.
- All parents will be supportive and encouraging of all players.
- The coaches have a tough job, be supportive of their commitment to volunteer.
- Parents unwilling to demonstrate good sportsmanship will be given a warning on the first offense, and asked to leave the field after their second offense. A parent asked to leave the field because of poor sportsmanship, will not be allowed to attend another game or practice until they have discussed their behavior with the League Director.

Equipment:

- Take good care of the equipment. Place the heavier items into the Jo Box first (for example: pitching machine and bases) with the lighter items on top.
- Require the players to be careful with the equipment by not hitting bats against poles or throwing helmets.
- All players must use batting helmets with a face mask.
- Softball fielder's masks are also required when playing defense.
- First Aid Kits and Ice Packs are in every Jo Box. If restock is necessary, contact the League Director.