

## **BATH LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL RULES (U8)**

1. The league is for boys' ages 7 and 8 or 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Exceptions to the age requirement can be made at the discretion of the league president.
2. All bases are 60 feet apart.
3. Adult pitchers only will pitch from 35 feet.
4. The batter gets 5 swings at the pitched ball, and then ball placed on tee. A few boys will not be able to hit a pitched ball. The "tee after 5" rule speeds up the game and increases enjoyment for parents and children, teaches the children how to concentrate to avoid the tee. Have a coach ready nearby to place the tee down and remove it. You may also call the batter out after 5 swings (a better option for the older kids). Midway through season; batter out after five swings (no tee), clear bases after each 3 outs, continue inning until entire lineup has batted.
5. Position a fielding pitcher to one side of the adult pitcher. Be aware not to block his view, and of course, do not touch the ball yourself.
6. Your batting order bats through every inning. The inning is over after the last batter stops running. All games last a maximum of 1 hour & 30 minutes or 4 innings.
7. There will be 10 players on the field at a time. There are no rules on substitutions except that everyone needs to play at least 2 innings.
8. Ball and strikes are not called, and the coaches decide out/safe calls on the bases. Two coaches are allowed to stand in the outfield with their defensive players to help them pay attention and tell them where to throw.
9. The play is dead once the lead runner is stopped. If the adult pitcher touches the ball, the play is dead.
10. Bats can be only 26, 27, or 28 inches long.
11. Helmets are mandatory for batters and baserunners. Catchers must have a face mask/helmet & chest protector & shin guards. No metal cleats.
12. If the batter throws the bat, give one warning. Next time, they are out.
13. No leading off or stealing.
14. When the catcher misses the ball, it is a good idea to have a coach behind him to catch the ball and throw it back to the pitcher. Failure to do this will make the game very, very slow. Also, runners may not advance on a passed ball.
15. Remember, we are not keeping score. The boys are there to have fun and you are there to teach them the fundamentals.