Updated: May 2018

### Team & League Organization

- 1. All players and coaches must maintain ASA insurance or equivalent.
- 2. If a community has multiple teams, they must be divided up as evenly as possible. This should be done based on skill level and not divided by  $1^{st}/2^{nd}$  year or by grade, etc.
- 3. If you are short players, you may bring up no more than 2 players from 8U per game.
  - a. They will bat at the bottom of the lineup.
  - b. They will only play in the outfield
  - c. They can only play up for your team 2 times.

#### Equipment & Uniforms

- 1. Metal cleats are prohibited.
- 2. All players must wear matching shirts with a number on the back.
- 3. Pants are required.
- 4. Catchers are required to wear a mask, helmet, chest protection, and shin guards.
- 5. Batters & Base runners must wear a helmet with face shield and chin strap.
- 6. No jewelry shall be worn. Earrings, necklaces, bracelets (soft or rigid) are prohibited. For those who have newly pierced ears, studs must be taped.

#### Conduct

- 1. Drinking alcohol, smoking, chewing tobacco, or swearing on the field or in the dugout areas by the players or coaches is prohibited.
- 2. Manager or acting managers are the only people who can talk to an umpire during the game. Any parent or assistant coach who comes out on the field during play to argue will be ejected from the facility. Any player, coach, or fan that abuses an umpire can be banned by the league officers.
- 3. Cheering for your own team only. Disruptive actions or cheering against the other team is not allowed.

#### **Umpires**

1. Plate umpire is required. The plate umpire must be at least 14 years old.

#### All Star Game

1. All-star games will be held at the end of the season. Information will come out in early June regarding how many kids to send.

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## <u>Playoffs</u>

- 1. Playoffs will be at the end of the season. Seeding for playoffs will be taken using the standings on the seymourballclub.com website.
- 2. Teams will be divided into divisions based on standings.
- 3. The higher seeded team will host the first round game. They will also be the home team throughout the playoffs regardless of site.
- 4. Playoffs will be either 6 innings or 1 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hour time limit whichever comes first. If game is tied after at this point, additional full innings must be played until a winner is determined.

## The Game

## <u>General</u>

- 1. All play will follow ASA rules if not otherwise stated.
- 2. The home team will supply at least one playable ball for each game and will use an ASA approved regulation 11-inch ball.

#### <u>Players</u>

- 1. A team must have 6 players present to start a game or a forfeit will be awarded to the opposing team.
- 2. 10 girls maximum (4 outfielders) and 6 minimum on the field on defense.
- 3. If you are short players, you may bring up no more than 2 players from your younger teams. They must play outfield and bat at the bottom of the lineup. No girl can be brought up more than 2 times per season.
- 4. All players present at the beginning of the game must play. Coaches may bench a player for disciplinary reasons.

## Batting

- 1. All players present at a game must bat. Players arriving late will be added to the end of the lineup. Players leaving early will be skipped over in the batting order without penalty.
- 2. On deck batters must warm up behind the batter.
- 3. Bunting is not allowed.
- 4. Batter cannot show bunt, pull the bat back and then swing at the ball. Batter is out if they do this.
- 5. Slap hitting is not allowed.

#### **Pitching**

- 1. Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 2 innings per game. One pitch constitutes an inning. If the game goes into extra innings, a pitcher may be brought back to pitch 2 extra innings.
- 2. Pitchers will use ASA pitching rules.
- 3. Both feet must remain in contact with the pitching rubber prior to the forward step.

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- 4. Drag foot cannot replant prior to forward step and must remain in contact with the ground during delivery. If a hole is formed in front of the pitching rubber, the drag foot must be no higher than the level plain of the ground.
- 5. Pitching distance is 35 feet from back point of home plate to the front of the pitching plate.
- 6. There are no walks. After 4 balls or a hit by pitch, coach will come in to pitch.
  - a. Coach must have contact with the pitching rubber when pitching.
  - b. Strike count will remain when coach comes in to pitch
  - c. Ball that hits the ground first and then hits batter is still a hit by pitch.
  - d. If player hit by pitch cannot continue, the last out will take 1<sup>st</sup> base.

# Base Running

- 1. Base runners must avoid collisions and must slide at a base if there is a possible play.
- 2. If a base runner interferes with a fielder that is trying to make a play on the ball they will get a warning.
- 3. If fielder interferes with the runner and the fielder does not have the ball or is not making a play on the ball, they will receive a warning.
- 4. Runner may try to advance an additional base if the ball is hit into the outfield. If the runner is not at least ½ way to the next base when the ball breaks the plain of the infield, they must return to their previous base.
- 5. One base on an overthrow if the ball goes into foul territory. Player cannot score on an overthrow.
- 6. If an overthrow goes into the outfield, rule #4 applies. They must be ½ way when the ball breaks the plain of the infield or else they return to the previous base.
- 7. Stealing bases is not allowed.
- 8. The base runner may leave the base when the ball crosses the plate. They may not advance unless the ball is hit.
  - a. If the umpire determines that base runner leaves early, the runner will return to their previous base and receive a warning the first time. Runner will be out the second time.
    - i. If pitch was a ball or hit the batter, pitch won't count.
    - ii. If pitch was a strike, a strike will be called.

# Infield vs. Outfield

- 1. Players may not play more than 3 innings in the infield.
  - a. If you have less than 10 players, some players will play more than 3 innings in the infield. All players must play 3 innings in the infield before others play more than 3.
- 2. Catching is considered an outfield position. Player may catch maximum of 4 innings.
- 3. If team is caught violating either of these rules, bring it to other coach's attention immediately and it must be corrected.
- 4. Infield rules are not enforced during extra inning, but please play your players fairly during this time also.
- 5. Outfield players must remain on the grass.

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a. If the field is a larger field with a larger infield, coaches should agree on where players should play prior to the start of the game.

# <u>Time Length</u>

- 1. All games will play 5 innings or 1 ¼ hour time limit, whichever comes first.
- 2. If a game is suspended, it can be completed at a later date. The game will continue from the point of suspension with the same lineups. New players can be added to the bottom of the order. Players missing from the suspended game will be dropped and their position in the batting order will be skipped. Pitchers and fielders will still abide by the eligibility rules for that game. This rule does not apply to games that reach time limits. Regardless of the inning, the game is over if a time limit is reached.
  - a. Games played a minimum of 3 full innings or 2 ½ innings with home team ahead are considered complete.

# Forfeited game

- 1. Forfeit games are scored 5-0.
- 2. When a game is cancelled due to rain, the coaches are responsible for rescheduling the game.

# Additional Rules

- 1. 5 runs maximum per inning except last inning which is unlimited. Last inning means 5<sup>th</sup> inning or if time limit has arrived and both managers agree that it's the last inning before the inning starts. If it is not announced prior to the inning starting the 5 run limit will apply.
- 2. Dropped Third Strike is not allowed.
- 3. Infield Fly rule is not enforced.
- 4. Look Back rule is not enforced.

## RULE REVIEW

Rules will be reviewed on an annual basis by a committee of experienced coaches. All recommendations for change and/or clarification can be emailed to seymourballclub@yahoo.com

# RULES RELATED COMPLAINTS

If you have a complaint concerning a team not following the rules, please email your concerns to <u>seymourballclub@yahoo.com</u>. The complaint will be investigated and you will receive a response as to the corrective action taken.