

# EYO Fall 2016 Major League Rules

## *Age*

All children ages 11 to 12 may play Major League baseball. Baseball age is established as of May 1<sup>st</sup>. Exceptions can be made to the age restrictions by contacting the League Coordinator.

## *Purpose*

To provide a safe, fun, competitive environment for kids to learn about and enjoy the game of baseball. Hitting, fielding, running the bases, and baseball strategy are the primary coaching objectives of this league

## *Field Dimensions*

Bases set 70 feet apart; home to 2nd base 99 feet 1 inch. The front of the pitching rubber will be 50' from the back of the plate.

**Game Balls.** Prior to the game, both the home team and the visiting team will supply a game ball to the home plate umpire.

## *The Game*

There will be a maximum of 6 innings per game. In the fall, scores are not of importance. Learning and having fun are the goals. No inning shall start after 2 hours past the scheduled start time of a game. No play may be continued after 2 hours and 15 minutes past the scheduled start time of the game.

A game may be played with as few as 8 players. Any less than 8 players and the game should be augmented with a player from the other team helping in the outfield. This can also be done to get the number of fields from 8 to 9 if a coach so desires.

Any warm ups or infield practice should be complete before your scheduled game time so the game starts on time. **MAKE SURE YOUR PARENTS KNOW TO ARRIVE EARLY FOR WARMUPS.** If your game starts late, your end time does not change.

Each team may take about five to ten minutes of infield practice. Scorebooks should be maintained to help coaches ensure proper playing time is allocated.

## *Pitcher/Catcher*

Pitching distance is 50 feet.

A calendar week for Ripken Baseball is Monday through, and including, Sunday. A pitcher may pitch six (6) innings per calendar week.

If a pitcher makes (1) pitch in an inning he shall be charged for one (1) inning pitched.

For the fall, a pitcher cannot pitch more than two (2) innings in any game. This will allow more kids to get experience pitching in game situations.

A pitcher must be removed if he hits three (3) batters in one game. The pitcher cannot return to pitch later in the game. Pitcher re-entry is not allowed. A pitcher that has been removed from the pitching position cannot re-enter in the pitching position.

Balks will be called. The umpire will call "No pitch - dead ball" call for the first balk by each a pitcher in a game. The umpire will immediately call time and explain to the pitcher the basis for the warning. Any succeeding balk call on that pitcher will result in baserunners advancing one (1) base. This includes a runner at third base advancing home. If there are no runners on base on a succeeding balk call, the umpire will award the batter a "ball" call.

The catching position is used in this league.

### ***Balls***

Little League or Cal Ripken cushioned cork center balls will be used for game play.

### ***Batting***

Cal Ripken baseball rules apply. Each player on the team will be placed in the batting order.

Bunting is allowed.

### ***Base Running***

Cal Ripken baseball rules apply.

Leading and stealing of all bases (including home plate) are permitted.

Baseball rules clearly spell out the meaning of dead ball. Coaches are strongly encouraged to teach their players how to stop the lead runner. Delayed steals are permitted.

A catcher and pitcher may be replaced on the base paths in order to “speed up” the game only if there are two outs, the last player that made an out must be used as a substitute base runner. Coaches are encouraged to catch their pitcher’s warm up pitches if their catcher is getting dressed as a result of being on base when the third out was made.

Head first sliding is not permitted except when returning to a base that the runner has taken a lead from.

Base runners must slide if there is “a clear possibility” of a defensive play at the base. If the umpire determines that there was or could have been a defensive play, the runner shall be called out.

### ***Scoring***

An inning is over when 5 runs have been scored in the inning or 3 outs have been made. There is a 5-run rule for each inning, with no continuation. If the 5<sup>th</sup> run scores during an at bat, the play will continue until an out is made or all the runners cross home plate (including the batter-runner). Any runs scored over the 5-run limit will not count.

For the Fall season, there is no unlimited runs in the last inning. All innings shall conclude with a 5 run maximum.

### ***Fielding/Defense***

There will be unlimited substitutions on defense (with the exception of pitchers as defined in the pitcher/catcher section).

All players shall play at least one inning in the infield, two innings is highly encouraged. All players should be given the opportunity to play the infield and outfield during each game. If a coach feels that the safety of a particular player could be an issue if he/she is placed in the infield, the coach will contact the league commissioner to receive approval to not have this player in the infield.

All players must sit out one (1) inning before any player sits out two (2) innings. All players must sit out two (2) inning before any player sits out three (3) innings, and so on.

### ***Umpires***

Umpire(s) will be provided for each game.

Teams should wait no longer than 10 minutes following the scheduled game start time to play a game in the absence of an umpire. A team’s assistant coach or trusted member thoroughly familiar with the rules of baseball should act as the umpire.

**ONLY COACHES SHOULD HAVE COMMUNICATION - RELATED TO THE GAME AND ON FIELD ACTIVITIES - WITH THE UMPIRES. PLEASE ADVISE YOUR PARENTS AND PLAYERS NOT TO GET INTO DISCUSSIONS ABOUT CALLS ON THE FIELD WITH THE UMPIRE.**

### ***Additional Rules***

Infield fly rule is in place. In effect when verbally called by the umpire while the ball is in the air. When a batter pops up the ball to the infield with less than 2 outs and runners on either first and second or first, second, and third, if in the judgment of the umpire the ball can easily be caught by an infielder, the umpire may yell, "Infield fly batter is out" or something similar. When this is called, the batter is automatically out (regardless of if the ball is caught) and runners on base may advance at their own risk. If the infield fly rule is called, runners do not have to run if the ball is dropped because there is no force outs. **REMEMBER:** An umpire must call infield fly while the ball is in the air in order for it to be in effect.

Dropped Third Strike rule is in effect. A batter may attempt to reach first on a dropped third strike, if first base is unoccupied at the time the pitcher begins his motion (a runner attempting to steal second is still occupying first base). Also, if there are 2 outs, regardless of who is on base, a runner may attempt to reach first on a dropped third strike. Note: When a batter becomes a runner because of the dropped third strike and starts for the bench or his/her position on the field, that batter may head for first base at any time before entering the bench until put out.

Batters may only use bats with a maximum barrel size of 2.625".

Any youth player on the field (batters, base runners, and coaches) must wear a helmet at all times.

Any player throwing the bat, will first be given a warning. Any subsequent infractions by that player during the game will result in the player being called out.

All players shall wear a protective cup.

### ***Post Season***

No post-season in the fall.