

NOVICE PROGRAM RULES and GOALS

- All boys must wear a jock. A “jill” for girls is optional. Players will not be allowed to play catcher without a protective cup.
- Each game is 4 innings long (may be shorter depending on time)
- Approximate length is 1.5 - 2 hours.
- All games are played on the Initiation / Novice field (off Tyndall Ave.)
- A batting team remains at bat until 5 runs are scored, three outs are made, or the entire team has batted, whichever comes first.
- A Pitching Machine will be used for all batters. Fielding team to provide a pitcher near the machine (but not directly in front of it). Batting team’s coach (or parent) will feed the ball into the machine. Each player gets 5 pitches. If the ball is not hit within 5 pitches, a tee will be used for the sixth “pitch.” NO EXCEPTIONS!
- ONLY ONE “Game” BALL is used to ensure consistence. The catcher will throw the ball back to the pitcher.
- 10 Players will be in the field each inning. Only one pitcher’s position is allowed. Rotate all the children to different positions every 2 innings including the pitchers position.
- Runners are allowed to advance one base only on overthrows, except if already at third base. Runners on or approaching third may only advance to home plate on a batted ball, or ball not yet returned to the infield (i.e., ball still in play).
- Players must not take an extra base once the ball has been returned to the infield.
- Outs will be counted on base running and the player will return to the dugout. Once three outs have been made, the inning is over.
- Teach them how to slide at 2nd and 3rd. Sliding is not allowed at home plate.
- No head first slides allowed. No on deck batters on the field. On deck batters should be outside the dugout but behind the fence.
- Teach proper base running ie: run hard and fast right through first base, round first on longer hits, etc,
- Teach how many bases they "earn" according to where the ball is hit.
- Last batter DOES NOT mean you run all around the bases...you hit and run to the appropriate base you have earned.
- Please treat all the children the same...teach them proper base running, stealing, help them understand why they were out.