

2018 PTE Rookies Baseball & Softball Rules

NOTE: All playing rules described in the *2018 Little League Baseball & Softball Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Policies* handbooks apply unless otherwise amended below.

The goal of the Rookies Baseball and Softball Divisions is to have fun, teach sportsmanship, and build upon the skills introduced during Tee Ball Division. Training should be focused on the basics of game play as players are introduced to player pitching. All games will be played with a pitching machine (machine pitch).

General Rules

1. Rookies consists of players League Ages 6-8.
 - a. All League Age 8 not assigned to Minors must play Rookies
 - b. League Age 9 may request to be assigned to Rookies.
2. The home team supplies game balls and sits in the first base dugout.
3. Each team will designate an umpire to alternate each half-inning.
4. Each game is played for a maximum of 6 innings or a 1 hour 45 minutes time limit, whichever comes first.
5. Each half-inning will conclude when 3 offensive players are legally put out, or when all players on the roster have batted one time (in the half-inning), or when the offensive team scores **4** runs, whichever comes first.
6. 10 players are permitted to play defensive positions.
 - a. Only 1 player is allowed at each defensive position.
 - b. Maximum of 6 players allowed in the infield.
 - c. Outfielders must play on the outfield grass.
7. 1 player is allowed in the area of the pitcher's mound, next to the coach operating the pitching machine.
 - a. The player must be even with the pitcher's mound on either side of the coach.
 - b. The player must remain in that position until the ball is put in play.
8. Continuous batting order (CBO) will be used.
 - a. All players on the team roster present for the game will bat in a specified order.
9. Bunting is not permitted.
 - a. Any attempts or successful bunts will be considered strikes.
10. The infield fly rule does not apply.
11. The ten-run rule does not apply.
12. No stealing of bases is permitted.
13. Runners may not advance on an overthrow.
14. Only 4 coaches may be on the field when a team is on defense.
15. The defensive team must provide a certified adult to retrieve/ return the pitched balls.

- a. This adult should remain at the backstop when the ball is in play and avoid interfering with a live play.
16. During the preseason, each manager is responsible for conducting the recommended minimum of 2 practices per week.
17. During the season, it is up to the discretion of the manager, but at least 1 practice plus game(s) is recommended.
18. Upon completion of the game, coaches from both teams must rake the field and pick up garbage in and around the field of play.
 - a. Ask parents for assistance to rake field and keep the fields clean. Parents do not need coaching certification to help maintain the fields and facility.

Pitching & Batting

1. The coach of the batting team operates the pitching machine from 35-40 feet.
2. The coach-pitcher must make every effort to avoid a batted ball. Any batted ball that hits the coach-pitcher will be ruled dead and the batter awarded 1st base.
3. Each batter will receive a maximum of 5 pitches (a foul ball counts as a pitch).
4. After 5 pitches, the batter will be awarded first base, except when a foul ball occurs on the last pitch (replay pitch).
5. If a hit-by-pitch (HBP) occurs, the batter shall be awarded 1st base.