



Baden Youth Association

Rookie Baseball (5-6 years old) Rules & Regulations

The BYA Rookie baseball program is a **NON-COMPETITIVE**, developmental program for 5 & 6 year-old players designed to ease the transition from tee-ball to baseball, and to better prepare young players for playing in BYA's 8U and 10U programs. The Rookie Baseball program focuses on fundamentals of hitting, fielding and baserunning, and uses modified rules to keep the younger players interested in the game.

Conduct & Safety

1. All players are expected to be in complete uniform. Shirts must be tucked in. Hats must be worn. All batters and base runners must wear helmets. All catchers must wear proper protective gear. Metal baseball spikes are not permitted.
2. No jewelry (watches, rings, necklaces, earrings, etc.) is permitted on any player.
3. Any player who shows unsportsmanlike conduct or throws equipment in anger will be given one warning. Second offense will result in a 1 inning suspension. Third offense will result in an automatic ejection. Coaches have the discretion to enforce a higher penalty should the initial offense be deemed severe in nature and more than a warning deemed necessary as a corrective action.
4. Maximum number of adults in the dugout is three (3) – consisting of head coach, assistant coach, dugout helper.
5. The main gate to the field is to remain closed at all times during the game. Parents are not permitted in the dugouts or on the playing field during games.
6. Only one player at a time is allowed in the on-deck area.
7. Players are not allowed to leave the playing field without an adult present.

General Rules

1. Games will start at 6:00PM. Players should plan to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to game start time
2. Games will last 6 innings, with no new innings starting after 90 minutes of play. Games should end by 7:45PM.
3. Teams will consist of a maximum of 10 players.
4. The home dugout is on the first base line. The home team is listed first on the schedule.
5. Foam bats and wiffle-ball bats will be available to both teams and are encouraged over metal bats. No "big barrel" metal bats are permitted. Metal bats must be no more than 2 5/8" in diameter.
6. Compression (soft) tee-balls are to be used during games and practices.
7. Coaches are responsible for umpiring their own games.
8. Games that are cancelled due to weather should be made up within 7 days of cancellation. Coaches will have 2 days after a cancelled game to come up with a mutually agreed-upon date to play the rescheduled game. If coaches can't agree on a date, the BYA Board will determine the date for the game. No exceptions!
9. All scheduled games must be played. The schedule as created by the BYA shall only be changed due to weather.

Offense

1. Offensive team coach will pitch from any distance that allows batters to make contact. Coach pitcher can pitch from a standing or kneeling position. An overhand throwing motion should be used at all times.
2. Batter will receive a maximum of 6 pitches from the coach pitcher. If the batter does not hit the ball in fair territory by the sixth pitch or if batter accrues three swinging strikes, the batter will receive 3 swings on the tee. If the batter does not hit the ball in fair territory after 3 swings on the tee, the at-bat is ended and an out is recorded.
3. Unless three defensive outs are made, the entire batting order will bat each inning. The final batter is entitled to a bases clearing home run.
4. The batting order may change from inning to inning. It is encouraged to let a different child be the last batter and hit the "home run" to clear the bases at the end of the inning.
5. Innings 3-4 will start with runner on 1B. Innings 5-6 will start with runners on 1B and 2B.
6. No walks. Batters are not awarded first base if they are hit by a pitch.
7. Bunting is not allowed.
8. No stealing bases. No leading off bases.
9. A semi-circle will be placed 5' feet in front of home plate. Any hit ball that lands within the semi-circle is considered a dead ball and the at bat continues.
10. If a batter or baserunner is tagged or the play results in a force out, that player will be removed from the bases.
11. Overthrows at any base do not result in the baserunners advancing to the next base.
12. Batters who hit the ball into the outfield may try advancing to second base.
13. Sliding into second base, third base or home is encouraged when a play is being made at the base. Headfirst slides are not permitted.

Defense

1. Defensive positions consist of P, 1B, 2B, 3B, SS, CF, LF, RF (LC, RC)
2. Player at pitcher position must wear protective chest gear and must stand within 5 feet of coach pitcher
3. If the coach pitcher is hit by a batted ball or touches a batted ball, the result is a dead ball and the at bat continues.
4. All defensive players should change positions each inning. No player is permitted to play the same defensive position for two consecutive innings.
5. Baserunners who are prevented from reaching base due to fielder obstruction will be awarded the next base. Coaches should position defensive players outside of the base paths.
6. Defensive players can record outs by force out, tagging out, or catching a fly ball resulting in the offensive player being removed from the bases.
7. Stoppage of play occurs and runners cannot advance when any infielder exhibits control of the ball or the ball is returned to the player or coach within the pitcher's circle. Runners may advance until play is stopped, at which point runners are awarded the base they are entitled to by the ½ line.
8. The defensive team may place two coaches in the field to assist with defensive players. One or both of these coaches will be responsible for making calls in the field – preferably calls should be made by coach closest to the play.