MINORS RULES 2016

# Field of Play

The field dimension will be 60’ between the bases Pitcher’s mound will be 46 ft. from home plate

All players must wear batting helmets while at bat or while running the bases 9 players will field actual baseball positions

# Only players with cups will be allowed to catch Coaches

Be no later than 15 minutes prior to scheduled practice or game times

Do not leave any child unattended before, during or after scheduled practice or game times

Solicit participation and volunteers from your roster of parents for special duties and responsibilities. (i.e. pitching, batting/bench, first base, third base.) Any all coaches MUST be have completed the Rutgers safety class prior to coaching in any way.

# Rules of Play

* Game times are 2 hours or 6 innings maximum
* If 2 games exist on the same day for the same filed, 1st game will not start an inning 10 minutes prior to start of 2nd game.
* 5 runs end an inning for the first 5. If either team has 4 runs in an inning and there are men on base, team will have the ability to score additional runs until the play that scores the 5th run is officially over. (i.e. bases loaded and 5th run is on 3rd base, runners on 2nd, 1st and batter can score). **These runs will count for official score**.
* If visitor team is leading by 10+ runs at the end of 5 innings, team will have the 5 run rule in effect for the 6th inning. This means that the team that is leading by 10+ runs at the end of the 5th inning cannot “lose” the game.
* Darkness call at umpires discretion. Lightning detectors are in use at all fields, follow each town’s policy for lightning, but players must be in safe location if system goes off.
* Scores and innings pitched will be kept and reported- see end of rules for details.
* Scorebooks are to be kept for every game by each team.
* Teams with less than 8 players for a game may call up children from the lower level league (2nd graders). Call-ups cannot play unless team has less than 9 players. Call ups can NEVER pitch, and must bat last. Teams cannot borrow players from other teams that are NOT playing. BUT we want the games played. Should a team show up with less than 9 players and the opposing team has more than 10 players, consider lending the team players (more than one) so that the game is played on and equal level for both teams.
* 8 players will be minimum number to continue game play.
* If a player(s) pitches 1-3 innings in one game, 1 calendar days of rest are required.
* Maximum number of innings pitched in any game allowed is 3 innings
* A calendar week is Sunday to Saturday.
* A single pitch constitutes an inning.
* Maximum 6 innings pitched in one week.
* No intentional walks
* Infield fly rule is NOT in effect.
* A pitcher will be removed with 2 hits batsman in one inning, or 3 hits batsman in one game.
* Walks- If a pitcher walks three batters in an inning, the next batter(S) must stay at bat until they hit the ball or strike out. No more than 3 walks allowed per inning.

Play stops when pitcher receives the ball after a hit, on the pitchers mound. Runners will advance to next base only if they are more than ½ way there when the pitcher received the ball. Umpire discretion is advised.

# Hitting

* Everyone bats in order. It is recommended to rotate batting order from game to game (Coaches discretion)
* All players will play a minimum of 2 innings in any game. No child can sit out consecutive innings.
* Bunting is allowed.
* Any child who throws a bat must be warned immediately by the coach and told how to release the bat after a swing. Next instance will be an out. Any child who throws the bat in anger, can be ejected at the umpire’s discretion.

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# Running

* Stealing from 2nd to 3rd **only.** Runner cannot advance to home on an overthrow on a steal of third base.
* Runners may advance on overthrows until play is stopped for normal base running.
* Runners are allowed to tag up on fly outs.
* Slide or avoid
* Sliding permitted to avoid being tagged out. **No head first sliding**
* Instruct children how to stay in the base paths and how to avoid interference or getting hit with the ball.
* Courtesy runner for catcher after 2 outs is recommended but NOT mandatory. (Runner must be previous batted out).

# Game Cancellations

It is the home team’s responsibility to cancel the umpires in case of inclement weather. Please coordinate with your in town baseball commissioner this process for any games that need to be canceled due to inclement weather. And update the opposing manager if the game is cancelled.

Rainouts: With-in 2 days of the canceled game, the home team shall offer their opponent 2 make-up dates with-in the following 10 days. (Try for the same week, to make pitchers innings a non issue. The visiting team will inform the home team of their choice with-in 48 hours, or they will forfeit the game.

With the exception of weather-related games, rescheduling should be done with at least three days notice. It is the home team’s responsibility to notify the umpire of any changes. (See your town contact for procedures)

\* **Philosophy**. Remember this is REC baseball. There are no regular season standings. Try and make a point of working with the less talented kids not the club/travel players. Consider rotating batting orders each game to give the “REC PLAYERS” the ability to bat higher in the batting order and in turn HAVE FUN. Consider rotating positions of all players in the field, but keep safety in mind when playing any child at all positions.

**Note to all coaches:** Scorebook must be kept for each game with pitchers and innings pitched documented. Scorebook must be signed or initialed by opposing coach after each game. Winning team must email jjotto98@aol.com within 48 hours of completion of game. Winning team needs to tell who pitched for BOTH TEAMS and the number of innings they pitched and the score of the game. PLEASE put the game day information in the subject line of the email: “Minor League May 1”

**All Star Game:** Date & Time to be determined, and details to follow. Each team will send 3-4 players per team to participate. (this number will be determined based upon the number of teams in the league each year).