

LOWER MACUNGIE YOUTH ASSOCIATION

Rookie League Rules and Guidelines

GENERAL

All rules shall be in accordance with the current issue of NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS RULE BOOK, except as noted below.

PLAYING FIELD

The playing field shall be as follows:

- ⊙ Home to 1st base 60'
- ⊙ 1st base to 2nd base 60'
- ⊙ 2nd base to 3rd base 60'
- ⊙ 3rd base to home plate 60'
- ⊙ Home plate to pitching rubber @ 42' for the season

EQUIPMENT

- A) Catchers must wear a chest protector, shin guards, helmet, mask with throat protector, catcher's mitt, and a protective cup with supporter.
- B) All players must wear a protective cup with supporter.
- C) No metal spikes.
- D) Each team shall have baseball caps and matching jerseys with numbers.
- E) Batting helmets must be worn anytime the player is at bat or running the bases. Helmets are not required for pitchers.
- F) Bats shall be made of material approved for play in accordance with the LMYA Guidelines.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A) A player must be 8 before August 1st in the current playing year, in order to play in Rookie League.
- B) A player may not play in Rookie League if he turns 9 before August 1st
- C) Exceptions to Rules A and B can only be made by the LMYA Baseball Coordinator with input from the parent, coach, and Rookie League Coordinator.

SCHEDULE

- A) The season shall begin no later than the 2nd week in May.
- B) All games will be played in accordance with Rookie League rules.
- C) Weekday games will start at 6:00pm; weekend games will start as scheduled by the League.
- D) No player, coach, or fan may have ANY discussion with an umpire other than the head coach or acting head coach.

ROOKIE LEAGUE SPECIAL RULES

Coaching and Umpiring Games

- A) LMYA Rookie League Coaches will serve as umpires.
- B) Coaches are permitted in the field from week 1 through week 7. From week 8 through the tournament coaches for the fielding team are not permitted on the field.
- C) For Coaches' Pitch portion of the season, the coach pitching to hit batters calls balls & strikes.
- D) For the Kids' Pitch portion of the season, the Pitching Coach (next to the mound) calls balls and strikes. A coach from the hitting team can back-up the catcher and serve as the "home-plate coach" to give players attempting to score a signal to stand or slide.
- E) The strike zone shall be defined as the letters to the knees and any part of the black.
- F) A joint decision by both head coaches and the umpire is required to postpone a game. In the case of no majority decision, the decision of the umpire is final.
- G) An umpire's call can be overridden if both coaches agree. A ball/strike call cannot be overridden.
- H) The designated home team is responsible for rescheduling games with the League Coordinator and the umpire coordinator whenever LMYA-provided umpires are employed. Rainouts must be rescheduled within 48 hours and played within 21 days.

Rookie League: Playing Games

- A) All games will be played with hard balls.
- B) An inning will continue until 3 outs or 10 batters have batted. The batting order must be maintained throughout the game.
- C) All games will consist of 5 innings. An official game will be 3 complete innings. During the regular season, the game score will not be officially recorded and no won/loss records will be maintained.
- D) Each team will field 10 players. The 10th player must be an outfielder (total of 4) and may not be a short-fielder. There are no forfeits. A game can be played if a team has 8 players. If the team cannot field 8 players, the Coaches may choose to have the other teams players rotate in the outfield so the game could be played.
- E) Free substitution in the field. Each player must play 2 innings in the field in a 5-inning game. Each player must play 1 inning by the 3rd inning.
- F) Only the batter and the on-deck batter shall have bats and both must be wearing batting helmets. All other players must remain on the bench.
- G) No bunting.
- H) No infield fly rule.
- I) No 10-run rule.
- J) No stealing. The runner cannot leave any base until the ball passes home plate. The 1st violation will result in a team warning; the 2nd and subsequent violations will result in the offending runner being called out.
- K) When a play is made at home plate and the play is close, the runner must attempt to slide. If the home plate umpire concludes the play is close and the runner does not attempt a slide, the runner will be called out. This is the umpire's call and cannot be reviewed. Batting team coaches should be giving a "stand" or "slide" signal at home plate. Coaches shall encourage sliding at all bases when the play is close to promote safety.
- L) No runners may advance on overthrows at 1st base or on passed balls.

Rookie League: Pitching

- A) The first 3 games of the season will be coach's pitch only. Coaches will pitch to his/her own players. A coach shall not interfere with any ball in play. Coaches may elect to kneel or stand while pitching and may elect to pitch from the mound or from a point in between the mound and home plate.
- B) Games 4 thru 7 of the season will transition from Coaches' Pitch to Kids' Pitch. Kids pitch to start each inning of the game. Each pitcher is permitted 3 walks or 2 hit batters per inning. After either occurrence the hitting team's coach will pitch to the remaining batters until the end of the inning. No walks will be allowed when a coach is pitching. While a coach is pitching, the batter must hit the ball in play or strike out. A coach shall not interfere with any ball in play.
- C) Beginning game 8 and through the end-of-season tournament, the coach will no longer relieve a pitcher after 3 walks. Each pitcher is permitted 3 walks or 2 hit batters per inning (applies to both a pitcher starting an inning and also to a mid-inning relief pitcher). If a pitcher issues 3 walks and remains in the game, no additional walks may be issued and the batter must hit the ball in play or strike out.
- D) A pitcher may pitch only 6 outs per game. Pitchers can pitch a maximum of 12 outs on consecutive days. A pitcher may pitch only 18 outs per week
- E) When the ball is returned to the pitcher within a 10' radius of the pitching rubber and the pitcher has possession of the ball, the play is dead and the runners cannot advance any further. If a runner is more than 1/2 way to the next base, he will be allowed to continue to that base at his own risk. If the coach is pitching, the player assigned to the position of pitcher shall receive the ball, not the coach.
- F) No balk rule.
- G) No pick-off plays.