

# City of Bell

Community Services Department

# Youth Baseball 2016 Recreation Season

## Rookie, Minor & Major RULES & REGULATIONS

**BALANCED TEAMS**  
**POSITIVE COACHING**  
**EVERYONE PLAYS**



**PLAYER DEVELOPMENT**  
**OPEN REGISTRATION**  
**GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**

## **FOREWORD**

This handbook is designed to explain to youth baseball managers, players, parents, and supporters' specific league rules, regulations and conditions of play set forth by the City of Bell Youth Baseball League and Community Services Department.

It is very important that all participants become familiar with the information enclosed in the following pages.

It is our intent to provide an opportunity for the youth to take part in an organized and structured athletic program that will facilitate its participants to achieve a sense of personal enjoyment and physical growth and improvement.

Please keep in mind that sportsmanship rates extremely high in our league; without it the quality of sport is lost.

Community Services Department

## ***City of Bell Youth Baseball League Rules and Regulations***

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

It is our mission at the City of Bell to provide opportunities to expose the youth in our community to recreational sports and in the process instilling discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, honesty and integrity while keeping the game fun for everyone.

All registered players will be placed on a team and no player will be cut. Our purpose is in the development of fundamental baseball skills and the importance of good sportsmanship through the values of courage and teamwork.

### **Team Rules and Discipline**

- (1) Coaches are advised to conduct a parent meeting on their first team practice to review the league and their team rules and expectations. Team rules should be reasonable and within the spirit of a recreational sport. Coaches must also provide a copy of their team rules to every parent and the league.
- (2) Coaches must emphasize to all parents that this is not a babysitting program and that there must be an adult present at all practices and games.
- (3) Coaches must not leave players unattended at practices or games. At least one coach must remain after the event to make sure that his/hers players leave with an adult.

### **PLAYING FIELD**

The playing field shall be laid out, marked and cared for as specified by the following baseball diamond dimension for each age division:

<b>Division</b>	<b>Diamond</b>	<b>Pitching Distances</b>
Rookie	60 Feet	38 Feet
Minor	65 Feet	44 Feet
Major	70 Feet	48 Feet

### **GAME TIME LIMITS**

- Rookie – Four (4) innings or no new inning after one (1) hour and 10 minutes (1.20)
- Minors – Five (5) innings or no new inning after one (1) hour and 20 minutes (1.30)
- Majors – Six (6) innings or no new inning after one (1) hour and 30 minutes (1.40)

**Note:** The last three (3) outs of the game or the last inning will be called ten (10) minutes before regulation time expires and it will be an open inning. Teams will be allowed to make one pitching change, but no timeouts will be allowed except in case of any injuries. No inning shall start after 9:00PM. A calendar week is from 12:01AM Monday to 12 midnight the following Sunday.

## Game Rules

1. All league play shall be governed by the Official Rules of Major League Baseball. Except as modified by these rules.
2. Regular league games, play-offs and Championship games pitching limitations
  - Rookie – Two (2) innings per game / four (4) innings per week
  - Minors – Three (3) innings per game / six (6) innings per week
  - Majors – Four (4) innings per game/ eight (8) innings per week

NOTE: Pitchers **cannot** start consecutive games, even if the games are played in separate weeks, and will not be allowed to pitch on his/her non-starting game until the second inning.

3. One pitch constitutes one inning (1)
4. Each team is allowed three visits to the mound within a game, with no limit on the number of visits per inning. After their third visit, every trip to the mound will result in the pitcher being removed.

**NOTE:** If two (2) coaches go across the line at the same time. It will count as two visits.

5. Balks are to be called as follows:
  - Rookie – No Balks
  - Minors – After one warning / per pitcher
  - Majors – No warnings
6. Once a pitcher is removed from pitching he/she is not allowed to return and pitch again in the same game.
7. If a pitcher hits (2) batters in the same inning or three (3) in the same game, he/she shall be removed and rule number six (6) comes in affect.
8. The hidden ball trick and fake tags are not allowed.
9. To intentionally walk a batter, a coach simply needs to inform the umpire and point to first base, with no pitches thrown.

**NOTE:** This rule does not apply to Rookie Division

10. Stealing home is **not** allowed. Runners may try to score on a squeeze play, a wild pitch, an overthrow from the catcher to the pitcher, or when a play is being made at any base. In a suicide play: When a base runner attempts to score and at the same time the batter swings at the ball, the umpire shall call a dead ball and both the batter and the runner will automatically be called out, and the third base coach will be ejected. If at the time there is no third base coach, then the manager will be ejected.

**NOTE: Rookie Division ONLY** home is dead

11. The entire roster of players that are present shall bat in rotation. Any player arriving late will be inserted at the end of the batting line up.
12. Line ups shall be turned in no later than five (5) minutes before game time.
13. If a player is ejected, he/she will be an automatic out every time he/she is due to bat, but there is no penalty if he/she had to leave the game due to an injury only.
14. Courtesy runners may be used if desired for the pitcher and catcher after 2 outs. The courtesy runner must be the last recorded out.
15. Run limits – an inning is over after the following:
  - Rookie – Three (3) outs or four (4) runs

- Minors – Three (3) outs or five (5) runs
- Majors – Three (3) outs or six (6) runs

**Note:** Additional runs will not count unless a clear homerun is hit over the fence

16. Mercy Rule – A game shall be considered a regulation game when a team is ahead by:
- Rookie – Ten (10) runs after three (3) innings
  - Minor – Ten (10) runs after three (3) innings, or eight after four (4)
  - Majors – Ten (10) runs after four (4) innings, or eight after five (5)
17. Free substitution will be allowed, but all players must play at least the following number of defensive innings:
- Rookie – Two (2) innings
  - Minors – Two (2) innings
  - Majors – Three (3) innings

**Note:** It's the managers continually violets this rule, he/she may be subject to suspension from the league.

18. Sitting a player down for missing practices or as any type of disciplinary action is not allowed, unless you have notified the parents and the league officially in writing at least 24 hours prior to the start of the game.
19. The intentional throwing of equipment will **NOT** be tolerated. Player will be ejected without a warning.
20. Helmets must be worn when on a base or at bat. The removal of a helmet when the ball is in play will result in the player to be called out.
21. There is a ten (10) min grace period, but the time will be deducted from the official regulation time. If a team does not have enough players by then, a forfeit will be declared.
22. Metal cleats will **NOT** be allowed. Players without proper footwear will not be allowed to play or practice. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
23. It's mandatory for all boys to wear a protective cup. Girls are only required to wear one if they play the catcher position during practices and games. If they do not have one on they will not be allowed to play.
24. Players are prohibited from wearing any type of jewelry except medical alert bracelets. This includes rings, watches, necklace, earrings, and bracelets, or other items judged by the umpire to be unsafe.
25. There are no limitations on bat sizes or weights, but only aluminum baseball bats are allowed in Rookie, Minor and Major. (Softball bats are not allowed in any division).
26. All players and coaches must be in uniform at all official games, or he/she will not be allowed in the field.  
**EXCEPTION:** When player or coaches have not yet received a uniform.
27. Only one (1) batter allowed at the on deck circle. All other players must remain in the dugout at all times.
28. Offensive coaches must stay within reasonable distance from the coaches' box.

29. Only the two offensive coaches will be allowed on the field. All other coaches must stay inside the dugout.
30. Umpires will not allow offensive team coaches more than one time out per inning to talk to a batter.
31. Batters will be called out without warning upon throwing the bat.
32. Aggression and profanity of any kind to the opposite team players, coaches or fans will NOT be tolerated.  
**NOTE:** Penalty - Forfeiture of the game
33. Only coaches and players will be allowed inside the field and dugouts during official games and practice. NO EXCEPTION
34. Players being ejected will also be suspended from the next scheduled game, but they must be in the dugout in full uniform during their suspension or they will be suspended from the next game, and so on...
35. **SLIDE OR AVOID** is in effect at all times. If a play at home is being made, the runner should slide or attempt to avoid collision with the fielder, or he/she will be called out. Determination of whether a play was being made shall be made by the umpire and shall be the basis for determining whether the runner is safe or out.  
**Note:** Intentionally running into a fielder who is in possession of the ball is grounds for ejection.  
**THIS IS NOT A MUST-SLIDE RULE!**
36. Teams must field a minimum of eight (8) players by game time and should maintain that number of players throughout the game or said team will forfeit. NOTE: if a player subsequently arrives late. He/she will be allowed to play and be placed at the bottom of the lineup.
37. If a coach is ejected from a game, he/she will also be suspended for the following game.  
**NOTE:** Coach must leave the park immediately and may not be in or near the park during your suspension.
38. Managers are responsible for their cheering sections and must keep them under control, or it may result in team suspension/forfeiture of the game.
39. All conversations with an umpire regarding a rule clarification should be conducted after a time out has been called and be held in a calm and professional manner. Verbal abuse of the umpire will not be tolerated and will result in an ejection from the game.
40. The umpire is in complete charge and authority once the game has started and may even make decisions on situation not specifically covered in these rules.
41. Verbal and/or non-verbal harassment of umpires by players, managers, coaches or spectators shall result in forfeiture of the game.
42. The umpire has the authority to order anyone associated with the game to refrain from doing anything that interferes with the application of the rules.
43. A team with no coaches present by game time will result in a forfeit game.
44. No protest shall be allowed under any circumstance.
45. Tie breaking procedures:
  1. Head to head completion
  2. Least overall runs allowed
  3. Best overall run differential
  4. Coin Flip

46. Spectators cannot yell offensive words at the opposing team players. Only encoring words will be allowed by spectators, coaches and parents.  
**NOTE:** If rule not obeyed it could cost you the forfeiture of the game
47. Spectators are not allowed to distract the players in any way nor be against the fence during games
48. The selection of players for the all-star game shall be based on their good discipline and overall performance as baseball players, their team participation and a positive attitude.
49. Unless otherwise notified in writing, these rules will be in effect at all times during league play, tournaments and championship games.
50. Any coach that is found guilty of not calling all his players especially during post season games will be terminated.
51. **ROOKIE DIVISION ONLY:** Stealing is allowed once the ball crosses the plate. **NO** stealing home. **NO** lead-offs. Players can't leave the base until the ball crosses the plate. If a player leaves early and is thrown out, they are out. If they are safe, on the 1st offense, they must return to previous base; 2nd offense in the same inning they are out. If the ball is hit/put in play, the player is out. Once the ball is thrown back to the pitcher by the catcher or any fielder at the conclusion of a play, at the umpire's judgment, all base runners must return to their previous base if they are not at least halfway to the next base.
52. Runners may only score on a hit or forced by a walk, HBP or award from the umpire.
53. Runners shall not advance from third base to home on passed balls, wild pitches or dropped/missed third strikes by the catcher.
54. No drop third strike.

LEAGUE PLAYOFFS/CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT:

1. A one game elimination bracket will be used for playoff.
2. Highest seeded teams will be the home team.
3. There will be no time limit in Championship games and all innings will be played.