

TIPPECANOE COUNTY LOWER BOYS BASEBALL 8U RULES AND REGULATIONS

A team roster of each member team will be filed with the league president at the beginning of season by member league directors. These rosters will be used to verify the tournament rosters. All players named on the team roster shall participate in all tournaments. No player shall be told not to participate in any tournament game. Any coach found to be in violation of this rule by the authoritative body will be suspended from coaching for the remainder of the season.

- 1) All players must be **8 years old or under** before May 1st.
- 2) Communities and coaches, especially those with more than one team, must remember that this is an INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE. Every effort should be made to balance your teams in the interest of UNIFORMITY and FAIR PLAY. Teams within a program must be balanced according to player age.
- 3) Coaches and umpires need to remember that these are impressionable boys. **ABSOLUTELY NO UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS OR VULGAR LANGUAGE WILL BE TOLERATED** from any participant or spectator of the game.
- 4) Coaches have a responsibility to teach ALL players the fundamentals of baseball as well as sportsmanship, teamwork, and fair play. The throwing of equipment (bats, helmets, and gloves) will not be tolerated. This includes coaches. Set a good example. A batter accidentally throwing a bat receives a warning - next time called out. **A player intentionally throwing a bat, helmet, or mitt in disgust will be ejected from the game.** Coaches should not use gimmick plays (such as having players avoid throws by running with the ball, rolling the ball, or intentionally throwing the ball out of play) to achieve a competitive edge at the expense of teaching proper fundamentals.
- 5) Players should be taught baseball safety - never throw the ball to someone who is not looking and never swing the bat until they have checked to make sure no one will be hit with the bat. Do not throw the bat after hitting the ball. Please pay special attention to safety or it may be a child on your team that gets hit in the head with a bat or ball.
- 6) There will be no walks, each batter will get 3 swings at a pitched ball before being called out. A foul ball will not constitute a third strike. (Revised 4/2008)
- 7) **There will be a 3 pitch limit per batter. A foul ball will not constitute a 3rd pitch.** Any pitch that is over the head of the batter or any pitch that hits in front of the plate or hits the plate is a dead ball, and not counted against the 3 pitch limit. No advancement by base runners will be permitted. Prior to the ball becoming dead, any attempt by the batter will be played as a live ball. **If the batter swings and misses the strike will count against him.**
- 8) Regular Season and Tournament Games shall be 6 innings. Each team will be allowed 3 outs per inning. Each team is limited to 7 runs per inning. Tournament games will end once it is mathematically impossible for the trailing team to make up the run deficit with the per inning run limit. (i.e. 15 after 4 innings, 8 after 5 innings) Regular Season Games - If the opposing coaches agree, non-tournament games may continue after the outcome of the game has been determined, **even though the winning team has already been determined.** Games during the school week (Monday-Thursday) shall not last past 9:30 PM
- 9) **A team will field 10 players (4 outfielders).** Any team fielding less than 7 players will forfeit the game.
 - A) **Any team defensively fielding less than 10 players, must always field a catcher and a pitcher. Other positions are eligible to not have a player, if fielding less than 10.**
 - B) **Any team batting less than 9 players, will be assessed a maximum of 1 out, whenever the missing players are due up to bat, at the end of the lineup. Teams will bat all their players, even if they have over 10 players.**
 - C) All outfielders shall be positioned at least **20 feet beyond the direct lines between bases,** until the ball is hit.
 - D) Except for the pitcher and catcher, no infielders shall be more than 5 feet inside the baselines until the ball is hit.
- 10) The defensive team will use free substitution. All players MUST play at least 2 complete innings on defense.
- 11) There will be no base stealing in this division (players may run on batted balls only). **Leading off base is not allowed.** Base runners must remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit. A player leading off base should get 1 warning from an umpire. If that player leads-off again, he shall be called out.
- 12) Runner(s) will be awarded the **base they are advancing to,** from their positions on the base path at the time of the throw if an overthrow lands out-of-bounds (beyond foul ball territory). Over throws which come to rest within

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the playing field (fair or foul territory) are still live balls. Runners may advance any number of bases with liability to be put out. The boundaries for what is out of play should be determined by the coaches and umpires in their pre- game meeting. **It is recommended to only advance one base on live ball over throws, if the defense is not attempting to make a play on any runners.**

- 13) Bases will be set at **55 feet** in this division.
- 14) Pitching distance is 38 feet using a Jugs pitching machine with a speed setting of 34 mph. (This corresponds to a dial setting of 39 on older Jugs machines.) (Revised 4/2004)
- 15) The player-pitcher shall take a position with 1 foot inside of an area demarcated by: a 6 ft radius drawn from the center of the machine and behind lines drawn from the center of the wheel to the inside corner of first and third bases. **The player will stay behind these lines and inside of this radius until the ball is batted or has crossed the plate.** (Revised 4/2012)
- 16) Batters are not permitted to bunt. PENALTY: Batter shall be called back to the plate, the swing shall count as a foul-strike, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.
- 17) Base running:
 1. A hash mark shall be placed at the mid-point between third base and home plate and will be used by the umpire(s) to determine the base runners location to home plate. **A Controlling Situation is:** When the baseball has been secured/controlled by the defense within the baseline, the controlling player has called timeout, and the umpire has recognized the timeout request, the following baserunning limits will result:
 - A base runner advancing off of third base and headed towards home plate, but not past the hash mark, will not be allowed to advance to home and score, but will be brought back to third base (a runner on or beyond the hash mark will be allowed to advance and score).
 - All other base runners will not be able to advance further than the next base (i.e. a player that has advance beyond first base when the "controlling circumstances" have occurred will not be able to advance beyond second base); if a base runner's momentum has stopped after advancing beyond a base when the "controlling circumstances" have occurred, then that base runner shall return to the most immediate base secured (i.e. a base runner advancing beyond first base that comes to a stop during or after the "controlling circumstances" have occurred, will not be allow to attempt to advance to second base, but will be limited to the base most recently secured, which is first base).
 - If an advancement beyond the next base occurs, the base runner shall not be out, but should be moved back to the appropriate base.
 - If the "controlling situation" occurs, then the play is dead. The defender cannot attempt to make a play on any baserunners.**
- 18) **There is no infield fly rule in this league.**
- 19) If a batted ball strikes the pitching machine it is treated as any other ground ball, unless it goes foul. **In the event of a foul ball, the batter is awarded first base, and runners advance one base.**
- 20) If a batted ball lodges inside the machine or stops on the ground in the area between its legs, the ball is dead, the batter is awarded first base, and runners advance one base. (Revised 4/99& 4/2006)
- 21) A batter hit by a pitched ball does not advance to first base. The pitch does not count as a strike, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.
- 22) A runner coming to home plate must slide if his attempt to score will endanger the safety of the fielder covering the plate or if there is a legitimate play at the plate on the baserunner. It is strongly suggested that this be discussed by the coaches and umpires in their pre-game meeting.
- 23) Any injury, that warrants a coach's immediate attention, WILL stop play. Defensive player injury -- all runners advance one base. Offensive player injury -- will stop play also, but runner's advancement will depend on the situation at the time of the injury and will be the umpire's decision.
- 24) The offensive team may have base coaches at first and third bases. The defensive team may have a coach along each foul line on the outfield side of first and third, far enough out as not to interfere with the offensive base coaches. NO coach may be on the field while the ball is in play, nor can any coach physically help any player make a defensive play or physically help a base runner. **This should be discussed before the start of the**

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- game between the coaches and the umpire.** The runner is out when offensive coach's interference is called. Each runner gets 2 bases for defensive coach's interference (the base they were advancing to, at the time of the interference, plus one). (Revised 4/2010)
- 25) Each team should, whenever possible, furnish an umpire for each game. Home team should provide a new game ball and a pitching machine operator.
 - 26) Metal bats with pressurized bladders are not allowed in this league. All other bats manufactured specifically for baseball play, which are round and not more than two and five-eighths inches in diameter at the thickest part nor more than 42 inches in length, and does not have a greater drop than -12, are acceptable. This includes approved pre-2018 bats, and USA BAT stamped approved bats. Use of Illegal Bats - During regular season games, bat is confiscated, and returned after the game. The other team can either choose to accept the result of the play, or have the player counted out, and the result of the play is nullified. Coach is warned. Offended Coach to contact their league director, to contact TCLB President. During tournaments, bat is confiscated, and returned once the offending team is eliminated from tournament. Offending coach is ejected for the game. The other team can either choose to accept the result of the play, or have the player counted out, and the result of the play is nullified. If offending player, uses an illegal bat for a 2nd time, the player is ejected for the tournament.
 - 27) The most recent batter not on base may fill in as a pinch runner for a base runner who becomes ill or is injured and unable to continue. If the player's coach does not take an out, when that player's next time up to bat, then that player cannot play the rest of the game. If the player's coach does take an out, when that player's next time up to bat, then that player can come back into the game. If the player leaving the game drops the team's number of batters to less than 9, then *rule 9B* supersedes, and that player will be assessed an out the next time the player is due up.
 - 28) Once play has begun in a tournament game, the game shall be played to regulation length unless forfeited or the outcome of the game has been determined. Games called for any other reason shall be continued as suspended games at the next possible scheduled time, as determined by the tournament director. (Added 5/2001)
 - 29) Suspended tournament games shall be resumed from the point of curtailment except that the player at bat when a game was suspended shall start with a fresh count when the game is resumed. (Added 5/2001)
 - 30) Players on a tournament game's original line-up but absent when the game is resumed shall be removed from their team's line-up. All other players shall be left in their original order on the line-up.
 - 31) Players not on a tournament game's original line-up but present when the game is resumed shall be added to the bottom of their team's line-up. (Added 5/2001)
 - 32) A missed base must be verbally appealed after play has stopped and before the next pitch. An umpire shall not call a base runner out without an appeal from a defensive player or coach. (Added 4/2002)
 - 33) The Tippecanoe 8U Tournament is generally scheduled for the 2nd or 3rd weekend of June.
 - 34) **With the exception of the above rules and regulations, official baseball rules (published by the National Federation of State High School Associations) will be used.**