

# 2025 “Future Stars” points of emphasis

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## **All BALKS ARE LIVE -**

Please be sure to use this rule properly.

12u - one warning per pitcher

9u/10u no balks

## **Time limits:**

All ages groups are 1 hr 45 min - no new inning

IF an inning starts before 1:45 play will continue until the inning is finished or a winner determined. If the 1:45 has been met and the Home Team takes the lead in the bottom half of the inning the game is immediately over.

**Championship Games have no time limit**, but mercy rule is still in effect. International Rules We use this format to quickly get a winner when we have a game that ends in a tie and we need to determine a winner to keep the tournament moving toward a Champion. i.e.

Elimination Round International Rules – We start a clean inning with the last batted out on 3rd Base and the 2nd to last batted out on 2B inning with 1 out. The visiting team and home team will start the inning with this format. We play until we have a winner.

## **LINE UP/ Offensive/ Defensive:**

We want to let the coach play as many players as he/ she wants. The only information needed regarding a Starting Lineup is the number of batters. We do not care who plays in the field. You must have 9 players in field to start a game.

**Offensive:** Team may bat 9 players, the entire lineup or in-between. Once the number of batters is determined, it must remain for the entire game. An injury or ejection may result in an out if a substitute is not available. A substitute is anyone not placed in the batting order. Once a substitution bats or runs for a player, the sub and the original starter are locked into that batting position and either one may bat or run in that position ONLY.

**Defensive:** Any player on the roster may play in any defensive position at any time, regardless of being in the batting order. Example: A team may have 18 players: Bat 9 of them and play the other 9 in the field. No one player in a game can assume more than one offensive position.

**Designated Hitter:** None- Offensive Rule takes care of the DH.

## **Courtesy Runner:**

A courtesy runner can be used for the Pitcher or Catcher at any time. A courtesy runner must 1st be a player not in the lineup. If everyone is in the lineup then the courtesy runner must be the last batted out.

## **Catchers Gear**

12U and under must use a 1-piece mask (hockey goalie style) mask. 13U and above can wear a 2-piece mask and hat if preferred.

## **9U/10 Rules**

**Base on Balls - 9U/10U** - There will be no advancing to second after a base on balls. Once the batter reaches first the play is dead until pitcher addresses the rubber for next pitch. All base-runners will be allowed to advance up to 1 base.

**Leads/ Stealing -9U/10U**– Closed Bases (No Leads). Base-runner can steal when the pitch crosses Home Plate.

**Drop 3rd Strike – 9U/10U** – If the catcher drops the 3rd Strike the batter is out and any baserunner can attempt to advance to the next base

**In field Fly** - No IFF rule

## **8U Specific Rules**

- Bat Restrictions – NO Restrictions
- 1 Umpire at all times
- Time Limit – 1:45 minutes
- Leads – No Leads
- Stealing – Only after pitch crosses Home Plate. No stealing of Home in any circumstance.
- Bunts – Bunts Allowed, however –
  - \* No Suicide or Safety Squeezes (when runner is on third)
- Walks / Passed Balls / Wild Pitches – Runner moves up one base only.
- Dropped 3rd Strike – Batter is out
- Balks – No Balks Called
- Run Limit -6 run limit per inning/ per team.
- Mercy – Rules 12 after 3 innings, 10 after 4 innings, 7 innings after 5 innings.

## **TEAM MUSIC (SPEAKER POLICY)**

Music must be played at an appropriate volume level and must not contain vulgar language / content. No music to be played behind the Home Plate Umpire. Umpire has the discretion on location and volume of music. Umpires have the right to stop music if he feels it is a disruption.

## **BATS**

8U-12U - BPF 1.15, USSSA OR USA Baseball stamp must be displayed on the bat (no other weight or diameter restrictions).

13U – Bats -5 or -3 BBCOR only

14U and older – BBCOR -3 Only

All rules not described or written within the Future Stars rule book will be OBR.

## **Ejections \***

Player/Coach/Fan must leave immediately to parking lot (IN CAR), MANDATORY 2nd game suspension and possible tournament expulsion at Tournament Directors discretion. IF at any time a coach, fan, or player makes intentional contact with an umpire that individual's tournament will be over (intent will be determined by the umpire and tournament director).

ALL EJECTIONS REQUIRE AN EJECTION REPORT TO TODD  
Form is on KeystoneUmpires.com (forms section).