

*After playing a fall season with the proposed rules below, coaches and umpires all agreed that we would make an attempt to make changes to the current COYBL rules at the 9U level. Playing by these rules we feel the game is still being taught and players are forced to play defense and make defensive plays. Double plays are still in order. Outfielders and infielders learn relay situations. Pitchers get an opportunity to focus on pitching and the games will be more competitive. Players will stay involved in the game both on defense and offense. Game times will be cut down because there are more opportunities for outs.*

*Most important we feel it is more important to teach all aspects of the game and continue to teach the kids first how to play the game. We can all agree that anytime a kid get on first base, steals 2<sup>nd</sup> base, steals 3<sup>rd</sup> base, and scores on a passed ball without a kid even hitting a ball really isn't teaching the kids anything.*

*We realize that if we go to tournaments we will have to play by the other rules but we feel that it is more important to play the game and learn the game at this age than it is to win tournaments. Let the kids determine the outcome of games not the coaches.*

**Rules and interpretations of the rules are open to discussion.**

- Dropped third strike is a live ball. A catcher must make a throw to 1<sup>st</sup> base or tag the runner to record an out on a dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike. If there is a runner on 3<sup>rd</sup> base, he cannot advance home, even on an errant throw. The batter however can advance to 2b on an errant throw, assuming that 2b is unoccupied at the time of the play.
- Runners are permitted to lead off all bases.
- Pick off from pitchers are permitted. If a pitcher attempts a pick off to any base including 3b then it is a live play and the offense can advance if it is a failed attempt. Examples: (a) If a pitcher attempts a pick off to 3b and throws the ball away, the runner on 3b can advance home. (b) If a pitcher executes a pick off to 3b with a runner on 3b and 2b, and the runner on 3b gets in a run down and gets tagged out, the runner on 2b may advance to 3b. Pick offs are live plays no matter how many outs there are. The way we treated it was the pitcher is choosing to make a play that might result in an errant attempt, that is on the pitcher not the offense.
- Runners will only be allowed to steal one base after the defense has recorded two outs in an inning. A runner can only attempt to steal one base in an inning. A runner may advance one base on an errant throw from a catcher to 2<sup>nd</sup> base, assuming 3<sup>rd</sup> base is not occupied at the time of the play, but if there is a runner on 3<sup>rd</sup> base at the time of the play he may not advance.
- Runners on 3<sup>rd</sup> base must be batted in, even with two outs. You may not bunt to score the runner from 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
- Runners may advance one base on an errant pickoff attempt from a pitcher to 1<sup>st</sup> base or 2<sup>nd</sup> base (as long as 3<sup>rd</sup> base is not occupied at the time of the play), but not 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
- Runners on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base cannot advance on a wild pitch or passed ball with less than 2 outs. With 2 outs, the runners can advance one base, whether it is a steal, passed ball, or wild pitch.
- **BUNTING WILL BE PERMITTED**