

## Sea Cliff Boys Junior Baseball League Rules 2017

Junior baseball is for 3/4 grade boys and is the kid pitch format of play. For many third graders, this will be their first time pitching and facing other children in the batters box with real umpires. This can be intimidating and the goal of junior baseball is to play real, competitive games while focusing on educating the children on the rules and nuances of baseball. Junior baseball will have minor rule variations appropriate for children of this age group.

Parents are encouraged to be supportive of their children but to allow the coaches to coach. Parent coaching “from the bleachers” or behind the cage is prohibited as it often confuses the children when they get instructions from too many adults.

Coaches at this age level of play hold a position of trust and responsibility as they are dealing with children who are often still only eight years old. These are formative period of a child’s development and negative experiences can taint a child’s love of the sport.

Coaches must have understanding, patience, and the capacity to work with children of this age group. They must garner and inspire respect by their positive influences and actions. Coaches must realize that they are helping to shape the physical, mental and emotional development of young people and the league will insist that they, and parents, conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. Violations of this code should be reported to the Division Coordinator immediately.

### Conduct and Sportsmanship

1. Players or Managers who argue with the Umpire will receive a warning from the Umpire. A second incident may result in the Player or Manager being removed from the game at the discretion of the Umpire.
2. Players who throw helmets or gloves will receive a warning from the Umpire. A second incident may result in the Player being removed from the game at the discretion of the Umpire.
3. Players who throw their bat will receive a warning from the Umpire. A second incident may result in the Player being removed from the game at the discretion of the Umpire. If the player throws a bat a second time the player will be called out and NO runners may advance.
4. Managers should make every effort to prevent and/or discourage negative behavior on the part of all spectators including parents and relative of their team members.

- Unsportsmanlike conduct on their part may lead to their removal from the field. If they refuse to leave it may lead to forfeiture of the game.
5. Spectators who exhibit negative behavior at multiple games will be asked to refrain from attending future games. Failure to comply may result in expulsion of the child from the league.
  6. Players or Coaches who use vulgar, abusive and/or threatening language or gestures during a game may be ejected from a game without warning. Managers or Coaches who act in the above way may be brought in front of the Board of Directors for disciplinary action.
  7. The decision of the league coordinators is final for all actions regarding conduct.

### General Game Rules

1. Teams require a minimum of 7 players. Teams that do not have 7 players in uniform forfeit the game.
2. In the event of lightning or if threatening thunder is heard the players must immediately be removed from the field. The game can be resumed only after waiting 20 minutes following the last flash of lightening.
3. Games must start at their scheduled time.
4. In case of inclement weather, prior to the game, the Umpire and league Coordinator determine if the game can be played. During a game, the Managers, in consultation with the Umpire, will determine if a game can be played.
5. The league Coordinator, in concert with the involved team's Managers, will reschedule all cancelled games.
6. Each team supplies one brand new ball to the Umpire prior to the start of the game.
7. Games are 6 innings long unless suspended by darkness or inclement weather. If the game is tied after 6 innings a seventh inning can be played if conditions permit and both manager agree to play. If not the game is considered a tie. If a game is tied after 7 innings, the game will be considered a tie unless it is a playoff or championship game. If there is a tie in this situation the League Coordinator will determine if/when the game will be completed.

8. The minimum length of a game is 3.5 innings if the Home team is in the lead and 4 complete innings if the Visitor team is leading. Games less than the minimum length should be replayed from the beginning. If a suspended game is tied after 4 completed innings the game will be considered a tie. In case of a disagreement the league Coordinator has final say on how or if the game will be replayed.
9. All bats must be league approved. If a team uses a bat, the other team must be allowed to use the bat as well; otherwise the bat cannot be used in the game. Failure to comply can lead to forfeiture. Only Little League sanctioned bats with a barrel thickness less than 2 ½ inches can be used. If a player uses an illegal bat, that player will be warned and the bat removed from the game. If the illegal bat is used again the game is forfeited.
10. There is a 5 run limit per inning except the final inning of the game which has unlimited runs. As darkness approaches that will impede the completion of a full inning, the Managers and Umpire should agree whether to start a final inning.
11. The first and third base coaches are the only non-players allowed on the field.
12. A ball that hits a tree before hitting the ground is considered a foul ball.

### General Playing Rules

1. All players in uniform for a game will bat. Each team must maintain their batting order. Failure to bat in in the proper order will result in an out for the player batting out of turn.
2. If a player is not present at the start of a game, that player must bat last in the batting order.
3. Up to 10 players may play the field in a game. There can be no more than 6 players in the infield including the Pitcher and Catcher. The remaining 4 players play in the outfield. The outfield is determined by the outfield grass. Outfielders cannot position themselves on the infield dirt. Players may not change position for particular batters within the same inning.
4. Infielders must play on the dirt area of the infield.
5. Players cannot sit out 2 consecutive innings in the field.

6. Catchers must wear protective cups, shin guards, chest protectors and masks when catching. All catching equipment must have the NOXSEE seal on them.
7. Batters and runners must wear helmets when on the field. There are no exceptions to this rule.
8. There is no infield fly rule.
9. Players are allowed to tag up. The player must not leave the base until the fielder has caught the ball.
10. The Catcher is not allowed to block home plate if he does not have the ball. He must not stand in the way of the runner if he does not have the ball.
11. Runners are not allowed to barrel into the Catcher. The runner must slide into home plate if there is a play at the plate. If the Runner crashes into the Catcher, the Runner will be called out.
12. Stealing is NOT permitted. Runners are allowed to leave their base only after the ball is hit.
13. If a Runner leaves his base prior to the ball being hit, the Umpire can call the Runner out.
14. When the Pitcher has the ball on the mound, all runners must return to their bases.
15. If the baseball is thrown out of bounds, all runners may advance one additional base as determined by the Umpire.
16. If the baseball is thrown into the dugout, all runners may advance one additional base as determined by the Umpire.
17. Innings may never start after 8pm under any circumstances. Innings should never start after 7:30pm for games played in April and early May. At the start of a late inning Managers should keep in mind that there needs to be enough light for the entire inning especially considering how long the final, unlimited run inning, may take.
18. Managers are strongly encouraged to try to give players an opportunity to play an infield position at least one inning per game. Please give players an opportunity to pitch if they are able.

## Pitching Rules

1. Pitchers may pitch up to 6 innings in a week. A week is defined as the time between Sunday and the following Saturday.
2. A Pitcher may pitch up to 3 innings in a single day. If a game goes into extra innings a Pitcher may pitch a 4th inning.
3. A Pitcher is considered to have pitched an inning if he throws a single pitch in that inning. There is no equivalent of a partial inning pitched.
4. If a Pitcher hits 2 batters in a single inning, or 3 batters in a single game, that pitcher must be removed and cannot pitch again in the game unless the game goes into extra innings.
5. The balk rule is not in effect.
6. Bunting is not allowed.
7. Managers should be encouraged to pitch as many players as possible.

## All Star Team Selection

1. The All Star team should have 24 players. The All Star Game is typically played on the first or second Sunday in June.
2. Players should be selected based on their playing ability, attitude, attendance and sportsmanship. The Manager may select the players or put it to a team vote.

## Playoffs

1. At the end of the season, the standings will be determined as follows:
  - 2 points are awarded for a win
  - 1 point is awarded for a tie
  - 0 points for a loss

At the end of the season, the standings will be determined as follows: If a team has uncompleted rain outs that can affect the standings, the team is responsible for making up these games. Failure to complete these games can cause the team to finish

the season in a lower place. If teams are tied in point total the head to head record will serve as the tiebreaker.

2. The second and third place teams will play a one game to determine who faces the 1st place team for the Championship. The team with the higher point total is the home team.

#### Protests

1. Protests can be considered only when based on a violation of a playing rule or the use of an ineligible player.
2. Protests must be communicated to the league Coordinator as soon as possible. The league Coordinator will determine the validity of the protest unless the Coordinator is directly involved with the game in question. In that case the Board of Directors will decide on the validity of the protest.

#### Parent Behavior

Parents are expected to act appropriately while watching games. No parents shall heckle players, managers, or umpires. Inappropriate behavior should be reported to the Division Coordinator and may result in the suspension of field visitation rights.

#### **PLEASE REMEMBER:**

- 1. The players are kids (YOUR kids)**
- 2. This game is for them**
- 3. Coaches are human and are volunteers**
- 4. Umpires are human**
- 5. This game is for fun and is not the World Series**
- 6. Positive cheering is encouraged**
- 7. Enjoy these precious years with your children**