

Sioux Empire Baseball Association

9 Yr. Old League Rules

Revised: February 2017

The 9 Yr. Old Division which is sponsored by Parkway Orthodontics is intended for players who are currently in the Third Grade which is typically the age of 9 years old. Teams are formed first by the child's attending school and then by other criteria so that each team has a maximum roster of 13 whenever possible. All players bat through the line up. Players pitch. There is unlimited substitution. Games are six innings with no new inning starting after one hour thirty minutes. Each offensive innings consists of three outs or five runs. Scores and standings are kept. A tournament will be held at the end of the regular season.

Approximately 12 Players Per Team

Teams will be formed by school and then by zip code when applicable. Each team will have a head coach and an assistant coach. Their sons/daughters will play on that team unless otherwise indicated. No new head or assistant coaches will be allowed as long as the original coach's son/daughters is still on the team. Players must play in at least 50% of league games (except in cases of injury or illness) in order to be eligible for the year-end tournament.

Regular baseball rules will be followed, with the following exceptions:

- A. Bases will be sixty (60) feet apart. Pitching distance is forty-five (45) ft.
- B. Scores will be kept for the purpose of seeding for the year-end tournament.
- C. Games are six (6) innings. If a game is called before three (3) complete innings, the game will be made up. The make up game will resume exactly where it was stopped. **KEEP GOOD BOOKS!** If after four (4) complete innings (or 3 ½ if the home team is ahead) one team is ahead by fifteen (15) runs, the umpire shall declare the game complete. The four (4) defensive inning rule may be affected when this occurs. No new inning will start after 1 hour and 30 minutes. **The 1st pitch of the game begins the game clock.** If the home team is behind when time expires in the top of an inning, they will be awarded their turn at bat. If the home team is ahead and time expires in the top of the inning, the game will end after the completion of the visitors turn at bat. If the game is tied after the time limit, the game will remain tied. **Note: The top of an inning must be completed if the visiting team is behind, and the bottom of an inning must be completed if the home team is behind.** Exceptions: Suspended game due to weather or daylight.
- D. A minimum of eight (8) players is required to start a game. When batting, the ninth (9) position will be an out. Any fewer than 8 players will require a forfeit. (Play should be continued using a combination of both teams if possible.)
- E. ALL players will bat through the lineup. Players that show up late will be added to the batting order at the bottom of the line-up.
- F. ALL players must play at least four defensive innings per game. No player with the exception of the pitcher shall play more than two consecutive innings in the same position. It is recommended that players be afforded the opportunity to play infield and outfield during the course of the season.
- G. Three (3) outs or five (5) runs per offensive inning. The league will use a 3 Balls and 2 Strike format. 3 balls and the hitter is walked, 2 strikes and the hitter is out, meaning the hitter will begin with a 1-1 count.
- H. Free substitution for all players except pitchers. See rule I – 1.
- I. Pitching Regulations

Age Divison	Daily Max (Pitches in Game)	Required Rest (Pitches)				
		0 Days	1 Days	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
9 YR	70	1-20	21-30	31-45	46-60	61+

Additional Pitching Rules:

1. Once a pitcher is removed from the mound, he/she may not return to that position for the rest of the game.
 2. Players should not pitch in multiple games on the same day
 3. Curve balls, split finger fastballs, and sliders are prohibited
 4. No pitcher can appear in a game as a pitcher for three consecutive days, regardless of pitch counts
 5. Coaches need to monitor for signs of fatigue. Fatigued pitchers or pitchers who have thrown a moderate to high volume of pitches that day or previous day should avoid the catching position.
 6. Pitchers should warm-up properly before each outing
 7. Coaches must write down pitch totals and keep record. Coach communication with parents and/or travel coaches regarding pitch totals may be necessary to be sure required rest is being met.
 8. No balks will be called.
- J. No bunting or fake bunting or any action intended to distract the pitcher will be allowed by a hitter or baserunner.
- K. No infield fly rule.
- L. No stealing. No leading off. If a player leaves early, he/she must return to the base he/she was occupying. Players may advance once the ball is hit.
- M. No dropped third strike. The batter is automatically out.
- N. A player may not intentionally create contact with another player at any time. If the defensive player has the ball and a play is being made, the offensive player must either slide or make every effort to avoid contact with the defensive player. Should a player intentionally run over or crash into another player in the umpire's judgment, he or she will be ejected from the game. If a defensive player is in the base path without the ball and makes contact with, or impedes the path of the offensive player, interference may be called on the defensive player and the batter/runner will be awarded the base. Any runner obstructing a throw to attempt a double play will result in a double play being called.
- O. No metal spikes may be worn.
- P. Bat size may not exceed 32" in length and 2 1/4" in diameter.