



CITY OF ST. PETERS **COACH-PITCH BASEBALL RULES**

PROGRAM FORMAT

- During the Game Nights, approximately the first fifteen minutes of the scheduled hour will be practice; during the remaining time a game will be played.
- Each child will have the opportunity to play the infield and outfield positions so that they will become familiar with all the positions on the field. Our goal is to have each child play a different position each inning.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

- Parents will be asked to assist the instructor with drills, batting order, positioning, etc.
- PARENTS OF THE DEFENSIVE TEAM (Team in the Field) may be in the field and may station themselves in the field area to support the children verbally and give them directions. It is asked that parents, if possible, not touch the ball when it is in play.
- PARENTS OF THE OFFENSIVE TEAM (Team at Bat) may be used as first and third base coaches. *One parent* may be stationed at each of the above positions.

GAME RULES

- Players will use a soft baseball.
- **All batters must wear a batting helmet. (NO EXCEPTIONS!)**
- Batters will have five attempts to hit an underhand-pitched ball in an enlarged strike zone. (the coaches may decide to allow more than five in certain situations) If the pitch is not in a reasonable strike zone, that pitch will not count as one of the five.
- Players are not permitted to steal or leadoff bases.
- There is no “infield fly” rule.
- Base runners may not advance on overthrows (any time the ball leaves the infield playing area) even if the ball remains in fair territory in the outfield.
- Games/Instruction will last one hour. Weekly games are played between teams, but in this program the goal is to teach the children the basic fundamentals of the game. Scores will be kept but only to track runs for each inning. Winning or losing is not the important thing in this instructional program.

- No team shall score more than five (5) runs in an inning. A team's turn at bat will end when they have three outs or have scored five (5) runs.
- Each team will play all of its players at the designated positions. Additional players will be in the outfield behind the baseline. For fielding purposes the "pitcher" will stand to the side of the coach who is pitching. If the coach throws with his right hand have your player stand to your right.
- All infielders, excluding the pitcher, must play a minimum of 35 feet away from the home plate before a ball is hit.
- There will be no catchers used in this program. Parent volunteers will be the catcher and retrieve and return the ball to the pitcher/coach.
- Pitcher's mound will be 25 feet or 8 paces from home plate. Bases will be located 35 feet or 12 paces from the home plate.
- A player who throws his/her bat will be called out automatically and if the ball was hit into fair territory, no base runner may advance.
- A player, after hitting the ball to the outfield, may take as many bases as possible (within reason) until the ball is returned to the infield. The coaches will determine when the ball has been returned to the infield. Remember this is an instructional program and the goal is not to score runs.
- The coaches (both coaches) have the privilege to alter any rule in order to better meet the objectives of the program.
- At the completion of each game, players and coaches should line up and pass by each other to shake hands. (please do not alter this rule)
- ***Please remember the goal of the program is for all of the children to learn and have fun!!!***
- **Thank you for your time and help.**