



# Baseball PEI-PEIBUA Volunteer Umpire Instructional Guide for 11UA Baseball

Presented by The PEI Baseball Umpires Association in partnership with Baseball PEI

---

## Welcome

Thank you for volunteering as a **parent or coach umpire** for the 2025 11UA baseball season. This guide covers the **basic skills and rules** needed to confidently officiate games at this level. Umpiring can be both **fun and challenging**—and you may walk away with a greater respect for those who do it regularly and wish to continue more formally yourself!

---

## Basic Baseball Rules

### Strike Zone

- A **strike** occurs when:
  1. Any part of the ball crosses **home plate**
  2. The **height** of the ball is between the batter's **knees and chest**
- At this level, call **as many strikes as possible** - pitchers are still learning.
- **Strike Call:** Raise your **right hand with a closed fist** and say "Strike".
- **Ball Call:** Say "Ball" with **no hand signal**.
- Use a **hand-held counter (clicker)** to track the count.
- Carry:
  - A **brush** to sweep the plate
  - **2–3 spare baseballs** in your pockets

### Strikes and Outs

- **Foul ball** and **swing & miss** = strike
  - On **2 strikes**, a foul ball keeps the batter alive.
  - No dropped third strike rule in this league (batter does **not** run to 1st).
  - All **half swings** are strikes—**no appeals** allowed.
  - **3 strikes** = batter is out.
-



## Plays at Bases

### Force Play

- Batter is **out** if the ball reaches **first base** before them—**no tag** required.
- Example: Runner on 1st → Ball to 2nd base → Fielder touches base with ball → **Out**.

### Tag Play

- When a runner is **not forced**, they must be **tagged** with the ball to be out.
- Example: Runner on 2nd with **no runner on 1st** → Ball to shortstop → Runner goes to 3rd → Must be tagged.

---

## Fair vs. Foul Balls

- **FAIR** if:
  - Lands **on or past 1st/3rd base** in fair territory
  - Ball lands **ON or touching** the foul line.
  - Touched by a fielder in **fair territory**. Where **the ball is touched** matters, not where the field's feet are!
- **FOUL** if:
  - Lands in foul territory **before** 1st/3rd base
  - Touched in **foul territory**
- **Fly ball** caught in **fair or foul** territory = **Out**
  - Must not be caught from **outside field boundaries or dugouts**

---

## Safe or Out

- **3 outs** end the offensive team's at-bat
  - On **force plays**:
    - Fielder must have **possession of the ball** and be on base **before runner arrives**
  - **First base** is the **only base** a player may overrun safely
  - On **tag plays**:
    - Fielder must tag the runner **with the ball in glove, or with ball in hand** before runner touches base
  - **Out Signal**: Raise **right fist** and say "Out"
  - **Safe Signal**: Arms out at shoulder height and say "Safe"
-



## Catch or No Catch

- A **Catch** requires:
  - Ball caught **in flight**
  - Maintained **control** of the ball and their body
- **Catch Signal:** Right fist up and say “Out” or “That’s a Catch”
- **No Catch Signal:** Arms out to side, say “No Catch”

### Common Scenarios:

- Ball caught, but fielder **collides** or **drops it** = **No Catch**
  - Ball **skips off ground** into glove = **No Catch**
  - Ball caught, **runner tagged**, ball falls = **Runner is Safe**
  - Fielder runs with ball, then drops = **No Catch**
- 

## The Game: Mechanics & Positioning

### Where to Stand

- Stand **behind the mound**, on the **pitcher’s throwing arm side**:
  - **Right-handed pitcher** → stand behind mound, **shortstop side**
  - **Left-handed pitcher** → stand behind mound, **2nd base side**
- **Stay close** to that position unless there’s a **play at home plate**

### Balls in Play

- **Ground ball:** Move out of the way; watch for the throw
  - **Fly ball:** Watch for catch; if missed, keep your eyes on the ball to the infield
  - **No such thing as a tie**—make a clear and decisive call! ***The runner must beat the ball to the base, or they are OUT!***
- 

## Overthrows

- If a thrown ball goes **out of play** (e.g., into dugout), it's an **Overthrow**
  - Batter is awarded **1 extra base**
    - Example: Ball thrown to 1st and ends up in dugout → Batter gets **2nd base**
-



## Special League Rules (11UA)

- **Game Length:** 5 innings (or 4.5 if home team leads)
- **Time Limit:** No new inning after **1 hour, 45 minutes**
- **Ties:** Allowed—no extra innings
- **Runs:** Max **4 runs per inning**, last inning is **open**
- **Mercy Rule:** 10-run lead after 4 innings (3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead)

### Pitching

- Pitchers can pitch **only 1 inning**
- Max **5 pitches per batter**:
  - If batter not out, **coach** finishes the at-bat
  - Coach may pitch from **anywhere**
- After 5 pitches: Only **strikes** count—**no walks**
- **More than one pitcher can pitch in each inning. The coach can make a pitching change at any time.**

### Lineup Rules

- **Same batting order** all game
- **Late arrivals** → added to end
- **Early departures** → no penalty
- Injured players may **re-enter** in the same spot if able

### Not Allowed in 11U

- **Bunting**
- **Stealing**
- **Leading off** (Runner must have one foot on the base until the ball is hit or they are forced to advance)
- **Balks**
- **Infield fly rule**
- **Scoring on passed balls**

### Equipment & Game Balls

- Batters must wear **double earflap helmets**
    - **Chinstraps not required**
  - **Home team** provides:
    - 1 new game ball
    - 2–3 good used balls
-



## Conduct & Discipline

- **No negative remarks** from coaches, players, or fans
  - **No arguing calls or throwing equipment**
    - Umpires should **eject** for this behavior
  - **Do not engage** with spectators
    - Tell the coach to **warn** the spectator
    - Continued issues → **Game stopped**, and **spectator must leave the park for the game to continue.**
- 

## Final Thoughts

Umpiring is full of moving parts.

👉 **Keep your eyes on the ball**—nothing happens without it!  
Do your best, stay calm, and enjoy the experience.

We know all of this may be hard to remember in the beginning – ***please feel free to save this document on your phone and refer to it as needed during the game.*** This is completely acceptable for you to feel confident!!

**Good luck and have fun this season!**

---