

Sanford Youth League Sanford, Coleman, Southtown, Westown

BASEBALL RULES

Revised 2/2014

Official baseball rules apply with the following exceptions:

1. **Minor Boys must wear a helmet with a facemask while batting.**
2. Any player who has attained the age of 11 before May 1st and has not attained the age of 13 prior to May 1st can play in the Major division. Minor boys division will consist of players age 9 and 10.
3. Major and Minor pitchers are allowed to pitch 2 consecutive innings per game. If a pitcher is removed from the mound he may not be re-inserted as a pitcher. One (1) pitch constitutes an inning.
4. Players must play 2 defensive innings.
5. Bat full roster. If injury or illness forces a player to miss a turn at bat, the batting order would not change. Substitute base runner shall be the previous batter last out.
6. Base stealing is allowed after the ball passes home plate.
7. A player coaching bases must wear a batting helmet.
8. No intentional walks are allowed.
9. Home team gets field ready and supplies home plate umpire & field umpire, and supplies a new ball.
10. Game time is 6:15 PM. Forfeit time is game time. No inning shall start after 8:15 PM when there is school the next day.
11. Teams will play until game is completed or until Umpire calls the game for darkness or weather.
12. Any official game ending in a tie will be scored at $\frac{1}{2}$ win $\frac{1}{2}$ loss. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ innings constitute an official game.
13. Teams can play a game without forfeit with seven (7) players.
14. Ten run mercy rule is in effect after completion of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ innings.
15. Players may re-enter a game at any time. (unlimited substitution) with the exception of pitchers.
16. There will be no infield fly rule called during the regular season.
17. Minor boys may play with ten (10) defensive players.

18. Minor Boys will end an inning when three outs have been made or 8 runs have been scored. Coaches shall attempt to play games missed due to weather. If games cannot be made up, it will result in a tie. All make up games must be played no later than 1 week after the last scheduled game in that league. If a coach refuses to reschedule a game, it will result in a forfeit for that team.

19. Absolutely no on deck batters for Minor and Major Division.

20. Dropped third strike is in effect. When a catcher fails to catch the third strike before the ball hits the ground when there are fewer than two (2) outs and first base is unoccupied, or anytime there are two outs, this is called "the third strike rule". The batter becomes a batter/runner with liability to be put out. **SEE BELOW FOR DETAILED EXPLANATION.**

21. Please see By Laws for All Star rules – updated 2.12.2013

THE UNCAUGHT THIRD STRIKE

Understanding the uncaught third strike ruling involves knowledge of several rules that cover the batter, base runners, the pitcher and the definition of terms.

Let's begin with the proper terminology and definition for this situation. As officials we should refer to this as an uncaught third strike, and NOT a dropped third strike. The basis for this can be found in **Rule 2.00**, under the definition of a catch.

The beginning of the definition states, "A catch is the act of a fielder in getting secure possession in the hand or glove of a ball in flight and firmly holding it before it touches the ground."

There are three points to bear in mind from this portion of the definition: 1. "secure possession" 2. "ball in flight" and 3. "before it touches the ground." One constant is if a pitched ball bounces into the catcher's mitt it can never be caught.

Little League **Rule 6.09(b)** states "The batter becomes a runner when the third strike called by an umpire is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied or (2) first base is occupied with two out." Please bear in mind that if you are working a Minor Division game, **Rule 6.05(b)** (2) states that in Minor League or Tee Ball the batter is out whether the third strike is caught or not caught by the catcher. If your league is using a double first base, **Rule 7.15(g)** explains which portion of the base may be used by the offense and the defense.

Finally, **Rule 6.05(b) Approved Ruling**, states the following, "To put the batter out, the defense must tag the batter or first base before the batter touches first base." Please note that an uncaught third strike does not result in a dead ball or stopped play.

Although this article deals directly with the Uncaught Third Strike, it underscores the connection of the rules and reinforces the necessity for coaches and managers to have a firm grasp on the rules that govern the games.