

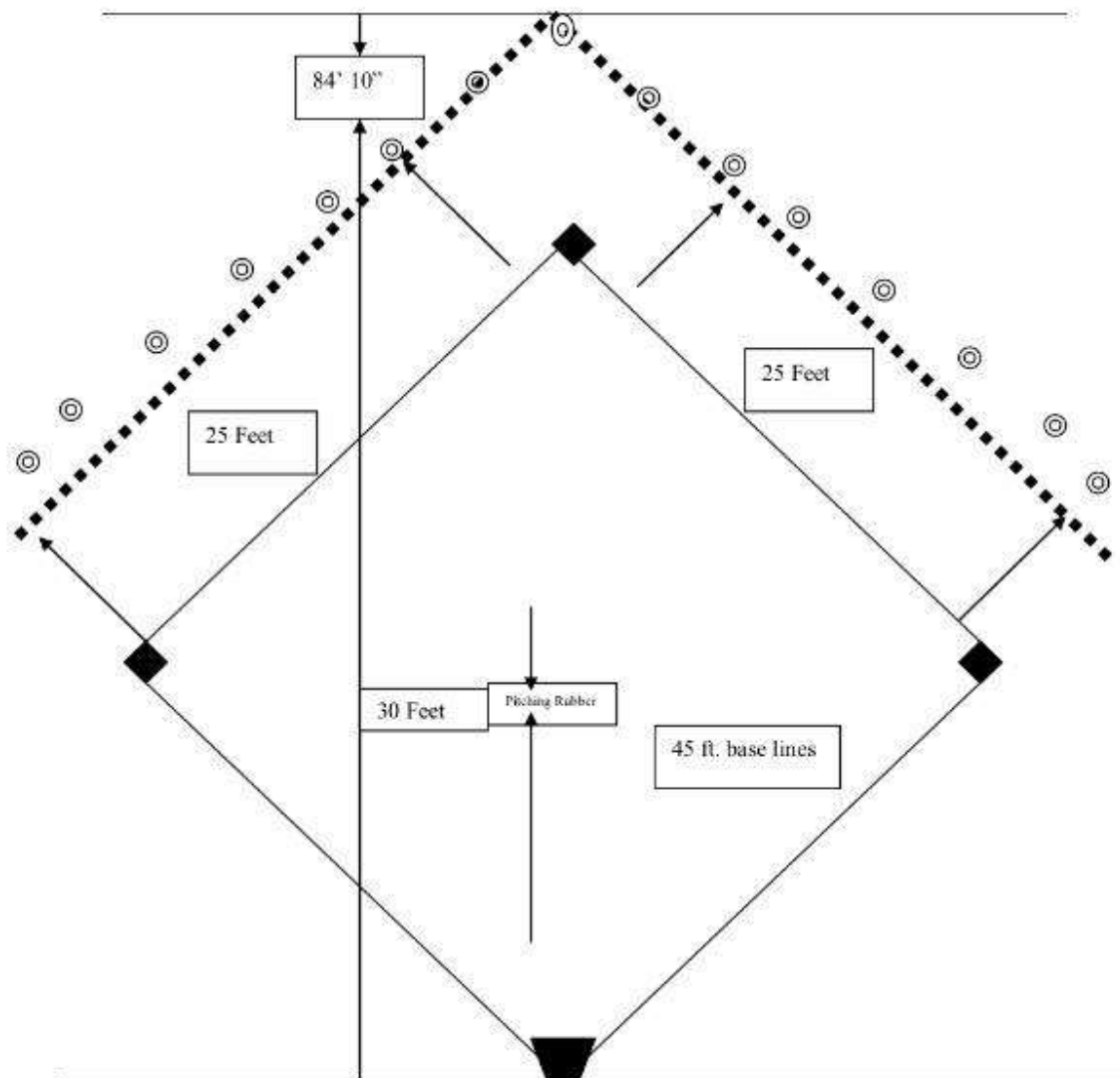
U9 Rules

1. Practice will start at 6:00 pm with games to start at 6:30 pm
2. Team rosters must have at least seven (7) players.
3. 11 inch "Softie" Balls will used for all league play.
4. Bases are 45 feet apart and the pitcher is 30 feet from home plate.
5. Only one base is allowed on an over throw.
6. Infield fly rule does not apply.
7. Throwing of the bat is an automatic out. Exceeding a radius of about 3 feet around home plate is considered a thrown bat.
8. Catchers must wear full equipment provided by MHMSA.
9. All batters must wear a helmet, infield masks are NOT needed at U9.
10. Games will start at 6:30 and no new inning to start after 7:15.
11. All players bat.
12. **A player who sits out an inning, must be assigned an infield position in the following inning. A player may only sit one inning per game. A fair rotation must be made.**
13. A team's time at bat will be considered as complete if 3 outs are made against them or if they score 5 runs, whichever comes first. No more than 5 runs will be counted for a team in one inning.
14. Tie games will remain a tie.
15. **Umpires will rotate; when your team is pitching, you provide the umpire.**
16. No base stealing .
17. No bunting.

HOME RUN LINE

18. The field distance will be twenty five (25) feet behind each base. Pylons to be placed at the Twenty-five (25) foot mark in the field.
19. Min number of players allowed on the playing INFIELD is six: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Short Stop, Cather and Pitcher. **OUTFIELDERS will be permitted, but they must be in front of the home run line.**
20. A home run is a ball that passes the home run line in the air.
21. Fly ball caught past the home run line is an out.
22. No spectators are permitted in the playing field except those designated as base umpires up to a maximum of two (2). Umpires will determine if a ground ball lands past the homerun line.

Note: Adjustments can be made at the discretion of the Executive and Coaching Team.



The "Home Run Line" (HRL) will be used for U10. The HRL eliminates the need for players in the outfield. Teams will operate with only 6 players on the field instead of 9. The positions available to play are Pitcher, Catcher, 1st base, 2nd Base, 3rd Base and Short Stop. Teams can be made up with 7-9 players.

NO MORE WALKS!

Example: Batter # 1 (B1) is at the plate. After the 4th ball, the batter will have a count against him/her. It will either be 4 balls, 0 strikes (4-0), 4-1 or 4-2.

23. The coach, or designated pitcher for the offensive team (B1's coach or selected parent), will pitch to his/her own batter. The number of pitches that the batter will receive from the coach/parent is dependent upon the number of strikes that the pitcher had achieved against that batter prior to throwing the 4th "ball". All batters continue using the same rules.

Count 4-0, coach parent may throw up to 3 pitches.

Count 4-1, coach parent may throw up to 2 pitches.

Count 4-2, coach parent may throw only 1 pitch.

24. **If the batter uses up all of his/her strikes without hitting the ball, he/she is out.**

There is no opportunity to walk.

25. **Every pitch thrown by the coach is considered a called strike no matter where the pitch is thrown.**

26. The batter does not have to swing to strike out, nor does the pitch have to be in the strike zone. Pitches (pitch) from the coach or parent are the only opportunity that the batter will get to hit the ball and get on base.

27. The coach/parent will pitch from the pitching rubber (normal distance) and may pitch an underhand toss or windmill pitch.

28. On the third strike only, if the batter hits a foul ball, he/she will be granted an additional pitch, unless the foul ball is caught! This will be the same as regular rules in regards to a third strike foul ball.

29. **The defensive pitcher will remain on the field to field balls hit into play.**

30. If a ball hit into play by the batter that ♣ comes in contact with, ♣ is touched by the parent/coach, whether intentional or accidental ♣ is interfered with by the coach/parent acting as the pitcher as determined by the umpire, the play will be called dead & treated like a foul ball.

31. A batter hit in the body by a child pitching, the batter takes his base. If the batter does not attempt to avoid getting hit, a base is not awarded.

32. **A pitcher can only pitch 2 innings per game.** An inning will be considered as any part of an inning pitched.

Principles:

1. No walks - every run will come off of a hit ball. More hits means more defensive plays for the infield.

2. Less pressure on parent umpires in regards to calling balls and strikes.

3. Wider variety of pitchers may be used since players who want to pitch can try without having to worry about walking in 5 runs.

4. Lower scoring games. There will an increased number of strikeouts and defensive outs, which should result in less 5 run innings.

5. Innings will be quicker which should result in more innings played per game.

6. The home run line will become a major factor and the home run will be an exciting play for all players and fans to look forward to.