

## ASHWAUBENON YOUTH BASEBALL

### Little League AAA By-Laws

Updated June 2017

#### ELIGIBILITY & SPORTSMANSHIP

Residents of Ashwaubenon, students enrolled in the Ashwaubenon School District or students enrolled in a school that is in the Ashwaubenon School District boundaries are eligible to play. Participants of this league will be in fifth and sixth grade based on the school year prior to the playing season.

All players, coaches, and fans are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. Failure to do so may result in a loss of the opportunity to continue to participate in or attend events.

#### TRYOUTS

All players intending to play must attend tryouts. This includes players of head coaches and players who have successfully petitioned to play in this league.

#### EQUIPMENT

Metal spikes are not allowed.

Bat regulations: All bats may not have a barrel larger than 2 ¼" in diameter and must have the BPF 1.15 stamp on the bat. Violating this rule will result in the bat being removed from the game and all bats on the team will immediately be inspected. The League President should be notified about this violation immediately after the game. If a second bat is found being used in the same game (batter in the batter's box), the game will be forfeited.

Big barrel bats will NOT be allowed.

Starting January 1, 2018, bats made with COMPOSITE material will not be allowed to be used in league or tournament play. This includes composite material in the barrel and/or in the handle.

Composite bats will be allowed for the upcoming 2017 season but will not be allowed for the 2018 season.

A cup is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR ALL BOYS to wear at all times during the game. It is REQUIRED for all players playing catcher.

#### GAME RULES

The Little League Baseball Rulebook governs any other rules or regulations not specifically addressed in these bylaws.

The "home" team will play in the field first, bat second **and use the third base dugout**. The "visiting" team will bat first, play in the field second **and use the first base dugout**.

Games are to consist of a time limit of 1 hour and 45 minutes. Therefore, no inning will start after 1 hour and 30 minutes from the start of the game. The start of games will be kept by the umpire and will be announced to both coaches at the start of the game.

The home team will supply two new game balls and have at least two “like new” baseballs as a backup.

In the event of a tie game after six complete innings and if the time limit has not been exceeded, the first extra-inning will start with a runner at second base, with the base runner being the player who was the last out in the previous inning. This will continue for both teams for a maximum of two innings, or until one team ends the inning with more runs than the other team. If, after the maximum two innings are complete with the game still tied or if the time limit is exceeded, the game officially will end in a tie and be recorded as such.

The league will be using a double first base. One part of the base will be white and located in fair territory, while the other part of the base will be orange and located in foul territory. The orange part of the base is the only part of the base that can be used by the runner that is running to first and will subsequently overrun the base. The white part of the base is the only part of the base that a fielder can use at any time to get the runner out. A fielder, with possession of the ball, touching the orange part of the base, does not put the runner out. If the runner reaches first base successfully, the orange part of the base is no longer in use for that runner and the runner must use the white part of the base.

Free substitution will be in effect with the exception of the pitching rules.

Field Tarp Ground Rule - If a live ball goes into the tube (or in and out the other side), behind the tube, or gets stuck under the front side of the tube hands should be raised in a similar fashion to a ball going under a fence and the umpire will come out and inspect it and make a ruling. If a live ball hits the tube and bounces away, even an inch or two, where the ball can easily be grabbed and played by the fielder, then it should be played as a live ball.

AWARD – A ball that is deemed out of play in this scenario, runners are awarded ONE base from where they were at the TIME OF THE THROW.

## **OFFENSIVE RULES**

All players will be placed in the batting order every game and will bat in that order for the entire game whether or not they are in the game defensively or not.

Batting helmets must be worn any time an offensive player is outside the dugout and involved in batting, base running, and/or warming up in the on deck circle. This includes practices. If a player removes the helmet while on the field, play will be stopped until that player replaces the helmet on his head.

Stealing is allowed throughout the entire season, however only one base is allowed to be stolen at a time.

First and Third situation: When the runner from first attempts to steal second base and the throw is made by the catcher to second base, the runner at Third is NOT allowed to steal home. This is meant to encourage catchers to throw down to second base.

Base runners may not leave the base until the pitch crosses home plate. Runners leaving early will be given one team warning and any violation after that will result in an automatic out.

There will be no delayed steals. Once a runner stops his secondary lead, they must return to the previous base.

Once a catcher has possession of the ball, runners must return to the base, if they have not already started their motion to the next base.

- a) If the catcher throws to a base occupied by a runner, the runner must return to the base, unless they have started their motion to the next base. The runner may NOT advance to the next base on an overthrow to any base by the catcher.

Once a batter shows bunt, they are no longer able to swing away at the pitch. Any batter that does this will be called out without a warning.

A coach has the option to use a courtesy runner for a player that is scheduled to play catcher in the upcoming inning only when there are two outs in an inning. The courtesy runner must be the player that was the last out in the inning.

ALL base runners, when being played upon at second base, third base or home plate, must slide FEET FIRST to avoid contact with the fielder. The umpire will have sole discretion in determining if a play is being made that requires a slide. The runner will be called out if a slide was required and was not attempted.

## **DEFENSIVE RULES**

There are 9 defensive positions on the field.

A team must have a minimum of seven players to begin a game. If a team does not have seven players by the scheduled game time the game will result in a forfeit.

No player on the roster may sit on the bench for more than one defensive inning unless 1) The game roster contains more than 10 players OR 2) The game goes into extra innings. Exception: If a coach has determined it would be in the best interest of the team that a player not play in the infield for safety reasons or be benched for disciplinary reasons, the coach may do so, but must inform the opposing coach and the player's parent or guardian. Being benched includes being exempt from both fielding and batting.

There is no maximum number of innings per player per position.

All game catchers must wear a protective cup. All warm-up catchers must wear a mask with a throat protector when warming up a pitcher either on or off the field.

## **PITCHING RULES**

A player may pitch a maximum of two innings per game.

A player can pitch up to six innings per week (Monday through Sunday). Innings thrown on weekends by tournament team pitchers are exempt from this rule.

Once a player is removed as a pitcher during a game, he may not pitch again in the same game.

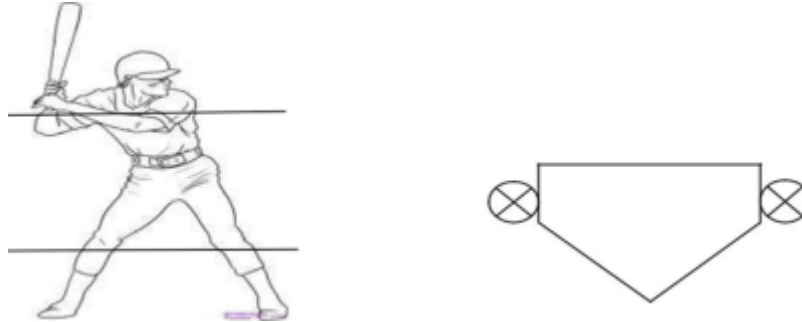
One pitch thrown constitutes an inning.

Pitchers will be limited to three warm up pitches between innings and five warm up pitches as a new pitcher.

No balks will be called.

A fifth grader must pitch a total of one inning (3 outs) in every regular season game. If necessary, multiple fifth graders can be used to complete the 3 outs. This inning must be within the first four innings of the game.

The umpires, to the best of their abilities, shall use the following diagrams as their determination of the strike zone:



To further define the strike zone, it would be from the batter's armpits to the batter's knees IN HIS NORMAL STANDING POSITION, NOT IN A CROUCHED BATTING STANCE and would extend one baseball width on either side of home plate.

### **CHAMPIONSHIP GAME**

The Championship Game will consist of the team with the best record in the first half of the season versus the team with the best record in the second half of the season.

If the same team wins both halves of the season, the Championship Game will consist of the team with the best record versus the team with the second best record. Tiebreakers will be determined as follows:

- a) Head-to-head
- b) Head-to-head run differential
- c) Season run differential
- d) Coin toss

This game will determine the overall League Champion and the winner of this game will receive the League Championship trophies.

All league pitching rules apply to the Championship Game.

### **LEAGUE TOURNAMENT**

All teams shall be in the tournament at the end of the regular season.

The team with the best record, excluding the Championship Game, will receive the #1 seed in the tournament and all other teams will be seeded based on winning percentage. Tiebreakers will be determined as follows:

- a) Head-to-head
- b) Head-to-head run differential
- c) Season run differential
- d) Coin toss

The home team for all tournament games will be determined by the higher seed and they will occupy the third base dugout.

All Tournament rules are the same as League rules except a fifth grader is not required to pitch during tournament games.