

2009 OFFICIAL RULES SAND SPRINGS YOUTH BASEBALL

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 1) A child must be four (4) by May 1st in order to be eligible to play. The Commission changed the age brackets from August 1st to May 1st after the 2005 season.
- 2) Any children may play up one (1) year with parent or guardian approval.
- 3) The age division for all leagues is **MAY 1st**, as shown below:

Age Division	Deadline
8 & Under	Not 9 before May 1 st
10 & Under	Not 11 before May 1 st
12 & Under	Not 13 before May 1 st
14 & Under	Not 15 before May 1 st
16 & Under	Not 17 before May 1 st

- 4) After roster is signed for current year no player can change teams without a release from the manager of the team for which the roster was signed.
- 5) No player may change teams after June 1 of current season/year.
- 6) Violation of eligibility rules 1 thru 6 as stated above, shall result in automatic forfeiture of all games in which illegal player(s) participated within the current season.

RULES OF CONDUCT

- 1) Profanity or un-sportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated from managers, coaches, players or fans.
- 2) The Commission has the authority to expel from the league any manager or coach who repeatedly violates the rules of the league.
- 3) The Commission has the authority to bar fans from the ball park who do not abide by the rules of conduct.
- 4) Razzing of opposing players is not allowed.
- 5) No one from the playing field, dugouts, or spectator area is allowed to yell "Strike", "Swing" or in any way heckle any player or team.
- 6) If any manager, coach, player or fan is asked to leave the playing field or ball park by the umpire or league official and if this person refuses, the umpire has the authority to forfeit the game.
- 7) The team manager is responsible for his coaches', players, and fans' conduct. He must inform each of them that bad conduct could result in a forfeit.
- 8) Any manager, coach or player removed from a game will not be allowed to participate in the next regularly scheduled game.
- 9) Penalty for violation of Rules of Conduct 1 -8: Fans will be required to leave the ball park. Managers, coaches and players will be removed from the game.

GENERAL RULES

- 1) Batting helmets are **MANDATORY** for all age groups on deck, at bat, running bases, and to be worn while returning to dugout. First offense head coach is warned, second offense player is removed from game.
- 2) Rosters and league entry fees must be turned in before a team becomes eligible for play in league or tournaments.
- 3) Each team is responsible for finding practice fields. The Commission will try to assist when possible.
- 4) If any manager or coach is removed from the league, the manager or coach has the right to a hearing before the Commission.
- 5) Umpires must inform each head coach of field ground rules before each game.
- 6) A manager or coach must give 24 hours notice of his intent to forfeit to the Commissioner or be subject to fine. (Fine \$100).
- 7) No protest will be allowed on an umpire's judgment decision.
- 8) All managers, coaches and players are first obligated to the Sand Springs Youth Baseball Commission and must not play outside games that will disrupt the operation of the league.
- 9) **Final** FIRST place standings **ONLY** for all leagues ending in a tie will be determined by a one-game playoff between the two teams affected. Second and Third place will be determined by the Commission
- 10) Any rule violation that is not covered in the rule book would be an automatic forfeiture subject to the Sand Springs Youth Baseball Commission.

USSSA BASEBALL PLAYING RULES

Playing rules not specifically covered shall follow the Official Major League Baseball Rules as published by the Sporting News.

RECOMMENDED/SSYB FIELD DIMENSIONS				
Division	Bases	Pitching	Foul Lines	Center Field
T-Ball	55	36	140	175
8&Under	60	40	160	185
10&Under	65	46	180	210
12&Under	70	50	230	275
14&Under	80	54	275	300

EQUIPMENT

- A. All players must be fully uniformed, which includes the following: Pants, socks, cap, and team shirts with numbers that are non-duplicating at least three inches in height.
- B. Managers and coaches must wear a baseball cap with team insignia and will be properly
- C. While in the field, as a defensive player, caps must be worn.
- D. Metal spikes are prohibited in age divisions 12 and below
- E. All bat boys/girls must wear a double-ear batting helmet when outside the dugout.
- F. The catcher must wear all appropriate protective gear: mask, chest protector, shin guards, protective cup, catcher's helmet and throat guard.
- G. Age divisions 12 and below: The catcher must wear a protective helmet that fully covers both ears.

LEAGUE RULES

- A. Age Divisions 5 through 12 shall play 6 inning games. Age divisions 13 and above shall play 7 inning games.
- B. A team may continue a game with one less player than it started with, whenever a player leaves the game for any reason.
 1. If the player leaving the game is a runner, he shall be declared out.
 2. When the player who has left the game is scheduled to bat, an out shall be declared for each turn at bat.
 3. The player who has left the game cannot return to the lineup, except for Communicable Disease Procedure Reasons.

Age Group	Time Limit	Total Innings
T-Ball	1:00 hrs.	6 Innings
8 & Under	1:30 hrs.	6 Innings
10 & Under	1:30 hrs.	6 Innings
12& Under	1:30 hrs.	6 Innings
14& Under	1:30 hrs.	7 Innings

MERCY RULE		
Length of Game	Run Differential	Start Inning
6 Innings	15	3 rd Inning
6 Innings	8	4 th Inning
7 Innings	15	3 rd Inning
7 Innings	12	4 th Inning
7 Innings	8	5 th Inning

NOTE: In enforcing these rules, the home team shall not bat if the mercy requirement is met prior to the bottom half of the listed inning.

- C. Whenever a tag play is evident, runners must slide or seek to avoid contact with the fielder. Malicious contact shall supersede all obstruction penalties.

Penalty: Runner shall be declared out and may be ejected at the umpire's discretion.

Note: When enforcing this rule, the umpire should judge the runner's intent. If the umpire feels that the contact was unintentional, then the runner should only be declared out. If the umpire feels that the contact was intentional and/or malicious, then the runner should be declared out and ejected.

- D. At any time, the team at bat may use a courtesy runner for the current pitcher and catcher of record the previous time on defense. The courtesy runner must be someone not presently in the lineup and may appear as an offensive player one time per inning. The re-entry status of the courtesy runner, pitcher, and catcher, shall not be affected by this rule. If a courtesy runner is determined to be ineligible, a proper replacement (if available) will be substituted.
- E. In age divisions 12 & under and younger, an intentional walk may take place by announcement from the catcher or pitcher.
- F. In all age divisions starting players may re-enter once, but must re-enter in their original position in the batting order. Non-starters are not allowed to re-enter. When a starter re-enters, the player in the starter's batting order must be taken out of the game and is ineligible for the remainder of the game.
- G. Teams may play an official game with an eight (8) player line-up. If a team plays with an eight (8) player line-up, an out shall be declared for the ninth (9th) position in the batting line-up each turn at bat. A ninth (9th) player may be added to the batting order as soon as he becomes available.
- H. Teams may bat a nine (9) player line-up, a ten (10) player line-up using an Extra Hitter (EH) or a continuous line-up of all present uniformed players. Such line-up must be declared before the start of the game and used the entire game.
- I. In all age divisions, an Extra Hitter (EH) will be allowed. This will give a team a 10-player line-up that must be declared before the start of the game and used the remainder of the game. The player in the EH position, while not actually playing a defensive position, will be treated as though they are for substitution purposes. The re-entry rule applies for the EH.
 - A.R.- Baker is the EH and batting 2nd. Charles is the catcher and batting 3rd. Baker can become the catcher and Charles the EH. Both players would remain in their original batting order.*
 - A.R.2. – All players can move freely in defensive positions – the EH is considered a defensive position.*
- J. If a game is called due to rain or other acts of God and cannot be resumed, it is a regulation game if:
 - a. In a Six Inning game, If three innings have been completed or If the home team has scored more runs in two or two and a fraction half innings than the visiting team has scored in three completed half innings or If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the third inning to tie the score
 - b. In a Seven Inning game, If four innings have been completed or If the home team has scored more runs in three or three and a fraction half innings than the visiting team has scored in four completed half innings or If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the fourth inning to tie the score.
 - c. All other games will resume from their exact point of delay.

PITCHING

The end of the day for this pitching limitation rule is the time of day or night when the ballpark is shutdown and the teams go home for the night break. Games that, either because of rain delay or otherwise, extend past midnight or start late at night past midnight and before the teams take the night break, will still count as though they are on the previous day's play. If the game continues after the night break (the next day), that part of the game will count as though it was the following day.

LIMITATIONS

1. Column A represents the number of innings a player can throw in 1 day and still pitch the next day.
2. For purposes of this rule in the columns listed, a pitcher is in violation of this rule if he makes any appearance above the pitching limits.
3. For all cumulative totals in this rule, one out equals one-third of an inning, two outs equal two-thirds of an inning and three outs equal a full inning.
4. In age divisions 12 and below, a player that pitches two consecutive days must rest the third day regardless of the number of innings pitched.
5. Exceeding the maximum innings allowed in the case of a double or triple play will not be counted against the pitcher.
6. It is the responsibility of each team's manager to challenge pitching violations by notifying the umpire and then the Tournament Director.
7. Any innings pitched, or outs recorded, during a game that is forfeited shall count towards all pitchers' allotted innings.

PENALTY: Any violation of pitching limitations shall result in immediate forfeiture of the game. This may be done at any point after an illegal out has been made while the pitcher in violation is in the game and in the pitching position.

BALKS

In age divisions 10 and below, pitchers will be allowed some leniency in regard to balks. Pitchers will be called for all major violations and warned for minor violations that do not affect the outcome of a play. In all other divisions, balks will be strictly enforced without warning.

TRIPS TO THE MOUND

If the pitcher is removed from the pitching position he may not return to the mound for the remainder of the game. The pitcher may be moved to another defensive position.

PITCHING CHART

Column A: The maximum number of innings a player can pitch in one (1) day.

Column B: The maximum number of innings a player can pitch in three (3) consecutive days.

For age divisions 7U – 12U, this is to be interpreted as a player can pitch any combination of innings that equals nine (9) as long as he doesn't pitch more than six (6) innings in any one day pursuant to Rule 8.08.G.1.

For age divisions 13U – 14U, this is to be interpreted as a player can pitch any combination of innings that equals eleven (11) as long as he doesn't pitch more than seven (7) innings in any one day pursuant to Rule 8.08.G.1.

In age divisions 7U – 14U, any player that pitches three (3) consecutive days must rest the next two (2) consecutive days.

Division	A	B
8&Under	6	9
10&Under	6	9
12&Under	6	9
14&Under	7	11

For all cumulative totals in this rule, one (1) out equals one-third (1/3) of an inning, two (2) outs equals two-thirds (2/3) of an inning and three (3) outs equals one (1) full inning. A pitcher that pitches in a game and records no outs is not charged with any innings pitched.

Outs recorded during a game that ends in forfeit shall count towards a pitchers' innings limits.

For purposes of pitching limitations rules, a pitcher is in violation of the rule if he records any out above the legal pitching limits pursuant to these rules.

Exception: Exceeding the maximum innings allowed in the case of a double or triple play shall not be counted against the pitcher.

Penalty: It shall be the responsibility of each team manager to challenge pitching violations by notifying the Umpire-in-Chief and then filing a Protest with the League / Tournament Director. A protest may be filed at any point after the pitcher in violation records an out beyond his legal limit **AND** while the pitcher in violation is in the game and in the pitching position. Any violation of pitching limitations shall result in immediate forfeiture of the game. If such violation occurs during Pool-Play, the team in violation of the Rule may not advance to the championship bracket regardless of record.

COACH-PITCH, AND T-BALL

- A. Fair Ball Arc – There will be a 20-foot arc drawn from 1st baseline to 3rd baseline in front of home plate. A ball must go past this line to be fair.
- B. A base runner is out for leaving the base before the ball is hit or reaches home plate. Stealing is not allowed.
- C. 10 players will play in the field with 4 outfielders. The 4th outfielder may not be allowed to assume an infield position. All outfielders must stay behind the baseline.
- D. The batting order shall constitute all players on the team roster at the beginning of the game. Late arrivals shall be inserted as the last batter. All players on the roster shall bat before returning to the top of the order.
- E. A maximum of 7 runs per inning or 3 outs. Including the last inning.
- F. Free substitution on defense. Batting order must remain the same.
- G. No bunting
- H. Defensive coaches are not allowed on the field of play and must coach from the dugout. Umpires will call "time" after every play and declare the ball dead. "Time" should be called as soon as the LEAD RUNNER is not attempting to advance. "Time" does not have to be called by the defense for the purpose of this rule. When a runner stands off a base and "jukes" or "feints" back and forth, this is to be interpreted as "not attempting to advance" and "Time" shall be called.
- I. A player can only be intentionally walked one time per game.
- J. Infield fly rules do not apply.

COACH PITCH ONLY

1. Pitching Circle – Shall be 10 feet in diameter.
2. A batter shall receive a maximum of 6 pitches or three swinging strikes. A batter that has received less than six (6) pitches and has a count of two (2) swinging strikes shall have his turn at bat extended on foul balls up to the six (6) pitch limit.
3. The defensive player listed as pitcher cannot leave the pitching circle until the ball is hit.
4. Courtesy runner for catcher only (Optional). It may only be for the catcher of record the previous inning. Must be the player that made the last out. If no outs have been recorded the courtesy will be the previous batter not on base.
5. When a batted ball hits the Pitching Coach, the following rules shall apply:
 - i. If in the umpire's judgment, the coach did not make a legitimate attempt to get out of the way, then the batter is declared out. No runners shall advance.
 - ii. If in the umpire's judgment, the coach did make a legitimate attempt to get out of the way, then the ball becomes dead and a no pitch is declared.
6. The pitching coach cannot coach while in the pitching position, either verbally or physically and once the ball has been hit, must position himself as not to be an obstruction to the defensive team on any play at all.

T-BALL ONLY

1. A full-use catcher's helmet and mask is the only catcher's gear required.
2. A batter is allowed five swings to put the ball in play or is declared out.
3. 8 1/2" baseball will be used.
4. Win/Loses will not determine standing of league. An end of season tournament will be played to determine 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in league. Seeding for this tournament will be a random draw.

Sportsmanship

- A. All players and coaches will be expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner at all times.
- B. Any player, coach, or parent/fan, whose conduct is unbecoming or abusive will, at minimum, be warned and may be removed from the playing field and/or stands at the discretion of the tournament officials and/or umpires.
- C. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- D. Cursing or throwing equipment will be an automatic ejection.
- E. A team may be forced to forfeit and/or be removed from the tournament, if necessary.

Coach or Player Ejections

- A. If a coach is ejected from a game, they must sit out the remainder of that game and at least the following game. Additional penalties may be assessed as deemed by the Tournament Director.
- B. A player ejected must sit out the remainder of that game.
- C. Anyone ejected may be asked to leave the park at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- D. As these rules indicate, the matter of disorderly conduct will be taken seriously. The tournaments your team will be participating in will include some of the finest baseball teams in the world. The level of competition will be high and at times fierce. Because of this, please remind your team and parents to be extra aware of good sportsmanship.

Protests

- A. Umpires will work to settle all problems on the field. Protests will be allowed for age and pitching violations or rule interpretations only. Protests must be declared to the Umpire-in-Chief and then to the League Baseball Commission before the next pitch following the dispute. No protest will be allowed following the game. League officials and Head Umpire will rule on all protests and their decision will be final.
- B. Protest fee is \$100.00 cash. The fee shall be returned only if the protest is upheld.

Umpires

- A. All tournaments and leagues played under the jurisdiction and administration of the USSSA Baseball program shall utilize only umpires who are registered with the Association.

Items Not Specifically Covered

- A. Team and player eligibility and other rules not specifically covered in these rules shall be referred to the Sand Springs Youth Baseball Commission.