

## **Instructional I (6U) Division – UPDATE April 6, 2019**

### **4 - 6 year olds**

#### **General**

1. No score will be kept for Instructional I games. As such there will be no team standings kept.
2. There will be no playoffs in this division.
3. A minimum of 6 players per team will be needed to conduct a game. Teams will be allowed to borrow players from other teams within this division in order to fill playing vacancies, with the goal of reaching the optimum number of players (ten).
4. Game times will be no more than 60 minutes in duration, or 5 complete innings.
5. A leather-covered TAG 11 inch softball will be used for all games in order to reduce the risk of injury.
6. Bases will be at 35 feet
7. A continuous batting order must be used; free defensive substitutions are allowed.
8. If a player arrives late to a game, the player may be used immediately as a defensive substitute. The player will be added to last position in the batting order and will take a turn at bat, even if the team has already batted through the line-up once. For example, if a team has 11 players to start a game, and a 12<sup>th</sup> player arrived during the game, that player will assume the 12 position in the batting order
9. If a player needs to leave a game early simply remove the player from the line-up. The team will not take an out when the player is scheduled to bat. The player may not return to the line-up for the remainder of the game, but may be used as a defensive substitute.
10. If a player becomes injured and must leave the game an out will not be recorded for the player's turn at bat. The player may not return to the line-up once the player has missed her turn at bat, but may return as a defensive substitute..

#### **Hitting**

1. A continuous batting order shall be used in all games.
2. All batters will hit from a tee or coach pitch.
3. Batters must wear proper head gear when at the plate, which includes a helmet with a face guard. Head gear must be worn whether hitting from the pitching machine or the tee.
4. There will be a **maximum** of 6 pitches per batter, or 6 attempts from the pitching tee per at-bat.
5. If the batter has not put the ball in play after 6 pitches or tee attempts the batter **will be called out**.
6. Each half-inning will end by recording three outs. There will be no more than 6 batters per half-inning.
7. The batter will be allowed a maximum of one base for a ball hit in the infield, and a maximum of two bases for a ball hit beyond the infield with the liability of being put out.
8. Base runners may advance a maximum of one base for a ball hit to the infield, and a maximum of two bases for a ball hit beyond the infield with the liability of being put out.
9. A maximum of 6 runs can be scored in an inning, except for the 5<sup>th</sup> inning. In the fifth inning runs scored are unlimited.
10. Any batted ball touching the adult pitcher will constitute play being halted and no pitch being declared. The batter will return to the plate and resume the previous count, all base runners will return to the bases previously

occupied. **The adult pitcher must immediately attempt to get out of the way of defensive players once the ball has been pitched, and cannot impede a player from making a catch or throw!**

### **Fielding**

1. A maximum of ten defensive players will be used, consisting of a pitcher, a catcher, four infielders and four outfielders.
2. Outfielders must remain in the outfield grass, and may not play in the infield area.
3. No player shall sit on the bench for two or more consecutive innings.
4. A defensive player will occupy the pitcher's position on either side of the adult pitcher. The defensive player may not be positioned in front of the pitching rubber.
5. Catchers must wear required protective gear, consisting of shin guards, a chest protector and catcher's helmet. Such gear is required in all cases, even when the batter is hitting from a tee.
6. Managers are encouraged to give infield and outfield opportunities to all players.
7. Managers are allowed to reposition players during an inning. This may be necessary in cases where a less experienced player is in the infield, and a more experienced batter comes to the plate.
8. Coaches are allowed to be on the field to provide instruction when his/her team is on defense. The coach must position him/herself behind the infielders.
9. If a coach that is on the field with the defensive team is struck by a batted ball, the batter and all base runners will be awarded (2) bases.
10. For obvious reasons, there will be no infield fly rule in this division.

There will be no tag up and advance on a pop fly caught by an infielder. A **pop up or fly ball must be caught behind the infielders, by an outfielder in order for a runner to tag up and advance**