

RULE 12. RULES OF PLAY. All games will be played under the jurisdiction of the Official Rules of Baseball and Babe Ruth Rules of Play except as modified by Spokane Junior Baseballs Local Rules as follows. (Revised as of Mar 2009)

SPOKANE JUNIOR BASEBALL
Local Rules

Rule 12.1 Age divisions and number of innings in a regulation game shall be designated as follows:

Div. 1	5-6 years old	5 innings
Div. 2	7-8 years old	6 innings
Div. 3	9-10 years old	“
Div. 4	11-12 years old	“
Div. 5	13 years old	7 innings
Div. 6	14-15 years old	“
Div. 7	16 and older	“

Age is determined as of their age on April 30th of the playing season.

Rule 12.2 The following rules shall apply to all divisions except where indicated.

- A. All players will play a minimum of three complete innings in each game (except Div. 1 which only plays 5 innings).
- B. Each player shall play three COMPLETE games during the season.
- C. Players shall not be allowed to “play up or down” without the permission of the baseball committee.
- D. Grounds for ejection:
 - NOTE: If the coach is ejected and there is not a registered assistant available, the game shall be forfeited.
 - a. Throwing of any equipment
 - b. Profane, abusive or intimidating language
 - c. Arguing with the umpire
 - d. Any action that in the judgment of the umpire distracts from the game of baseball.
 - e. Any action that can be considered an attempt to physically hurt an opponent, i.e. fake tag.
 - f. The use of illegal equipment, i.e. unauthorized bats, (metal cleats Div. 4 and below).
 - g. The use of a non-registered or suspended player.
 - h. NOTE: Any player or coach that is ejected shall also be suspended for the next scheduled game.
- E. Coaches shall be held responsible for both players and spectators from their team.
- F. All games shall start at 6pm unless otherwise authorized by the program director.
- G. No inning shall start after 8:15 regardless of the score (except Div. 1 & 2 which will not start a new inning after 1 hour after the start of the game.). The

start of a new inning is determined when the last out of the previous full inning has been made.

- a. Extra innings may be played in all divisions except Div. 1 & 2 provided it adheres to the 8:15 time.
- H. No game shall be stopped in the middle of an inning because of time. Only the umpire shall have the authority to stop a game because of weather or darkness with the safety of the players in mind.
- I. All players shall wear complete uniforms, i.e. authorized hats, shirts and pants (except Div. 6).
- J. It shall be the responsibility of the designated HOME TEAM coach to determine if the field is ready for play.
- K. If for any reason a coach must cancel a game he must contact the other coach AND the program coordinator two (2) hours prior to the start time of the game. Any rescheduling of that game must be done through the program coordinator.
- L. SLIDING RULE: In all division a base runner must make a reasonable effort to avoid contact with the fielder making a play on him/her. This will typically involve sliding. However if in the judgment of the umpire the runner made a reasonable attempt to avoid contact without sliding the player CAN be ruled safe. Otherwise the runner shall be ruled out.
- M. No metal cleats shall be allowed in Div. 1-4.
- N. **Pitchers in Div. 1-5 Ages 5-15 SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED TO THROW BREAKING PITCHES OF ANY KIND**, i.e. curve balls, sliders or screw balls.
- O. STRESS SAFETY TO YOUR PLAYERS**
 - a. Keep the bench area picked up.
 - b. Watch for players swinging bats
 - c. Pay attention to those around you
- P. FREE SUBSTITUTION RULE. A starting player that has been replaced may be returned to the game as long as he/she are reinserted in the same batting position as was their original position. Substituted players (non starters) once removed may not reenter the game.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLANATION:

Example one: Starter "A" plays 3 COMPLETE innings 1-3 and is replaced by substitute "B". Substitute "B" must now play 3 complete innings 4-6 and starter "A" cannot be reinserted until inning 7 if the game should go beyond 6 innings.

Example two: Starter "A" plays innings 1 and 2 and is replaced by substitute "B" in the 3rd inning. Substitute "B" must now play innings 3, 4 and 5 before starter "A" may return to the game for inning 6.

Remember that all players must play at least 3 COMPLETE innings per game.

- Q. There is NO pitchers balk rule in divisions 1-4.

- R. Athletic “cups” are REQUIRED by all catchers but are recommended for all players.
- S. There is NO ten (10) run rule in any division.

DIVISION 1 (5-6 YEAR OLDS)

This program is designed to teach 5 and six year olds the fundamentals of baseball. The following rules have been established as a guideline for teaching these fundamentals. If you have any questions regarding these rules contact the program coordinator at SYSA at 536-1800.

1. Sixty-foot bases will be used.
2. Each game shall consist of five **complete** innings regardless of the score and no inning shall start after 8:15pm.
3. All players on the roster must play a minimum of two innings in the field.
4. The first half of the season will be "tee ball." A tee will be placed at home plate and each player will take as many swings as necessary to hit a fair ball. Once a ball is hit fair the opposing team may field the ball and record an out. A parent or coach will place a ball on the tee as necessary.
5. The second half of the season will be coach pitch. Coaches pitching to their own players. Each player will have 5 pitches to hit a fair ball. If a fair ball is not hit a ball will be placed on a tee for the player to hit.
6. Outs will be counted and once there are three outs the other team comes to bat.
7. All players on the lineup card will bat in order even though only 9 will play the field (continuous batting rule).
8. There is no leading off or stealing of bases.
9. FIVE (5) RUN RULE: No team will score more than 5 runs in any one inning. Once the 5th run has scored and the ball is dead the inning is over.
10. For instructional purposes a maximum of two coaches may be on the field to help and instruct the defense during the game.

Division 2 (7-8 Yr Olds)

[10 game season]

1. Sixty-foot base paths, pitcher's mound approx. 40 ft.
2. Games start at 6 PM. Last inning may not start after 8:15 p.m.
3. Games will be six innings. There is no scorekeeping.
4. Each member will play at least 3 innings in the field.
5. No leading off and no stealing.
6. The first half of the season (5 games) will be all coach pitch from approx. 40 ft. at a reasonable speed. The pitching coach or designated pitching person will be from the team at bat. The second half of the season will be half coach pitch and half player pitch. The 1st, 3rd and 5th innings will be coach pitch as in the first half of the season. Players pitch even numbered innings and can only pitch in one inning of each game. If a pitcher hits two batters in one inning he/she shall be relieved as pitcher. **Batters can strike out and the three out per inning rule is in effect.** Coaches need to stress to the pitchers the importance of throwing the ball across the plate and de-emphasize trying to strike out batters.
7. The 1st, 3rd, and 5th innings will be coach or designated representative pitch. When the coach is pitching, each player will get seven (7) pitches to hit a fair ball. Strikes and balls do not count, and are only given by the pitching coach for informational use. No one can strike out or take first on a walk or hit batter. Players failing to hit a fair ball in 7 pitches must take a seat in the bench area and their time at bat does not count as an out. However if three outs are not made once all players have had a time at bat the inning is over.
8. No advance on pitched ball passed by catcher.
9. Overthrows (throws leaving the field of play)
 - a. A player shall be allowed to advance one additional base beyond the base he was going to at the time the fielder makes the throw.
 - b. A player may not advance on a catcher's return throw to the pitcher.
10. All players are eligible to bat in an inning whether they are scheduled to play in the field in that inning or not (continuous batter rule). Players shall bat as they are listed on the team line up card. The defensive team will have only 9 players play in the field at one time.
12. FIVE (5) RUN RULE: No team may score more than five (5) runs in any one inning. When the fifth run scores play continues until the ball is dead. The inning is then over and only five (5) runs are counted. The five run rule does not apply in the sixth inning or any extra innings.
13. An umpire will be furnished by the home team.

DIVISION 3 (9-10 year olds)

In this division only players will pitch. A pitcher may pitch a maximum of two innings in any one game and six innings per week. One pitch in any one inning shall constitute one inning pitched. For the purpose of this rule a week shall run from Monday through Sunday. If a player/pitcher hits two batters in any one inning he must be removed as a pitcher however, he may remain in the game as a defensive player.

1. Bases shall be placed sixty feet apart and the pitcher rubber will be at 46 feet.
2. Games start at 6pm and no inning shall start after 8:15.
3. Games will be six innings.
4. Extra innings will be allowed time permitting.
5. No leading off.
6. No base stealing
7. Overthrows (balls leaving the field of play)
 - a. A baserunner shall be allowed to advance one additional base beyond the base he was going to at the time the fielder made the throw.
8. All players are eligible to bat in an inning whether they are playing in the field or not (continuous batter rule). Players shall bat in the order they are listed on the team lineup card.
9. The defensive team shall consist of 9 players.
10. FIVE (5) RUN RULE: No team may score more than 5 runs in any one inning. The inning is over when the 5th run scores and the ball becomes dead. This rule does not apply to the sixth inning or any extra innings.
11. In the event an umpire does not show up it is the responsibility of the home team to furnish an umpire.

DIVISION 4 (11-12 YEAR OLDS)

1. Bases shall be placed sixty feet apart and the pitchers rubber will be at 46 feet.
2. Games start at 6pm and no inning shall start after 8:15.
3. Games will be six (6) innings.
4. Extra innings will be allowed time permitting.
5. No 5 run rule and no continuous batter rule in this division.
6. No leading off.
7. Stealing is permitted once the pitched ball has passed the batter.
8. No delayed stealing.
 - a. Explanation: Once the catcher has secured the ball and is in the process of throwing it back to the pitcher the baserunner(s) must return to their base.
9. Baserunners may advance on a passed ball by the catcher.
10. Over throws: A baserunner shall be allowed to advance on a thrown ball leaving the field of play one additional base beyond the base they were going to at the time the fielder made the throw.
11. A pitcher shall pitch no more than 3 innings in any one game nor more than a total of 7 innings in any one week. One pitch in an inning constitutes one inning pitched. If a pitcher pitches 3 innings in one game he/she must have a minimum of 2 complete days of rest. Example: Pitches on Monday not eligible to pitch until Thursday
11. Courtesy runner for the catcher (optional):
 - a. Only used with two outs
 - b. Must be a player not currently in the game OR the last batter to make an out.

DIVISION 5 (13-15 YEAR OLDS)

1. Bases shall be placed at 80 feet and pitchers rubber at 54 feet.
2. All games will be seven (7) innings
3. No continuous batting rule
4. No 5 run rule in this division.
5. Leading off is permitted.
6. Pitchers shall pitch no more than 3 innings in any one game no more than 7 innings per calendar week.
 - a. If a pitcher pitches 3 innings he/she must have 48 complete hours of rest before pitching again.
 - i. **Example: If he/she pitches on Monday and quits pitching at 7pm may not pitch again until Wednesday starting at 7pm. One pitch constitutes one inning.**
7. Pitching balk rule is in effect.
8. Courtesy runner for the catcher is optional.
 - a. Must be made only with 2 outs
 - b. Courtesy runner shall be a player not currently playing or an active player who made the last out.
9. Metal cleats are allowed in this division.

DIVISION 6 (16-20 year olds)

1. All games shall be played and governed by the official rules of Baseball. No restrictions or exceptions.