

9U Rec Rules

Preamble:

- Pitching rules were clarified as it was found where players were pitching there is not enough hitting and field action to keep players engaged in the game. Coach pitching helps hitters make more contact during their plate appearance and fielders have the opportunity to get more touches while in the field. More action in the field helps development and keeps players engaged.
- (For pitching development purposes DDMBA coaches should be encouraged to spend extra time in practices on pitching drills to continue to prepare players for the jump to U11)
- The rules are more descriptive for U9 as for many coaches this is their first-time coaching with competition.

7.1 U9

7.1.1 Coaches (and captains) meet prior to the start of each game to promote good sportsmanship, provide batting order including jersey numbers and to clarify any rules or expectations such as game length, pitching, umpire responsibilities, etc.

Any changes to the rules below must be agreed upon by both coaches and in the best interest of play (ex. Time limit adjustment during heat warning days/adjustment to game start time/ adjustment to which coach will umpire based on available coaches)

7.1.2 NO bunting, stealing, leadoffs, walks, or infield fly rule

7.1.3 Players cannot take foot off base until ball is hit.

7.1.4 All players are included in the batting order and the same order is kept for the duration of the game; any changes to the order should be communicated immediately to the opposing coach/scorekeeper.

7.1.5 Players cannot play any position more than once in a game, except catcher 2 innings.

7.1.6 All players must play infield and outfield in all games.

7.1.7 Games start on time at 6pm with the first pitch by 6:05. Final open inning must be started prior to 7:35pm. Six (6) inning maximum. Goal is 90 seconds from the end of the inning to the first pitch of the next inning to get players on the field.

7.1.8 Last inning at bat all players can bat (if 3 outs not recorded) but can only go through the order once. This would be the "so called" open inning.

7.1.9 4 run maximum an inning, except open inning (last inning)

7.1.10 A player can only go 2 bases on a hit to the outfield. One base on a hit in the infield. Example: if there is a runner on 1st, ball is hit to the outfield runner can only go to 3rd. Batter-- if a runner on or not can only go to 1st on a ball hit in the infield.

7.1.11 Bases are 60 feet apart-- safety for runners and fielders.

7.1.12 Umpire is the offensive coach pitching. The defensive coach is behind home plate to assist the catcher and confirm with the pitching coach where the hittable pitch count stands. The final say is to the coach pitching. Five hittable pitches are offered to each batter and last pitch to be announced before the player can strikeout.

7.1.13 Up to two defensive coaches can also be on the field for positioning players (behind SS & 2nd) to encourage and position fielders.

7.1.14 No advancing bases on overthrows

7.1.15 Home team supplies game balls. Balls used are hardballs.

7.1.16 Scores will be recorded but no more than 10 runs in a win.

7.1.17 Rover is always permitted regardless if one team has less than 10 players

7.1.18 Catchers - If the catcher is on base when two outs have been recorded, he/she can be removed as a base runner and replaced by the player who was the last out.

U9 Pitching

7.1.19 All pitching done by coaches in June & July. Coaches pitch to their own team – overhand on one knee or on bucket. Each player is given up to 5 hittable pitches before striking out. The last pitch is always called before a strikeout can occur. No base awarded on a player hit by coach pitch.

In August if both coaches agree before the game they want innings to be player pitch, then the following applies:

7.1.19.1 Pitching - A player pitcher can pitch to a 3 Ball count then the coach finishes the batter with up to three hittable pitches.

7.1.19.2 Pitchers must be at least 40 feet from plate; 44 feet maximum (U11 distance)

7.1.19.3 If pitchers wish, they can wear a pitching face mask.

7.1.19.4 Players can catch and pitch in the same game.

7.1.19.5 Pitchers will get 5 warm-up pitches or less if the 90 seconds between innings is reached.

7.1.19.6 Batters who are hit by a player pitching shall be given the choice to go to first base or if they are unhurt to keep hitting.