**1. Division Overview**

 The WBL Rookie division invites boys & girls in 1st & 2nd grades to play in a coach-pitch baseball league.

 a. Teams will be coached by parent volunteers.

 b. Practice season will start mid-May, followed by a seven-week game season

 with approx 12-14 scheduled games for each team.

 c. Rookie teams will keep track of runs for a final score of each game.

 **2. Eligibility**

 a. Boys & Girls currently in 1st or 2nd grade at time of registration.

 **3. Division Guidelines & Rules**

 **a.** **Game Format**

 i. Teams will share the field equally for pre-game warm ups.

 ii. Practices will last for 60-90 mins. Games will last for 6 innings or 90 minutes.

 iii. Each half inning ends when 3 outs have been recorded or a maximum of 7

 runs has been scored except for the 6th inning the is no run limit.

 iv. A minimum of 7 players is needed to start the game or a forfeit will result – just divide

 up the player and simulate a game if this is the case.

 v. It is the home team’s responsibility to maintain the official score. Once the score has

 has been agreed upon by both coaches, the head coach will be responsible for

 providing the score to the WBL website. There are no extra innings.

 **b.** **Hitting**

 i. No bunting.

 ii. Coaches will pitch to their own batters, pitching from just in front of mound.

 Coaches MUST stand and pitch overhand to the batters.

 iii. A batter is OUT if he/she swings and misses at 3 pitches. A foul will NOT count

 as a strike. There is a 7 pitch max per batter. If the ball has not been put in play by the

 7th pitch the batter is ruled out. There are no walks.

 iv. Coaches will establish a batting order for each game. Player’s must bat in order. The

 first batter in each inning after the first shall be the player whose name follows the

 last player completed their time at bat the preceding inning.

 v. Any balls hit less than 12ft from home plate should be declared foul

 vi. There is no infield fly rule – play a pop up or fly ball in accordance to typical rules.

 **c.** **Fielding**

 i. A maximum of 10 players in the field.

 ii. Players must rotate positions in the field each new inning.

 iii. Infield positions include 1st, 2nd, 3rd, short stop, pitcher, catcher, mid-infield.

 \* Mid-infielder is positioned just behind 2nd base - not on or in front of base; 2nd

 baseman should play half way between 1st & 2nd .

 \* Catchers should stay in the catchers position and must wear catchers gear.

 Male catchers must wear cups. Coaches may carry more than one ball on the

 Mound to keep the game moving along.

 \* Coaches on both teams should discuss and agree upon the use of players as

 catchers before the start of the game.

 \* Players in the pitcher position stand on the mound while coach is pitching; once a

 ball is hit and in play the pitching coach moves out of the way and players assumes

 the pitcher position. If the ball hits the coach then it is considered FOUL.

 \* Players in the pitcher position MUST wear a helmet with a face mask.

 iv. The 4 outfielders are to be positioned in the outfield grass during play.

 **d.** **Recording Runs and Outs**

 i. A run is recorded when a player crosses home plate.

 ii. If a runner crosses home plate in the same play that the 3rd out is made, that run does

 not count.

 iii. Any runners on bases when a 3rd out is made should return to their bench.

 iv. If a ball is hit into the outfield all runners may continue to run the bases until the ball

 is controlled by an infielder and calls time. Outfielders cannot run into the infield and

 call timeout.

 v. “7 Run Rule” – the maximum number of runs recorded per half inning is 7. When

 the 7th run crosses the plate the inning is over no matter how many outs there are.

 The exception to this rule is the 6th inning. There is no limit to how many runs can

 You can score. If a team is down 8 entering the final inning then they can score 8

 To force the bottom half of the inning to be played. There are no extra innings.

 **e.** **Base Running**

 i. No leadoffs or stealing bases.

 ii. Base runners can be thrown out/tagged at any time by the fielding team while the ball

 is still in play.

 iii. The WBL prohibits sliding in the Rookie division. Coaches should not encourage

 sliding or teach players how to slide, and must put a stop to any sliding by players.

 iv. Base runners must concede in any plays at home plate for safety reasons.

 v. Runners may advance 1 base on an overthrow out of play.

 vi. Runners more than halfway between bases when time is called may continue to the

 next base.

**4. Uniforms**

a. All players should wear the league provided uniform (t-shirt & hat) along with

 baseball pants to each game.

 b. Cleats must be worn by all players during practices and games; no metal cleats allowed.

**5. Equipment**

a. Batters must wear helmets when batting; face masks are not mandatory in the Rookie

 division while batting.

 b. Helmets with face masks MUST be worn at all times by any players in the catcher and

 pitcher positions.

 c. Each team will receive an equipment bag that includes bats, helmets, & balls.

 d. Players are permitted to wear their own helmets as long as the face mask rule is abided

 by at all times. Players are permitted to use their own bats; no softball bats.

 e. No team shall write their team name on any of the league-provided equipment.

**6. Conduct**

 -Head coaches must lead by example of good sportsmanship. It is the head coaches

 Responsibility for the conduct of their players and assistant coaches.

 -Base coaches must remain in the coaches box at all times except when necessary to

 Provide space for a defensive player to make a play.

 -No coach, player, spectator, or bat boy shall use language which will in any manner refer to

 Or reflect upon opposing players, coach, or other spectators. We are here for the kids

 To have a memorable summer at the fields.