

REEDVILLE BASEBALL, INC.

ROOKIE LEAGUE RULES OF PLAY 2017

The Rookie League of Reedville Baseball provides players with the chance to learn the fundamentals of baseball and to experience team competition in a friendly, cooperative and sportsmanlike atmosphere. The environment is positive and supportive and is designed to develop confidence and self-esteem. The program is designed to prepare the young players for upper division play.

Positive motivation, understanding and good sportsmanship is encouraged and expected of all players, coaches and families. Special emphasis is placed on the example the coaches set for their young players.

The following rules are adopted by the league for use by the coaches and players. Rules and situations that are not covered herein should be referred to the official rules of Oregon High School Baseball.

ELIGIBILITY

1. All children 6, 7 or 8 years old are eligible to play in the Rookie League. A player should be a 1st or 2nd grader and must not turn 9 until August 1st or later. Exceptions to this rule are at the sole discretion of the Director of Recreational Baseball for Reedville Baseball. All decisions made are final.

EQUIPMENT AND FIELDS

1. Coaches, parents and spectators are expected to exhibit good sportsmanlike conduct. There will be no name-calling, swearing or intimidation of the opposing team or spectators. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed at or near the fields during practices or games. Those in violation of the above will be asked to leave the premises and must be reported to the Director of Recreation.
2. The league provides shirts, hats and pants to all players. Each player will keep his or her shirt, hat and pants. Each player is expected to have his or her own baseball glove. Athletic shoes or rubber cleats are recommended. **Cups are a requirement for catchers.**
3. The ear-flap type batting helmet shall be worn by all batters and runners at all times while they are in the "On-Deck Circle", at bat or on base. If the player removes his helmet intentionally, the team will receive one warning and the next incident will result in an out.
4. The **home team** is responsible for setting up the bases and lining the field with chalk prior to the start of the game. The **visiting team** is responsible for putting the equipment away and locking the shed.
5. All teams are responsible for picking up litter around the dug-out and field areas prior to and after the game.
6. Each team should provide 6 game balls together with a total of 12 game balls. Place one bag at the mound and the other bag at the plate. After each pitch the parent umpire places the ball into the bag. After each batter the parent umpire empties the plate bag into the mound bag. This will keep the game moving efficiently.

REEDVILLE BASEBALL, INC.
ROOKIE LEAGUE RULES OF PLAY 2017

7. Offensive coaching will be from bench, first and third base coaches boxes. The adult pitcher may coach the batter but not the base runners.
8. Defensive coaching will be done from the bench, and **1** coach behind the shortstop or between 1st and 2nd. No other parent will be allowed on the playing field.

GAME

1. Umpires are parental volunteers. They will control the game. **The home team will provide the umpire.** The umpire must be 18 years old or older, preferably a parent. In the event of a dispute, the coaches and the umpire will confer and resolve the dispute. Each coach should stress to the spectators watching the game that the umpires are parents that volunteered to umpire. They are there to help the game keep moving and should receive all our support.
2. There will be a maximum of 3 team gatherings per week from the beginning of practices in April until the completion of the season in June except during the rescheduled rain make-up week and the playoffs.
3. A game is complete at the end of 5 full innings or 2 hours, whichever comes first. Once an inning is started it must be fully completed. No new inning will be started after 1 hour and 50 minutes.
4. Weekday games start at 6pm
5. There will be a maximum of 5 runs or 3 outs per team per inning, Games may end in a tie.
6. There will be no sliding head first into bases. This rule is to avoid injury to runners and fielders alike. The runner will be given a warning on the first infraction; but will be called out thereafter by the umpire.
7. The defensive team will consist of 9 players on the field at all times. Each player must play a minimum of 3 innings in the field for that game. Every player must play at least 2 innings in the infield. No one player will play more than 2 innings at catcher during the game. No one player will play more than 1 inning at defensive pitcher during the game. No one player will play more than 1 inning at first base during the game.
8. No player may pitch more than two innings in a week and one inning in a game. This rule is to develop and give every player a chance to pitch. However, coaches will need to use their own judgment as to whether a child should pitch or not. Safety will be the main factor. Some children may hurt the kids with a wild, but strong arm; others may get hurt when the ball is hit if they have trouble fielding the ball.
9. **COACHES ARE NOT TO TELL THEIR KIDS NOT TO SWING AT KID PITCHES!!!!**
10. Kid pitch will be to each batter. The pitchers will throw 3 pitches to each batter in that inning. After that, it will revert to coach pitch.

REEDVILLE BASEBALL, INC.

ROOKIE LEAGUE RULES OF PLAY 2017

11. If the batter is hit by a kid pitch, they may choose to take a base or go straight to the coach pitch (5 coach pitch limit still applies).
12. There will be a limit of 8 good pitches to each batter, 3 kid pitches and 5 coach pitch, (the umpire will determine the quality of each pitch). If the batter has let 5 good pitches go by without swinging, it is up to the umpire and the batter's coach to remind the batter that he only has 3 good pitches left to swing at. Pitches hit into foul territory are part of the 8 good pitch limit.
13. A good pitch will be determined as a pitch close enough to swing at and not necessarily a strike.
14. There are no called strikes, balls, nor will a base be awarded for a hit batter (except when hit by a kid pitcher if they choose too). Missed swings and foul balls will be considered part of the 8 pitch limit. If the batter fouls off the 8th pitch he will receive another pitch. If the batter can continue to foul off pitches he will go until he either gets a hit, or swings and misses.
15. Bunting is not allowed; a batter must make an effort to swing at the ball.
16. Adult pitching will be done by the coach or an assistant to their team. Batting tees are not used. The adult pitcher will be positioned at the pitcher line which is to be set at 40 feet. from home plate. The defensive team's pitcher will be positioned behind the pitcher line either to the right or to the left of the adult pitcher. Coaches are required to pitch overhand to all players. It is ok if the adult pitcher goes to one knee while throwing provided it is from 40 feet.
17. The batting rotation should be set at the beginning of the season. This allows all players to have equal at bats by the end of the season. For example, the player who bats last in a game on Wednesday would be the last batter in rotation in the following game on Saturday. This randomness is the most fair. No change in rotation can be made once the game has commenced. Late arrivals will be added to the bottom of the rotation; early departures will move the next batter up in the rotation without the loss of an out.
18. The ball is considered live until the ball has been possessed in the infield. The infield is considered the dirt portion of the field. If an infielder fields the ball (possession) and then throws it, the players may not advance past the base they are going towards (Example 3rd baseman fields ball and overthrows 2nd base). The runner cannot advance past the base they were running towards. (we want to teach the kids to throw without the fear of an overthrow causing the runners to advance) When the ball is in the field of play and has never been in the possession of a defensive player in the infield runners may advance at their own risk until the ball is possessed by an infielder.
19. If the ball is hit into the outfield it is considered live until the ball has been possessed in the **infield** by an **INFIELDER**. The ball may not be run in by an outfielder into the dirt, **THE BALL MUST BE THROWN. Remember we are trying to teach the kids to throw and catch the ball, not to run in, to prevent the runners from advancing.**
20. There is no base stealing.

REEDVILLE BASEBALL, INC.

ROOKIE LEAGUE RULES OF PLAY 2017

21. All outfielders will remain on the grass until the ball has been hit.
22. All infielders except the defensive pitcher will remain within 5 feet of the baseline until the ball has been hit.
23. Runners may not lead off their respective bases and must stay in contact with the base until the batter hits the ball. If the runner leaves the base prior to the ball being hit, the umpire will give his/her team a warning and call the next runner on that team that leaves the base early out. All batters and base runners must wear a protective batting helmet. If a player intentionally removes their headgear while batting or running the bases, the umpire will stop play immediately. The runner's team will be warned and the next player from that team to remove their helmet will be called out and all other runners will return to the base they occupied prior to the start of play.

GENERAL

1. There will be no league standings kept for the Rookie. The end of the year tournament will be randomly generated and distributed to all coaches before league games begin. It is at the sole discretion of the Reedville Recreation Director if the random brackets should be altered before the tournament to allow teams that are performing well not to meet in the early rounds of the tournament and the decision is final.
2. Coaches determine if a game is rained out. Make-up games must be called into and rescheduled with the Director of Recreation Baseball for Reedville Baseball.
3. Coaches are not to leave the field until all players have left or are in the care of their parents. This applies to both games and practices. Coaches will insure that all equipment is secure and in their possession after each practice and/or game.
4. **PLAY SAFE AND HAVE FUN!**