

NORTHERN

NORTHERN CAL RIPKEN 7-8 YEAR OLD ROOKIE BASEBALL RULES

1. Rookie is a training league for boys and girls ages 7-8. League age is determined by age as of May 1 of the year in question. Participants must be 7 by April 30th and not 8 before May 1st. League age is set forth by Babe Ruth Baseball and there are no exceptions.
2. Rookie will play regular Major League Baseball Rules unless indicated otherwise.
3. All players, coaches, parents and umpires (Participants) are to conduct themselves in an orderly manner. Disorderly or unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and may lead to suspension from participation in the league. Participants are prohibited from using foul or offensive language. Parents are not permitted on the field if not assisting their team's coach or attending to an injured or distressed child. Failure to abide by these rules will result in eviction from the park and/or suspension from participation in the league. One warning will be issued by the umpire or league official present.
4. Coaches, umpires and league officials are prohibited from drinking alcoholic beverages or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs before or during any activity associated with Northern Cal Ripken. This includes games and practices and also applies to tobacco products. Upon written complaint of such offense, a league appointed committee will investigate and take appropriate action.
5. Line-ups are to be presented to the scorekeeper 10 minutes before each game. Players arriving late will be placed at the bottom of the batting order. A player arriving after two (2) complete innings is not guaranteed an at-bat.
6. Rookie games will consist of six (6) innings. An inning will consist of three (3) outs or six (6) runs by the offense. In the event of rain, an official game is four (4) innings (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead). If the game is suspended before it is official, the game will resume where it was stopped. Only the umpire and/or league official have the authority to cancel or suspend a game. Games are limited to one (1) hour and fifteen (15) minutes. No new inning shall start after the time limit has been reached. There will be no ties - games will be played to resolution. Exceptions are at the discretion of the umpire or league official present. Teams will be given an equal amount of time to warm up before a game; however, there will be games when time does not allow for warm-ups.
7. A team must have at least nine (9) players present at the scheduled start time. Failure to field nine (9) players will result in a forfeit and a loss in league standings. If neither team is able to field nine (9) players, the game will be a double forfeit and a loss for each team in league standings.
8. Regulation Cal Ripken Baseballs will be used. Bats must not exceed 29" in length and 2 ¼ inches in diameter. Bats must be in good condition with adequate gripping on the handle. Wood bats are not acceptable.
9. There will be no protest rule. Any and all questions/concerns will be decided at the time in question. Decisions will be made by the umpire and/or league supervisor present at the time.

IF A PLAYER ON DEFENSE IS NOT PAYING ATTENTION DURING LIVE BALL SITUATIONS, THE COACH OR UMPIRE MAY REMOVE THAT PLAYER FROM THE FIELD FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY.

A COACH DELAYING PLAY TO CHALLENGE A JUDGEMENT CALL IS SUBJECT TO WARNING AND SUSPENSION OF PARTICIPATION. A COACH MAY SEEK A RULES CLARIFICATION DURING A DEAD BALL SITUATION COACHES ARE EXPECTED TO KEEP THE PACE OF PLAY MOVING. LONG DELAYS WITH EACH BATTER OR IN THE FIELD CANNOT BE TOLERATED.

OFFENSIVE RULES

1. The batter must make an effort to make a full swing. If the umpire, at his discretion, feels the batter is attempting to “bunt” the ball he/she will be given **ONE WARNING PER GAME** and then be assessed an automatic out on subsequent attempts.
2. Each batter will get five (5) pitches to put the ball in play. If fouled on the fifth pitch the batter will continue until ball is batted in fair territory or pitched ball is missed by batter.
3. There is no stealing and no infield fly rule. If the runner leaves the base before the ball crosses the plate he/she will be assessed a warning and may be called out if he/she leaves early a second time in the same game.
4. A runner **INTENTIONALLY** throwing off his/her helmet while running the bases will be given **ONE WARNING PER GAME**. The next time it occurs he/she will be called out.
5. A runner missing a base will be called out by the umpire. This is not an appealable call by coaches. A runner missing home plate will be called out if he/she goes in the dugout or is tagged by a defensive player with the ball. To avoid the out, the runner must return to home plate in a reasonable amount of time without being tagged by a defensive player with the ball. A runner must be tagged if not a force out. (No appeals)
6. Batting out of order. Coaches are responsible for insuring their players bat in the proper order. The scorekeeper maintains the official batting order. The scorekeeper, as well as the coaches from both teams, will notify the umpire as soon as they become aware of a player batting out of order. The action is as follows:
 - A) When an umpire is notified of a player batting out of order before he/she actually puts the ball into play, the order will be corrected, with no penalty assessed.
 - B) When an umpire is notified of a player batting out of order after he/she becomes a runner or is put out, but before the first pitch to the next batter, the improper batter is out and any advance or score that resulted from the improper batter will be nullified.
 - C) When an umpire is notified of a player batting out of order, after a pitch is made to the next batter, the improper batter then becomes the proper batter and all plays that result will be considered legal and the order is considered correct, with no penalty assessed.
 - D) When a batter is called out because he/she failed to bat in the proper order, the next batter shall be the batter whose name follows that of the proper batter thus called out.
 - E) When an improper batter becomes the proper batter due to no appeal or umpire is not notified before next pitch, the next batter shall be the batter whose name follows that of such legalized improper batter. When an improper batter’s actions become legalized, the batting order picks up with the name following that of the legalized improper batter.
7. The play will be stopped when the umpire feels that forward progress has been stopped.
8. When a batter slings or releases the bat during a swing, the player should be instructed on how not to do so, but there is **NO PENALTY**.
9. Any ball that hits the pitching coach will be considered a dead ball and will be treated as if the pitch never happened. Pitching coaches may not catch a fly ball and must make significant effort to avoid a batted ball.
10. Pitching coaches cannot instruct during live ball situations from fair territory.

DEFENSIVE RULES

1. The defense will consist of ten (10) players. Six (6) in the infield, and four (4) in the outfield.
2. Coaches will get two (2) timeouts per game with one defensive switch per inning and must call a timeout to make the switch.
3. Defensive pitchers must wear a batting helmet with a facemask.
4. Defensive coaches may have two coaches in the outfield but they must be on the outside of the foul lines. One may be in center field but must not interfere with the ball in any way or it will result in the runner getting the base.

5. Catcher interference will be called by the umpire. First time is a warning, second time will result in the batter getting first base.
6. A runner interfering with a fielder attempting to play the ball, in the umpire's opinion, will be called out. This is a **JUDGEMENT CALL** made by the umpire and not subject to challenge.
7. The batter, the on-deck batter and the base runners must wear a helmet. No Exceptions.
8. **AT NO TIME SHALL A COACH OR OTHERWISE ASSIST A BATTER, RUNNER, OR A FIELDER WHILE THE BALL IS IN PLAY. DOING SO WILL RESULT IN A RUNNER BEING CALLED OUT, OR RUNNERS BEING ALLOWED TO SAFELY ADVANCE. IF A CHILD IS INJURED OR OTHERWISE IN DISTRESS, PLAY WILL BE STOPPED BY THE UMPIRE AND THE RUNNERS PLACED IN POSITION ON THE BASES AT THE DISCRETION OF THE UMPIRE.**

SUBSTITUTION RULES

1. In a regular game in which each team has 12 players the game is played under normal substitution rules with all players batting each time in their respective positing in the batting line-up and all players sitting for 1 inning in a full 6 inning game.
2. In a game where one team has 12 players and the other only has 11, batting does not change. Each team hits through its full available line-up as always. However, defensively the team with 11 players can only sit one player per inning and the player rotation rule comes into effect as follows:

DEFENSIVE ROTATION ADJUSTMENT RULE: In the instance that the number of players per team becomes unbalanced, each team does not have to sit all of its players, however no player can sit in consecutive innings. Example, team A has 11 players with only 1 sitting per inning, they may sit the same player on multiple occasions just not in consecutive innings. Team B has 12 players with 2 players sitting per inning. They can sit multiple players in multiple innings but not either of the two in consecutive innings. Each of the 2 players that just sat an inning would have to play the next inning and then would be eligible to sit again after playing an inning.

3. In a game where a team has 12 players and the other only has 10 a **HITTING ADJUSTMENT RULE** comes into effect. The team with 12 players hits through its full line-up as normal. The team with only 10 players will bat 2 players twice to complete a 12 hitter line-up. The 2 players that hit twice will be determined by the opposing head coach at the beginning of the game and cannot be changed once the game has begun. For instance if the coach picks batters 7 and 8 to hit again those batters would hit in their normal 7 and 8 spots and again in the 11 and 12 spots for the entire game. The team with only 10 players has to play all 10 players in the field every inning as there is no player to sit. The team with 12 players abides by the **DEFENSIVE ROTATION ADJUSTMENT RULE**.
4. In a game where a team has 12 players and the other has only 9 players, the same **HITTING ADJUSTMENT RULE** applies. The head coach from the team with 12 players picks three players to hit twice in the line-up to complete the 12 player hitting order. For instance if the coach picks batters 6, 7 and 8 to hit again those batters would hit in their normal 6, 7 and 8 spots and again in the 10, 11 and 12 spots for the entire game. The team with 12 abides by the **DEFENSIVE ROTATION ADJUSTMENT RULE**.
5. In a game where a team has 11 players and the opposing team has 9, the same **HITTING ADJUSTMENT RULE** applies. The team with 11 will pick two hitters to hit twice to complete an 11 player hitting line-up. For instance if the coach picks batters 7 and 8 to hit again those batters would

hit in their normal 7 and 8 spots and again in the 10 and 11 spots for the entire game. The team with 11 abides by the **DEFENSIVE ROTATION ADJUSTMENT RULE**.

6. In a game where both teams are short and there is a one (1) player differential such as 11 vs. 10 or 10 vs. 9 each team hits through the entirety of their order with no extra hitters picked and everyone abides by the **DEFENSIVE ROTATION ADJUSTMENT RULE**.
7. In a game where a team loses a player during the game due to injury/other and the teams become unbalanced then refer to the substitution rules as if the game had started unbalanced and play those rules for the remainder of the game.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Warnings will be assessed by the umpire and noted by the scorekeeper.
2. Coaches and assistants should wear the team shirt and hat on game day.
3. Players not in the field should remain in the dugout at all times. Players needing to go to the bathroom should go and return to the dugout as quickly as possible to avoid missing a turn at bat.
4. Children are not permitted in the scorekeeper's area, except at the invitation of the scorekeeper. Parents are asked to instruct their children accordingly.

January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014

