

GENERAL RULES FOR N.W.R.A.A.

T-BALL/FARM BALL (coach-pitch) INSTRUCTUAL PROGRAM
5 year olds

Program Overview

The goal is to teach basic baseball skills and sportsmanship. The objective is full participation and equal playing time for all. **The program's goal is not only to provide equal playing time, but to also provide equal position playing. Each player should be given opportunities to play each position.**

The ordinary and basic rules of baseball as prescribed by USSSA Baseball, Inc. will apply in regards to batters, batted balls, runners, force outs, tag outs, fly outs, ground balls, running the consecutive bases, and play in the field. The following rules are expressly for 5 year old baseball and supersede any USSSA Rules for regular league play.

FIELD OF PLAY

Bases will form a diamond shape, and will be 60 feet apart. An additional foul area immediately in front of home plate will be added: a semi-circle chalk line will be drawn from baseline to baseline beginning 15 feet from home base. A batted ball must reach the arc to be declared a fair ball.

BASIC GAME RULES

1. Official starting times for games are scheduled by the league. The commissioner retains right to alter game times.
2. Game length will be three (3) full innings or 1 hour, whichever occurs first. Each team will bat three (3) times and field three (3) times.
3. The determination of inclement weather and darkness will be decided by the proper authority in this order: (1) the league commissioner, (2) onsite NWRAA baseball board member, or (3) an agreement between the two head coaches.
4. Score is not kept.

PLAYING TIME/POSITIONS.

1. Each player will play defensively every inning. Positions are: 1st base, 2nd base, 3rd base, shortstop, pitcher, and the remaining players will spread out in the outfield. **Since score is not kept and for safety reason we ask you not use a catcher. An adult should help retrieve balls for the pitching coach.**
2. The pitcher must begin play with-in two feet in the pitcher's rubber.
 - a. If the pitcher moves from position before the ball is put in play by the batter, the batter has the option of accepting the result of the play or may declare a no swing and redo the play.
3. Players must rotate positions every inning.
4. If a team has less than nine- (9) players, any standard baseball positions can be left vacant except pitcher or first base. Players must still rotate position every inning.

BEGIN PLAY: (Batting)

1. Each batter will receives a maximum of 5 pitches to put the ball in play. If a batter is not able to put a pitched ball into play, the coach will place the ball on the tee and the batter will then be allowed to hit the ball of the tee.
 - a. The offensive coach may choose not to pitch to a player. If the player is not ready to hit a pitched ball. The player will be allow to hit off the Tee.
2. No strike outs. No walks.
3. Each team will bat their entire line-up every inning. Every player on the roster and in attendance will be placed in the batting order.
4. There will be no outs rewarded to the opposing team if a player bats out of order. If a batter bats out of turn - return to the original order as best possible.
5. If the ball unintentionally strikes a coach in the outfield he is considered a part of the "Fair Playing Field" if he is within the confines of the foul lines.
6. If the balls strike the pitching coach a dead ball will be declared and it will be treated like a foul ball. If it happened on the 5th pitch. An additional pitch will be granted.

END PLAY:

1. Ball is dead when.
 - a. Lead runner is stop by a defensive player with the ball.
 - b. Coach has possession of ball.
 - c. Pitcher has control of the ball within the general area of the pitcher's mound.
 - i. If the pitcher fields the ball outside the circle and attempts to make a direct play, but inadvertently steps into the circle, this will not be counted as control within the circle.
2. Any base runner that has not reached the halfway point between bases will go back to the base he just passed. If he has reached the halfway point or beyond, he will be awarded the next base. This rule does not apply in the case of a batter going to first base. He will be awarded first base.
3. If a ball is hit sharply to a fielder and is then quickly thrown to the pitcher before the forced runners are able to reach the halfway point, the forced runners will be awarded the next base. An unforced runner will not be awarded the next base unless he/she has reached the halfway point.
4. Players, when tagged or forced out, must return to the dugout.

Running Bases

1. Base runners while in the act of running the bases must try to avoid coming in contact with a defensive player. Base runners must step around a defensive player. Rule infraction – runner will be declared out.
2. Overthrows – Base runners will be allowed to advance 1 additional base on an overthrow ball. The rule applies to all bases including home plate. However, the base is not automatically awarded. The runner must reach the additional base safely. The defense will not be penalized for attempting to get the runner out. If the ball is overthrown again in attempt to get the runner out the runner may not advance. Once the player reaches the bag safely, play will end.
3. A defensive player can not impede the advancing of a player running to the next base. Rule infraction – runner will be awarded the next base.

4. Base runner cannot stray more than 3 feet either side of the base line to avoid being tagged out by a defensive player with the ball. Rule infraction – runner will be declared out.
5. Base runners may not tag –up on fly balls.
6. Helmets shall be worn at all times for the batter and runners.
7. **No sliding**. A player will be called out for sliding.
8. A base runner cannot leave the base that he occupies until a ball is placed in play by a batter – BATTER MAKES CONTACT WITH THE BALL. The runner must remain in contact with the base. Rule infraction – runner will be declared out.

COACHING

1. The ultimate rule is to teach every kid the basic fundamentals of baseball, to participate fairly, to enjoy and love the game of baseball, while teaching the true meaning of sportsmanship.
2. There should be no more than five coaches, including the head coach and an adult helper in the dugout- within the chain link fence. The only people that are allowed within the confines of the field of play are the players, and coaches. The head coach is responsible for all representatives of his teams.
3. Two defensive coaches will be allowed within the boundaries of the “Field of Play”. These coaches may offer advice to the defensive players as long as they do not interfere with the ball or make contact with the players.
4. There can be four offensive coaches on the “Field of Play”. Pitcher, coach behind the plate retrieving pitched balls for the pitcher, first base coach, and third base coach.
5. Do not allow players to climb on the fence in the dugout area. An adult must be in the dugout to supervise them.
6. Do not let players stray from the field or the dugout area between innings. Keep them on the field or in the dugout during the complete course of the game.
7. It will be the home teams’ responsibility to chalk and line the field in a proper manner and perform any pre-game maintenance to the field to put it in playing condition. This should be completed at least 15 minutes prior to game time

- a. The home team must provide the game balls and helmets.
Helmets will be available in the storage closet near the grill.
8. It will be the visiting teams' responsibility to rake the infield dirt area and generally put the field back into playing condition after a game is completed.
 - a. It is the responsibility for the visiting team to return the helmets.
9. NWRAA does not provide umpires for 5 year old baseball.
Generally, the offensive pitching coach will make all calls at home plate and call time out when play has ended. (See rules on how to stop play.) The offensive coach at first base will make all calls at first. The offensive coach at third base will make all calls at third. A defensive coach in the outfield will make all calls at second.

NOTE: These rules are "Working" rules and can be amended by the commissioner as needed as the season progresses. The commissioner will be responsible for notifying all involved personnel of any rule changes. Do not abuse these rules. Keep in mind the spirit in which they are written and apply them with the same spirit in mind. Often common sense will solve all the problems that will arise.