

NORTH EDISON

BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Rules and Regulations

Rookie Spring Ball Baseball Rules

A. Game Setup:

- a. Field Dimensions: Bases will be placed 60 feet apart
- b. Defense: Up to ten players will be positioned in the field on defense (four outfielders are allowed but not required).
- c. Developmental Position Limits: No player may play the same position for more than 2 innings in a single game. Every player must play at least 2 innings in the infield and 1 inning in the outfield by the end of the 4th inning.
- d. Game length: 6 innings
 - i. Tie-breaker: if tied after 6, play continues until time expires.
 - ii. Mercy Rule: 15 runs after 4 innings (3 ½ innings if home team is leading)
- e. Inning Limit: 3 outs OR 5 runs scored per half-inning, whichever occurs first.
- f. Time Limit: No new inning after 1:45
 - i. Note: The new inning starts the moment the 3rd out is recorded at the bottom of the previous inning. There is no "hard kill" time.
- g. Umpire: One Cadet Umpire is used at this level.
- h. The pitcher's mound will be at 40', 43' and 46' as players gain confidence and increase skill throughout the course of the season as defined by the rules below:
 - i. April 11th Pitcher will pitch from 40 feet.
 - ii. April 25th Pitcher will pitch from 43 feet.
 - iii. May 9th Pitcher will pitch from 46 feet for the remainder of the season.

B. Pitching and Coach Relief:

- a. No Walks Policy: There are no walks. If a player-pitcher throws 4 balls:
 - i. The hitting team's coach pitches to the batter from a knee.
 - ii. Safety: When a coach is pitching, the player-pitcher must stand with at least one foot on the dirt area of the mound, to the left or right of the coach. They may not stand in front of the coach-pitcher.
 - iii. The batter keeps their strike count (e.g., if the count was 4 balls and 1 strike, the coach inherits 1 strike).
 - iv. The batter is out after 3 strikes.
 - v. The "Looking" Rule: On a 3rd strike "looking" (not swinging), the umpire gives a warning. The batter is out on the next strike "looking."
- b. Pitcher Limits:
 - i. Max 2 innings per game. One pitch thrown = 1 inning counted.
 - ii. Rest: 1 inning = 0 days' rest. 2 innings = 1 calendar day of rest required
 - iii. Max 2 consecutive days of pitching.
- c. Hit Batters (Safety):
 - i. Hit 2 batters in an inning: Removed for that inning.
 - ii. Hit 3 batters in a game: Removed from the mound for the remainder of the game.



C. Base Running and Stoppage of Play:

- a. Stealing (Effective May 9):
 - i. Limit: 1 base per batter (e.g., cannot steal second and 3rd during the same at-bat).
- b. "Wall" at Third Base: A runner starting at 3rd base can only score on a batted ball or a bases-loaded hit-by-pitch. They cannot score on a wild pitch, passed ball, or an overthrow by the catcher back to the pitcher.
- c. Lead-offs: Runners must stay on the base until the ball crosses the plate
 - i. Penalty (Steal Attempt): If a runner leaves early, they are called back; the pitch counts.
 - ii. Penalty (Base Hit): If a runner leaves early, they may only advance one base beyond the batter (e.g., if the batter hits a single, the runner cannot go beyond 2nd).
- d. Overthrows: There is no running on overthrows.
- e. The "Kill Play" Rule:
 - i. Infield Hits: Play stops when the pitcher has the ball at or near the rubber.
 - ii. Outfield Hits: Play stops when any infielder has possession of the ball in the infield.
 - iii. Outfield Hits where there is no player assigned: Ground rule double.
 - iv. Note: "Near the rubber" and "In the infield" are solely at the umpire's discretion.

D. General Restrictions:

- a. Throwing the Bat: Any player who dangerously throws their bat after hitting the ball will receive a team warning. Any subsequent offense by that team will result in the batter being called out and the ball ruled dead (no runners advance).
- b. No Bunting.
- c. No Infield Fly Rule.
- d. No Dropped Third Strike (batter is out regardless of if the catcher caught the ball).

E. Developmental Roadmap Dates:

Effective Date	Pitching Distance	Defensive Coaches	Stealing Rules
April 11 (Start)	40 Feet	2 Coaches allowed on field	No Stealing
April 25	43 Feet	2 Coaches allowed on field	No Stealing
May 9 (Final)	46 Feet	1 Coach allowed on field	1 Base per Batter; never home