

# Lebanon County Pony Baseball Rules and Regulations As Amended January 11, 2015

## Article I—League Officials

### Article I—Section 1: League Officials

- A. It is the goal of the Lebanon County Pony Baseball League to provide an opportunity for all youth leagues in Lebanon County to participate in a competitive and well balanced recreational baseball league at the “Pony” level. The founding principle of this League is that a “tiered system” in which kids are playing with and against their peers that are of a similar age is in the best interest of the children and baseball in general. This league, while founded by Falcon Youth Baseball Association, is designed to include any like-minded Associations from any school district.
- B. For the purposes of the Lebanon County Baseball Rules and Regulations, an “Association” shall be defined as an entity that enters teams in the Lebanon County Pony Baseball League, no matter how many teams that is.
- C. The Commissioner of the Lebanon County Pony Baseball League serves a term until such time as the Commissioner is removed by a two-thirds majority vote of all Associations or such time as the Commissioner voluntarily resigns. Each Association will have a number of votes equal to the number of teams it entered into the League in the season immediately prior the vote taking place. A vote for removal of the Commissioner may be called between the end of the season and August 1 by any single Association. At any other time, a call for removal/replacement of the Commissioner must be petitioned by one-half of the Associations participating in the League. Following the voluntary resignation of a Commissioner, the candidate who has the highest percentage of votes of the candidate pool shall be appointed to the role of Commissioner. The outgoing Commissioner will be responsible to establish and oversee an *ad hoc* committee to handle the selection process. The Commissioner has oversight of day-to-day operations of the Lebanon County Pony Baseball League and is the Chair of the Rules Committee. The Commissioner handles all disciplinary matters involving coaches, players, and fans. The Commissioner may appoint Deputy Commissioners that will serve at the pleasure of the Commissioner.
- D. The Rules Committee is comprised of one member from each individual Association that has a team in the Lebanon County Pony Baseball League. The purpose of the Rules Committee is to concentrate on improving the game as it occurs between the lines. As such, its purview will consist of playing rules. The Rules Committee will meet primarily in the autumn and winter in advance of the January Regular League Meeting, but may meet otherwise to address critical rules issues.
- E. The Commissioner will form *ad hoc* Audit Committee, Grievance Committee and Senior Advisory Committee as necessary for the efficient operation of LCPBL. The Senior Advisory Committee shall be consulted on proposed changes of Articles I & II of this document and should, as nearly as practicable, consist of one representative from each school district that participates in the LCPBL.

## Article II--Administration

### Article II—Section 1: Meetings

- A. The Lebanon County Pony Baseball League shall hold a Regular League Meeting or conference call monthly from January through April. The location, date and time will be determined by the Commissioner by December 20 of the previous year. These meetings will be for the purpose of baseball operations issues with the intent to provide information for the upcoming season, and, as such, coaches and assistant coaches are strongly encouraged to attend. Regular meetings in May and June shall be considered “if needed” as determined by the Commissioner. Nothing in these rules shall prohibit conducting limited time-sensitive or routine business via email or conference call if a meeting can be avoided.
- B. Each Association should send one representative per team that will be entered into the Lebanon County Pony Baseball League to each Regular League Meeting. At a minimum, each Association shall send one representative. The Commissioner or his designee will run the meeting based on an agenda prepared in

advance of the meeting. These meetings will seek to provide information and solicit feedback. No rules may be amended at the Regular League Meeting; however open controlled discussion is encouraged.

- C. The April Regular League Meeting is mandatory for each team as it will consist of a final rules briefing.
- D. The Rules Committee will meet primarily in the autumn and winter in advance of the January Regular League Meeting, but may meet otherwise to address critical rules issues. Each Association will have the representative number of votes equal to the number of teams that they entered into the League the previous spring "regular" season. That is to say, that while an Association has one representative on the Rules Committee, it will have the number of votes equal to the number of teams that play in the overall league or at the particular level (12U or 10U or 8U) that will be effected by any recommended amendment to the playing rules. Any recommendation of the Rules Committee will be reviewed by the Commissioner and the Senior Advisory Committee for final decision and formal rules amendment. All rules amendments must be completed by the February Regular League Meeting.

#### Article II—Section 2: Tiered System

- A. For the purposes of the Rules and Regulations, a player's age shall be his/her "baseball age," or how old the player is on May 1 of the season in question.
- B. There will be three tiers in the Lebanon County Pony Baseball League, 12U (Midget Division), 10U and 8U. Nothing shall prohibit a player from "playing up."
  - 1. "10U" shall mean "Ten and under."
  - 2. "12U" shall mean "Twelve and under."
  - 3. "8U" shall mean "Eight and Under," that classification formerly known as "Mustang."
- C. There shall be no limit on the number of twelve year olds on a team. However, Associations who wish to enter a team in the 12U division:
  - 1. must participate in the Lebanon Valley Midget Baseball League with a team or teams whose rosters consist of 11 players or more, except that Associations with multiple midget teams have no roster size minimum and;
  - 2. must have by-laws or Association rules that prove that they do not cut players who are eligible to play 12U, and;
  - 3. must have an established program for players at the 10U (or similarly structured) level, whether or not they enter 10U team(s) in the Lebanon County Pony Baseball League.
- D. The Lebanon County Pony Baseball League reserves the right to deny entry to an Association that does not have rules or policies that align with the intent of the tiered system.
- E. Player eligibility will be determined based on Lebanon Valley Midget Baseball By-Laws and their boundaries. This includes the exception as provided regarding Head Coaches who reside outside the territorial boundaries who may have their child play for them. However, each team in the Lebanon County Pony Baseball League 10U Division may have only one "Head Coach."
- F. All players 10 and older must try out for Midget Baseball. Any player that is selected for Midgets who declines the selection is ineligible to compete in the Lebanon County Pony Baseball League.
- G. In order for an 8U player to be added to a Pony roster as a "call up," the 8U player must be within his/her boundaries in order to be an eligible player for that roster. Grandfather clause was deleted effective September 26, 2013.

#### Article II—Section 3: Rosters and Call Ups

- A. Any 12U team that is short players may call up a 10U player from their organization with consent of the player, parents and 10u head coach. The intent of this rule is to allow Associations flexibility to move players temporarily to avoid forfeits. As an example, a 10U player may be called up to a 12U team to ensure that the 12U team does not forfeit, as long as the 10U coach, player and player's parent(s) agree to the move and so long as it does not affect the 10U teams ability to appropriately staff that team. All call ups must be reported to the Commissioner by email within 24 hours of occurrence. Call ups should only be utilized to ensure that a team has enough players not to forfeit, not to "round out" rosters. Any 10U rostered player that plays

more than five games per season at 12U (Midget Division) will be transferred to the Pony 12U (Midget Division) roster.

- B. Any 10U team that is short players may call up an 8U player from their Association. If 8U players are not available, teams with multiple 10U teams may borrow players from other 10U teams in their Association. However, no individual player may be borrowed more than once until all players from the Association have been borrowed at least once. All “borrowing” of players between 10U teams or call ups from 10U to 12U (*amended September 26, 2013*) must be reported to the Commissioner by email within 24 hours of occurrence.
- C. Pony players may be called up to Midget Baseball with consent of the player, parents and Pony head coach. The intent of this rule is to allow Associations flexibility to move players temporarily to avoid forfeits. As an example, a 12U (Midget Division) player may be called up to a LVMB midget team to ensure that the midget team does not forfeit, as long as the 12U (Midget Division) coach, player and player’s parent(s) agree to the move and so long as it does not affect the 12U (Midget Division) team’s ability to appropriately staff that team. Any Pony player that plays more than three innings at five games per season at LVMB Midget Baseball will be ineligible to return to the Pony system. For the purposes of this sub-section, Midget Baseball season includes the regular spring season and playoffs, but does not include the current Midget fall ball program. All call ups from any level to midgets must be reported to the Commissioner by email within 24 hours of occurrence (*amended September 26, 2013*).
- D. Roster violations will be handled at the lowest level possible. Care will be exercised not to penalize the children for decisions made by coaches or Associations. However, repeated intentional roster violations designed to gain a competitive advantage by the shifting of players or exploitation of rules will not be tolerated and will be handled in a swift and certain manner. Violations may be handled with probation conditions, suspension of coaches, fines, expulsion of teams or Associations, or any combination thereof. If an Association has serious issues related to injuries or player unavailability that occurs that is no fault of that Association, the Commissioner may grant special permission to an Association to modify rosters to ensure that teams remain viable following a thorough and expeditious review of all factors. Generally, no player will be allowed to “play down” from 12u to 10u.

#### Article II—Section 4: Association and Team Responsibilities

- A. By August 30, each Association shall submit their intent to return to the Lebanon County Pony Baseball League for the subsequent season.
- B. By February 1, each Association shall provide a reasonable estimate on the number of teams they intend to enter at each level.
- C. By March 15, each Association shall confirm the number of teams they will enter at each level.
- D. By March 21, each Association shall pay the Lebanon County Pony Baseball League fee as determined for that year.
- E. Each Association shall be required to hold liability and personal injury insurance in the amounts of \$2,000,000 per aggregate and \$1,000,000 per occurrence naming the Lebanon County Pony Baseball League as an “Additional Insured.” The league fees of each Association will be reduced by the amount of any fee associated with naming Lebanon County Pony Baseball League as “Additional Insured” on an existing policy.
- F. Each Association is strongly encouraged to conduct a Child Abuse Clearance (Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare Form CY113) on all Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches.
- G. Each team is required to pay one-half of the umpire fee(s) at each game.
- H. Home teams are responsible for having the field in acceptable playing shape, including the playing surface and chalked foul lines and batters’ boxes. All fields must have restroom or portable toilet facilities on site. Home teams will be responsible for providing umpire gear (mask, chest protector, shin guards) at each field. Each umpire is responsible to provide a ball/strike/out “clicker”.

#### Article II—Section 5: Discipline

- A. Any coach or fan who is ejected from a game shall serve a minimum one game suspension the following game.

- B. Any coach or fan who is ejected for the second time during a season shall serve a minimum three game suspension the following game.
- C. Any coach or fan who is ejected for a third time during a season will be suspended indefinitely.
- D. Player ejections for issues not related to safety will be handled at the lowest possible level with the focus being on rehabilitating the player's attitude and conduct. Player ejections and conduct are taken very seriously and despite the restorative focus, will be handled swiftly with input from the coaching staff, Association, and Commissioner. Repeated safety violations by a player will be not be tolerated.
- E. All discipline will be under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner. The Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner will, to the extent possible, speak with the Head Coaches, the umpire and the alleged violator to determine the facts of what has occurred. The Commissioner will then determine sanctions that can include a warning, probation, or suspension. The violator has the right to appeal these sanctions to an *ad hoc* Grievance Committee comprised of three head coaches, Association officers or senior advisers selected by the Commissioner to examine the facts, investigation, and conclusion. Members of the Grievance Committee shall be selected only from neutral parties to the Grievance and preferably from the opposite age division. The goal of any and all discipline is to ensure that players and parents/fans have the best possible experience with the Lebanon County Pony Baseball League as possible. There is no requirement for the Commissioner to expend extraordinary effort to investigate these matters.

## Article III—Operations

### Article III-Section 1: Game Day Operations

- A. The basis of the Lebanon County Pony Baseball League's rules is the Official Little League Baseball Rules and the rules of the Lebanon Valley Midget Baseball League. The Lebanon County Pony Baseball League may amend those rules as necessary.
- B. The head coach of the home team is responsible for postponing any games prior to the first pitch. After that, the Umpire(s) will make the determination if a game is suspended or completed for inclement weather or darkness.
  - 1. Games shortened by darkness or weather are considered "official" after four innings (or three and one half if the home team is leading).
  - 2. Games shortened by darkness or weather are not considered "official" if less than three and one half innings are completed. This means that the game must be rescheduled and restarted as a new game.
  - 3. A game that is tied after four innings that is shortened by weather or darkness is considered a tie game.
  - 4. The makeup date for postponed and suspended games shall be determined by the respective coaches within seven (7) days of the postponed date and made up or completed within fourteen (14) days. It is incumbent upon both coaches to ensure rescheduling. In the event of multiple rescheduling conflicts, the Commissioner shall select a date and time for the game to be completed. Should a team refuse to play on a date that is mandated by the Commissioner, the refusing team or teams will have a forfeit declared against them.
- C. Anytime (practices or games) lightning is visible, all players, spectators and coaches shall take shelter immediately. Play may resume at a point thirty minutes or more after the last lightning flash.
- D. All games should start at the scheduled time. A forfeit will be declared if sufficient players are not on site fifteen minutes after the scheduled start time. A game at either tier may start with eight (8) defensive players. Every time the ninth spot in the batting order comes up, an out will be declared. The ninth player must be added in the ninth spot in the batting order when s/he arrives. Any subsequent player that arrives must be added in that manner as well.
- E. Any team with less than eight (8) players will forfeit that game. Payment of umpire fees is still required, however it will be the sole responsibility of the team that forfeits the game. Coaches are encouraged to use these opportunities for pickup games to give the kids a chance to play.
- F. Time Limits and speed of game play rules:

1. Five offensive runs per inning, except the “last inning” and extra innings when there is no run limit. It is permissible and strongly encouraged to keep a play in motion once the fifth run has scored to all the defensive team to make a play/get an out or to allow a hitter to complete his/her at bat. However, any runs more than five will not be counted in the game score.
  2. There is a twelve run mercy rule after four innings. The home team always gets to bat in consideration of the mercy rule.
  3. No new inning may start after two hours of game play, including day games. The time limit will begin when the first pitch is thrown, regardless of scheduled start time. (Rules interpretation: Two teams are finishing the fourth inning at the 1:43 mark. They will start the fifth in time, but probably not the sixth. The away team has to have notice that they are starting their last inning, as they are now allowed to get as many runs at they can. The coaches have to remain in communication on this and it will have to be an agreement among gentlemen. Once the last inning is declared by mutual agreement, the only inning that can be added is an extra inning if still under the two hour mark).
  4. Nothing precludes the Lebanon County Pony Baseball League from modifying this rule to 1:45 time limit for opening day activities.
  5. There are no time limits in playoff games.
  6. Pitchers are limited to six (6) warm up throws.
  7. A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher if there are two outs. The last player to make an out will be the courtesy runner.
  8. Coaches must encourage their players to run on and off the field and for batters to be ready for their at bat without undue delay.
  9. Extra innings will start with the batter from the previous inning who made the last out as a runner on second base. Each new extra inning will start like this until the game ends or the time limit is reached.
- G. The visiting team gets the field twenty minutes before game time.
- H. Scorebooks must be kept by each team tracking innings pitched, a batting order and runs scored at a minimum. Ties count in standings. Scores must be reported by the home team. Reporting methods (email, phone, web) will be determined on a yearly basis.
- I. 10U teams will play with four outfielders for a total of 10 players. 12U teams will play by standard nine player rules.
- J. All players bat in a continuous batting order. If a player’s conduct warrants ejection, play will be stopped and the umpire will meet with the player and head coach. At that time, the umpire will provide a “last chance” warning to the player that further conduct will result in ejection. At that time, the coach may choose to remove the player from the game without penalty to the team (unless this results in the team now having less than nine batters.) Should the coach allow the player to remain in the game and subsequent conduct results in ejection of that player, his/her slot is an out every time that it occurs in the lineup. However, if a player initiates intentional physical contact with another player, coach or umpire with the intent to injure that person, an immediate ejection is warranted and that player's spot in the batting order is an automatic out without the benefit of a warning. If a player is removed for injury, sickness, in the ejection warning listed above or any other reason, then that spot in the lineup is merely skipped in the batting order unless it takes the team to eight players. If it takes the team to eight players, the spot in the batting order is an out.
- K. All players must play at least two defensive innings. Because of the continuous batting order, position player re-entry is “at will.” Defensive innings played do not have to be consecutive.
- L. All batters and base runners will wear a hard plastic helmet at all times when on the playing field. The first time a batter or base runner intentionally removes his/her helmet, a warning will be issued. Second and subsequent offenses will result in the player being called out.
- M. Any batter that throws their bat, intentionally or not, will receive a warning for the first offense and will be called out for second and subsequent offenses.
- N. Smoking, smokeless tobacco, and alcoholic beverages are prohibited wherever a Lebanon County Pony Baseball League game is held.
- O. A week is considered Monday through Sunday.

- P. Bats that are minus 13 and lower ratio are legal at the 10u Division and 8u Division. No bat may be more than 2-1/4 inch diameter. Bat rules may change on a yearly basis and bat rules will be decided by January 31 of the season in question. There is no guarantee that a bat that is legal one year will be allowed the next. All bats shall include words that indicate they are approved for a major organization (Little League, Pony, USSSA, etc). Any bat that is cracked, severely dented or otherwise appears unsafe for play is prohibited. Should a bat dispute arise at a game, the umpire shall err to the side of caution and safety. Further appeal may be made by email to the Pony Commissioner who shall take appropriate steps to assess the safety of the bat. The penalty for an “illegal bat” is simply to remove the bat from further use in the game.
- Q. Head coaches are required to carry a copy of their roster at all games, making it available for inspection upon request of the opposing coach, umpire or league official.
- R. The home team supplies two new baseballs per game. Associations must provide quality leather baseballs to their teams that are of a reputable brand name and quality (*amended September 26, 2013*).

#### Article III—Section 2: -General Rules

- A. With the exception of the five run/inning limit, two innings per player in the field and continuous batting order/free defensive substitution, 12U will play by Lebanon Valley Midget Baseball Rules.
- B. 10U will have modified rules from Midget Rules.

#### Article III—Section 3: Modified 10U Rules

- C. General Pitching Rules
  1. One pitch equals one inning.
  2. A pitcher may pitch on back to back days and in unlimited consecutive games, but not on three consecutive calendar days. “Three consecutive calendar days” is a concept that does not reset from week-to-week.
  3. Coaches are required to keep track of innings pitched and post them as determined on the website or on a pitching log as determined each year.
  4. A pitcher who is removed from the mound may not return to pitch during that game.
  5. The pitching distance will be 46 feet or as established at existing fields.
  6. A coach may make one non-injury related visit to the mound per inning and may confer with the infielders and catcher at that time. A second and subsequent visit will result in the pitcher being removed.
  7. A pitcher that hits three batters during the course of an inning must be removed from the mound and cannot return as a pitcher that game.
  8. Intentional walks are prohibited.
  9. There are no balks in the Lebanon County Pony Baseball League.
  10. No pitcher may pitch more than two innings in one game. A pitcher may pitch no more than six innings per week.
  11. A pitcher may not pitch more than four innings during one day with multiple games.
- D. General Rules
  1. There is no infield fly rule.
  2. Batters may not advance on a dropped third strike.
  3. All base runners must slide feet first unless they are returning after overrunning a base, in which case they may dive back to the base. Any other headfirst slides will result in the runner being called out.
  4. *Momentum rule deleted effective 2015 playing season.*
  5. No base runner may leave the bag until the pitched ball crosses home plate. The first offense results in a warning. The second offense by the same runner in a game results in an out.
  6. Runners must avoid contact with fielders. However, the first baseman may not block the bag. If the first baseman blocks the bag as s/he is attempting to receive a throw from an infielder, the play will be declared dead and all runners will advance one base from where they started. The batter will be awarded first base. If, in the umpire’s discretion, the player is unable to

adequately and safely play first base, the umpire may have the coach of the offending team reassign the player to a different position after the current inning.

7. Runners may not advance on a throw from the catcher to the pitcher if a straight steal has not already been initiated. This rule does NOT act to kill a steal that is already in progress.
8. Bunting is permitted.
9. A batted ball that is fielded and subsequently thrown out of play is a two base award for runners and the batter-runner. A wild pitch that goes out of play is a one base award for the runners and the batter-runner.

E. 10U Baserunning Clarifications

1. Runners may advance on a passed ball/wild pitch or steal any base, EXCEPT from third to home, unless a play is made at the third base bag in an attempt to get that runner out.
  - a. Rules Clarification: If a runner is on first or runners are on first and second and s/he attempts to steal, the runners may advance to third and home on an overthrow by the catcher. If a runner is on second and steals third, the runner may advance home on an overthrow if there was a play attempted at third base. With runners on first and third, an overthrow in an attempt to get a runner stealing second results in runners on second and third—the runner at third may not advance on the throw or overthrow to second base and the play is dead; the runner on third may not advance under any circumstances on a first/third steal situation.
  - b. Any player that leaves a bag that would normally result in being in jeopardy, whether s/he can legally advance to the next base, will be deemed to be in jeopardy as with the conventional rules of baseball; (i.e. a runner leaves third base on a passed ball and runs halfway down the baseline. Regardless of ability to score in that situation, the runner may be tagged out while off the base.)
  - c. A runner occupying third base who attempts to entice the catcher to make a play on him/her following a pitch may not score under any circumstances, however, that player may be put out while attempting to return to third base.

## Article IV—Pony 8U

### Article V—Section 1: Administration

- A. The Lebanon County Pony League will provide oversight of the rules and scheduling of games of the Pony 8U division.
- B. Pony 8U Deputy Commissioners will be responsible for resolving conflicts or scheduling issues as well as serving as a resource for Pony 8U coaches.
- C. The Pony Commissioner will convene committees as needed to assist in the effective operation of the Pony 8U League.
- D. The Pony 8U Division will be governed according to Articles I and II above.
- E. The purpose of Pony 8U is to prepare children for “kid pitch” baseball. As such, defensive fundamentals such as cut off men, force outs and other basic rules must be taught at this level.

### Article IV—Section 2: Eligibility

- A. Pony 8U was formerly known as “Mustangs” and is a “coach pitch” league for children that are age 8 and younger as of May 1 of the year in question.
  1. Pony 8U is primarily for those children who are beyond tee ball age but not ready for “kid pitch,” generally 8 and 7 and advanced 6 year olds. Eight year olds with sufficient talent should be encouraged to play Pony 10U.

### Article IV—Section 3: Association, Team and Participant Responsibilities

- A. Home teams are responsible for having the field in acceptable playing shape, including the playing surface and chalked foul lines and batters’ boxes. All fields must have restroom or portable toilet facilities on site.

- B. Game time is generally 6PM.
- C. Visiting Team will have access to the field from 5:30PM to 5:55PM.
- D. Each team will provide one new or lightly used game ball. Standard “hard” balls are to be used. Reduced Injury Factor (RIF) Tee Balls are not used at this level.
- E. All game cancellations will be determined by the coach of the home team. Rain make-ups are to be agreed upon within 7 days after the rain out and must be played with 21 days of the rain out.
- F. Base coaches will act as umpires.
- G. If there is a discrepancy in calls, the coach that is pitching will have the final decision. Care must be exercised to set an outstanding example of good sportsmanship for the children.
- H. Any player who intentionally throws a bat or helmet is to be warned for the first offense and shall be removed from the game on the second offense. Safety is paramount. Regardless of intent, if an opposing player or coach is hit by thrown equipment, the batter shall be called out in an effort to correct player conduct. Use of this rule must be done with great discretion and with the focus on educating the player, not punishing him/her.
- I. Coaches are prohibited from swearing and using tobacco products while coaching a game.
- J. Standings are not kept and there is no need to report the score to the League. However, as children will invariably know the score as well as, if not better than, the adults, it is permissible within the rules of good sportsmanship for one team to be declared the “winner” of the game.

#### Article IV—Section 4: Game Rules

- A. Hard plastic helmets must be worn by all batters and base runners. Chin straps are optional but recommended (amended March 20, 2014).
- B. No new inning may start after one hour and thirty minutes of game play, including day games. The time limit will begin when the first pitch is thrown, regardless of scheduled start time.
- C. All catchers must wear catcher helmet with throat protectors, shin guards, and chest protectors. Catchers are recommended to wear protective cups (gender applicable). Catchers should attempt to use a catcher’s mitt, but a regular glove is acceptable.
- D. All games consist of 6 innings (weather permitting). If a game is called due to weather or lack of daylight, 3 completed innings will be considered a complete game for the purposes of rescheduling.
- E. The offensive and defensive teams will alternate whenever there are 3 outs, 5 runs scored, or 10 batters, whichever comes first. It is permissible to keep a play in motion once the fifth run has scored to see if the defensive team can get make a play/get an out or to allow a hitter to complete his/her at bat. However, any runs more than five will not be counted.
- F. Each team must have a continuous batting order with every uniformed player batting in turn. Any changes due to injury or other compelling reason must be clearly stated to the opposing team.
- G. All players must play at least 3 complete defensive innings in a 6 inning game.
- H. There are no Walks. The batter must either strike out or put the ball “in play.” There is a twelve pitch limit and after 12 pitches if the batter does not hit the ball or attempt to swing, the batter is called out. Rules clarification: Twelve is the maximum number of pitches a player gets. Once s/he puts the ball in play or strikes out, that plate appearance is complete. The twelve pitch maximum encourages the most timid players to swing at some point or be called out.
- I. Batters may advance as many bases that the hit warrants until a ball is overthrown in attempt to try to get the batter out. At that point, the batter may only advance one base after the overthrow. Another acceptable play to stop the batter from advancing is to return the ball to the pitcher or the coach who is pitching.
- J. Defense will consist of no more than 10 players on the field. There will be only one player at Catcher, Pitcher and each traditional infield position, as well as four outfielders. Defensive walls are prohibited as the focus is on fundamental baseball, not strategic game management in an effort to win a game.
- K. Runners may not advance on a passed ball or wild pitch. The only way batters may advance is when the ball is put into play. A runner may lead off the base only after the ball crosses home plate.
- L. There is no infield fly rule. Runners may tag up within the confines of traditional baseball rules and may be doubled off a bag if they leave before the catch.



- M. Feet first sliding into base is permitted at second, third and home. Proper sliding technique is imperative before allowing your team to slide.
- N. One defensive coach should be positioned behind the pitcher's mound and up to two defensive coaches are able to be among the outfielders. Defensive coaches and the coach pitcher are considered part of the field.

## Article V—Post Season and All Star Play

### Article V—Section 1: Post Season Play

- A. Post Season format will be determined on a year-by-year basis dependent on the number of teams at each classification and other scheduling considerations. Playoff format and dates will be set by May 10 of each year.
  - 1. All teams will be afforded the opportunity to play in a post season tournament, or “playoffs.”
  - 2. At a minimum, the post-season champion and runner up teams will receive team trophies. Each player on each of the champion and runner up team will receive a medal or individual trophy.

### Article V—Section 2: All Star Teams

- A. All Star Team format will be determined on a year-by-year basis dependent on the number of teams at each classification and other scheduling considerations.