

## **Clay County PAL Baseball Rookie League Rules-2008**

1. **Time Limits:** A regulation game is 6 innings. A called game is complete if 4 innings are completed (or 3 ½ if the home team is leading). No new inning shall begin after 1 hr. 40 mins.
2. **Number of Players on Defense:** 10 defensive players are allowed on the field (4 outfielders, 6 infielders). Games may be played with as few as 9 players defensively. The defensive pitcher may be positioned on either side of the pitching machine, must be even with the machine and have one foot in contact with the pitcher's mound ( clay area) until the ball is hit by a batter.
3. **Number of Players on Offense:** All rostered players present for the game shall bat in order, whether playing defensively or not.
4. **Leading off/ Stealing:** Leading off and stealing bases is not allowed in this division.
5. **Number of Pitches/Foul Balls:** Batters receive a maximum of three strikes or five pitches, whichever comes first, and if the ball is not hit into fair territory, then the batter is out. The umpire may call a "No Pitch" for very poor pitches. If a batted ball hits the pitching machine or an umpire, the ball is dead and the batter is awarded first base. No walks. If a batter presents a bunt, at that pitch he must bunt. At the next pitch, the batter may swing and hit the ball. Any player hit by a pitch will be awarded first base by umpire's judgment. The speed of the machine will be universal for each game (Approx. 38-45 mph), with no changes. The machine will be located at the pitchers rubber. Any alterations to the height of the pitch being thrown by the machine will be done by the coaches only, between innings only. Coach from each team will be consulted during machine adjustment. Adjustments can be made by the umpire at any time due to machine malfunction.
6. **How to Call Time on Defense:** In accordance with the rules of baseball, time-out is requested by a coach/player and then granted only by the umpire, at the umpire's discretion. Before a timeout shall be granted to the defensive team in a live ball situation, the defense must cause the offense to cease play (i.e. force the base runner into a non-advancing situation). The ball must also be in the pitcher's possession and the pitcher must be in the pitchers circle before a timeout will be granted.
7. **Number of Coaches Allowed on Offense/Defense:** Teams can have 3 offensive coaches on the field (pitcher, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> base coaches). Three defensive coaches will be allowed on the field: one in the shadow of the dugout, and two positioned in foul territory past the infield clay. If a coach attempts to intimidate, coerce, or otherwise negatively affect the opposing team, they will be removed from the field/game at the umpire's discretion.

8. **Appropriate Gear:** Batters/runners wear a batting helmet at all times. Catchers must wear full gear: Catcher's mask, helmet, chest protector, shin guards, and cup. Any player at the pitching position will be required to wear a helmet with face mask during offensive play.
9. **Substitutions:** Free substitutions are allowed on defense.
10. **Minimum Play Rule:** No player will sit out from defensive play more than one inning consecutively in any game.
11. **Player Eligibility (Age):** Players in this division are 7 and 8. Any player turning 9 before May 1(for spring) or Season start date (for fall) must move up to the next division.
12. **Forfeits:** Offensive and defensive teams must have at least 9 players at the beginning of the game in order to avoid a forfeit. If the 9 players are not in the dugout within 10 mins of the scheduled start time of the game, a forfeit will be called.
13. **Limit on Runs Per Inning Rule:** Only 7 runs can be scored each inning, except in the last inning.
14. **Run Rule To End Game:** 15 runs after 3 complete innings/ 10 runs after 4 or 5 complete innings.
15. **Markings On the Field:** Bases are 60' and the pitching machine is placed at 46'.
16. **Ending an Inning:** An inning is over when the 7 runs have been scored or three outs are made, whichever occurs first (except in declared last inning).