

Fall 2015 Rotary Sportsplex, Cal Ripken League

Rules and Guidelines

T-Ball:

- Allowing all players to play is acceptable, allowing for several players in the outfield and/or two pitchers.
- All hitters will hit the ball from a batting tee. The tee should be adjusted to such a height the batter will be able to swing level.
- Three complete misses of the ball while batting constitutes a strikeout (after 3 misses, have coach help on 4th swing).
- When the ball is hit it must go at least 25 feet, which is shown by an arc drawn from foul line to foul line.
- No bunting.
- No stealing or leading off permitted.
- An inning is over when all batters in the lineup have batted or three outs are made, whichever comes first. The last batter of the inning, once reaching first base safely, must continue to circle the bases until he or she is either tagged out or scored, either of which will end the inning.
- 1 base on an overthrow.
- Players don't have to raise their hands for time when the ball is in possession on the infield (play is dead).
- Only pitcher should come in as the pitch is being delivered. All other infielders may play on the lip of the grass and the clay, and they need to wait to charge the batter until the ball is hit.
- Catcher is at team's discretion and can be placed in the opposite batter's box or wherever the child is comfortable and out of harm's way.

Rookies:

- Allowing all players to play is acceptable (up to 5 players in the outfield).
- 5 pitches to younger, smaller, more inexperienced players – even if they swing at the first 3 pitches, they will still be entitled to all 5 pitches.
- No bunting.
- No stealing or leading off permitted.
- Maximum of 7 runs scored per team per inning.
- 1 base on an overthrow
- Players don't have to raise their hands for time when the ball is in possession on the infield (play is dead).
- Only pitcher should come in as the pitch is being delivered. All other infielders may play on the lip of the grass and the clay, and they need to wait to charge the batter until the ball is hit.

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- Catcher is at team's discretion and can be placed in the opposite batter's box or wherever the child is comfortable and out of harm's way.

Minors:

- Maximum of 10 players permitted in the field (up to 4 outfielders).
- No player can sit more than one inning unless all players have sat at least one inning.
- No stealing of home until halfway through the season.
- No lead offs.
- Stay on the bag until the ball crosses the plate.
- Bunting is acceptable.
- Maximum of 7 runs scored per team per inning.
- No called balks.
- Guidelines for pitch counts are as follows: 50/game and 75/week. A pitcher shall be allowed to complete an at bat started prior to the pitch limit.
- The second trip to the mound in the same inning to the same pitcher shall result in removal of the pitcher from the game as a pitcher only.

Majors:

- Maximum of 9 players permitted in the field.
- No player can sit more than one inning unless all players have sat at least one inning.
- No stealing home until halfway through the season.
- Can lead off and steal bases, except for home plate (see above).
- Maximum of 7 runs scored per team per inning.
- Balks – warn of them and tell them what would be called during the first half of the season to help prepare pitchers, then after halfway through the season balks can be called.
- A pitcher is to step directly toward a base before throwing to that base, and is required to throw (except to second base) because he steps. It is a balk if, with runners on first and third, the pitcher steps toward third and does not throw, merely to bluff the runner back to third; then seeing the runner on first start for second, turn and step toward and throw to first base. It is legal for a pitcher to feint a throw to second base.
- Guidelines for pitch counts are as follows: 60/game and 90/week. A pitcher shall be allowed to complete an at bat started prior to the pitch limit.
- The second trip to the mound in the same inning to the same pitcher shall result in removal of the pitcher from the game as a pitcher only.