

# SOUTHWEST BASEBALL LEAGUE 12U DIVISION RULES

## PARTICIPATION RULES

Note: every effort should be made to allow all players the opportunity to play at every position.

All players shall play at least half of the game. For example, all players shall play at least 2 innings of a four or more inning game and 1 1/2 innings for a three inning game. This rule shall apply throughout the season, but shall not apply to city tournament, non-league and/or tournament game unless deemed by the rules of the governing organization. **Note: Failure to comply with the above rules may result in suspension of coaching and forfeiture of games in question.**

## ROSTER

Note: Blind draft will apply for placing kids on teams.

Each Team will be comprised of at least 10 players, but should not exceed 14 players.

## HOUSEKEEPING

### Field of Play

The field is dimensioned with 70 feet between the bases.

The pitcher's mound shall be located on the infield, 50 feet from home plate.

### Umpires

There will be a zero tolerance for fans or coaches yelling at umpires. The umpire will throw the manager out for misconduct to him from any coach of a given team. If fans from a team are found yelling at umpires, the umpire shall give one warning to the head coach of that team. The head coach shall be responsible for talking with the responsible fans to give them a warning. If a second incident of yelling at the umpires occurs from fans, the umpire shall throw the coach out of the game.

### Score Keeping

It is recommended that both teams have a designated score keeper at all games. However, the home team will have the official scorebook and pitch count that will be referred to in the case that the head umpire needs clarification.

A team that cannot field 8 players within 10 minutes after the scheduled game time shall forfeit the game. If at any time during the game a team cannot field at least 8 players, the team shall forfeit the game. A team that does not show up for a game shall forfeit the game.

## **Equipment**

Prior to the start of the season, each team will be given one dozen (12) practice balls, one dozen (12) game balls, first aid kit, and catcher gear. Catcher gear, baseballs, helmets and first aid kits shall be returned at the end of the season.

The home team of each game is responsible for providing the game balls.

All bats -5 or greater must be stamped BPF 1.15. Must be a baseball bat, no restriction on weight or length as long as the bat has a "BPF 1.15" stamp. All -3 bats must be stamped BBCOR. Wood bats are allowed.

## **Uniforms**

A player should be in full uniform.

Players may not wear jewelry items at any time during games or practices.

## **OFFENSIVE RULES**

### **General**

All team members shall bat in the order submitted to the official score keeper. All team members present for games shall be placed on the lineup card. Players that arrive late will be placed at the end of the batting list. At the coach's discretion, any player may be omitted from the batting order in the case of discipline, injury or illness before game time. If a player is not able to bat in the order turned in, the opposing team will be awarded an out during that at-bat, but not for any future at bats where he/she would have appeared in the lineup. Note: A player may come back into the lineup while maintaining the same spot in the batting order. If any player present is not participating in the game, the opposing coach must be notified. Free defensive substitution (excluding the pitcher) is allowed only at the middle or end of an inning unless an injury, illness or another circumstance warrants a change (such as an emergency restroom break).

### **Batting Order**

Coaches are to use a line-up consisting of all players present.

The batting order must stay consistent throughout the game. Any player who leaves and then returns to the batting line-up must occupy the same place in the order. If a team does not have 9 players in the line-up, an out will be called for the ninth missing batter, or for any empty spot (when less than 9 players) if batting all.

Free defensive substitutions are allowed apart from pitchers. A pitcher who starts a game and leaves the field after a defensive substitution may not return as a pitcher. All other players may enter and exit a game without penalty if the batting order remains the same.

## **On-Deck Batter**

The on-deck batter may be on the field to prepare, but must be within the designated on-deck circle. No other offensive players (other than the batter and base runners) shall be on the field at any time while their team is hitting.

## **PITCHING RULES**

### **Pitch Count Tracking**

The official scorekeeper shall be responsible for tracking each of the team's pitch counts, either through the use of the scorebook or the pitching count chart/counter. Each pitcher's pitch count is computed by adding the number of balls and strikes, the number of foul balls hit with two strikes, and the number of fair batted balls. Coaches will also keep track of pitch counts, but at no time shall supersede the official scorekeeper's count. It is recommended that coaches track pitches and confer with the official scorekeeper after each half inning. A clicker counter is recommended.

Note: if a coach is found to be guilty of over pitching during the game, the coach will also be suspended for the following game. If a coach does it on a 2<sup>nd</sup> offense, he will be suspended for 3 games. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> offense a board meeting will be held during his 5-day suspension on if he will be allowed to coach for the following year.

***When interleague is in play each team shall maintain their age-appropriate pitch count.***

Once a player is removed from the mound for pitch count total, the pitcher may not return to the mound. It is also encouraged to not allow a pitcher to catch after max pitch count has been met

The pitching mound will be 50 feet from home plate.

### **Pitcher Warmup**

Each Pitcher entering the game for the first time will be granted eight initial warm up pitches and five pitches when returning to the mound after the end of half inning of play. However, the pitcher also has a time limit of 2 minutes and 30 seconds to complete his warm-up between innings or when entering during the inning.

A player not in the game is allowed to warm up the pitcher as long as that catcher is protected with a catcher's mask and helmet. Coaches are able to warm up pitchers if no other catchers are available in order to keep the game moving along at a consistent speed of play.

## **Pitch Count**

85 pitches daily limit (League Age 11-12)

If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 51-65 or more pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed. If a player pitches 36-50 or more pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed. If a player pitches 21-35 or more pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 1-20 or more pitches in a day, no (0) calendar days of rest is required.

A player may pitch in more than one game in a day. If a pitcher throws in a second game on the same day, the total pitches for the day will be calculated and total pitch count shall be calculated per totals listed above. **A PITCHER CAN NOT PITCH 3 DAYS IN A ROW, REGARDLESS OF 19 OR LESS RULE**

All pitch count rules shall apply regardless of game outcome via rain delay to a new day or suspended games, unless proper days' rest has been met.

## **Mound Visits**

The time limit for a coach visit is 1 minute. A coach may make 1 trips to the mound per game without having to make a pitching change. A coach may also make a visit to check on the welfare of a pitcher in the event there is a reasonable cause to check the welfare of a pitcher because of suspected injury as a result of play. Note: In the event that the coach makes the decision to make a pitching change while the batter has a current ball/strike count and the batter is walked by the new pitcher, the pitcher who was replaced will be charged with the at bat.

All pitchers must pitch to 3 batters or to the end of an inning

## **Balks**

Balks will be called as needed by either umpire.

## **GENERAL RULES OF PLAY**

### **Terms of Play**

Each half inning shall consist of 3 outs

A maximum of 6 runs is allowed per half inning of play.

If a game is called before it has become a regulation game, but after one (1) or more innings have been played, it shall be resumed exactly where it left off.

### **Time Limits/Length of Play**

Games shall be 7 innings unless 1 hour and 45 minutes have been played. In the event that a coach calls time with 10 minutes or less on the clock, the clock will be stopped.

It is the umpire's discretion if the game shall end immediately at 1 hour and 55 minutes, regardless of which team is batting. The score becomes final at 1 hour and 55 minutes.

The umpire shall have discretion if a new inning shall not start after 1 hour and 40 minutes.

### **Team Dugout Designation**

Third base dugout is reserved for the home team and the first base dugout is reserved for the visiting team. During tournament play, dugouts are on a first come first serve basis.

### **Defensive Play and Dugout Rules**

Coaches may be on the first base coach's box and third base coach's box while their team is batting. Two coaches may be outside of the dugout while their team is on defense. All other coaches must remain in the dugout.

### **Run Count**

The Mercy Rule shall complete the game when one of the following apply:

15 runs after 3 innings

12 runs after 4 innings, (3 1/2 if the home team is ahead by 10 runs)

10 runs after 5 innings (4 1/2 if the home team is ahead by 8 or more runs)

If the game is tied after 7 innings then the game will continue until the tie is broken or time is up.

### **Overthrows**

Play is dead if the ball that is overthrown leaves the playing field, enters a dugout, or another player not currently involved in the play interferes with play. Each runner shall advance one base beyond the base earned prior to stopping the play. It is at the umpire's discretion to the base earned prior to the stoppage of the play.

### **Infield Fly Rule**

The infield fly rule will be in effect

### **Speed of Play**

Coaches should make every effort to speed up play in all leagues whenever possible. This means the teams should be taking the field quickly. Coaches shall help the umpires by monitoring the time limit between innings.

### **Pregame Infield**

Pregame infield may be taken as long as both teams have 10 minutes and infield is completed five minutes before game time. Home team takes infield first. Visitor team takes batting cage first and is to be finished 20 minutes prior to gametime.

**Rule Precedence:** Any rule not covered in the above content will then revert to the AABC Handbook of Rules and or/Major League Baseball. Consult post season rules beyond the city tournament for more information on AABC rules.