



## **COWAN BASEBALL/SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

### **8U RULES**

1. Each team will consist of children 9 year old and under. No replacement player will be allowed without the approval of the League Board. Ineligible players will result in game forfeit.
2. Bases are to be 60 ft.
3. Each team will be assigned an equal number of players, as near as possible.
4. Each team has a Head Coach. The Head Coach may choose one assistant coach prior to team selection. After team selection, the Head Coach may have an unlimited number of assistant coaches after team selection.
5. Each team will field 10 players and bat all players. The six infielders will play the standard infield positions. Infielder playing the pitcher position is to play even with or behind the pitching machine. Four (4) players are to be in the outfield.
6. All batters must wear a batting helmet while batting and while running the bases. Any batter or runner who intentionally shakes or knock off their helmet will be called out.
7. A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher when there are two (2) outs. The runner/catcher must have caught the previous inning. The courtesy runner will be the player that made the second out of that inning. No courtesy runner will be used in the last inning.
8. Infield fly rule does not apply.
9. No lead offs. No stealing. No bunting. Runners may tag up and run on a caught fly ball.
10. Defensive player must stop the lead runner to stop play. Fielding the ball and holding it up in the air to show the umpire you have the ball will stop the play at the umpires discretion.
11. The catcher must take a catcher's crouch position behind the plate. Catchers must wear a mask, chest protector, and leg guards, all provided by the League. A regulation cup must be worn. A regulation cup is highly recommended for all players.
12. Game will consist of 5 innings of coaches pitch..
14. Outfielder must stay in the outfield during the inning. They may not enter the dirt area of the infield once an inning has started. Outfielders must be positioned in the grass area during the pitch, but may advance to the dirt area to make a defensive play.
17. Drop third (3<sup>rd</sup>) strike is NOT in effect. No Balks.
18. When a pitcher gains possession of the ball and is on the rubber, all runners must return to their base immediately after the lead runner is stopped. (Coaches are not considered pitchers and are not to be catching the ball) Any runner failing to do so in this situation will be declared out.
19. 3 outs constitutes an inning.
22. Any rule not covered here will come from the Rules of Baseball.