

REVERE BASEBALL & SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE RULES

MODIFIED: 2019

The Instructional League is intended for boys and girls who are 5 or 6 six years old. Teams are formed by the commissioner of the league, who will make an attempt to divide teams evenly with respect to age and gender. The commissioner shall attempt to form teams consisting of 10-12 players each. All players shall play every inning defensively and shall be rotated with respect to position played over the course of the game. Games will consist of 3-4 innings, with no new inning starting after one (1) hour has elapsed. No official score or win/loss records are kept.

1. General League Rules

- a. Regular baseball rules will be followed, unless modified by these rules.
- b. Team will be made up of boys and girls who are at least 5 years of age but do not turn 7 years of age before May 1 of the season year.
- c. Coaches will have sons/daughters placed on their own teams unless a request by the coach is made to the contrary.
- d. Players shall be distributed as evenly as possible between the teams with respect to number of players, gender and age group by the commissioner of the league. If the commissioner has prior knowledge of player's ability or skill level, the commissioner shall make every attempt to divide the talent among the teams evenly as well.
- e. A team shall consist of 10-12 players.
- f. No official scores or standings will be kept.
- g. Games will be 3-4 innings in length with no new inning being started after one (1) hour has elapsed.
- h. Bases will be 50 feet apart.
- i. "Soft-Tee" or soft baseballs shall be used.

2. Fielding

- a. All players on the defensive team will play in the field in each inning unless they are physically unable to play.
- b. Players shall be rotated to a new position each inning. The infield positions shall be pitcher, first base, second base, short stop, third base and rover (which shall be right behind the pitcher's mound). If a seventh infield position is needed to handle a team with 14 players, a second pitcher (left and right side of the mound) shall be added.
- c. All players not playing in the infield in an inning shall be evenly distributed in the outfield. Outfielders must play at least twenty (20) feet behind the base paths from first to second base and from second to third base.
- d. The use of bright colored disks to mark each position is encouraged. This will show the players correct positioning and teach territory coverage.

- e. No player should play the same position more than once per game. An effort should be made by the coach thru the course of the season to allow each player to play every position an equal amount of times.
- f. Coaches will be allowed on the field during the inning to direct their players on proper play and where to make plays, but at no time shall a coach attempt to make a play on the ball or interfere with a play.
- g. Coaches will attempt to instruct their players to make a play at the closest base or on the lead runner.

3. Batting

- a. Players will bat in the same order for the entire game.
- b. All of the team will bat per inning, regardless of the number of put outs made by the defensive team. Coach of the batting team will announce to the field when the last batter is up to bat.
- c. All players shall wear a helmet with faceguard when at bat, on the base paths, or in the on-deck area.
- d. No player shall be permitted to swing a bat anywhere except the designated on deck area and in the batter's box, coaches shall strictly enforce this rule for obvious safety reasons.
- e. Players will hit off the tee exclusively for the first two (2) innings. No live pitching will be allowed in those first two innings in an attempt to promote play moving along quickly and active defensive play. This will also ensure that each child has one-on-one instruction on his/her swing.
- f. During the last 1-2 innings, a coach pitcher shall pitch to their players. No more than five (5) pitches will be provided to each batter. If a hitter does not successfully put a ball in play after five (5) pitches, a tee will be used for the remainder of his/her at bat. No walks will be permitted and no strikeouts will be enforced. Coaches are to pitch underhand to girls and overhand to boys to prepare them for future league play.
- g. Players called out at a base by coaches will return to the bench consistent with the rules of baseball.
- h. There shall be no bunting permitted and no infield fly rule enforced.
- i. A coach for the batting team will be permitted to be positioned at the catcher's position to provide instruction to the hitters, but shall not assist in the hitting of the ball.
- j. Coaches shall strictly instruct players against throwing of bats after a batted ball.

4. Base Running

- a. No leading off, stealing, or head first sliding will be permitted.
- b. Base runners can be put out on caught fly-balls consistent with normal baseball rules. Coaches should attempt to provide verbal instructions to base runners to prevent this.
- c. The offensive team shall be permitted to have a coach stationed in the first base and third base coach's boxes and directly behind second base to instruct base runners.

- d. Base runners shall be allowed one base only on balls that do not enter the outfield and may take extra bases on ball hit into the outfield. On ball hit to the outfield, runners may not advance to next base and will sent back to the last successful base reached once the ball is throw into the infield from the outfield. The intent of this rule is to prevent excessive and gratuitous running and the coaches shall enforce of this intent diligently.
- e. Base runners that intentional collide with a defensive player trying to make a play shall be called out. If a defensive player attempts to prevent a base runner from reaching a base without attempting to make a play on a ball or without having the ball in his/her possession, the base runner will be awarded the base.
- f. No extra bases shall be awarded to runners on overthrows.
- g. When a base runner is called "out," the runner should return to their dugout.

5. Conduct Rules

- a. Coaches are not permitted to smoke, drink or chew tobacco while coaching during games or practices. Coaches, players and fans are not permitted to scream at, swear at or belittle a team member, other coach or umpire. Coaches, players and fans will be asked to leave the game if these rules are not adhered to. Coaches, players and fans shall support their team, but shall not make negative comments about the opposing team or any of its players. The coaches shall be responsible for the actions of their own team and insure that their team and its players behave in an appropriate manner.
- b. When not playing on the field, batting, or on-deck, all players are expected to sit on the bench and observe the game. A coach or a parent shall be designated to enforce this rule and be responsible for ensuring the players behave properly.
- c. No throwing of equipment will be tolerated. A player may be immediately removed from the game if he/she has trouble adhering to this rule.
- d. All coaches and players will line up at the conclusion of the game and shake hands with the opposing team. No official score will be kept and every game will conclude a tie.
- e. Any violation of the Conduct Rules shall be brought to the attention of the violator(s) immediately by the head coaches. If the offense is serious and the violator refuses to correct his/her behavior immediately upon being asked or continues to violate the Conduct Rules, the head coaches shall have the right to ask the violator to leave or if necessary eject the violator from the game without using physical force. If the violator refuses to leave the premises, the coaches can agree to call the game immediately over. Any infraction of the Conduct Rules that results in a game stoppage or a violator being ejected from the game and/or premises should be reported to the league commissioner who shall have the right to enforce any disciplinary action he/she deems suitable after evaluating the circumstances of the incident. The RBSA executive board shall be notified of the circumstances of the incident and the resulting disciplinary action taken.