

**RAMMS FARM LEAGUE BASEBALL RULES (revised 2/27/2020)**

1.0 PURPOSE: The intent of the program is to provide clean, wholesome recreation for a maximum number of youngsters. Adults who are involved have the opportunity, through their words and actions, to assist young people in learning to win, as well as lose, while preparing the youngsters for further baseball opportunities during their careers.

2.0 GAME RULES: Games are played according to the Official Rules of Baseball, except as modified below. The RAMMS Code of Conduct is incorporated herein.

3.0 PARTICIPATION: It is the policy of RAMMS that all players have the opportunity to play at least three of the four innings of every game in the field. All players must play at least every other inning in the field on defense, disciplinary action notwithstanding.

4.0 BATTING:

4.1 Batting will be on a bat-a-round basis. All players on the roster who appear for the game and who are not injured will be listed in the batting order and will be given the opportunity to bat in their turn.

4.2 If a player arrives late, their name will be added to the bottom of the batting order.

4.3 If a player is injured and cannot continue, their position in the batting order will be skipped without penalty to the offensive team. The player may re-enter the game, but must resume the place in the batting order he occupied before the injury.

4.4 Each batter will receive up to five (5) pitches with no balls or strikes being counted, regardless of whether or not the batter swings.

4.5 If a batter does not hit a ball into the field of play after five (5) pitches, a batting tee will be placed on home plate and the batter will be allowed to hit the ball off the tee into the field of play.

4.6 Players are not allowed to bunt.

4.7a Teams will bat in order until 3 outs are recorded, 4 runs are scored, or until you get back to the first batter of the inning; whichever comes first. In the regular season, there are no extra inning; games tied at the end of regulation shall be recorded as a tie and no extra innings shall be played. The offensive team can score more than four (4) runs if the completion of the play leads to more than four (4) runs. For the sake of clarification, if the offensive team has scored 3 runs and has 1 or more runners on base and hits a ball into the outfield, the play will continue in accordance with Section 7.0 and all runs will be counted.

4.7b PLAYOFFS/CHAMPIONSHIP: Teams will bat in order until 3 outs are recorded, 4 runs have scored, or until you get back to the first batter of the inning. If at the end of 4 innings the score is tied, teams will place a runner on 2nd base and start their half of the inning with two outs. All other rules will remain in effect as normal and play will continue in this manner until there is a winner. The offensive team can score more than four (4) runs if the completion of the play leads to more than four (4) runs. For the sake of clarification, if the offensive team has scored 3 runs and has 1 or more runners on base and hits a ball into the outfield, the play will continue in accordance with Section 7.0 and all runs will be counted.

4.8 All wood bats are permitted. Non-wood bats are permitted and may have a barrel size up to two and five-eighth inches (2 5/8") provided any 2 5/8" bats must be stamped under current USA Bat standards. All other non-wood bats, including those stamped under the USSSA standard, are not permitted.

4.9 Balls will be soft T-Balls (e.g., Rawlings Soft T-Balls) or the equivalent.

## 5.0 FIELDING:

5.1 Teams will field players at the normal infield positions (1B, 2B, SS, 3B, and P), with the exception of catcher; any remaining players may play in the outfield at the coach's discretion, provided all outfield players are positioned behind the infield dirt.

5.2 Base paths and pitching mounds are located as follows:

Farm League Base path: 45 ft.

Farm League Pitching mound: 20 - 35 ft.

5.3 When a thrown ball is (i) thrown or deflected outside the playing area, (ii) thrown over the outfield fence, or (iii) into the stands or dugout, all runners are entitled to advance one additional base.

## 6.0 PITCHING:

6.1 Coaches pitch to their teams for all games.

6.2 A batter shall receive a maximum five (5) pitches with no balls or strikes being counted per at bat. A batter shall receive a "tee rescue" if he/she is unable to hit a ball into the field of play within five (5) pitches.

6.3 If the umpire determines that a batted ball that strikes the pitching coach (buckets, lids, etc. are part of the coach) was unavoidable, the play shall be ruled dead. The batter will be awarded first base and all other base runners will advance one base. If at the discretion of the umpire a batted ball that strikes the pitching coach was avoidable or no effort was made to avoid contact with the ball, play shall be ruled "no pitch" (not a strike, not a ball and not counted as one of the 5 pitches) and all runners must go back to the base from where they began the play.

6.4 Prior to the ball being pitched, the pitcher player shall not be any closer to home plate than the pitching coach with one foot on the nine (9) foot circle line to the first base or third base side of the pitching coach.

6.5 Any defensive play on the third base side of the pitching coach that results in a throw unavoidably striking the pitching coach who remains upright or in the line of the throw being attempted shall result in the base runners remaining in the position they were in prior to the play and the batter shall be deemed out.

6.6 The pitching coach will not field the position and will do his/her best to avoid any balls hit in his/her direction.

6.7 The pitching coach will pitch from 20 - 35 feet from home plate at his/her discretion. RAMMS encourages coaches to pitch the ball as flat (parallel to the ground) as possible.

6.8 All walks, intentional or otherwise are prohibited.

#### 7.0 BASE RUNNING:

7.1 Bases may not be stolen by base runners. The base runner may not leave the base until the pitched ball has been hit by the batter. A base runner leaving the base before the ball has been hit will be called out after one warning to the player. A base runner on third base may advance to home only after (i) a hit, (ii) a play being made on the base runner at third base, or (iii) an over throw of any base with the ball advancing into the outfield, along the fence or out of the field of play.

7.2 The infield fly rule will not be in effect.

7.3 If an offensive player deliberately runs into a defensive player in an attempt to cause the defensive player to drop the ball, the offensive player will be called out, the play called dead, the hitter awarded 1st base and the runner called out.

7.4 If a defensive player blocks the base or impedes the base runner without possession of the ball or while not in the process of receiving the ball the runner will be awarded the base to which the runner

was proceeding.

7.5 A runner who makes a head first slide will be called out, except if the slide is made to return to a base the runner has reached safely.

7.6 Whenever a defensive player is about to receive the ball or has the ball and is waiting to make a tag at a base, all base runners must slide to avoid physical contact. Any runner violating this rule would be called out.

7.7 Advancement of the base runners is stopped when an infielder has possession of the ball in hand or glove and is positioned inside the cut (in the dirt); if there is no dirt, then the real or imaginary lines connecting the bases of the infield diamond (ultimately the determination of this line is at the discretion of the umpire). The base runner may still be put out while attempting to advance or retreat with no risk of error by the defensive team. If the base runner is deemed by the umpire to have advanced beyond the midpoint between bases when the infielder gained possession of the ball, the base runner may advance only as far as the next base past midpoint but at his own risk of being put out by the defensive team and with no risk of error by the defensive team. If the umpire finds that the base runner had not advanced beyond the midpoint between bases when the infielder gained possession of the ball, the base runner is still at risk of being put out while advancing or retreating with no risk of error by the defensive team and may not advance to the next base past midpoint. However, in any event, the baserunner is allowed to advance one base from an original starting point regardless of infield control. For example, if there is a runner on third base and ball is hit to an infielder and controlled, this base runner may still advance one base (to home) even if he has not passed the midpoint prior to infield control. Because the intent of the Farm league is to begin building a foundation for young players to progress to Ranch baseball or Freshman softball; on any ball hit into the outfield, the offensive team's coach will use his/her best judgement on advancing runners for extra bases so as not to take advantage of inexperienced players. i.e. Do not continue to advance runners knowing that most balls hit into the outfield could be an inside the park homerun; teach your players to run the bases realistically and allow the defensive team to learn to make the appropriate baseball play.

7.8 A thrown ball that hits the pitching coach or bucket shall be treated as a dead ball and all runners shall be entitled to proceed to the base to which they were running at the time the ball hit the machine, coach or bucket.

7.9 Hash marks are to be placed midway between first and second base and second and third base, and third base and home, to help the umpire make a better decision if a base runner is past the halfway mark and deserves to advance to that base pursuant to the rules set forth above.

#### 8.0 SUBSTITUTIONS:

8.1 It is the intent of RAMMS to avoid loss of play caused by lack of players.

8.2 Any team fielding less than eight (8) of its regular players at game time will be rescheduled. If due to conflicts, the game cannot be rescheduled, the game will be forfeited by the offending team.

8.3 Substitute RAMMS players will play in the outfield and bat last. If a roster player appears and more than the required players are available, a substitute player will be replaced by the roster player and the substitute player will be immediately removed from the game. The roster player will take the substitute player's spot in the batting order. A substitute player is subject to the Commissioner's approval.

#### 9.0 GAME TIME LIMIT:

9.1 A game shall consist of four (4) innings and no extra innings will be played (except for Playoffs/championship).

9.2 A new inning will not start if one (1) hour has expired.

9.3 An inning starts immediately after the third out or eighth (8th) batter of the preceding inning.

9.4 All innings started prior to one (1) hour will be completed. There is no drop-dead time. In the event

the game is concluded due to no lights, then and only then the score will revert back to the last completed inning (no makeup innings in this event).

9.5 During the playoffs, at least four (4) innings shall be played regardless of time.

9.6 The umpire will maintain an official game clock and the home team's official scorekeeper should record the time the first pitch is thrown in the official scorebook.

9.7 Any intentional "delays" or "speed-ups" of the game to circumvent the time limit rules may result in forfeiture by the offending team at the discretion of the umpire.

9.8 All play must stop no later than 8:45 p.m. (M-TR) and 9:45p.m. (Fri-Sat). As noted above in rule 9.4, this is due to lights and in this event, the score will revert to the last completed inning (no makeup innings in this event).

#### 10.0 TEAMS AND EQUIPMENT:

10.1 The Home Team will maintain the official scorebook. The Home Team will occupy the third base dugout.

10.2 The Home Team may take the field thirty (30) minutes before the game start time for a fifteen (15) minute infield and outfield warm-up. The Visiting Team may take the field fifteen (15) minutes before the game start time for a fifteen (15) minute infield and outfield warm-up. No live batting practice will be allowed on the field.

10.3 Each coach must maintain a copy of the rules at every game. Each team will contribute one (1) new ball and one back-up ball to the umpire as the game balls. The Home Team will enter the final score of the game in their scorebook and report the final score in Sports Engine within forty-eight (48) hours.

#### 11.0 PLAYOFFS:

11.1 Playoffs will be conducted pursuant to RAMMS Board Policy.

12.0 RAMMS POLICY ON TRYOUTS:

12.1 A child shall only play in one league.

12.2 A pre-school child may play in the Farm League provided the child attends the Farm League tryout and obtains special permission from the Farm League Commissioner and Farm League coaches.

12.3 A player wanting to play in an upper league must attend the tryouts for BOTH the lower league and the upper league. League Commissioners have the discretion to reassign a player to a league if the player does not attend BOTH the lower league tryouts and the upper league tryouts. League Commissioners may grant special exemption to this tryout requirement due to special circumstances.