

General Rules and Regulations

1. The time/inning limit of the game is 50 minutes or 5 innings, whichever comes first. Once the time-limit has been reached, the inning will be played in full (unless the home team is winning; then the bottom half will not be played).
2. The field shall have 50 foot baselines, with the distance from home plate to the pitching rubber as 35 feet.
3. Any rules not specifically covered in this rule set will default to USSSA; the Recreation Specialist has the ability to modify these rules throughout the course of the season to provide for circumstances that may come up that have questionable effect on the league and game play.
4. **The goal of this division is help develop and refine social and motor skills through the introduction of baseball. Basic rules are implemented with the guidance of the coaches and under the supervision of the Branson Parks and Recreation Department.**

Player Eligibility

1. Participants in this division shall be no less than 3 years old, and no more than 4 years old on May 1st of the calendar year.
2. If a team is below 6 players, the coaches and game supervisor may agree for the “loaning” of players for the game. **The purpose of this rule is for the encouragement of play. There are no standings for this division, and we want to limit forfeitures when we can prevent it.**

Batting

1. All players in the line-up will bat in continuous order. Teams will bat until there are 3 outs, or once through the order. If a player is sick/injured, their spot may be skipped without penalty.
2. If a player arrives late to the game, the player is to be inserted at the end of the batting line-up.
3. Each batter will receive 5 swings to bat the ball into fair territory.
 - If a foul fly is caught, this will be counted as an out and the batter's turn will end.
4. All batted balls must travel outside the 12-foot arc around home plate, inside the field of play, to be considered a fair ball.
5. A legal bat shall have a USA stamp, USSSA 1.15 BPF mark, or BBCOR.50 certified mark on it with a diameter no more than 2¼ inches, or shall be a single piece of wood no more than 34 inches in length and a diameter no more than 2¼ inches.

Base Running

1. There is no leading or stealing in this division.
2. A ball that is overthrown by a defensive fielder shall be considered dead, and no runners shall be allowed to advance outside of the base they were advancing to at time of the throw. **The**

purpose of this rule is to avoid confusion and prevent a culmination of errors in this division that would hurt the learning process of all involved.

3. With 2 outs, if the catcher is on base, he is to be run for with a courtesy runner. This courtesy runner shall be the person who made the last out. **The purpose of this rule is to continue the pace of play of the game, and maximize the amount of playing time for all involved.**
4. On a ball that does not pass through the infield, all runners may attempt to advance only to the next base. On a ball that passes through the infield and settles on the outfield grass, all runners may attempt to advance two bases.
5. On the last batter of the inning, all runners may continue to advance until reaching home, or until being put out.

Defense

1. All players who are participating shall all be on the infield defensively, including one pitcher. The remaining five players shall play the traditional four positions, with a fifth player stationed directly behind second base.
2. The pitcher must be positioned in the pitching circle, and no infielder shall be closer than the base path when the ball is struck at.

Participation and Role of Coaches

1. Two offensive base coaches are allowed to be positioned in foul territory at a distance no closer than the base to home plate. The nearest base coach to the dugout is responsible for ensuring that players are not swinging bats while inside the dugout.
2. A third offensive coach (if applicable) may be stationed behind the plate for placement of the ball on the tee, and for the clearing of the bat from the field of play.
3. Defensive coaches may be on the field to help their team. Coaches are not allowed to throw a live ball, but may help and assist a defensive player throwing the ball or directing them where to throw the ball.
4. Offensive coaches on the field are encouraged to physically aid and assist all players in advancing bases. Benefit should be given to all players who are attempting to do this on their own, but coaches are asked to aid and assist where they see fit.
5. Home and away is determined by schedule. First team listed is the away team, and will take first base dugout. The second team listed is the home team, and will take the third base dugout. The home team's book shall be the official scorebook for the game.