

2006 Elk River, Zimmerman and Rogers Youth Baseball
4th Grade House League Rules

Visit our Websites

www.area728youthbaseball.com and www.rogersyouthbaseball.org

The official rules of the baseball program shall be the “State High School Baseball Rules” as published by the National Federation of State High School except where modified below: Order the Rules and Case Book. Phone: 800-776-3462

- 1) Bases are 60 feet apart and the pitching rubber is 46 feet. Distance is measured from the back of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber. And from the back of home plate to the outfield side of first/third base.
- 2) Nine players in the field. All players must play a minimum of 50% of innings played during the season. (50% of innings of games that they attend.) A team must play with a minimum of 8 players to start the game 7 to finish. Umpires should not call an out each time the missing ninth players spot comes up to bat. Teams playing a game with eight players can do so without being penalized.
- 3) Games are 6 innings and no inning may begin after 8:40 p.m. Due to darkness. That is the key portion of this rule. Exceptions to this is where both coaches and the umpire agree to continue.
- 4) No leading off, stealing is allowed only after the ball crosses the plate. Runners leaving early will be called out. No stealing home while the catcher is simply returning the ball to the pitcher (delayed steal). A player sliding head first into any base will be called out.
- 5) Coaches of the **WINNING TEAM** shall report the winning score via email within 24 hours of the game to receive credit for the game. **IF NO SCORE IS REPORTED**, both teams will be given 0 points.
- 6) For the purpose of standings, a win shall be given 4 points, a tie 2 points and a loss 1 points with 0 points for games not played. When the season ending playoffs begin, byes and seeds shall be given on these standings.
- 7) Maps to the fields can be found on the Area 728 Website.
- 8) *Rain Outs:* Call Dan Feigum if game is cancelled or re scheduled prior to 4:00 pm. Games are considered after the completion of 4 innings. If games are rained out, it is the Home team coaches’ responsibility to reschedule games. Rained out games before 4 innings are complete shall be considered suspended games and the completion of the game be rescheduled. Suspended games shall start at the point where they were stopped by rain. Dan Feigum, Cell 612-802-5661, Work 763-391-8232, Home 763-441-1939 to cancel and reschedule umpires. Rained out and re scheduled games will be made up on a designated weekend.

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- 9) **Lightning:** A 30 second or less flash-to-bang count calls for the removal of players and fans from the field to an appropriate shelter. Thirty minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is seen or thunder is heard prior to starting or resuming play.
- 10) **Umpires:** Call Dan Feigum if game is cancelled or rescheduled prior to 4:00 pm. Umpires will be provided at all games. You must notify the umpire coordinator for make up game umpires.
- 11) ***Pitching Restrictions:*** A player may pitch a maximum of 3 innings in a game, 8 in a weekend tournament (2 or 3 days) and a maximum of 6 innings in one day. 1 pitch constitutes an inning pitched.

No curve balls are allowed. First offense is a warning and second offense in the ejection from the pitcher position for the remainder of that game.

Suggestion: We emphasize that the pitch count is a more accurate measure of innings pitched. Your players health should be considered first.

- 12) ***Balk Rule:*** No balks will be called.
- 13) ***Base Running:*** A runner may leave the base after the ball crosses the plate. **The runner is out upon leaving the base early.** On a dropped third strike, the batter is out and other base runners may advance at their own risk. Not the batter.
- 14) A runner can only score from 3rd base by either a hit ball or a walk. That is the key portion of this rule. This rule is to provide a measure of protection for the catchers from a collision and to give pitchers the opportunity to work on their pitching without having to worry about base runners. Wild pitches or passed balls on the catcher will not score a run. Runners on other bases may advance at their own risk. A runner occupying third base may advance home if the catcher makes a play on a runner on another base, or if the catcher attempts to pick off a runner on another base. The runner on third may not advance while the catcher is returning the ball to the pitcher. (No delayed steal)
- 15) The “No contact” rule will be in effect for base runners. See NFHS rules and case book for a full description. Section 4 Art 2 entire.

NO METAL CLEATS ARE ALLOWED.

- 16) ***Run Rules:*** There is a maximum of 7 runs allowed to be scored per inning until the sixth inning. The sixth inning is open scoring. The game will end at the conclusion of 3½ innings if the home team is ahead by 10 or more runs. The game will end after four innings if the visiting team is ahead by 10 or more runs. A continuous batting order must be used. Everyone on the team, bats every game.

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- 17) **Re Entry Rule:** Free substitution with the following exceptions:
Pitcher: A pitcher may re-enter to pitch only one time after he has been taken out. Continuous innings do not count as “being taken out” Example: If a pitcher starts the first inning and starts the fourth inning, he/she would be prohibited from pitching in the 6th inning.

Note: A courtesy runner (the last player to be put out) will be allowed only for the catcher and only when there are two outs.

- 18) It is the responsibility of the Home Team to measure off and set the bases. Each team shall provide the Umpire with a baseball prior to the beginning of the game.
- 19) **Good Sportsmanship** is required from the parents, players, coaches and assistant coaches. Remember, you are there to set an example for your players. Make it a good one. Coaches should be aware they have a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the players, and should never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical and displays poor sportsmanship. Zero Tolerance is enforced.

Umpires are instructed to eject the offender and report the behavior to the League Commissioners. Verbal interference, obstruction, abuse, taunting, profanity, intimidation tactics, or any unsportsmanlike conduct will result in ejection from the game. NFHS Rule 3, Section 3 Art. 1, 2004 Edition and 2004 NFHS Case Book

Coaches should meet before and after the game to exchange cordial greetings to set the correct tone for the event.

B. Bats - The following pertains to the legality of bats in the 4th Grade House League
In diameter at the thickest part:..... 2-3/4" or less
In length:.....Unlimited
In weight:.....No weight restrictions