



2025 Jackson Youth Baseball

8-year-old Rules



1. **Game time** – No inning shall start after an hour and 15 minutes.
2. Each inning will end with **3 outs or 5 runs scored.**
3. **Forfeit** – Less than 8 players will result in a forfeit. If a team starts with 8 players, an automatic out will be taken in the 9th spot. If 10 minutes have elapsed after the scheduled game time and a team does not have at least 8 players, the game will be declared a forfeit.
4. Home team is responsible for putting away equipment after the last game is finished.
5. **Pitch Count** – Each batter will receive **8 pitches from the pitching machine.**
6. **Machine Pitch:** The pitching machine will be used for all batters.
7. **Fielding** - Every team will use 10 players on the field; 6 infield positions including one player standing to the side of the pitching machine, a catcher, and 4 outfielders. If a player shows up after the game has begun, he must play the field before he can be added to the batting order.
8. The catcher's position is optional. If a player decides to play in the catcher's position, they will be required to wear proper catchers' equipment.
9. **Batters, base runners and catchers** will all be required to wear safety helmets. Any helmet removed by choice without time being called while on bases will receive one team warning per game and the next incident will result in an automatic out.
10. Play stops when the ball is returned from the outfield to an infielder and they have personal control of the ball, or when the ball is returned to the pitching coach.
11. There will be **NO base stealing or bunting.**
12. First and third basemen should play no closer than 15 feet in front of the base. Violation results in an automatic base hit for the batter and the baserunners will move up one base.
13. Over throws to 1st & 3rd base will result in all runners getting the base they were headed to **PLUS** one more. However, if the ball is interfered with by the hitting team, the runners will be returned to the base they occupied at the time of the interference.

14. The bat barrel may be up to 2 3/4" diameter.

15. Field dimensions; Bases are 60' apart and the mound is 46' from back of home plate

16. No Metal Cleats.

17. Umpires will be scheduled at all games. If no league umpire is present, coaches will serve as umpires during the games. First and third base offensive coaches will umpire their respective bases and pitching coaches will umpire second base. The defensive team should have a coach positioned behind home plate and they will umpire home plate. If a batted ball strikes the pitching coach it is a dead ball or if the ball is intentionally thrown to the pitching coach the ball will be considered a dead ball as it reaches the pitching coaches area. If a batted ball hits the pitching machine or the ball bucket it is a dead ball and the hitter is granted 1st base. All base runners are allowed to move up one base on a dead ball.

18. Weather Policy - When thunder is heard, or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately. Thirty-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play. Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count, reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.