

# NORTHWOOD YOUTH LITTLE LEAGUE RULES

## MAJOR LEAGUE

- 1.) All games are limited to 75 mins of play **OR** 6 innings, whichever comes first. At the 75 minute mark, the top and bottom of that inning will be completed. Once that inning is completed, the game is over, even if 6 innings have not been played. After 3 complete innings a game can be called due to inclement weather conditions, and will be considered a complete game.
- 2.) Mercy Rule\_- 10 run rule after 4 innings will be a complete game. 15 run rule after 3 innings will be a complete game.
- 3.) **All players may only sit out for a maximum of 6 outs per game.** There will be no warning for violating this rule. A violation of this rule occurs for each out after 6 outs a player sits out. For each violation of this rule, at the beginning of the next inning after the violation, the violating team will start with an out for each violation (up to, including and over, three outs, in which case, the violating team will skip at-bats), and during the inning of any violation, the non-violating team will have one run per violation added to its score. If the violation(s) occur during the last inning of a game or there are not enough innings left in the game to enforce all of the outs penalties, the penalties for outs and runs will be enforced and applied at the beginning of the violating team's next game.
- 4.) 6 run rule per inning for the first 5 innings. Teams may score as many runs as possible in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning and every inning thereafter, until 3 outs are recorded.
- 5.) A pitcher cannot pitch more than 9 outs per game. Once a pitcher is removed they may **NOT** re-enter.
- 6.) No balks will be called.
- 7.) NO breaking pitches, a breaking pitch by definition, is a pitch in which the pitcher snaps his/her wrist in an unnatural move. First violation, the umpire warns the coach and calls no pitch, any future violations the pitch will be called a ball regardless of where it crossed the plate, continued violations will result in the pitcher being removed from the mound. Fastballs and change ups are the only allowed pitches.
- 8.) Stealing home is permitted at the base runners risk.
- 9.) No lead offs are allowed, the ball MUST first cross the plate in order for the baserunner to leave at the earliest possible moment.
- 10.) Baserunners must slide feet first. You may dive back into a base after rounding. Automatic out for sliding head first.
- 11.) A player must slide feet first while attempting to reach home, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> - IF a play is being made at the base/plate (umpire discretion). However, if the ball is in centerfield for instance, a player will NOT be required to slide. This rule is to prevent injury to ALL players involved in the play. Expecting a baserunner to slide six feet short of reaching the home plate due to a catcher "guarding the plate" up the baseline will not be required. The catcher at this point runs the risk of being injured unnessacarily and the runner will not be called out!
- 12.) Safety Base Rule - A safety base is optional. The safety base shall be 15 inches by 30 inches and not more than 3 inches high. The safety base should be positioned such that the white portion is located where first base would normally be (in fair territory) and the colored portion (red or orange) should be in foul territory. Any batted ball hitting the white portion should be fair and any ball hitting the red or orange portion should be foul. **On the initial throw to**

**first base from the infield or outfield, the batter-runner MUST TOUCH the red or orange portion of the base but not the white. If legally appealed by the defense during a live ball situation, the runner will be called out. The defensive player MUST always touch the white portion.** This rule is in effect only on the initial play at first base. This does not include:

1. Returning to the base after over running,
2. Running on a base hit to the outfield (runner may touch the red or white part) or
3. Re-tag to advance on a fly ball.

EFFECT: If the base runner uses the orange portion at any time after the first attempt at first base and is not in contact with the white portion, then he is considered off the base.

14.) There will be a ZERO TOLERANCE rule in effect. Any parent, player, coach, spectator (that is actually associated with teams playing) that is asked to leave a game for any reason will not be allowed back for the teams next game, also that team will receive an automatic out, even if that is the last out of an inning or game.

15.) All bats must be 2-1/4" or 2 5/8" barrel and must be USA approved. Wooden bats are allowed. Any use of a bat that is not allowed will result in a warning for first offense, 2<sup>nd</sup> offense is an out, 3<sup>rd</sup> offense is an out and removal of player from the game.

16) Travel league pitchers are permitted to pitch in rec league. Coaches must speak with the parents of travel league pitchers prior to the game to see when that player pitched last. The coach MUST ensure the player has not recently pitched a game for travel league. This to allow for proper healing of arm and to prevent injury due to excessive pitching.

17) Use of noise-making items such as cowbells, plastic bottles filled with rocks, mega phones, horns, or other items used to distract the players is prohibited. Any use of these items will result in a warning for first offense, 2<sup>nd</sup> offense is an out, 3<sup>rd</sup> offense is an out and removal of individuals from the parks.

18) If a pitcher hits a batter 2 times in 1 inning, or 3 times in total, it is the umpire's discretion on whether to remove the pitcher from the game. This is for player safety. The umpire will briefly meet with both head coaches at home plate and make a final decision. If the umpire believes ANY of the pitches are intentional, the pitcher will be removed immediately. A pitcher that is removed from the mound may return to the game at a different position.

19) Batters must attempt to avoid being hit by pitch. A batter is not permitted to stand in the box and take a hit. If the umpire determines the batter did not attempt to avoid the pitch, a base will NOT be awarded and that pitch does not count towards the pitchers total.

\* For any further rules or information, please refer to Town and Country Youth Baseball

(Updated 2024)