

RECREATION DISTRICT #1 PELICAN PARK



BASEBALL **HANDBOOK 2025**

Updated March 2025

Including Pelican Park Specific Rules

PELICAN PARK YOUTH SPORTS BASEBALL

ORGANIZATION

A. Objectives

The objectives of the Pelican Park Youth Sports Baseball Advisory Board are:

1. Provide a fun, safe and competitive recreational environment,
2. Teach sound baseball fundamentals, and
3. Promote sportsmanship within the team concept.

C. Attendance policy

Board members that miss more than two meetings within a year without a valid excuse will be removed from the Board. The advisory Board will enforce this attendance policy.

D. League Structure

The baseball program will consist of single age groups (except where the staff determines the number of players is not sufficient The Pelican Park program is designed to emphasize regular season play.

D. League Structure (continued)

Spring League

- Five-year-old T-Ball
- Six-year-old coach pitch (started 2013)
- Seven-year-old coach pitch (started 2016)
- Eight-year-old coach pitch
- Nine-year-old and above-player pitch

Fall League

- 6/7-year-old – 7-year-old Spring rules
- 8-year-old – 9-year-old Spring rules
- 9/10-year-old – 10-year-old Spring rules
- 11/12-year-old – 12-year-old Spring rules
- 13/14-year-old - 13/15-year-old Spring rules

E. League Affiliation

For 2022 the Park will not be affiliating with Cal Ripken / Babe Ruth Baseball but will follow their rules. A registration fee is paid to register every team in our program for ages 7 and above.

PRE-SEASON

A. Player Evaluation (Spring & Fall Season)

In the spring season, pre-season player evaluations will be done for all players in age groups seven and older. T-ball and six-year-old coach pitch teams will be formed by the Recreation Staff. Special request is only accepted in 5- and 6-year-old. We will make every effort to honor your request.

Evaluations will consist of baseball skills including batting, fielding, and pitching. The catching position will not be offered as an evaluation station. Each skill shall be evaluated by no less than

two coaches when possible. All coaches (those who have expressed an interest in head and assistant coaching) are required to participate in the evaluation process. Coaches are also encouraged to evaluate the same station during all evaluation days to maintain consistency. It is also recommended that evaluators be fair, accurate and consistent as possible to ensure a safer and more balanced league. Evaluation scores will be the basis for determining which division and team a player will be assigned during the regular season. Evaluation forms become the property of Pelican Park. A player shall go through the evaluation process only one time.

- **All Stations are mandatory.**
- **Should one station be missed, then the average of the other two stations will be used for that one station.**
- **Must attend two or more stations to be eligible to pitch.**
- **Unevaluated players will not be eligible for the pool player list.**

Number of Players

All T-Ball and six-year-olds shall be allowed to play the entire game with no restriction on fielders. Seven-year-olds, eight-year-olds will play with 10 players. All other age groups play with nine players. The maximum number of players per team cannot exceed 13 for ages 5 through 8. The maximum number of players for the teams should not exceed 12 for ages 9 and above.

NOTE: If a player is not showing up for practice and the coaches have not been able to contact the player or parents, the coach shall contact the park office.

Coach Selection

All individuals interested in becoming a head coach or an assistant coach shall make their name, and desired age group available to a Pelican Park by completing the Pelican Park Head Coaching Application. The criteria for the selection of Head Coaches are set by the Park.

Qualifications for Head Coach include: Passing a background check, previous coaching experience, baseball knowledge, people skills, relates well to kids, even-tempered and time to commit. Head coach selection should not occur until completion of the evaluation process.

The head coach can designate one assistant coach prior to the start of the team formation, which will have to pass a background check. If both head coach and the designated assistant coach's sons evaluate in the first round the coaches cannot coach together. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to ensure that all volunteers adhere to all policies set forth by the Board.

Parent / Player Code of Ethics

All parents are required to sign a code of ethics prior to the beginning of season play to ensure that the expectations of the organization are clearly understood. The code of ethics is attached as Appendix B.

Practice Time

- Pre-season practices usually begin around April 1st, prior to games, each team usually practices two to three times per week. Once the games begin, teams practice once and play two games each week. Each team will be scheduled to play the maximum number of games allowable during the period of the regular season, weather permitting, as

determined by the Pelican Park staff. T-Ball and 6-year-old will not keep score but will play an eight-game season with no season ending tournament.

Umpires

The following umpiring plan will be implemented throughout Pelican Park:

- * T-Ball – six-year-old: no umpire
- * Seven-year-old and up – 1 umpire

Safety

The following equipment will be used during games and practices:

- All players are strongly encouraged to wear protective cups.
- **Facemasks will be required on helmets for all age groups ages 5-12 while batting, running and on-deck. Players may wear a face mask ages 13-15 but not required.**
- Incrediball (Rif 1) will be used for T-Ball. Reduced injury factor balls will be used for six (Rif 5) and seven and eight-year-olds (RIF 10). The DDY-1 will be used for nine and above.
- **Steel cleats are not allowed in any age group.**

PELICAN PARK YOUTH SPORTS BASEBALL

5-YEAR-OLD T-BALL OFFICIAL RULES

1. Games will consist of 5 innings or a time limit of one hour, whichever comes first. All innings will be completed once started. The games are scheduled for 1 and ½ hours apart to allow the 1st ½ hour to be used for practice.
2. All players play each inning, both offensively and defensively. All infield positions will be played correctly except for no catcher. The outfield will consist of all other players.
3. All players will bat off the tee each inning. Batting helmets with facemasks are worn for all base runners and batters.
4. No outs will be registered or acknowledged
5. Base runners may advance 1 base per batter.
6. Base paths are approximately 35 feet.
7. No catcher will be used. An adult will stand behind the batter in the catcher position.
8. Positions will be rotated between the players.
9. RIF #1 safety balls will be always used.
10. In preparation for next season: during the last 3 games of the season with both coaches in agreement, allow the batter 3 pitches. If the batter does not hit the ball after 3 pitches, the batter hits off the tee.

Fun is #1

Be a role model that will make your child proud

**PELICAN PARK YOUTH SPORTS
BASEBALL**

6-YEAR-OLD COACH PITCH OFFICIAL RULES

1. Games will consist of 5 innings or a time limit of 1 hour, whichever comes first. All innings will be completed once started. The games are scheduled for 1 and ½ hours apart to allow the 1st ½ hour to be used for practices
2. All players play each inning, both offensively and defensively. All infield positions will be played correctly except catcher. The outfield will consist of all other players.
3. The parent/coach will be the catcher. The parent/ coach helper and throw it back to the pitcher. The pitcher will field any balls that may pass the 3 ft arc.
4. All players bat every inning. An inning is over when all players have batted. Batting helmets with facemasks are worn for all base runners and batters.
5. All outfielder players will stand at least 15 feet from the baseline in the outfield until the ball has contacted the bat. There will be a white line drawn on the ground 15 feet behind the base line.
6. An adult of the batting team will pitch from 30-35 feet. A batted ball that hits the adult pitcher is a dead ball and will be replayed. The adult pitcher must not interfere with the defensive players when the ball is in play.
7. The batter is out after 3 strikes or 5 pitches, whichever occurs first. A foul ball on the fifth pitch or any additional pitches will entitle the batter to one more pitch. There are no called strikes or balls or walks.
8. Outs will be recognized. The only time a player will be removed from a base if that player is thrown out at the base or if a fly ball they hit is caught. Players will NOT clear the bases after three outs. All players must stay on the bases until everyone has batted.
9. There are no intentional bunts, *the ball must travel past a 3 ft arch to be fair*. If the ball does not pass the 3 ft arch, then the ball is a strike and will be declared a dead ball. The batter will continue to bat.
10. The in-field fly rule will not apply in this league.
11. Base stealing and taking leads are not allowed. A runner cannot leave the base until the ball is hit.
12. The defensive pitcher (player) must have one foot within a 5-foot radius of the adult pitcher and must be equal to or behind the pitcher's rubber when the ball is pitched.
13. The ball will be declared dead when the defensive player has control of the ball in the pitching circle. The other base runners will be allowed to advance to the next base if they have passed the half-way point between the bases at the time timeout is granted.
14. Any thrown ball which leaves the field of play (e.g., over or under the side fences, backstop, etc.) will be called a dead ball and all runners will advance one base.
15. Defensive coaches are allowed on the field during play. These coaches must remain beyond the infield and must not interfere with the base coach.
16. At the end of each half inning, coaches must get their teams on and off the field as quickly as possible.
17. On-deck batters will not be allowed.
18. **The barrel of any bat shall be no greater than 2 ¼ inches in diameter. T-ball stamped bats are allowed.**
19. Headfirst slides are prohibited at any base on the field. A player that slides headfirst will be called out on the play.

20. When rotating your players into the infield before the start of the 4th inning, the catcher's position will not be considered an infield position. Each child must play in the infield before the start of the 4th inning.
21. Base paths are approximately 45 ft
22. Rif #5 safety ball will be used
23. No Officials. The coach at the pitching position oversees the game.

Fun is #1

Be a role model that will make your child proud

PELICAN PARK YOUTH SPORTS BASEBALL

OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES COMMON TO AGE GROUPS – 7-15

General Game Rules

1. Official Cal Ripken/ Babe Ruth Baseball rules shall apply, with the exceptions as noted.
2. Games can end in a tie.
3. All innings will be completed once started, unless the home team is ahead in the last inning and time has expired or if the game is called due to weather.
4. An inning is complete, and the next inning deemed to have started the instant the 3rd out in the bottom half of an inning occurs.
5. **A new inning cannot be started according to the following guidelines:**
 - a. **7 y/o – 10 y/o: No new inning if less than 5 minutes in the time limit**
 - b. **11 y/o – 15 y/o: No new inning if less than 3 minutes in the time limit**
6. If the home team is winning after the top half of the inning, the game will be called.
7. Rainouts shall be considered a complete game if 3 complete innings (2 complete innings for 7-year-old) have been played. An inning will be considered completed if the home team is winning after the top half of the inning, should the game be called due to weather.
8. At the start of the game, the umpire will have the scorekeeper record the official start time.
9. **The “HOME” team must supply an official scorekeeper. Coaches for the home team will be responsible to appoint a team parent to keep score in the Official score book. The home team coach will be responsible to return the completed score book to the game bucket located at each field. If a parent wishes to be trained as a score keeper, they can contact Pelican and a training session will be scheduled.**
10. **The “AWAY” team must supply an official scoreboard operator. Coaches for the away team will be responsible to appoint a team parent to run the scoreboard.**
11. The “Home” team will occupy the 3rd base dugout.
12. The max run per inning rule is for ages 7 -12:
 - A. For the first, second, and third innings there will be a six (6) run max
 - B. For the 4th and additional innings there will be a twelve (12) run max, this will give a team an opportunity to catch up.

- C. If a team is ahead by 12 runs after 3 complete innings, 10 runs after 4 complete innings, or 8 runs after 5 complete innings the game will be called.
 - b. The max run per inning rule is for ages 13-15:
 - A. For the first, second, and third innings there will be a six (6) run max
 - B. For the 4th and additional innings there will be no run maximum.
 - C. If a team is ahead by 12 runs after 3 complete innings, 10 runs after 4, or 8 after 5 complete innings the game will be called.
- 13. Because ending game time and the start of the next game is very close, all efforts should be made to keep games on schedule.
- 14. Any thrown ball which remains on the field of play shall be considered a live ball and play will continue, **unless otherwise specified in Age-Specific Rules**. Regarding play in progress, all timeouts and play stoppages will be called at the umpire's discretion. **There are additional guidelines regarding stoppage of play in the Age-Specific Rules sections.**
- 15. Metal cleats are NOT allowed in any age group at Pelican Park for safety reasons.**
- 16. In any game that is cancelled prior to the completion of the 3rd inning (2nd inning for 7-year-old), the game will be replayed from the beginning and not from the point that the game was cancelled.
- 17. If all games are not played due to rainouts the standings will be determined by win percentage.
- 18. All players, excluding 5 year & 6-year-old baseball, shall wear baseball pants, caps with the bill pointing forward, and have their shirts always tucked inside their pants while on the field of play.
- 19. Infield practice may be taken only if time is allowed for both teams and games are on schedule.
- 20. A minimum of 6 players is required to start play. If a team does not have six players at game time, the game is forfeited. However, the use of pool is allowed. Please refer to the Pool Player rules in this section for complete set of rules and regulations.
- 21. All players present at the game must be included in the batting lineup and remain in the lineup for the entire game. Any player arriving after the start of the game must be placed at the bottom of the batting order. A regular team member who comes late to a game will replace any pool player(s).
- 22. At the end of each half inning, coaches must get their teams on and off the field as quickly as possible.
- 23. All equipment must be kept off the field of play.
- 24. "Noisemakers" It is considered unsportsmanlike conduct to use artificial noisemakers (i.e., bells, whistles, shakers, beepers, horns, air horns, etc.) to distract or disparage a player, coach, or umpire/official/referee. A team may receive one warning and then the coach, player, parent, or fan will be ejected from the game area as determined by the umpire. The coach is responsible for their spectators. If it can not be determined who in the stands is creating the problem the coach will be penalized. An individual ejected from a game shall sit out the next game also. If the individual returns to the game area, the associated team (if applicable) will forfeit the game. The behavior of anyone ejected from the game is subject to review by the Pelican Park Discipline Committee. Unsportsmanlike behavior is judged and determined by the official/referee/umpire. (If a Coach feels the other team is

displaying unsportsmanlike behavior they should talk with the official. The official will monitor. If necessary, give fans and coach a warning. If it continues the official would take appropriate actions.)

- 25. Making decisions to run out the clock (Stalling) is strictly prohibited. Stalling can include but not limited to deliberately slow pitcher changes, unnecessary mound visits, unnecessary position changes, etc. Umpires will have final judgement on what is considered stalling.**
26. Judgment calls by the umpire shall be final. Appeals rule clarifications and/or protest may be made by the head coach only. Debating an umpire's judgment calls will not be tolerated and shall be grounds for ejection from the game at the discretion of the umpire. In the event a coach is ejected from the game, said coach must leave dugout and shall not be permitted to coach from the sideline or outside of the fence. A coach ejected will serve at least a one game suspension for his or her next game.
27. No smoking or tobacco of any kind will be permitted on the field or in the dugouts. No alcoholic beverages are allowed at games, practices, or in parking lots.
28. Coaches shall hand out a copy of the rules to the parents prior to the season. This should enable everyone to better understanding of the game as well as a reminder that the sport is expected to be a positive experience for the players.
29. A flagrant violation of the rules will result in ejection from the game and suspension from the next scheduled game. This rule includes all coaches, players, and parents.
30. Unsportsmanlike conduct (abusive language or insulting sign language) by coaches, players, parents, or fans toward the umpires, other coaches, players, parents, or fans is not permitted. A team may receive one warning and then the coach, player, parent, or fan will be ejected from the game area as defined by the umpire. An individual ejected from a game shall sit out the next game also. If the individual returns to the game area, the associated team (if applicable) will forfeit the game. The behavior of anyone ejected from the game is subject to review by the Pelican Park Discipline Committee.
31. End of the season rankings for post season tournament play will be determined by:
 1. Head-to-Head record
 2. Flip a coin by Pelican Park staff, which will be videoed for documentation.
32. **Game Protest:** The following process will be used to address protests in game situations:
 - Notify umpire and state protest at point of question. Protest must be made during the game at the time of the infraction. Judgment calls cannot be protested. All details including the time of protest must be noted in the score book and the officials and both coaches must sign the score book. The game will continue.
 - Provide Pelican Park with a written description within 24 hours from start of game.
 - If for some reason the opposing coach refuses to sign the book the protesting coach and the official MUST sign the book.
 - All protests are to be brought to the Pelican Park Recreation Staff for ruling. A ruling will be made within 72 hours.

Playing Time Rules

33. The following rules are the restrictions for playing times ages 7-15
 - a. Players may not sit 2 consecutive innings
 - b. Players may not sit for a total of 2 innings until everyone has sit out for 1 full

- inning.
- c. Players must play at minimum half of the game.
 - d. Any exceptions must be approved by Pelican Park staff.
34. **For ages 7-10:** Each player must play a full inning in the infield by the **completion of the 3rd inning**, unless otherwise approved by the Park and the player's parents, due to safety concerns. **The catcher position is considered an infield position.**
35. Players that sit out an inning defensively can re-enter at any time and position, except for pitchers.
36. If a player is overcome by the heat or becomes ill and cannot continue, the player can be removed from the game without penalty of an out when it is the player's turn to bat. The player will not be allowed to re-enter the game.

Pool Player Rules

37. A pool player system will be used to eliminate forfeits.
- The Recreation Supervisor will maintain and provide a list of pool players.
 - Eligible pool players will be based on draft position.
 - The pool players are players from draft position 6th round and below.
 - The Recreation Supervisor will provide a list of eligible pool players to each coach in his/her division.
 - A coach can borrow only enough players to field a team of 9, with a maximum of 3 pool players allowed to reach the minimum of 9 players. For leagues that use 4 outfielders, their maximum number of players is 10 with a maximum of 4 pool players. Example: 7 players, 2 pool players allowed; 6 players, 3 pool players allowed.
 - The loaned players must bat at the bottom of the order and play in the outfield for the entire game.
 - Games will not be rescheduled due to absent players.
 - If pool players cannot be found, the team must forfeit the game.
 - A regular team member who comes late to a game will replace any pool player(s).

General Rules for Pitchers

38. To help maximize playing time, the number of warm up pitches allowed should be limited to 8. If a pitcher is brought to the mound and throws one warm-up pitch and is removed before throwing a pitch to a batter, the intended pitcher may not re-enter the game as a pitcher.
39. For ages 9-12:
- a. Pitchers are limited to 2 innings per game.
 - b. Pitchers are limited to 5 innings per week
 - c. Pitchers are limited to 3 innings max per day, should a team have a double header. If a pitcher pitches 3 innings in a day, they must have a two-day rest before they pitch in another game.
 - d. Once a pitcher is removed from the mound, the player cannot be returned to the pitcher position. Once a pitcher throws a warmup pitch, this will be considered as having entered the game and pitched one inning.
40. For ages 13-15:
- a. Pitchers are limited to 3 innings per game. Once a pitcher is removed from the mound as a pitcher, he may not re-enter that game as a pitcher. Only 2 coach visits can the mound (or field) per pitcher per inning. The second visit will constitute a pitching change. Once a pitcher throws a warmup pitch, this will be

- considered as having entered the game and pitched one inning.
- b. Pitchers are limited to 7 innings per week
 - c. Pitchers are limited to 4 innings max per day, should a team have a double header. If a pitcher pitches 4 innings in a day, they must have a two-day rest before they pitch in another game.

General Rules for Catchers

- 41. A team must always field a catcher except for 5 year & 6-year-old baseball.
- 42. Catchers shall wear all protective gear (helmet and mask, chest protector, shin guards, and hard cup) anytime they are receiving pitches from behind the plate. Whenever possible, catchers shall be made ready for the start of the defensive half of the inning. If the catcher is on base with 2 outs, the coach can ask the umpire for a pinch runner to allow the catcher to suit up before the 3rd out.
 - a. Note: the pinch runner must be the last batted out.

General Rules for Runners

- 43. Tag out between bases: A runner is out if he attempts to forcibly dislodge the ball by contacting a fielder who has possession of the ball to make the tag. A runner is out if he runs more than 3 feet away from a direct line between the bases to avoid being tagged. A fielder may not block the base path unless he has possession of the ball to make the tag.
- 44. Whenever a tag play is evident, the runners must seek to slide or seek to avoid contact with the fielder. Malicious contact shall supersede all obstruction penalties.
Penalty for Malicious Contact: Runner shall be called out and may be ejected from the game at the umpire's discretion.
- 45. **For ages 7-12, Headfirst sliding is only allowed on an attempt to return to base on a pick-off play attempt or being doubled off. The penalty for a headfirst slide is an out.**
 - a. **For ages 13-15, Headfirst sliding is allowed.**
- 46. A runner is out if he intentionally interferes with a thrown ball, or hinders a fielder attempting to make a play on a batted ball provided the collision was not caused intentionally by the fielder. If a fielder blocks the path and does not have possession of the ball, the runner will be awarded the base.
- 47. All base runners ages 5-12 must wear helmets with face masks while in play until they return to the dugout. If their helmet is removed before entering the dugout, one warning will be given. A second infraction will result in an out.

General Rules for Batters

48. Bat Barrel Size

- **Ages 7-8: The barrel of any bat shall be no greater than 2 5/8 inches in diameter.**
- **Ages 9-10: The barrel of any bat shall be no greater than 2 5/8 inches in diameter**
- **Ages 11-15: The barrel of any bat shall be no greater than 2 3/4 inches in diameter**
- **Only official baseball bats are permitted for ages 9 and above. T-ball stamped bats are permitted for 7 & 8-year-old age groups, as long as**

they adhere to the 2 5/8" maximum barrel diameter. Official Softball stamped bats are not permitted in any age group.

49. One warning will be issued per team for flagrant bat slinging (i.e., slinging after contact or strike out). If the warned team has another occurrence, the player who threw the bat will be called out if he reached base successfully and all runners return to their original bases.
50. Any thrown ball which enters a dugout or otherwise leaves the field of play (e.g., over or under the side fences, backstop, etc.) will be called a dead ball and all runners will advance one base.
51. A base runner that passes another is out. If two base runners occupy the same base, they may advance or retreat with the liability of being tagged out. Once the play has stopped and two base runners are on the same base, the "following" runner is called out and the lead runner stays on the base.
52. On-deck batters will not be allowed for 7-year-old & 8-year baseball.
53. **All batters must wear helmets with face masks, including those batters warming up in the on-deck circle. Batters waiting "in the hole" must remain inside the dugout.**
54. **A facemask is required on all helmets except for 13-15 league where it will be optional.**
55. Bunting is allowed except for 7-year-old & 8-year-old baseball. Showing a bunt and then taking a full swing is not allowed. Batter will be called out.
56. A batter shall be called, out on appeal, when he fails to bat in his proper turn, and another batter completes a time at bat in his place. The proper batter may take his place in the batter's box at any time before the improper batter becomes a runner or is put out, and any balls and strikes shall be counted in the proper batter's time at bat. The improper batter must be identified before the first pitch is thrown to the next batter.
57. For ages 7-15: On a ball batted to the infield, the batter running to 1st base must use the outside-colored base. The defensive player will use the white base to make the play, while the runner will use the colored base. The defensive player may not block the colored base in any way. In this case, if the batter running to 1st base on an infield hit touches the inside white base, the batter is out. Once the runner reaches 1st base safely, the runner can use the white base. On a ball to the outfield, when running past 1st base, the runner can use the inside white base.
58. Umpires have the judgment to review all unsportsmanlike behavior from players, coaches, and spectators. Any conduct that is detrimental to the game and causes an unfair or negative experience can result in warnings and/or ejections.

General Rules for Coaches

59. Training / Certification: Head Coaches are asked to participate in the coach's certification clinic. All coaches are required to sign the Pelican Park Code of Conduct.
60. Defensive coaches are allowed on the field for the 8s & under. For the 9s & up, defensive coaches are not allowed on the field during play and must remain within 3 feet of the dugout opening during play.
61. Only Head Coaches will be allowed to address the umpires.
62. All youth sports practices will be scheduled by the Recreation District and will be held at Pelican Park. The District strongly discourages practices that have not been scheduled by the District. Any practices not scheduled by the District are not covered by the District's insurance. Coaches who hold practices offsite that have

not been scheduled by the District assume all liability for themselves as well as them

63. Coach/Director Conduct & Expectations on Field
- No alcohol, drug, or tobacco usage.
 - No use of foul or abusive language.
 - No violent play or physical abuse.
 - No unsportsmanlike conduct.

Disciplinary Action

64. This is a recreational play and arguing with the umpires is not tolerated. Violators of this policy will be dealt with in a serious manner and depending on the situation it may result in their immediate removal as a coach and could eliminate them from future coaching considerations. Coaches serve at the pleasure of the Park and can be removed with or without cause by the Park.
65. Disciplinary action regarding any infraction will be handled in the following manner: After the initial report is received, then staff will attempt to talk with the parties involved and obtain written reports of what happened. After gathering information, the Recreation Division Staff will meet to determine how the situation should be handled. Actions/sanctions can include verbal or/or written warning, game suspension, removal of coaching privileges or total banning for the season or from the Park.
66. If actions are taken against a coach, parent, or visitor, they will be notified by the staff. Should they disagree with the staff's decision, there is an appeal process, but the staff's decision remains in effect until an appeal hearing is held to confirm or overruled.
67. Any coach ejected from a game by the umpire must leave the field/complex immediately. They will automatically serve at least one game suspension for the next scheduled game. Recreation Division staff will review the circumstances and decide if the 1 game suspension is enough or additional review/sanctions should be done.

PELICAN PARK YOUTH SPORTS BASEBALL

OFFICIAL BASEBALL AGE SPECIFIC RULES AGE GROUPS – 7-15

7 & 8 YEAR OLD AGE SPECIFIC OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES (6-7 Year old Fall)

1. The "Common to All Age Groups" Baseball Rules apply.
2. Games will consist of 6 innings or a time limit of 1 hour and 15 minutes, whichever comes first.
3. **A new inning cannot be started if there are less than 5 minutes remaining in the time limit.**
4. There will be ten defensive players, using four players as outfielders. The fourth outfielder must play at the same depth as the other three outfielders.
5. A catcher can only play a maximum of 2 innings per game.
6. All outfielder players will stand at least 15 feet from the baseline in the outfield until the ball has contacted the bat. There will be a white line drawn on the ground 15 feet behind the base line.
7. Bases shall be 55 feet apart

8. A batted ball that hits the umpire will be a live ball and play will continue.
9. An adult of the batting team will pitch from 30-35 feet. **A batted ball that hits the adult pitcher is a dead ball and will be replayed.**
10. The adult pitcher must not intentionally interfere with the *defensive* players when the ball is in play.
11. As soon as the ball is put into play by a batter, the adult pitcher must remove himself/herself from the play. **The adult pitcher can only become involved again when the ball is thrown back to the pitching circle, and only to back-up the defensive player (pitcher) on an errant throw or a dropped ball.**
 - a. 1st offense – warning
 - b. 2nd offense – the team will be charged an out, this out will not affect any player batting or on the field. Should this be the 3rd out of the inning then the batter in the box will bat first in the next inning and start a new count
 - c. 3rd offense – the coach pitcher is removed /replaced from the pitching position and must be stationed in the dugout. This is not an ejection and the coach can continue to coach the game from the dugout.
12. An adult of the batting team shall pitch to the hitters from inside the designated pitching circle. When the ball is released, the pitcher's entire body must be within the pitching circle.
13. Adult pitchers are prohibited from coaching base runners during a play. Base runners must be coached by either the first or third base coach.
14. Pitching coaches are only able to provide hitter assistance in order to speed up game or save time. Only non-pitching coaches are able to provide instruction or tips for hitting.
15. The batter is out after 3 strikes or 5 pitches, whichever occurs first. A foul ball on the 5th and subsequent pitches will not result in an out. There are no called strikes or balls or walks.
16. There are no intentional bunts, one warning will be given and after that the batter will be called out. A batted ball that does not reach the infield grass is a foul ball.
17. The in-field fly rule will not apply in this league.
18. Base stealing and taking leads are not allowed. A runner cannot leave the base until the ball is hit. A warning will be given for the team and the play will be replayed. Any subsequent violation will result in the runner being called out.
19. The defensive pitcher (player) must have one foot within a 5-foot radius of the adult pitcher and located to the side of the adult pitcher when the ball is pitched.
20. Any thrown ball which remains on the field of play shall be considered a live ball and play will continue until the umpire grants "time."
21. **Defensive players cannot request "time" at any position in the field. The ball must be in the possession of a defensive player in one of the following situations before the umpire will grant time.**
 - i. **Possession of the ball by a defensive player in the pitching circle**
 1. **This also includes instances of the ball obviously being thrown to the pitcher inside the circle, but the ball is mishandled by the pitcher. (We are not going to keep running if the pitcher misses the ball)**
 - ii. **Possession of the ball by the coach who is pitching**
 - iii. **Possession of the ball by a defensive player who is in the baseline and is restricting the lead runner from advancing to the next base (controls the lead runner)**
22. **Once time is granted, the base runner will be allowed to advance to the next base if in the umpire's judgment he is past the halfway point between the bases (as should be marked by a line near the base path) at the instant that timeout is called by the**

umpire. If the base runner has not passed the halfway point when time is granted, he must return to the previous base.

23. If a batted ball is fielded by an infielder and is thrown to first base and meets the fence behind first base, the ball becomes dead and all base runners advance one base.
24. A coach/parent can assist the catcher in any way by being on the field behind the catcher's position regardless of the number of players.(7 year olds only)
25. Defensive coaches are not allowed on the field during play but may be stationed in foul territory near the left and right fielders. These coaches must remain beyond the dirt area of the infield and must not interfere with the base coach.
26. On-deck batters will not be allowed.
27. Rif #10 safety ball will be used for the 7- & 8-year-old

9-YEAR-OLD AGE SPECIFIC OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES (8 Year old Fall)

1. The "Common to All Age Groups" Baseball Rules apply.
2. Games will consist of 6 innings or a time limit of 1 hour and 15 minutes, whichever comes first.
3. **A new inning cannot be started if there are less than 5 minutes remaining in the time limit.**
4. The league will allow a maximum of 9 defensive players on the field of play using 3 outfielders. Outfielders will be positioned at reasonable outfield depth (at least 30 feet beyond the infielders).
5. **Four (4) balls will constitute the Hybrid Player Pitch / Coach Pitch Rule. Intentional walks are not allowed.**
6. **Hybrid Player Pitch / Coach Pitch will apply for the whole season. Once a batter gets to 4 balls, the coach of the batting team will come into the game. The coach pitcher will pick up the count (i.e. 4-2 count and will inherit 2 strikes) and strikes will be called on the coach. The batter will be out after 3 strikes. A foul ball on the last pitch will extend the at-bat. The umpire will have the judgment to allow an extra pitch if the Coach Pitcher throws an unhittable pitch.**
7. Batter will be out after three (3) strikes. Three strikes are an out even if the catcher drops or misses the ball on the third strike.
8. Batter hit by a pitch will be awarded first base.
9. Infield fly rule will be in effect.
10. Pitching will be done from 46 feet and bases shall be 60 feet apart.
11. No balks will be called.
12. Base runners may not lead off. No stealing until the ball crosses home plate. Once the ball does reach home plate the runner can take a lead or steal a base. (Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Rule)
13. **Base runners are only allowed to steal one base per pitch. For example: If a base runner is stealing 2nd base and the catcher over throws 2nd, the base runner must stay at 2nd. This is to help develop catchers and the infield for the next age groups.**
14. Runners will not be allowed to steal home
15. **Once the ball is back in the pitcher's possession on the mound, if the baserunner is not making an attempt to advance to the next base, he must return to his base immediately.**

10-YEAR-OLD OFFICIAL AGE SPECIFIC BASEBALL RULES (9-10 Year old Fall)

1. The "Common to All Age Groups" Baseball Rules apply.
2. Games will consist of 6 innings or a time limit of 1 hour and 15 minutes, whichever comes

first.

3. **A new inning cannot be started if there are less than 5 minutes remaining in the time limit.**
4. A maximum of 9 defensive players will be allowed on the field of play using 3 outfielders. Outfielders will be positioned at reasonable outfield depth (at least 30 feet beyond the infielders).
5. 4 balls constitute a walk. Intentional walks are not allowed.
6. Batter will be out after three (3) strikes. Three strikes are an out even if the catcher drops or misses the ball on the third strike.
7. The infield fly rule will be in effect.
8. Batter hit by a pitch will be awarded first base.
9. Pitching will be done from 46 feet and bases shall be 60 feet apart.
10. Base runners may not lead off. No stealing until the ball crosses home plate. Once the ball does reach home plate the runner can take a lead or steal a base. (Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Rule)
11. **Once the ball is back in the pitcher's possession on the mound, if the baserunner is not making an attempt to advance to the next base, he must return to his base immediately.**
12. Balks will not be called. They will only be warned

11/12 OFFICIAL BASEBALL AGE SPECIFIC RULES

1. The "Common to All Age Groups" Baseball Rules apply.
2. Games will consist of 6 innings or a time limit of 1 hour and 20 minutes, whichever comes first.
3. **A new inning cannot be started if there are less than 3 minutes remaining in the time limit.**
4. A maximum of 9 defensive players will be allowed on the field of play using 3 outfielders.
5. Four (4) balls will constitute a walk. There will be no intentional walks.
6. A dropped 3rd strike will be a live ball if (1) first base is unoccupied or (2) if first base is occupied and there are two outs. A batter who does not realize his situation on a third strike not caught, and who is not in the process of running to first base, shall be declared out once he leaves the dirt circle surrounding home plate.
7. The infield fly rule will be in effect.
8. Base runners may lead off and steal at will. (Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Rule)
9. One balk warning will be issued per pitcher per game before a base is awarded
10. Pitching is done from 50 feet and bases shall be 70 feet apart.

13-15-YEAR-OLD OFFICIAL AGE SPECIFIC BASEBALL RULES

1. The "Common to All Age Groups" Baseball Rules apply.
2. Games will consist of 7 innings or a time limit of 1 hour and 30 minutes, whichever comes first.
3. **A new inning cannot be started if there are less than 3 minutes remaining in the time limit.**
4. A maximum of 9 defensive players will be allowed on the field of play using 3 outfielders. Four (4) balls will constitute a walk. Intentional walks are allowed.
5. A dropped 3rd strike will be a live ball if (1) first base is unoccupied or (2) if first base is occupied and there are two outs. A batter who does not realize his situation on a third strike not caught, and who is not in the process of running to first base, shall be declared out once he leaves the dirt circle surrounding home plate.

6. The infield fly rule will be in effect.
7. Base runners may lead off and steal at will. A batter will not attempt a bunt while a runner is attempting to steal home (suicide squeeze).
8. Pitching is done from 60' 6" feet and bases shall be 90 feet apart.

Post Season Activities

Intra-League All Stars (optional)

The District designed Intra-League games to be a fun game played at the end of the season by those players selected based on exceptional skill and sportsmanship.

- **Team Makeup:** The teams will be divided according to their standings in the league. The Board will pick a date towards the end of the season and will use the standings as of that date. The teams will be divided in a normal "S" curve type of draft. Team A will consist of boys from Teams 1, 4, 5, 8, 9 & 12, etc. Team B will consist of boys from Teams 2, 3, 6, 7, 10 & 11, etc. If there are an odd number of teams, the boys from the last place team will be split to make the teams even.
- **Intra-league All-Star Selections:** Each All-Star team will consist of 11-12 boys. Each league team will get to place as many boys as necessary to make up 11-12 boys per team. If the numbers do not allow each team to place the same number of boys on the team, the higher seeded teams will get to place an extra boy until the numbers add up to 11-12 per team. Each regular season head coach should verify his boy will be able to attend the game before nominating them.
- **Seeding Deadline:** The age group directors of each league should set the seeding deadline date but it should be roughly 2 weeks prior to the end of the regular season so that the t-shirts can be ordered and the boys for each team can be contacted.
- **Coaches:** The head coach for each All-Star team should be the head coach from the higher seeded teams. If that coach is unable to coach the game, the next highest seeded team's coach should be asked, and so on. The coach must be in good standing with the BAB and Pelican Park. A neutral coach will officiate the game. The head coaches may not contact the intra league team beforehand or hold a practice. The boys will receive a t-shirt prior to the game.