**WV District 6 Fall Ball Rules and Guidelines for Baseball**

***Rookie Divison (Coach Pitch)***

***Ages 5-7***

The curfew on school nights is 8pm. An inning begins the moment the 3rd out of the previous inning is made. No new inning may start after 1 hour and 45 minutes in the Rookie Division in **ALL** games.

***Defensive Play Details:***

* No umpires needed at this level. Defensive coaches will make the calls
* Every player on a team roster will participate in each game for a minimum of 9 defensive outs. To accomplish this, players should not sit on the bench for more than one inning at a time. If a player is on the bench for an inning, he/she should play the field the next inning.
* No player may play a single position more than twice a game in Rookie Division. It is highly encouraged that all players be given an opportunity to play infield and outfield at least once during the game.
* There will be 10 players allowed on defense, 6 in the infield and 4 in the outfield. Players in the outfield must be at least 20 feet behind the bases.
* A Catcher will be fielded. The Manager must ensure the player has a protective cup and all proper catcher’s gear including throat guard.
* Two (2) defensive coach will be allowed on the field, on the edge of the outfield, during play.
* Coaches are not permitted to touch any live ball or any players.
* There must always be at least one (1) adult in the dugout. 4 coaches maximum.
* Stoppage of play will occur when the ball is in control of the defensive player within the pitcher’s area.
* 1/2 Inning ends either when 3 defensive outs are made, the offense bats through their line up, or 5 runs are scored.

***Offensive Play Details:***

* Batting order will be by continuous batting order. All players on the roster will bat before returning to the top of the batting order.
* Batters may receive up to five (5) pitches to bat a fair ball. The batter is out after he/she receives 5 pitches. No called balls or strikes. A foul ball cannot be counted as the last pitch.
  + Tee-balls or safety balls should be used.
  + No Tees at this level
* All players will bat in a continuous batting order.
* Two adult coaches will be allowed to coach the bases (first and third).
* One offensive coach will be on the pitcher’s mound pitching. The player playing the pitcher position must remain in the pitcher’s circle until the ball crosses the plate.
* Base runners may not lead off, nor can they advance until the ball is hit.
* No “on deck” circle is permitted.
  + **All**  bats are to remain outside of the dugout, but inside the fenced area
  + Players must remain under roof of the dugout when not in the field or at bat
  + No hitting sticks outside of the dug out
  + Bats must have USA stamp on it all other bats are illegal
* No infield fly rule.
* No base stealing or sliding.
* No hit by pitches.
* Bunting or “half swings” are not allowed.
* Only one (1) extra base on an overthrow.

***Minor Division (Player Pitch)***

***Ages 6-8***

The curfew on school nights is 8pm. An inning begins the moment the 3rd out of the previous inning is made. No new inning may start after 1 hour and 45 minutes Minor Division in **ALL** games.

**Defensive Play Details**

* The Minor Division will be a combination of Player Pitch and Coach Pitch.
  + - Standard Little league rules will apply to batter during Kid Pitch (Walks, Strike outs, Hit by Pitch)
    - Teams will us the Hyrbid pitching rule. Player will pitch the batter, if the batter receives 4 balls, a coach will come in and finish the about resulting in either an out, or a batted ball. There are no walks. Player pitch will resume with the next batter.
    - The maximum pitches per kid pitcher is 40. If 40 is reached in the middle of an at bat the pitcher may finish the current batter.
    - During Coach pitch the batter will be given 4 pitches.
      * If the batter does not hit the ball within 4 pitches they are out
        + No walks or hit by pitch, during coach pitch.
        + If the last pitch is fouled off, then the batter will receive an additional pitch.
* Teams will field 9 defensive players.
* Every player on a team roster will participate in each game for a minimum of 9 defensive outs. To accomplish this, players should not sit on the bench for more than one inning at a time. If a player is on the bench for an inning, he/she should play the field the next inning.
* No player may play a single position more than twice a game in Minor Divisions. It is highly encouraged that all players be given an opportunity to play infield and outfield at least once during the game.
* A Catcher will be fielded. The Manager must ensure the player has a protective cup and all proper catcher’s gear including throat guard.
* During the Coach Pitch the defense must have a defensive player in the proximity of the pitcher’s mound.
  + The play is stopped only when the ball is returned to their pitcher, not the coach.
* Coaches are not permitted to touch any live ball or any offensive player.
* There must be at least one (1) adult in the dugout at ALL times. 4 coaches maximum.
* No infield fly rule.
* There will be no forfeits. A team unable to field a complete team shall acquire player/players from the opposing team for the purpose of defense only.
* ½ inning will end when either three (3) outs are made by the defense or 5 runs scored by the offensive, whichever comes first.
* The 10 and 15 run Mercy Rule will not be in effect. There will be a 5 run per inning limit in all divisions.

**Offensive Play Details**

* Batting order will be by continuous batting order. All players on the roster will bat before returning to the top of the batting order. Special Pinch runners may not be used as all players are in the batting order at all times.
* **No** “on deck” circle is permitted.
  + **All** bats are to remain outside of the dugout, but inside the fenced area.
  + Players must remain under the roof of the dugout when not in the field or at bat.
  + No hitting sticks outside of the dugout.
  + Bats must have a USA stamp on it. All other bats are illegal.
* Stealing is permitted in this division.
  + Runners may steal home once per inning.
  + Runners will not be permitted to steal if the coach is pitching.
* ½ inning will end when either three (3) outs are made by the defense or 5 runs scored by the offensive, whichever comes first.
* Two adult coaches will be allowed to coach the bases (first and third).
* One offensive coach will be on the pitcher’s mound pitching. The defensive player playing the pitcher position must remain in the pitcher’s circle until the ball crosses the plate.
* Base runners may not lead off, nor can they advance until the ball is hit.
* Bunting is allowed
* No Dropped 3rd strike.
* No infield fly rule.
* No “on deck” circle is permitted.
  + **All** bats are to remain outside of the dugout, but inside the fenced area.
  + Players must remain under the roof of the dugout when not in the field or at bat.
  + No hitting sticks outside of the dugout.

***Major Division***

***Ages 8-11***

The curfew on school nights is 10:00pm. No inning can start past the above times. An inning begins the moment the 3rd out of the previous inning is made.

2hr time limit.

* Getting umpires is the responsibility of the Home Team.
* Every player on a team roster will participate in each game for a minimum of 9 defensive outs and bat at least one time. To accomplish this, players should not sit on the bench for more than one inning at a time. If a player is on the bench for an inning, he/she should play the field the next inning.
* No “on deck” circle is permitted.
  + **All** bats are to remain outside of the dugout, but inside the fenced area.
  + Players must remain under the roof of the dugout when not in the field or at bat.
  + No hitting sticks outside of the dugout.
* Batting order will be by continuous batting order. All players on the roster will bat before returning to the top of the batting order. Special Pinch runners may not be used as all players are in the batting order at all times.
* The 10 and 15 run Mercy Rule will not be in effect. There will be a 5 run per inning limit in all divisions.
* Pitchers in Major Divisions may pitch no more than 2 innings or 40 pitches per game whichever comes first. Rest for pitchers will follow the Regular Season rules. Pitching threshold will be used to determine days of rest.
* A pitcher may move to the catcher position only if the final pitch count is 40 or less. Any player who has played the position of catcher in 4 or more innings is not eligible to pitch that day.
* There will be no forfeits. A team unable to field a complete team shall acquire player/players from the opposing team for the purpose of defense only.
* ½ inning will end when either three (3) outs are made by the defense or 5 runs scored by the offensive, whichever comes first.
* Scrimmages can only be conducted within your own division (age group).

***Junior Division***

***Ages 12-14***

Time curfew on school nights is 10pm. No inning can start past the above times. An inning begins the moment the 3rd out of the previous inning is made.

* 2hr time limit
* Every player on a team roster will participate in each game for a minimum of 9 defensive outs and bat at least one time. To accomplish this, players should not sit on the bench for more than one inning at a time. If a player is on the bench for an inning, he/she should play the field the next inning.
* Batting order will be a continuous batting order. All players on the roster will bat before returning to the top of the batting order. Special Pinch runners may not be used as all players are in the batting order at all times.
* Getting umpires are the responsibility of the Home Team.
* The 10 and 15 run Mercy Rule will not be in effect. There will be a 5 run per inning limit in all divisions.
* In Junior League, pitchers may pitch no more than 3 innings or 60 pitches per game whichever comes first. Rest for pitchers will follow the Regular Season rules. Pitching threshold will be used to determine days of rest.
* A pitcher may move to the catcher position only if the final pitch count is 40 or less. Any player who has played the position of catcher in 4 or more innings is not eligible to pitch that day.
* League age 14’s can only pitch 6 outs or 2 innings combined and **ONLY** against your own league’s teams.
* Scrimmages can only be conducted within your own division (age group).

Please remember the WV District 6 Second Season is strictly for training and development and not geared towards winning. What we are trying to accomplish with this Fall Ball program is to build skill levels and improve each player’s overall ability and knowledge of the game. Sportsmanship and discipline both on and off the field are expected and must be practiced. The object of FALL BALL is to play and teach as much baseball and softball as possible to prepare for next spring. Please keep these thoughts in mind when dealing with each player, each parent and each opposing team. Good luck, be safe and especially HAVE FUN!!. **8/09/25**