



Rookie League: 7-Year Old Playing Rules

Rookie League Golden Rule: Please remember that this league is made up of 7-year olds and the overarching goals are for the players and coaches to have fun and for the players to learn and develop the fundamentals of the game of baseball. Although a score is kept in this league, winning is not the #1 focus. All coaches and parents must put their competitive nature aside and stress the goals of the league.

Players who do not try their hardest and/or do not show respect for coaches, officials, opponents or teammates will result in reduced playing time at the discretion of the manager/head coach. Coaches will report excessive attitude issues to the Board and players may be suspended. Parents should discuss this policy with their children.

Only players of League age seven (7) per the Little League age chart are eligible for the Rookie League. In special circumstances, a child older than 7 may be placed on a "7-Year Old" team at the request of a parent and with approval of the Commissioner.

Attire: Players must wear gray baseball pants for games – no shorts. A jersey and hat will be provided to each player. Players may wear cleats, but no metal cleats are allowed.

General Rules:

- Games are scheduled for 6 innings or a two-hour time limit, whichever comes first. If there is a game scheduled on the same field following another game, no full inning may start after one hour and 40 minutes from the start of the game to ensure that all games start as close to the scheduled time as possible.
- If a game goes to extra innings, the following tie-breaker will be played to determine a winning team:
 - The seventh inning will be played as normal.
 - Starting in the top of the eighth inning and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base.
- An inning will consist of a 5 run maximum or if the defense makes 3 outs (whichever occurs first). If the final inning is not the 6th inning do to time constraints, the coaches of each team must agree that they are entering the final inning prior to the inning beginning.
- There will be a continuous batting order. For example, if the player in the fifth batting position makes the last out of the game, the player in the sixth batting position leads off in the next game. A late arrival may be added to the end of the order only.



- For safety purposes, players on deck can NOT swing a bat prior to their at bat. The only player with a bat should be the batter.
- Adult coaches are not allowed to be in the field (except for the pitcher). Coaches can be 1st and 3rd base coaches, and can remain a safe distance behind the catcher to throw passed balls back to the coach that is pitching in order to speed up the pace of the game.
- All players should play as close to an equal amount of innings as possible, no favoritism.
- No player will play the same position more than two innings total during any game. Players should be given the opportunity to play and learn all field positions (subject to safety considerations). [Try www.freebaseballlineups.com to create lineups prior to the game and post it in the dugout. If you have a player that for obvious safety reasons cannot play 1st base or catcher this website allows you to create a lineup around this]
- Defense should have one player at each position. If a team is short a player, they should do without a one outfielder.
- No player should sit more than two innings in a game and no players should be expected to sit on the bench for more than one inning in a row.
- There will be NO extra bases taken on errant throws/overthrows. These players are 7-years old and the focus is on the fundamentals, not taking advantage of errors.
- There will be no umpires. The coach of the team at bat is in charge of making out or safe calls on plays in the field while their team is batting.
- Coaches will be pitching to their own team throughout the entire season. Players will not pitch until they are in the Single A League (8-year old league). While coaches are pitching there will be a 5-strike limit per batter, where the 5th strike is a swing and a miss. Foul balls keep the at bat alive.
- There is no leading and stealing bases is not allowed.
- There is no bunting.
- No head first sliding running to a base.
- This is rookie league baseball so wins and losses should not be the primary focus but letting kids know the score during the game is encouraged.
- Scores should be kept and recorded on the Reading Little League website after each game.
- There will be a double elimination playoff schedule at the end of the season. If there are an odd number of teams, the team with the best record will be given a bye.