



NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS-SAN ANTONIO

RULES- BASEBALL: KIDS PITCH

Applies to both practices and games.

NYS modifies rules each season as needed.

Objective	Our goal is to improve the skill level of players and prepare them for the next level of competition.
Safety	Parents should monitor the health of their child and if experiencing symptoms, do not participate in any sporting practice or games. Let NYS know of the presence of symptoms. Get tested for Covid-19 promptly and report results to the program. Each child is responsible for his/her own drink.
Sportsmanship	We ask all coaches, parents and officials to be encouraging and positive with the players before, during and after the game. Any unsportsmanship or bad behavior the offending person will be asked to leave the area. Any person ejected will be suspended from participating at the next scheduled game.
Number of Players	Minimum 9 players and maximum of 12 players on a team roster. To be eligible to play, players must be registered with NYS and listed on the team roster. Must have at least 8 players to start the game. When the 9th batter is up on the lineup card, then an out will be called. If a team has less than 8 batters at start time, then the team forfeits the game, but the team can play the game out if desired.
Player Jerseys	NYS supplied jersey and hat; or pre-approved jersey; player must provide pants, gloves, and cleats. Catcher position is required to wear a cup. No metal cleats, open toed shoes, or jewelry/earrings allowed. Tape can be used to cover earrings.
Length of Games	Team listed first on schedule is the home team and occupies third base dugout. Visiting team occupies the first base dugout and bats first. 1 hr. and 25 minutes (Umpire keeps the official time.) The game ends after 5 innings or time limit. A new inning will not start after 1 hr. and 5 minutes. (No intentional delay of game.) A game can be called by the Umpire after the third inning if the winning team is up by 15 or more. No forfeits for this age group, unless enough players are not present.
Score Keeping	No extra innings in case of a tie, except during tournament play. Each team is required to keep score and verify with the umpire.
Parent Volunteers	Required to wear masks especially when 6ft. social distancing cannot be practiced. First and third base coaches must be adults. No talking to opposing team players or coaches. (Volunteers must be focused on the game.)
Sport Specifications	A copy of the batting lineup should be provided to the opposing coach and umpire before the game starts. Standard 10U or 12U baseballs are used during the game. Bases are approximately 60 feet apart and pitching is 45 feet from home plate. Balks are not called. Foul balls count as strikes. Bats must be USA Baseball or Little League approved with barrel size up to 2- $\frac{5}{8}$ ".



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Defensive Positions	10 players are allowed to play defense on; 4 players must be in the outfield, otherwise, if playing 9 players, then 3 players in the outfield. Outfielders must play on the grass. It is the fielder's responsibility not to interfere or obstruct a base runner running between bases when the fielder does not have the ball.
Batting	All batters and base runners must wear a helmet. All team members present for the game must be listed on the batting line up. Must have at least 8 players at the start of the game. Less than 8, game is a forfeit. The 9th batter on the lineup card will be called an out when only 8 players are present. Any late player arrival must be added to the end of the batting line up. Batting line up must follow in a continuous order throughout the game. A batter may be called out if batting out of order. Coach must bring it to the attention of the umpire. Visitor's first at bat can bat through their line up or until they get 3 outs. Last batter can run through the bases or until called out. Five-run rule in effect On deck batter must stay in the deck area; upcoming batters in rotation must stay in the dugout. Batter must move out of the batter's box when a play is being made at home. If a batter interferes with a catcher trying to make a play, the batter could be called out for interference. Bunting and soft swings are allowed. No infield fly rule. A foul tip directly into the catcher's glove is called a strike and the ball is live. If a foul tip is a 3rd strike, then it is called an out. Foul balls are considered strikes on the first two. Foul balls are considered dead plays. If a batter hits the ball and it hits home plate, the ball is live and considered in the fair play area.
Base Running	Runner can advance to first base on a dropped third strike. If a runner runs out of the base path to avoid a tag, the runner is called out. (Umpire's Judgment) If a base runner misses tagging a base and advances to the next base, the runner may be called out if seen by Umpire. Sliding is allowed. It is the base runner's responsibility to avoid contact with the fielder with the ball. Slide or avoid is in effect at all times when the fielder is in possession of the ball. Intentionally running into a fielder, including the catcher who has possession of the ball results in ejection. A base runner may steal only one base. Base runner on third base can steal home. No leading off, but stealing is allowed. Runner may not leave the base until the pitched ball crosses home plate . If a player leaves early and is thrown out, he is out. If safe, he must return to the previous base. The second offense by the same player in the same inning will result in an automatic out. If a runner leaves early and the batter hits the ball into fair territory, the runner is then out. Overthrows- runners may advance, at their own risk, only one base on an overthrow. If a play is made and another overthrow occurs, the runner may try to advance to the next base.



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	Once the ball is thrown back to the pitcher at the end of the play, the play is over, and all base runners must return to their previous bases if not at least halfway to the next base. (Umpire's Judgment) <i>Overthrow rule does not apply when the ball is thrown back to the pitcher.</i> Courtesy runners are allowed for pitcher or catcher at any time, but the runner must be the player that made the last out.
Five-Run Rule	There are two ways to end an "At-Bat." <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increase lead by five runs.2. Three outs in an inning. Whichever one of the above happens first in a given half inning concludes that half inning immediately.
15-Run Rule	At the end of the third inning, if the winning team is up by 15 or more, the game is over regardless of the time left on the game clock.