U8 (level 2)-Rules

1. Game time on schedule is the start time of the game/lesson. The skill development portion is 30 minutes with a 60 minute modified game following. Please do not shorten or skip the 30 minute lesson plan as it serves as a warm up to the game. No new inning will start in the game after 8:00 pm
2. Distances – between bases – 45’; pitching – 30’; diagonal home to 2nd base – 63’8”.
3. Umpires – are parent volunteers. Parents should be instructed to respect all umpires and their decisions. There will be zero tolerance for unruly fans.
4. Strike zone – larger strike zone. Umpires are instructed to call a slightly larger vertical zone (shoulders to bottom of knees).
5. Keep it moving. Encourage catchers to retrieve the ball after each pitch (obviously within reason). The pitcher may have a bucket of balls so that if the catcher misses you don’t have to wait for them to retrieve the ball if this is an occurrence every pitch and slowing game play. The umpire can throw balls back between batters.
6. Playing time – all players will be given the opportunity to play each position during games throughout the season.
7. A player can only play in the same position in 2 consecutive innings This will allow more players to play in these positions. It also will encourage any players to see if they would like to further develop their skills in the off season. Unlimited defensive substitutions.
8. Number of out fielders – there will be 4 outfielders used at all times. Limit of players on field is 10. Two coaches will be allowed on the field for the first half of the season to help direct play.
9. Overthrows –NO base will be awarded on an overthrow. The ball will be considered dead once the over throw occurs.
10. Batting - all players should have a least one bat in a game. 3 outs per inning. In your last at bat, even if you have more than three outs, make sure everyone has had at least one turn to bat before finishing the game. All players will bat, rotation will resume from the last out of the previous inning. The inning is considered over when all players have batted or 3 outs have been obtained, whichever comes first.
11. A courtesy runner for the catcher may be used regardless of number of outs, to speed game play.
12. The offensive team’s coach will throw 7 hittable pitches (determined by the Homeplate umpire) to the batter to allow them to hit a fair ball. In the event the player is not successful after the 7 pitches a tee may be brought in (first half of the season and at the coach’s discretion). There will be no strike outs (first half of the season), but a batter can be thrown out at first.
13. If a base runner is put out on base please honor the out, the defensive team worked hard to get that out so give it to them.
14. Thrown bat – a player will receive one warning for throwing their bat. The next incident will result in the batter being called out.
15. Maximum runs – there will a maximum of 6 runs per inning. When the 6th run crosses the plate, the other team then bats. Scores will not be kept. You only need to keep track of how many players came home, and how many outs per inning.
16. Stealing – **there will be no stealing**. All players must be hit home from 3rd base. **Leading off** is encouraged once the ball has crossed the plate… this will lead into stealing at the U12 division. Sliding is allowed.
17. Infield fly rule – does not apply.
18. If either team is unable to field 9 players, borrow from other team if they have more than 9 players. It is more important to have everyone involved in the game as much as possible, than to only play within your own team.
19. There is no forfeit of games for not having enough players. Modify the lesson plan or the game to accommodate number of players.
20. There is no rescheduling of rained out or cancelled games unless teams are requesting to do so.
21. Coaches are encouraged to assign a parent from their team for each game to umpire or parent pitcher, this will ensure that the coaches are able to coach and instruct on the diamond. If these positions are arranged ahead of time it does limited confusion at game time. For simplicity sake Home team will provide the Homeplate umpire for the game.