

Thumb Area Baseball League: 10U/Minor Boys Rules

Good Sportsmanship is required from all coaches, players, parents, and fans. The emphasis of the Thumb Area Baseball League is to ensure all players have a good experience and learn the game of baseball.

Eligibility

The Minor Division is for boys who are 9 or 10 as of May 1st of the current year.

General Rules

1. Coaches and Players must be at the field at least 20 minutes before game time. Each team must have a minimum of 8 players to start a game.
2. First team listed on the schedule is the HOME team. The home team will occupy the 1st base dugout and will keep the official book.
3. Umpires will establish the official start time of each game with coaches and scorekeepers from both teams. The umpire will set a game timer that will be set for 60 minutes. Once the 60 minutes is reached, the inning currently in will be finished. The umpire will call last inning and each team will have the opportunity to bat one more time. When the last inning is called it is unlimited runs and 3 outs are needed to end play.
4. A Minor league game consists of 6 innings. A game will be called completed after 5 complete innings if the game is shortened due to bad weather conditions. If less than 5 innings were played, the game will be resumed at a later date. All makeup games must be scheduled through the league.
5. Each coach will be responsible for their team hustling on and off the field between innings. This includes getting your catcher ready ahead of time if he/she is not batting. This not only speeds up the game, but also makes the game more interesting for the spectators.
6. Base distance is set at 60 feet and pitching mound is 46 feet.
7. At the conclusion of every game teams must line up and shake hands. This is mandatory, no exceptions.

Uniforms and Equipment

1. There will be no bat restrictions at this age level.
2. No metal spikes. Ball Pants are recommended but long pants are required. No jewelry is allowed.
3. All players batting or running bases must wear an approved helmet at all times. Intentional removal of the helmet by the base runner will result in that person being called out (exception for the catcher during a pop-up). Helmets must have a chin strap.

Pitching

1. Pitchers will be limited to pitching 3 innings per game maximum. A pitcher may be removed and re-entered as a pitcher one time during the game. One pitch constitutes an inning pitched.
2. If a pitcher hits 2 batters in an inning or 4 in a game a substitution needs to be made.
3. Mask and Helmet must be worn by any player warming a pitcher up anywhere in the park.

Batting

1. All teams will use a rotational batting order for all players present. This batting order will remain the same throughout the game. Late arriving players will be added to the bottom of the batting order. If only 8 players are present, your 9th position in your batting order will be an out. All players present must be placed in the batting order (bat whole roster).
2. Throwing bats is prohibited. Teams will be given one warning per game. Any offense after that will be called an out.
3. Bunting will be allowed.
4. The infield fly rule will not be in effect, however intentional dropped balls on this play will result in all runners being safe. This is an umpire's judgment call.

Base Running

1. Stealing is allowed (Hit or Walk). Base runners may not lead off, but will be allowed to steal once the ball crosses the plate. Stealing home is allowed.
2. On play to any base, runner on 3rd can go home. Pitcher must have control of the ball and be set to throw before runners have to stop advancing.
3. Close plays at any base except 1st requires that runner to slide. If a slide was warranted it will be the umpire's discretion if the runner is out.
4. If a player is injured while on base, the pinch runner will be the last out made (exception for the catcher).
5. There will be a mandatory courtesy runner for the catcher with 2 outs. The runner shall be the batter that made the last out.

Scoring

1. There will be a five run per inning rule. There is no run limit rule in the final inning. 3 outs need to be made. There will be a 10 run mercy rule after 4 ½ innings.
2. When a game ends in a tie, the International Tie Breaker will be in effect. The extra inning will begin with a base runner on second base. The base runner will be the player who made the last out in the previous inning. Both teams will use this tie breaker until the game ends with a team winning.

Fielding

1. Teams can field 10 players at all times. Four have to be positioned in the outfield. All players are will be required to play a minimum of 2 innings in the field. There will be unlimited substitutions, players may be taken out and put back in the field any time between innings and during pitching changes.