

St. Johns Youth Baseball
Minor League Rules

April 10, 2006

The playing rules for all games will be taken from the 2006 High School Baseball rulebook unless otherwise addressed in this document.

General:

- 1) The days and times for the games will be determined at the time of the schedule make-up. At the end of the regular season, a single game elimination tournament will be held. No league standings will be kept..
- 2) Games will have a one hour and fifteen minute time limit. No team is to take the field when there is five (5) minutes or less to go in the one hour fifteen minute time limit. If time elapses while the visiting or home team is batting, they shall continue to bat and finish their turn. At that time, the game shall be called regardless of the inning or half inning. This means that the home team may not get its "last ups". To start the game, the umpire will notify both benches of the start and stop time per his/her watch. It will be the responsibility of the coaches and umpires to make sure the games are kept moving. There will be a three (3) minute time limit between innings. The umpire will begin to call either balls or strikes if the field team is not on playing position to play or a batter is not in place when the umpire calls "batter up". The count will continue every (20) seconds until the players are in position. The count will then continue in a normal manner. Tournament games will be (5) innings long. (No time limit).
- 3) The Umpire in Chief will call inclement weather field conditions and may cancel games. Information concerning this matter may be obtained by calling 989 224-8374 after 3:30 p.m. or check our web site at (www.sjyba.com) "Rain outs" will not be made up unless the teams rained out reschedule the games with the Umpire in Chief.
- 4) The Board of Directors will maintain a rules committee.
- 5) The Home team will keep the official score book and maintain the scoreboard.
- 6) Base settings: 60-foot base paths with 45 feet from home plate to the pitchers rubber.
- 7) Make up games will be the coach's option. The Board will provide umpires for all make-up games.
- 8) In case of lightning a fifteen (15) minute postponement applies to all current games. All players MUST seek shelter (in vehicles). If after fifteen (15) minutes, the lightning has not subsided, wait an additional fifteen (15) minutes, for a maximum of thirty (30) consecutive minutes. At that time, a Board Member or a senior umpire will call the game. If lightning returns after play has resumed, the fifteen (15) minute postponement starts over. The one hour and fifteen minute time limit for the game will remain in force during the lightning delay. No extra time will be granted for the delay. The cancellation of an earlier game, due to lightning does not necessarily cancel all later games. (This will not affect tournament games; they do not have a time limit.)

Games:

- 1) Formal protest, to include the tournament games, will not be allowed.
- 2) The strike zone shall be the width of the plate from the batters's knees to the armpits, as the batter stands upright.
- 3) Once the fifth run of an inning has been scored, that half of the inning is over.
- 4) Balks will be called with no defensive penalty. Umpire will stop the game to correct the penalty.
- 5) The batter remains out on catcher dropped third strike. No throw to first base is necessary.
- 6) NO INTENTIONAL WALKS WILL BE ALLOWED.
- 7) NO BAT RULE IN THIS LEAGUE. ie. WEIGHT vs. LENGTH.
- 8) There will not be an infield fly rule in this league.
- 9) STOPPAGE OF PLAY THE FIELDING TEAM IS RESPONSIBLE TO "stop play" ONCE A BALL HAS BEEN PUT INTO PLAY BY AN OPPOSING BATTER! To "stop play", the fielding team must get the ball into the infield and stop all runners from advancing. Putting a runner out or forcing them to stay on a base does this! ONCE A RUNNER HAS BEEN FORCED BACK TO A BASE, OR RETREATS IN A MANNER THAT SIGNALS HE/SHE IS RETURNING TO A BASE, THAT RUNNER'S FORWARD ADVANCEMENT WILL BE CONSIDERED STOPPED. UNLESS THE FIELDING TEAM THROWS THE BALL OR OTHERWISE MAKES AN ATTEMPT TO GET THE RUNNER OUT, HE/SHE MUST RETURN TO AND REMAIN ON THAT BASE UNTIL A NEW PLAY HAS BEGUN. At this time, with the ball in possession on the infield, a fielding player can call time out. (See also Player's rule #10) Once this is done, the ball can be given to the pitcher. THROWING THE BALL TO THE PITCHER DURING A PLAY SEQUENCE WILL NOT CONSTITUTE "STOPPAGE OF PLAY!"
- 10) A Pitcher must be replaced if the coaches make a total of two trips onto the field per inning.

Players:

- 1) LEAGUE HATS AND TEAM SHIRTS MUST BE WORN WHILE ON THE FIELD. Long-PANTS MUST BE WORN ON SJYB FIELDS AND AFFILIATED FIELDS, DURING SANCTIONED GAMES AND PRACTICES. (Players not wearing long pants RISK injury when sliding or making diving plays.) May the Board suggest that all players show some pride for themselves and the league and maintain a neat appearance. No watches or other jewelry will be allowed. Shirts must be tucked in at all times.
- 2) A player must wear batting helmets while he/she is in the on deck circle, batting, coaching a base, or while on base. Cups are required for catchers. (Cups are recommended for all players.) NO STEEL CLEATS ALLOWED.
- 3) Every player participating in the game must play at least three (3) innings in the field. No player is to sit two consecutive innings on the bench. Every player participating in a game will bat in rotation; the batting order will remain the same

unless a player is removed from the game due to injury or illness. Late arrivals must be placed in the last position of the original batting order. **LATE ARRIVALS MUST PLAY!** Managers are asked to notify the opposing team of any additions or deletions to their lineup.

- 4) There will be unlimited substitutions between innings.
- 5) A team may field a maximum of ten (10) players on defense four (4) of which must be in the outfield.
- 6) After one out, the catcher may be replaced if he/she is a base runner. The pinch runner must be the player who made the last out. The intent is to keep the game moving.
- 7) If a base runner deliberately runs into a fielder the umpire will eject him from the game. Any unintentional (at the umpires discretion) contact will result in a warning to the base runner's manager. A second warning in the game, to any player on the team that has been warned, will result in the current offending player being ejected from the game. If a base runner does not slide on a close play (Umpire's discretion), they risk being called out. This rule is for player safety.
- 8) **A BASE RUNNER WILL BE CALLED OUT (AT THE END OF THE PLAY) IF AN UMPIRE SEES THAT HE/SHE FAILS TO TOUCH A BASE.**
- 9) When the PITCHER has possession of the ball, and is within five (5) feet of the pitching rubber and the runner advancement has stopped, the runner(s) must be on the bases. The runner(s) may leave the base only after the ball has been put into play by a batter. The runner (s) may not advance when the catcher misses a pitched ball.
- 10) Pitching rules: Two innings per game. One pitch constitutes one inning. When the pitcher is on the mound and has possession of the ball, the runners must be on the bases. (Note: once a runner has been forced back to a base, or retreats in a manner that he/she is returning to a base, the runners forward advancement will be considered stopped. Unless the fielding team throws the ball or otherwise makes an attempt to get the runner out, he/she must return to and remain on the base until a new play has begun. The umpire will call a time out and order runners back to base if necessary.) Pitcher's foot must remain in contact with pitching rubber through the release of the ball.
- 11) Catchers must wear head gear in practice and when warming up a pitcher during play or between innings. (PLEASE USE DISCRETION WHEN WARMING UP RELIEF PITCHER. Do it in a safe area away from spectators and vehicles.)
- 12) If a pitcher intentionally throws at a batter (at umpires discretion) the pitcher will immediately be ejected from the game and the next game. If the umpire feels that the pitcher has lost control and is endangering batter the umpire can require the manager to remove the pitcher from the mound.
- 13) New catcher mask requirements will be enforced.

Managers/Coaches:

- 1) Coaches are encouraged to instruct their players in the basic fundamentals of baseball. (i.e. fielding, hitting, and throwing, sportsmanship and team play)
- 2) Physical and verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- 3) No tobacco products are allowed on the playing field or bench area.

- 4) No alcoholic beverages are permitted in the area. No one under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be permitted on the playing field or bench.
- 5) All relevant complaints against a coach or manager should be addressed to the Board of Directors.
- 6) There will not be a mercy rule. The managers are expected to use sportsmanship and courtesy in this matter. However, a game may be called through consensus of both teams.
- 7) ***GOOD LUCK!! And have fun.***

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