

**JONESBORO BASEBALL BOOSTERS  
2023 PLAYING RULES  
8 YEAR OLD COACH PITCH**

**CONCEPT OBJECTIVE**

To make the game safer, more fun and interesting through hitting, fielding and running the bases from the kid's point of view.

**RULES**

Official Baseball Rules" as modified by "Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations" and further modified by these "Playing Rules" will be in effect.

**BASES**

Bases will be 60 feet apart.

**BATS**

All non-wood bats must have the USABat marking and a maximum barrel size of 2 5/8". No BBCOR bats are permitted in the Cal Ripken division.

**INFIELD PRACTICE**

There shall be NO infield practice by either team before any game.

**FAIR BALL ARC**

There shall be a twenty (20) foot arc drawn from first (1st) baseline to third (3rd) baseline in front of home plate. A batted ball must go past this line to be a fair ball.

**SAFETY ARC**

There shall be a thirty (30) foot arc drawn from first (1st) baseline to third (3rd) baseline in front of home plate. Infielders must stay behind this line until the ball is hit.

**PITCHING LINE**

There shall be a line drawn from the pitcher's circle to the safety arc.

**PITCHING CIRCLE**

The pitcher's mound shall serve as the Pitching Circle.

**PITCHING COACH**

The pitching coach shall keep one foot on or straddle the pitcher's line. The pitching coach may pitch anywhere along the pitching line between the 30' safety arc and the 42' pitching rubber. **The pitching coach may not extend his stride beyond the 30' safety arc during his pitching motion.** The pitching coach shall not verbally or physically coach while in the pitching position. The pitching coach shall position himself as not to be an obstruction to the defensive team on any possible play once the ball has been hit. If a coach violates this rule after the ball is pitched obstruction shall be called. Additional penalty: If a coach violates this rule before the ball is pitched, first offense is a warning; second offense is removal of the coach as the pitcher for the remainder of the game. If the pitching coach is accidentally or unavoidably struck by a batted ball the play will be ruled a "No Pitch"; runners may not advance and the batter will be returned to the plate to continue the at-bat .

**SCOREKEEPING**

The home team will be responsible for keeping the official book. Home team scorekeeper and umpires will communicate each half inning regarding the score and innings completed.

**BATTING LINE-UPS**

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All players on the roster will be in the batting line-up the entire game. Head coaches will deliver one copy of their line-up to the opposing coach and official scorekeeper prior to the start of the game. Line-ups will include: batting order, fielding position, uniform number and substitutes. If a player arrives after the start of the game the player must be inserted at the bottom of the batting order and this addition must be communicated to umpires, opposing coach and both home and visitor scorekeepers.

**LENGTH OF GAMES**

Games will be 6 innings or 75 minutes in length, whichever comes first. No new inning may start after this time limit. Any inning started prior to 75 minutes hour shall be completed unless the home team is ahead. **Tie games will not be extended past the above time and innings limits.**

**RUN RULE**

Any team leading by 6 or more runs at any time after the completion of 5 innings (4 ½ if the home team is ahead) shall be declared the winner.

**RUNS PER INNING**

Teams will be limited to 5 runs per inning. Upon scoring the limited number of runs, the umpire will declare side out.

**STRIKES**

The batter shall receive a maximum of six (6) pitches or three (3) swinging strikes. The at-bat will continue on foul balls.

**SLINGING A BAT**

If a batter slings his bat, a warning will be given the team at bat. After one warning, any player on the warned team who slings his bat will be called out immediately. No runners may advance. The umpire will be the sole judge of whether the bat was slung or dropped. This is not an appeal play.

**BUNTING**

Not permitted.

**INFIELD FLY RULE**

The infield fly rule is not in effect at any time.

**NO STEALING**

Base runners are not allowed to lead off or steal bases at any time including advancing on passed balls.

**OVERTHROWS**

Base runners may advance on an overthrow at the risk of being thrown out.

**ADVANCING**

Umpires shall call "Time" after every play and declare the ball dead. "Time" shall be called as soon as the all runners are no longer attempting to advance. "Time" does not have to be called by the defense for the purpose of this rule. Comment: When a runner stands off a base and "jukes" or "feints" back and forth, this is to be interpreted as "not attempting to advance" and "Time" shall be called.

**ON DECK BATTER**

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The on deck batter will remain in the dugout until ready to bat. The batter following the on deck batter may also be in the dugout. All other players will be spaced outside the sideline fence as marked for appropriate distancing.

**DEFENSIVE LINE-UP**

Ten (10) defensive players (one additional outfielder). Infielders must remain on the designated infield area (the "dirt" of the infield) and outfielders must be completely on the outfield natural grass until the ball is hit. Teams may freely insert defensive players into their line-up. If a team has 11 players, players must play defensively at least every other inning. If a team has 12 players available, players must play at least 2 defensive innings and be in the game by the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning. **Players on the infield should be in their "standard" positions; no shifts, extra players on or around the mound, etc. Pitcher shall be in contact with the pitching mound until the ball is hit.**

**PITCHER / 1ST BASE**

The defensive player listed as pitcher shall not leave the pitching circle (the pitcher's mound) until the ball is hit. Penalty: The play continues. After the play has ended, the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or no-pitch. A ground ball hit to the pitcher should be fielded and thrown to a base to result in an out **(running by the pitcher to a base or to a base runner will be discouraged)** unless the path of the ball naturally takes the pitcher toward the baseline.

**TIME-OUT AND CONFERENCES**

Only 1 conference will be allowed with each batter during that batters' time at bat. Coaches may not call time out to confer with base runners.

**PLAYERS ATTIRE**

All players shall be properly uniformed including cap, glove, and shoes. All batters and runners must wear helmets. **Helmet facemasks ARE required for this league.**

**PLAYER QUITTING**

In the event that a player quits a team, the head coach will notify the commissioner immediately so that the roster may be properly amended. Such players may return to their teams during the current year only with the permission of the head coach and the commissioner.

**CONDUCT**

Players, coaches, sponsors, parents, and spectators shall conduct themselves according to the JBB Code of Ethics and Conduct. Head coaches shall be held accountable for the conduct of their team's players, assistant coaches and fans. Any unbecoming behavior shall at once disqualify the offender from any participation whatsoever until reinstated by the Board of Directors of the Jonesboro Baseball Boosters.

**EJECTIONS**

Any coach or spectator ejected shall leave the ball park for the remainder of that game and shall have a minimum one game suspension imposed and will not be allowed to attend the team's next game. Failure to leave in a timely manner will result in a forfeit. Any player that is ejected from a game will be disqualified for the remainder of that game and must sit on the bench in uniform the next game that his team plays. Failure to comply with the one game suspension will disqualify the player for the remainder of the season or until the penalty is satisfied.

**OFFENSIVE CONTACT RULE**

If a runner attempting to reach any base intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of the base, he will be called out on the play and can be ejected from the game. The

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objective of this rule is to penalize the offensive team for deliberate, unwarranted, unsportsmanlike action by the runner for the obvious purpose of crashing the defensive player, rather than trying to reach the base. The umpire will be the sole judge of whether the player should be ejected. This is not an appeal play.

**TOBACCO USE**

There will be no tobacco use inside the fenced-in area of the playing field

**Notes:**

- If a defensive player would normally make a throw to attempt to put out a base runner, then a throw should be attempted (see Pitcher / 1<sup>st</sup> Base above); fielders should not try to “run down” a base runner. Intended to help teach proper fielding, catching, throwing, and defensive execution.