

Instructional Division Rules (Baseball and Softball)

The Instructional League is designed to introduce the basic fundamentals of baseball to five and six year old boys and softball to five and six year old girls. Emphasis will be on sportsmanship, team concepts, and fair play.

*“Success must be seen in terms of children **EXCEEDING THEIR OWN GOALS** rather than surpassing the performance of others.”*

RULES:

1. Playing age- **Baseball**- Any boy five years old on **May 1st** of current year and not older than six, on **May 1st** of the current year. Exceptions must be approved by the League Director.
2. Playing age- **Softball**- Any girl five years old on or before **January 1st** of current year and not older than six, before **January 1st** of the current year. Exceptions must be approved by the League Director.
3. Four year olds will be permitted to play provided an adult participates as a coach, Asst. coach or team parent on their behalf.
4. The League Director will assign each child to a team dividing evenly those children with previous experience and those children with non-experience.
 - a. Siblings will be put on the same team, unless otherwise requested by their parents.
 - b. After the League Director has made team selections, a list of the team members with their phone numbers will be given to each team Coach.
5. Games will be played as follows:
 - a. Each game will have a time limit of 60 min. or 3 innings which ever comes first.
 - b. All players will play in the field each inning. Coaches will rotate players to each position. No child shall play outfield all season.
 - c. We do not keep track of runs or outs. A child is sent to the dugout in the event of an out, although the inning does not end with three outs.
 - d. A team's offensive half shall be terminated when the offensive team bats all of their players. The last batter has to be announced to the defensive team. Play will end when an out is recorded, the batter is stopped from advancing, or the batter scores.
 - e. Play will stop when the defensive team returns the ball within a 20-foot diameter circle around the pitching mound. The ball does not have to be caught cleanly but must touch the pitcher's

helper inside the circle. Play will stop and no base runners may be advanced when the pitcher's helper touches or is touched by the ball while standing in the 20-foot circle.

- f. If a player, in the coach's opinion, is more than halfway between a base at the time the ball reaches the 20-foot circle (and is touched by the pitcher's helper), they will be awarded that base.
- g. The Coach or Asst. coach of the team at bat will do all pitching. Boys will be pitched to either overhand or underhand. Girls will be pitched to underhanded.

Note: The Coaches will be allowed to pitch any distance from home plate as he or she determines is needed to allow each batter equal chance to hit the ball. We want the child to be given every chance to learn proper hitting fundamentals.

- h. Each batter will be allowed eight pitches to hit the ball. If a batter has not hit the ball fair at the end of eight pitches, it shall be placed on the "tee" for the batter to hit.
- i. There are NO WALKS ALLOWED.
- j. All outfielders must be in or at the edge of the grass and all infielders must be behind the baseline until after the ball is hit.
- k. All offensive players will sit on the bench in the dugout; only exception will be the batter and the on-deck batter. The game will not continue until all players are seated on the bench.
- l. No catcher's position. Coach of the batting team will retrieve pitched balls.
- m. Batters will be awarded one base on over throws to first base.
- n. The first home team of the day will line the diamonds.
- o. Each team is to bring one new ball to each game.
- p. For the safety of the kids, helmets must stay on until the player reaches their dugout. If a player takes their helmet off before reaching their dugout a team warning will be given and the next infraction will be an out.

"Our main goal is for every child to have fun and learn the fundamentals of the game. It is our hope that every child ends the season anxious to play again the following year."