

2011 District 44 Fall Ball Handbook

The following will apply to both the Majors and Minors Baseball Divisions

1. Fall Ball will be emphasized as an Instructional and Developmental League for all players. Fall Ball is a lower key and less competitive environment than spring and playoffs.

a) Minor Division - encourage managers to take the opportunity during games to call time and briefly explain situations that may have gone awry to the players. Timeouts should be brief but let the kids learn from mishandled situations.

b) Majors Division - if your teams will be divided that one may be more experienced than the other please let me know so that we can schedule the better matched teams accordingly.

For example, some LL's will probably have one team that will be returning majors players, but the other team may be good Minors Division players that should be playing majors next spring. This team will be slightly younger than the other team.

Please encourage equal play for all players. This should be an equally fun season for all players regardless of ability. Managers / coaches should allow all players to play each defensive position throughout the program (unless the player's ability becomes a safety concern).

For example, some players may not want to play or struggle at some of the more active positions such as pitcher, catcher and 1st base. If a player cannot protect him / herself or the base runner from a thrown ball while playing the 1st Base position, the manager / coach should not have that player at that position.

2. Season Information

- a) Begins – usually the 3rd or 4th weekend in August
- b) Ends – usually at end of October
- c) Games may not be scheduled during Labor Day Weekend
- d) Games will be played on Sunday's – start times TBD
- e) Start on time, especially the early game.

3. Game Information

- a) Games will be 6 innings or a 2 hour time limit
- b) No new inning will be started after 2 hours
- c) A manager, coach, or player may coach a base. A player must wear a helmet if coaching a base.

d) Coach/Parent volunteers from each league are asked to help with field preparation and clean-up.

e) Managers and coaches are responsible for player behavior and parent behavior.

f) Managers should bring Rosters, Registration / Medical Release Forms and Field Permits to all practices and games.

g) Managers / coaches must be in the dugout when your team is in the field

h) Each team will supply game balls (2 minimum)

4. Pitching

a) Limit per game - 2 innings maximum

b) Follow LL regular season pitch count rules

c) No pitch count books are needed

5. Mercy Rule

a) Minors

i) 5 run cap per inning

ii) The 6th inning or the final inning based on time limit, will be an unlimited runs inning for the trailing team.

b) Majors

i) No mercy rule, but if the inning is getting out of hand and the pitch count is high, then with agreement of both managers the side is retired.

6. Umpires

a) Coaches will umpire the game from behind the Pitchers mound when your team is defensively in the field.

b) If leagues have umps available during the fall, then regular umpiring could be used.

c) Please encourage all Managers to cooperate with each other, as the umpiring is not an easy task.

d) Managers should decide prior to each game if the 1st base coach will make calls at 1st base.

7. Hitting / Batting

a) Minor Division - Continuous batting order. All players regardless if they are currently playing in the field will be slotted in the batting order and bat when their turn comes up. If you have 12 players on the team, all twelve will be scheduled to bat.

b) Minors - no Slashing (Butcher Boy); showing bunt and then pull back the bat and swing.

c) Majors Division - Continuous batting order, all players bat regardless if they are currently playing in the field

d) Majors - no restrictions on Slashing

8. Fielding

a) Both teams should have at least 9 players on the field defensively.

b) Teams may play with less than 9 on the field or “borrow” an opposing player as a defensive replacement.

9. Safety

a) Players may not swing bats in the dugout or in the area next to the dugout and there is no “on deck” bat swinging allowed

b) Players must have a helmet on prior to touching a bat

c) Managers should have a First Aid Kit w/Ice Bags readily available at all practice and games

d) Please ensure players use the “buddy system” when using the restroom, snack shack, etc.

10. Equipment

a) Managers / Coaches must ensure equipment is in safe working condition and meets all Little League standards

b) Bats - any wood, metal or composite “Little League” approved bat can be used during games

c) Catchers must be in full catchers gear (to include a throat guard) and must wear a cup

d) It is highly recommended and suggested that all male players wear a cup during practices and games

e) Metal cleats are not allowed

Have fun and develop your players for the upcoming regular season. Use the current Little Leagues Rules (Green Book) for information not covered in this document. Please contact your team’s manager or Fall Ball Director with any questions.