

Instructional Divisional Rules

The purpose of this program is to teach participants the fundamental skills needed to play baseball and start to learn good sportsmanship. During the first half of the season there will be no keeping of score. Beginning with the second half of the season Coaches will score the games and track wins and losses. The teams will then be seeded for the playoffs.

Regular Baseball Rules Apply Except as Noted Below

1. Eligibility– to play in the instructional league is determined by the players’ age as of September 1st of the year. A player is eligible to play at grade level as long as they are not playing with younger children.

2. The Field of Play – Base distance shall be 50 foot base paths. The pitchers circle/mound shall be at a distance between 35 and 40 feet measured from home plate. Whichever distance is comfortable for the Coach and his players. All balls hit in fair territory are fair balls, and the catcher shall be instructed in practices and games to field the ball make a play (tag the runner or throw to first base).

3. Defensive Players – There shall be 10 defensive players in the field at a time. During league play, all players are to play a minimum of 3 defensive innings, and not more than two innings at same position. The player playing the “pitcher” position must be positioned within 5 feet of the pitchers circle before the ball is put into play. This player is not to interfere with the coach pitching. There is to be 4 outfielders (Right, Center, Left and Short Center fields). Outfielders must stay behind the infield baseline and are not to interfere with infield play. A catcher must have a mask and chest protector on when behind home plate. At no time is a coach to place more than 10 players in the field at a time.

4. Offensive Players – All players shall be eligible to bat. A late arrival is put at the end of the batting order.

5. Change of Inning – During the first half of the season an inning shall end after every child has batted once (the team has “batted a round”). The Coach will announce “last batter” when the last hitter comes to the plate. Beginning with the second half of the season an inning will end after 3 outs have been recorded or seven runs have been scored.

6. Game Length – A complete game shall consist of 5 innings or 1&1/2 hours.

7. Batting – The first half of the season all players will be pitched 5 pitches. If after 5 pitches the batter has not hit the ball, the player will hit from the batting T.

Beginning with the second half of the season all players will be pitched 7 pitches. If after 7 pitches the batter has not hit the ball, the batter is out. A coach from the batting team shall pitch to their player, providing instruction during the player’s “at bat”. This coach shall cry “Batter Up!” prior to allowing the batter to strike the ball and this is also to ensure the defense is ready.

8. Time Out – Time shall be called when an infield defensive player is attempting to throw the ball to the (player) pitcher. The play is to stop and the next batter is to be brought to the plate. No base runner will advance after the ball is in the infield of play.

Other Rules:

- There is no leading off or stealing.
- There is no infield fly rule.
- There is to be 1st and 3rd base coaches only while their team is batting.
- The defensive team may have a maximum of 2 coaches in the outfield. These coaches are not to interfere with the progress of the ball.

Ledgends of Baseball

Billy Dickey

The Yankees’ legion of second-tier stars behind the likes of Ruth, Gehrig, Mantle and Jeter can count Dickey as their patron saint. The tough backstop set records for 100-game seasons behind the plate, playing for eight World Series winners before getting another six rings either managing or coaching for the Yankees.

