QUICK REFERENCE: ROOKIE BASES LOADED DIVISION

Baseball · Ages 4-5 · Co-ed

A summary for game day. The full Rookie rulebook governs if anything differs.

The Game

- Bases Loaded™ format: every at bat starts with the bases loaded, batters hit off a tee, and all defensive throws go to home plate.
- **Field:** 50-ft bases. In-play line 10 ft in front of home plate.
- **Length:** 5 innings or 1:45, whichever comes first. At 1:45 the game stops. If the home team is behind and can't finish its at bat, the score goes back to the last complete inning.
- **No** strikes, balls, outs, bunting, stealing, leading or infield fly rule.
- **Score:** each team keeps its own score.

Batting

- Every player bats every inning. Vary the order game to game.
- If one team has fewer players, it bats extra players so both teams bat the same number.
- The ball must pass the 10-ft in-play line, or the batter hits again.
- Only the batter and on-deck batter hold bats. On-deck swings only inside the on-deck circle. Bats go in the triangle after hitting.

Running & Runs

- Every batter reaches first unless the batter flies out. Coaches refill any empty base with a player who isn't about to bat. Third base always has a runner.
- A run scores on every ball in play **except**: (1) the throw to the coach-catcher beats the runner from third while the coach-catcher is inside the in-play area, or (2) a fielder catches the ball in the air.

Defense

- A coach from the defensive team catches. Players cover all other positions, including a 4th outfielder.
- All plays are made at home plate, to the coach-catcher.
- Infielders stay in the infield and outfielders stay in the outfield on balls in play.
- No player sits out on defense more than one inning in a row. Rotate positions every game.

Coaches

- **Offense:** head coach (lineup, baserunners, explains the play), bench coach (next three batters ready with helmets and bats), base coaches (fill bases, give go/stop signs).
- **Defense:** head coach is the coach-catcher and handles the tee; bench coach; one outfield coach (positioning, keeps infielders in and outfielders out).
- Parents can help back up the catcher and keep one player in the on-deck circle.

Officiating & Game Day

- **No umpires.** The two head coaches run and officiate the game together and should be treated with respect at all times.
- **Before the game:** head coaches review the ground rules, check the field for glass and hazards, check uniforms (hat, jersey tucked, shoes tied), and clear spectators from in-play areas.
- **After the game:** Stanley Cup handshake line, clean the dugouts and leave promptly. Store equipment properly.
- **Home team:** first base dugout, supplies the bases and game ball (and keeps it).
- AED and an AED-certified coach at every practice and game on NYC Parks fields.