

NYS Rookie Rules

Updated 6/17/20

The Rookie division is NYS' hybrid coach pitch/tee-ball league, meant to introduce 5-7 year olds to the game in a safe and fun setting. We encourage kids to be safe, have a blast, try hard, and practice good sportsmanship.

The Field

- The distance between bases shall be 50 feet. The distance from home plate to the center of second base shall be 70' 8".

The Game

- Games shall be restricted to 6 full innings, 1 hour & 30 minutes or until the game is suspended due to weather or darkness, whichever comes first. No new inning may start more than 1 hour & 15 minutes after the game begins, excluding time stopped for rain or other weather delays.
- Half innings shall be completed as determined by the first occurrence of the following:
 - 3 outs are made by the defense.
 - The offensive team bats through their lineup once (each player has one at bat).
- There is no "official" scoring for games at the Rookie level.
- There are no strike outs or walks at the Rookie level. Intentional bunting is not allowed.
- Coaches are allowed to be on the field to assist with defensive coaching or to keep their players' attention. Each team should have a base coach at 1st and 3rd base when their team is batting. Coaches are encouraged to decrease their on-field defensive assistance if possible as the season progresses.
- Coach Pitch: Rookie is a hybrid coach pitch/tee-ball league.
 - Only coaches shall pitch and catch. A player may stand next to the coach pitching. No player may stand behind home plate, but any defensive player may move to home plate to make a play once the ball is in play.
 - Coaches will throw no more than 3 good pitches to a player. Taking a good pitch is counted against the 3 good pitches. Players should be encouraged to swing when it's close. Please keep in mind that pace of play is important so all players get as many at bats as possible.
 - If the batter does not put the ball in play after 3 good pitches, they must use the batting tee. The batter may have as many swings as needed to put the ball into play off the tee.
 - The batting tee is considered part of the playing field relative to a ball in play.
 - If a batted ball hits the coach or comes so close as to interfere with the fielder's ability to catch the ball or make a throw, the coach shall declare the ball dead and the batter shall bat again.

Roster and Lineup

- Teams shall consist of 9 – 12 players.
- All players will bat in order regardless of their fielding position. Players not fielding will still bat in turn.
 - Games may be played with as few as 5 players (a full infield) per team. Replacement players from other Rookie or Bubblegum teams are allowed.
 - At no time shall a person be allowed to play for a team who is not a registered NYS player.
- All players present at the start of the game will be placed in the batting order determined by the coach and will hit in that order.
 - The batting order will not change once the game has started except due to an injury or ejection of a player.
 - Players arriving after their spot in the order will be added at the end of the batting order (for example, if 9 players were in the game and another player shows up, they are added at #10 in the batting order).
- The game shall be viewed in three inning segments. For each segment, the following rules applies to all players:
 - No player shall play more than two innings in the infield, two innings in the outfield, or sit more than two innings.
 - No player shall sit a second inning before the rest of the roster has sat out at least one inning.
 - The infield consists of 1st Base, 2nd Base, 3rd Base, Shortstop and Pitcher (player to the left or behind the coach that is pitching).

Base Running Rules

- Sliding is not allowed.
- Base stealing is not allowed. The batter must put the ball in play for the runner to advance.
- Leading off is not allowed. A runner must remain in contact with the base until the batter puts the ball in play.
- There is no Infield Fly Rule.
- Base runners are not allowed to run outside the baseline to avoid a tag. Runners who do so will be considered “out”. The baseline is generally considered to be about 3-foot wide with the base being in the middle of that 3-foot wide path.
- When a batted ball is thrown or carried from the outfield to the infield, the play shall be over and no further advancement by base runners is allowed, regardless of whether the ball is under control by one of the players. The player will go to the nearest base, if he just passed a base he will go back if he is near the base he is headed to he can stay there.
- A batter who hits the ball can run as far as they are able until the ball reaches the infield area. The runner must stop once the ball reaches the infield regardless of

whether the ball is under control. In the event of an error (ball going through the legs, bad throws, bad catches, etc.), runners must stop at the base to which they were running when the error occurred.

- The “outfield” is considered to be the area beyond the line separating the infield dirt and outfield grass. Any ball within this boundary is an “infield” ball. Outfielders must be positioned on the grass before each pitch.
- Players shall not advance on an overthrow.