

U9 Rules: Offense and Defense:

1. There are no defensive coaches on the field – Except: There may be one defensive coach positioned behind the catcher to throw any missed balls by the catcher back to the pitcher. This is an optional rule for coaches and is meant to simply speed up the pace of the game.
2. Pitchers must wear a face mask.
3. *A batter that is hit by a pitch has the option of taking first base or continuing to hit. *
4. No base stealing (ball must be hit to run).
5. There are no walks allowed and this applies to league play and playoff tournament.
6. A batter can not run on his or her third strike.
7. Pitchers in the U9 division only will pitch 5 pitches to the batter.
 - If the batter strikes out or hits the ball, the play stands.
 - The coach will come onto the field to pitch.
 - The coach will resume the count from the pitcher. If the pitcher had managed to get 2 (two) strikes on the batter, then the batter will receive 1 (one) pitch which must be put in play, or the batter will be called out.
 - If the batter had 1 (one) strike called, then they would receive 2 (two) pitches.
 - If no strikes were called on the batter, then the batter would receive 3 (three) pitches.
 - If at the end of the coach pitch and the ball is still not put into play (except for a foul ball), and the player does not hit, they are out.
8. There are no home runs, 2 bases only are allowed per play.
9. No pitcher can pitch more than 2 consecutive innings.
10. The minimum number of players needed to start a game is six (6) players on each team.
Coaches may use four (4) outfielders while on defence.
11. If one team shows up to the park with six (6), seven (7), or eight (8) players and the other team has ten (10), eleven (11) or twelve (12) players then the coaches, if agreed upon, can even out the teams by lending a few players to the team that is short on players. *This is not required by either coach/team. It is completely optional and MUST be agreed upon by both coaches/teams.
12. When there are (2) outs and the player that will be the catcher for the next half inning defensively is on base, the last out will be substituted to run so that the catcher can get their gear on. In short, two out catcher rule.

Umpires:

- A minimum of one (1) umpire is required to play a game. However, if an umpire does not attend for any reason and a parent(s) is willing to umpire the game and it is agreed between both coaches then that game shall proceed with the parent(s) as the umpire(s).
- A parent may be used as a second umpire if agreed upon between the coaches and the umpire presiding over the game.
- No certification is required to umpire at this level.

General Game Rules:

- NO base stealing.
- NO advancing on wild pitches and/or passed balls.
- NO infield fly rule.
- There is NO bunting at the U9 age level. A full swing is required for a legal hit.
- If the ball is put in play, no matter where the ball is hit or how much the defensive players throw the ball around the diamond, the batter and/or any base runners may only advance two (2) bases maximum anytime the ball is put in play.
- Sliding is allowed at second base, third base and home plate. Sliding of any kind will NOT be permitted at first base. If a player slides into first base, then that will result in an automatic out for the player that slid into first base.
- Game time will be 1 hour and 15 minutes.
- *No new inning is to start after the sixty-five (65) minute mark.
- Rain out games will not be made up/ rescheduled.
- Each half inning will consist of either (3) outs or (5) runs by the offensive team. Whichever comes first.
- Players arriving late to the game can be added to the bottom of the batting order without penalty.

Field Dimensions/Equipment:

- Bases are forty-five (45) feet apart.
- The pitching mound is thirty (30) feet from home plate.
- Balls being used are 11" red dots
- The HOME team for each game will supply the game balls. Meaning one (1) brand new game ball and one (1) gently used practice ball or previously used game ball.
- All batters must wear a batting helmet with a face mask while warming up in the on deck circle, on the field batting and/or while on the bases.
- All players at the position of catcher must wear appropriate catchers gear.