



## RULES – GBWAA ROOKIE LEAGUE (Ages 6-8)

### PLAYING FIELD:

1. Distance from home plate to the pitcher is 38 feet.
2. All base lines are 60 feet.

### GENERAL RULES:

1. Pre-game warm-ups should be held in the outfield and/or batting cage to avoid interference with field preparations.
2. Line-ups must be exchanged and ground rules reviewed before games time.
3. Once both teams have arrived at the field, the remaining practice time will be evenly divided between the teams.
4. The Infield Fly Rule **DOES NOT** apply.
5. Home team is responsible for:
  - A. Providing game balls.
  - B. Putting the bases out, making sure the chalk lines are out.
  - C. Marking the 38-foot pitching spot.
  - D. Making the decision as to field playability.
6. Away team is responsible for:
  - A. Opening, Closing, and all coverage of the concession stands for games
  - B. Assisting the home team with field duties if and when possible.
7. Throwing of any equipment in anger will result in a TEAM WARNING. The second offense (by any team member) **WILL** result in an **OUT** and possible ejection of that player.
8. All players must remain in their respective bench areas, except for the on-deck batter.
9. Only the manager (or his/her designate) may call time to discuss a situation with the opposing manager.
10. A team may play with only 8 players. If a team is short, it can borrow a player(s) from the other team (if the other manager agrees to it) or advance coordination with the commissioner to bring a player from another Rookies team.

### PLAYING RULES:

1. All the players will be in the batting order for the entire game.
2. If you have 10 or more kids each team **MUST** field a fully equipped Catcher for all games.
3. If the Catcher catches and maintains control of a batted pop-up, the batter is out.
4. Each team will field 5 infielders (C, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & SS) plus a Pitcher's Helper playing near the adult who is pitching (all Pitcher's helper **must** wear heart protector) & a maximum of 4 outfielders (L, LC, RC, R). Pitcher's helper must be at least 38' from batter and no more than 5 feet from pitcher. Outfielders **must** be at **least 10 feet** beyond the baselines or in the outfield grass.

5. Managers **SHALL rotate the players** at different positions, both infield and outfield (i.e. don't play same player at shortstop the entire game). Keep the safety of the inexperienced players in mind.
6. All batters and runners must wear a helmet.
7. A game will consist of 6 innings, or as few as 3 innings, if called due to rain.
8. If a game is tied at the end of 6 innings, one additional inning will be played. If neither team scores in the 7<sup>th</sup> inning, the game will be declared a tie.
9. A team may score no more than 5 runs in any of its first 5 innings. Unlimited runs are permitted in the 6<sup>th</sup> or in the extra 7<sup>th</sup> inning.
10. A batter throwing the bat will be given one warning. Next time, he/she is OUT. Third offense will result in the player being removed from the batting lineup for the remainder of the game.
11. If players are re-positioned (except for injury), they must stay in the new position for at least the balance of that inning.
12. Bunting, stealing and lead-offs are not allowed. Should a runner leave the base early on a hit ball, he/she will be called OUT.
13. A runner may not take an additional base on an overthrow.
14. A ball hit on a fly in the outfield, the batter can get as many bases as safely possible. A ball that rolls to the outfield should be considered a book rule double. The outfielders are encouraged to throw the ball into the infield via the cut-off man and then into second base. A double is ruled if the ball hits an outfield coach.
15. The team in the field may place no more than 2 coaches in the outfield behind the outfielders to verbally assist the players in fielding positions and decisions.
16. On balls hit to the outfield, play will immediately cease when the ball is returned to the infield and is in the possession of one of the infielders. Runners will return to the base they last occupied unless they're past the halfway point to the next base (umpire's judgment) by the time the ball is returned to the infield and is in the control of an infielder, in which case they may take the next base. Exception is made if play is attempted on the runner.
17. Sliding is permitted if proper instructions has been given as to when and how to properly slide. Sliding is only permitted into home plate if plays are made against the runners heading for home plate.
18. If there is any concern over the health and well being of any child or adult who has come into contact with a batted ball, play will **IMMEDIATELY STOP**. Play shall then be taken over and the runners shall return to their starting bases. (Play stops **IMMEDIATELY** if injury occurs due to a thrown ball).
19. The condition for calling a runner out is:
  - A. Infield player has control of the ball and tags the runner.
  - B. Infield player has control of the ball and tags the base.
  - C. Runner makes contact with a batted ball before either an outfield or infield player touches it.
  - D. Outfielders **CANNOT** tag players or tag bases for outs.

**PITCHING:**

1. Each team will provide an adult pitcher.
2. The adult pitcher's position will be at least 38 feet from home plate.
3. Pitching will be overhand.
4. All batters will receive 7 pitches to either hit the ball or strike out. A batter is out on a third swinging strike. If the batter has not hit the ball by the 7<sup>th</sup> pitch, the umpire will call the batter out. A batter who fouls off the 7<sup>th</sup> pitch will be allowed more pitches to hit the ball in play or strike out.
5. All players will be advised by the umpire of the 7<sup>th</sup> pitch so they know they must swing.
6. Only swinging strikes are called. There are no called balls or strikes.

**SCORE REPORTING:**

1. **PLEASE DO NOT EMPHASIZE THE SCORE OF THE GAME** to players, coaches or parents during the course of the game.
2. At this level of play, the final score of the games are NOT to be reported to the commissioner.