

RHAA 8U Tournament

I. GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- A. **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS THE MOST IMPORTANT RULE.** *Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and will result in a player and/or coach being ejected from the game and/or tournament.* Swearing before, during, or after a game will not be tolerated. Any abuse of the umpires will not be tolerated and can result in removal of that individual from the game and / or remainder of the Tournament.
- B. Anyone maliciously damaging equipment and/or property will be ejected from the Tournament and will be required to pay for ALL damages.
- C. Bat Rules – We will allow any bat.
- D. **NO SMOKING OR CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL OR ILLICIT DRUGS BY PLAYERS, COACHES OR SPECTATORS WILL BE ALLOWED ON RHAA PREMISES DURING THE TOURNAMENT. VIOLATORS WILL BE EJECTED FROM THE PREMISES FOR THE DURATION OF THE TOURNAMENT.**
- E. **“KEEP THE ATHLETES FIRST, WINNING SECOND”** The purpose of this tournament is to offer a competitive level of baseball that continues to be a healthy, safe and fun environment for everyone involved, whether you win or lose.
- F. **The Tournament director and RHAA Board member in charge will make all final judgements.**

II. AGE REQUIREMENTS

Each player must be (or have been by the date of May 1st) 8 years or younger. Each Head Coach must have with him a roster, along with proof of age for each player (copies of Birth Certificates). Please provide these with your roster at check before your first game under the roof by the concession stand.

III. ROSTERS/PLAYERS

- A. You may carry as many as 15 players on the roster. You **MUST** field a minimum of 9 players at the start of any game, or the game will be considered a forfeit.
- B. Players can only be on the roster of one team participating in the tournament.
- C. Each team will field 10 defensive players. A team has to use a continuous batting order up to 15 players.
- D. Player positions are at the discretion of the coach; coaches are not required to rotate players/positions.

IV. GAME RULES

- A. The pitching machine will be set up by the umpire. If the speed/accuracy of the machine needs to be changed during play, either coach can work with the umpire/tournament director to change or re-calibrate the machine during play. Any ball hit by batter that contacts the machine is considered a dead ball and the hitters gets 1st base and the runners advance.
- B. Batters will get 3 strikes either called or swinging
- C. **No walks (intentional or otherwise) will be allowed**
- D. No infield fly rule in effect
- E. No advancing (tagging up) on a caught fly ball
- F. On an overthrow where the ball stays in play the runner can advance at their own risk; however, the runner cannot advance any further on a second overthrow. On an overthrow where the ball goes out of play, the runner will get the base they are going to plus one more base.
- G. There is no bunting, no leading off (Ball must cross plate before the runners' leave), and no stealing of bases.
- H. Putouts from outfield positions are allowed at all bases except 1st base. Outfielders must be a minimum of 20 feet beyond base paths.
- I. A complete game shall be (6) completed innings, unless the Home Team leads at the end of 5 ½ innings of play.
- J. An official game must be at least (4) complete innings (3 ½ if Home Team is winning)
- K. **All games have a 1 hour and 45 minute time limit.** No inning shall be started after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the start of the game. No time limit for Championship Game.
- L. There is a 6-run limit for each inning. No run limit for the 6th inning. If there is a tie game, the game will go into extra innings as long as time limit has not been exceeded (no run limit in extra innings)
- M. If a team is winning by 12 runs or more after 4 complete innings, the game is over.
- N. Any ball thrown that gets lodged or goes under the fence is a dead ball and the runners will advance one extra base without being put out (one plus one rule if runners are advancing on a thrown ball). If the umpire does not see the ball lodged or go under the fence it remains live, so be sure to have your players notify the umpire prior to retrieving the ball by raising a hand.
- O. Player must slide feet first at Home if there is a play at the Plate; it will be an automatic out if the player does not slide.
- P. Throwing a bat constitutes a team warning. ***The next team thrown bat will be an automatic out.***
- Q. All 8U tournament games will use level 5 soft compression baseballs provided by the umpires and RHAA.

VI. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- A. There is no seeding of teams prior to tournament play.
- B. Each team will play 3 random pool play games
- C. Teams are placed into divisions (Based on the number of teams)
- D. Seeding for these brackets will be:
 - 1) Win-Loss record
 - 2) Head to Head
 - 3) Total runs allowed (least)
 - 4) Run differential (most) Capped at 10 runs per game.
 - 5) Coin Flip