

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

- 1) Divisions for Fall Ball will be as follows. Rookie ages 5-7, Minor Division ages 6-8, Major Division ages 8-11 and Junior League ages 12-13. Ages will be as of August 31 of the current year.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Getting umpires are the responsibility of the Home Team.
- 5) The 10 and 15 run mercy rule will not be in effect. There will be a 5 run per inning limit in all divisions.
- 6) Pitchers in Minor and Major Divisions may pitch no more than 6 outs or 40 pitches per game. In Junior League, pitchers may pitch no more than 9 outs or 60 pitches per game. Rest for pitchers will follow the Regular Season rules. Pitching threshold will be used to determine days of rest.
SOFTBALL: Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 9 outs per game.
- 7) 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.
- 8) Rookie Division may use a 4th outfielder. This is not an extra infielder. Outfielders must be 25 feet behind the bases.
- 9) There are no walks in rookie Division. 3 strikes or 5 total pitches will be considered an out. A foul ball cannot be counted as the last pitch.
- 10) Time curfew on school nights is as follows: Rookie and Minor is 8:00 PM, Major Division is 8:30 PM and Junior League is 9:00 PM. No inning can start past the above times. 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 Rookie and Minor Division in **ALL** games.
- 11) Rookie League may use defensive coaches. One coach may be in the outfield grass, not in the infield. One offensive coach will be on the mound feeding the pitching machine. 2 adults may still coach the bases offensively provided there is still one adult in the dugout at all times. Teams in Rookie Division would be allowed four adults in the dugout to accommodate this.

- 12) Stealing bases and bunting is not permitted in Rookie Division. There is **NO** infield fly rule in Rookie and Minor Divisions. The child pitcher must remain in the pitching circle until the ball crosses the plate.
- 13) No player may play a single position more than twice a game in Rookie and Minor Divisions. It is highly encouraged that all players be given an opportunity to play infield and outfield at least once during the game.
- 14) A team not having enough players should try first to borrow the needed player(s) from their opponent, not from another team not involved in the game. Players that are borrowed shall not pitch.
- 15) League age 15's can only pitch 6 outs or 2 innings combined and **ONLY** against your own league's teams.
- 16) Minor League pitchers that issue 4 walks or hit 2 batters, the coach may finish pitching that inning. The removed pitcher may return the next inning and pitch until his/her limit is reached.
- 17) 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!!.

UPDATED 8/10/21