

Spring 2025 8u Rookie RULES:

Game Time Limit: No new inning after 1 hour and 15 minutes. Put differently, as long as the game has not been decided, we'll finish the last inning started before 1 hr and 15 mins have expired. New inning starts at final out of the previous inning (or when final run scored if run limit). Please be advised that this is ultimately umpire discretion.

- **Plate Meeting:** Head Coaches meet at the plate with umpire before game begins. Game time, run rule per inning, and lineups minimum clarity of rules. During game play only the Head Coach can approach the umpire (in a calm manner) for rule clarity
- **Games are 6 Innings:** A game will be called early when a team has been mathematically eliminated from catching up based upon run rule (see run rule below).
- **Bat Rules:** Only USA BASEBALL bats are allowed. Any other bat will result in an automatic out for the player using the illegal bat. This rule is very seriously enforced and can be enforced retroactively (bat discovered in fourth inning, everyone that was using it is retroactively out for the full game; this seems harsh, but lets you know the importance of this rule in our league. Bats found to have been tampered with are expressly prohibited. Bats should bear the USA baseball stamp and be contained on the official USA Baseball bat list at <https://usabat.com/>.
- **Run Rule:** Run rule is 7 runs max per team per inning. There is no "catch-up" rule. 7 runs per inning, every inning.
- **Early Game Ending:** Play ends when a team is mathematically eliminated from catching up (a team is down 15 with a maximum of two remaining innings to bat, etc.).
- **Roster and Batting Order:** We bat straight through the entire roster (for clarity on this for those new to the league; this is not like other leagues where everyone bats each inning; we switch on 3 outs or run rule; this just means that your lineup is the size of your roster each game (if you had 11, you'd bat those 11 over the first few innings before the leadoff got back up); no subbing in your lineup on offense. Please be prepared to provide lineup to opposing coach at the start of the game upon request.
- **Scorekeeping:** Each team is required to have a scorekeeper to keep a scorebook to resolve scoring issues.
- **Coaching Pitching:** It is a coach pitch only for the full season. Coaches pitch with at least one foot on or behind the line marked on the field (35 feet). Strikeout rules apply as per baseball rules. They cannot kneel and must get off the field as soon as the ball is hit.
- **Pitch Count and Strikes:** There is a 7 pitch rule to avoid batters watching tons of pitches. You must swing on 7th pitch. It is like having 2 strikes. Foul ball gets another pitch, strike or no swing is an out. No bunting.
- **Coaching Positions:** Coaches are only allowed in foul territory or the dugout when your team is fielding (unlike Farm, no coaches in outfield).
- **Runner Advancement:** Runners can advance until umpire calls time. This is typically when fielders stop runners from advancing by having the ball ahead of the lead runner. No kid on bag if no play at base. Interference can be called with one base awarded. If players stop running voluntarily, umpire can also call time. This is umpire's discretion. Catchers can be substituted when two outs to expedite game play.
- **Players on Field:** 10 total players in the field, four in the outfield, 6 infielders including pitcher/catcher. We play free substitution in the field (meaning a player can enter/exit each inning with no regard towards standard baseball re-entry rules in the field).
- **Minimum Players:** You must have at least nine players to play. You can borrow a player from 6U if you're short a player (contact me in advance, and I can help arrange). Less than nine players results in a forfeit (please don't let this happen, I'm happy to help find good 6U subs). Subs CANNOT come from another 8U team, or from anyone outside the league, no exceptions on this.
- **Outfield Throws:** Outfielders must throw the ball to an infielder to record an out (other than catching a fly ball). Put differently, a runner can't run in to make a tag or step on a base for a force out.
- **Catcher Stance:** Please have your catcher assume a normal catching stance/position. A box is chalked behind batters box and position should be played there. A pop up out will not be recorded if not playing position as intended.
- **Defensive Pitcher Positioning:** Defensive pitchers should stand proximity to the pitching plate. We don't have an official circle, and the dirt area isn't always the same size, but generally two feet in the dirt.