

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. There may be one offensive coach positioned behind the pitching machine to feed balls.
2. \*A batter that is hit by a pitch has the option of taking first base or continuing to hit. \*
3. No base stealing (ball must be hit to run).
4. There is no player pitch, a pitching machine will be used. In the event a center does not have a pitching machine a batting tee will be used for the duration of the game.
5. If using a pitching machine, the pitching machine must be set up prior to the game starting. The batter will receive 5 pitches from the pitching machine. In the event they do not hit a fair ball, a batting tee will be used until they hit a fair ball. The pitching machine must be stationed 35 feet from the plate.
6. A circle should be around the pitching machine, WHEN IN USE NO PLAYER CAN enter the pitching machine circle. The pitcher must wear a pitching mask or helmet with mask and must be behind the 4ft white line prior to the ball being released by the machine. They can assume a ready position on either side of the circle prior to the pitch. Once the ball is released by the machine they can move in front of the line.
7. Coaches are ONLY permitted on the field for the purpose of feeding balls as required through the pitching machine.
8. If a batted ball hits the pitching machine, the ball is dead and the batter is awarded first base and any other forced runners move one base as well.
9. There are no home runs, 2 bases only are allowed per play.
10. The minimum number of players needed to start a game is six (6) players on each team.
11. Coaches may use four (4) outfielders while on defence.
12. 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.
13. 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.
- No new inning to start after 80 minutes of play.
- Each half inning will consist of either (3) outs or (5) runs, 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.
- Balls being used are 11" red dots.
- The HOME team for each game will supply the game balls.
- All batters must wear a batting helmet with a face mask while warming up in the on-deck circle, on the filed batting and/or while on the bases.
- All players at the position of catcher must wear appropriate catchers' gear.
- If using a pitching machine, the pitching machine must be set up prior to the game starting. The Pitching Machine must be stationed 35 feet from the plate in the middle of a 8 ft diameter safety circle. The speed should be set between 30 and 32 mph.
- Lines shall be drawn from the release point to 4ft beyond the circle. The pitcher positions themselves behind the white line prior to the ball being released by the machine