



## BETH - WOOD ROOKIES LEAGUE 2023 "LOCAL RULES"

The following "Local" Rules shall govern for play of the Rookies League Division in the *Beth - Wood Baseball League {B - W}* :

1. Games are to be at least three (3) full innings of play for the first half of the Season ; games can go up to 6 innings during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half if time permits. **NO** score is to be kept, so there are no winners or losers !!
2. In the field, Coaches pitch to their own Team using the manual Louisville Slugger pitching machine. A Player from the Team in the field shall be placed adjacent to the Coach pitching so he / she can make plays on hit balls (with at least one foot on the mound area).
3. All Players on the Team shall play in the field (i.e., use regular positions in the infield with a catcher and pitcher ; space out the remaining Players equally in the outfield). Also, Players in the field must **NOT** stand on the bases unless there is a play being made at that base.
4. Coaches of the defensive Team in the field are allowed to be on the field, instructing their Players what to do with the ball when hit but are to be out of the way and are **NOT** to touch the ball in any fashion.



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5. All Coaches **MUST** rotate their Players in the field after each inning (in the interest of safety, a Coach may leave players in the outfield in a safer position due to their lack of ability). Players are only allowed to play the same position for a maximum of two {2} innings per game, with the possible exception of 1<sup>st</sup> Base and Catcher ; Coaches are required to rotate them in the field to allow them to experience other positions.
6. It is required that each Team designates and uses a catcher(s), which will give those Players the opportunity to experience / grow in that position. All Coaches shall ensure catchers must wear protective cups in order to catch.
7. The use of a Louisville Slugger League approved manual pitching machine is **MANDATORY** and must be used in all practices and games. A child may be soft tossed pitches if they have tried to hit off the machine. Settings and speed of this machine shall be determined and kept at a uniform setting for all Teams.

For calling a batter out on strikes, Players will be given up to 6 swinging strikes or 8 pitches before they are called out on strikes during the first half of the Season ; during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, only 3 or 4 strikes will be allowed. However, if there is a Player who continually misses the ball during the first half of the Season, that Player may hit via soft toss.

The scheduled Home Team will be required to supply the pitching machine and baseballs for that game.

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8. During the first half of the Season, each Team shall go through their order once every inning (whether or not 3 outs were made by the defensive Team). If a Team makes 3 outs in an inning during the first half of the Season, the 3 outs will be acknowledged by clearing the bases at that point but the inning will continue until all Players have batted.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Season, if the defensive Team records {3} outs, then the inning is over and you do **NOT** bat through the order. This will allow the play of up to 6 innings if time permits. Coaches are suggested also to mix up their batting orders after each game.

9. If a Player makes an out, acknowledge the out in the field and remove the Player from the base paths.
10. There are **NO** walks in Rookies, **NO** stealing of bases and **NO** leading off bases.
11. Coaches are to encourage their Players to run out hits in the field and to allow them to make the most of each hit (i.e., if a Player hits a ball on the fly into the outfield, encourage the Player to run the bases for a possible a double, triple or a home run). Also, Players are **NOT** allowed to take more than 1 base on an overthrow.
12. Coaches are to instruct their Players **NOT** to throw their bats after hitting the ball; teach them how to drop it when running to first. We do not want to see any injuries of this nature !!



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13. When running out a hit, Coaches are to instruct their Players to run over the first base bag and make the turn to the foul line when running to first.
14. In case of rainouts, these games will be NOT be made up !! They will be cancelled in their entirety.
15. After the game has ended, Coaches are to form their Teams in a line and wave their hands to the opposing Team (restrictions due to COVID-19, thanking them for playing).
16. There will be NO taunting or teasing - use *good sportsmanship* at all times !!
17. Coaches are to use their discretion if a game has started and begins to rain. If the field in your opinion becomes unsafe to continue play, then stop the game immediately. If there are sounds of thunder and you spot lightening, quickly gather up the equipment and take cover in your cars. If the storm passes and the field is playable, you may resume play ; if not, then the rest of the game is cancelled.
18. An infielder can call time out to stop the play if 1) he / she has the ball under control in the infield area and the runners are not advancing and 2) the Coach of the Team batting acknowledges the time out.
19. As a reminder, ALL bats MUST comply with the USA Bat Standards and MUST specifically bear the USABat licensing mark on them - NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE ALLOWED !!

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Penalty

- a. If an illegal bat is discovered prior to the Batter completing his "at bat", the bat is simply removed from play and the "at bat" continues.
- b. Any bat discovered prior to the game that does **NOT** conform to the rule above shall be immediately removed and **NOT** allowed for use during the game as well as for the rest of the Season (Team Managers shall perform these inspections and shall be responsible for enforce this for their respective Teams).

**KEEP THE GAMES FUN AND INSTRUCTIONAL !!**