

\*\*General Rules for ‘Rookie League’ (7 & 8 year olds) 2009\*\*

Welcome to the Rookie League. The Rookie League is a Machine Pitch league with an exciting “real” baseball feel. The teams will have their own sponsors and play on their own field, Diamond #5. The players should experience more excitement and fun than ever before while learning more of the fundamentals of Baseball that they will take to the next level! We would like to Welcome all players and parents to B.G.’s Rookie league.

**The rules for the Rookie League have been formed, voted on, and adopted for this coming season by the Board. The Rookie League is for ages 7 and 8. (May 1 is the Birthday Cut-Off).**

1. All players on the roster who are present for the game are to be listed on the lineup that is submitted to the scorekeeper. Players are to bat in the order they are listed on the line-up card for that game. A copy of the line-up should also be exchanged with the opposing coach. The “Home” team will be responsible for electing a parent to run the scoreboard. Each team is responsible for their Home games. This obligation is the parents “work day” and replaces the obligation of working in the concession stand as in previous years. Be sure to assign the home games to each parents at the beginning of the season and remind them when their time is coming.

2. A maximum of 10 players will be allowed on the field during each game. (4 Outfielders, 6 Infielders.) ALL players present for each team will bat even if not playing in the field that inning. All players present at the game, will be in the batting order.

3. Coaches will make sure that no player sits out defensively more than 2 innings in a row. Each player will be given every opportunity to play all positions equally during the season, but no player will be put in harms way if they are unable to defend themselves. Each player will be assisted by the coaches in practice on these positions to become better at those positions that they may not currently be able to play.

4. Each inning will consist of either 3 outs or 6 runs for the first 2 innings. A team that is behind can make up the deficit plus 6 runs, when its there turn at bat after completion of the first two innings.. Each game will consist of 5 innings or an 1 ½ hour time limit.

5a. The mound is 41 ft. from home plate. The pitching machine will be manned by the HEAD coach of the team at bat. In a situation where the Head Coach is not able to man the pitching machine, an assistant may run the machine provided he/she is at least 18

years of age. The pitching machine is an EXPENSIVE piece of equipment, purchased JUST for this league. The Home Teams, Coach will be responsible for setting up and taking down and storing the machine each night. If a second game follows, the head coach from the home team of the second game will be responsible for tearing down the equipment. (See rule #22)

5b. Each team will be assigned “coaches work nights” two coaches or assistant coaches will be at every game. These two coaches will not be from the same team. One coach will act as the umpire behind the plate and will watch plays at home and third. The second coach will stand at first base and call plays at first. He will also call plays at 2<sup>nd</sup> base when a runner is on first base. This coach/umpire will watch base advancement according to the rules and will enforce violations to the rules. Both coaches/umpires can “conference” on close calls or team arguments when asked for an “appeal”. Their decisions are final. There will be NO walks. The batter will either be called out on strikes swinging or watching. 3 Strikes is an out.

6. Bases will be 60 ft. apart. Play will be stopped, when the defensive players (with the ball) stop the advancement of the base runners. Or the ball is secured by the pitcher in the pitching circle. (Umpire’s discretion.) (See rule #23)

7. There is no stealing or bunting. An arc (chalk line) will be drawn from home plate between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base lines with an arc length of 15 feet. Balls that are hit that stay within this area will be ruled a dead ball. (Batters hit again.)

8. Games in the rookie league will be 5 innings or 1hr and 30 minutes long.

9. Rainouts will be called at 5pm at the park. Parents please don’t call the park or any officers. The decision will be made at 5pm, so either call your coach, drive out to the park or go to [www.bgbaseball.com](http://www.bgbaseball.com). If the BLACK FLAG is flying on the flagpole games are cancelled that night! When a Rookie League game gets rained out, the make up will be scheduled by the commissioner no later than two Saturdays from the rain out.

10. The league is sponsored by local businesses like the higher leagues and each sponsor will provide \$250.00 for their team each year. The payment will be made to BG Baseball and managed by the board. Shirts will be printed by SPP and billed to BG Baseball and paid by this fund. HOWEVER, names and numbers on the shirts are NOT paid from this but by the parents as in T-ball (see your order sheet). Coaches DO NOT get free shirts for coaching. You must pay for them as additional shirts and the additional cost of any names or numbers on the coaches shirts. Equipment will be managed by the board from this fund. DO NOT go to your sponsor directly for monies as this has been taken care of already. Submit all equipment requests to the commissioner.

11. Players are allowed to advance 1 base on an overthrow. This is a learning league. If infielders control the ball and return it to the pitcher the play will be stopped. If the players choose to make a play on the runner advancing on the overthrow, the runner may

continue to take 1 additional base. And continue as the players continue to try and make a play. Please teach the players how to stop an advancing runner with good plays and ball control. (See rule 11A.)

11A. Basic Base Advancement. As noted this is a developmental league. 7 and 8 year olds are advancing at different rates. We do not want to punish players that have not completely mastered the game. Base advancement is simple. If a ball is hit to the infield, the runner takes only one base period. We ask all teams, try to make a play at first base since this runner cannot advance even on an overthrow. This will help the players learn to develop. If a runner is on first or second when the ball is hit, and a play is made on the runner going to second or third, the one base on an overthrow rule applies. The batter may only go to first and not advance, while the plays on second, third and home is being made. Therefore, on an infield hit, a BATTER can never take more than first base. NOW if the ball is hit to the outfield, the batter may run as many bases as he is willing to try for, UNTIL, the ball is returned to the infield, THEN the overthrow rule and dead play rules will be enforced.

12. The winning team's coach is responsible for filling out the Sentinel Sheet at the end of the game for the news paper.

13 This is a 7-8 year old league. Returning players to this league will be placed on the same team as previous year(s) and remaining players will be selected from a blind pool with a draft order determined by the leagues commissioner. In order for a 6 year old to play up in the "Rookie League" one parent must agree to coach in said league.

A. The head coach will have his own child or children if the same age. Each team will receive one "Automatic" besides their own child. This can be an assistant coaches child but limited to ONE. If an Assistant has twins, triplets, etc, they will stay together but will have to be picked in the blind pool. After each head coach has their child and their one Auto pick, the remainder of players will be arranged by rating and picked from the blind pool in a way that evens the number of ratings amongst the teams. (similar to Pee Wee Rules)

14. Coaches on the playing field; the batting team will be allowed a coach at first base and a coach at third. No coaches will be in the field defensively. Coaching from the dugout only. Time out can be called during play to group players on the mound for consult but only 3 times per game. This includes consulting the pitcher.

15. Players and parents not happy with the team they are on must first approach their team coach to resolve the situation. Unresolved situations will be taken to the League President and Rookie Lg. Commissioner who will have final say in all matters.

16. Mouth guards are MANDATORY as approved by the board to be used by all players participating in all leagues. (Coaches will explain to all parents how to get their mouth

guard.) Players are required to wear their mouth guards at all practices and games. Extra mouth guards can be purchased at the concession stand.

17. Teams will be selected at the end of March. The coach of each team will contact the players by April 1<sup>st</sup> to begin practices. The season or games will begin the second week of May and run through the third week of July. Coaches will give schedules out sometime in April. This league is for development. It is recommended to hold at least 2 practices per week in April then hold 1 practice per week during the season. A good rule to follow is, if you have one game in a given week, hold one practice. If you have two games in a given week then no practice is needed that week. Hold practice all the way through the season with a final practice at the end of the year to cover what was learned. The field will be available in April, before the season starts. **IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU GET SOME PRACTICE TIME IN SO YOUR PLAYERS CAN GET USED TO THE MACHINE.** Coaches attending Work Day will receive first chance at securing the fields for practice. You must come to Work Day if you want to guarantee a practice time.

18. The Pee Wee League Board Meetings are held the second Sunday of each month at 5:00 pm at the red Carter Park Building . Parents are always welcome to attend.

19. The Rookie league will use a “RIF BALL” (Reduced Injury Free Ball-5) for each of their scheduled games. (The league purchases all game balls, but not practice balls.) A “game ball” can be obtained at the press box before your game.

20. Players are not allowed to swing bats or warm-up outside the playing field. The only place to swing bats is in the on deck circle on the playing field.

21. Players wanting to play up in the pee wee division (when needed), must contact Jeff McIntyre at [webmaster@bgbaseball.com](mailto:webmaster@bgbaseball.com) or 419-266-4787 to be placed on an eligibility list. Mr. McIntyre will organize and maintain this list.

22. A pitching circle of 10 ft. in radius will be drawn around the mound and will be 41 ft. from home plate. The player pitcher must remain at least one foot inside the pitching circle until the ball is hit.

23. There will be a mark that is approximately 2 ft. in length, between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base, between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base and between 3<sup>rd</sup> base and home. When the ball is returned to the 10ft. pitching circle or controlled by an infield player (umpires discretion) and the base runner has not reached this halfway mark, that player will return to the previous base. The runner will not be out for returning to the base.

24. If the base runner misses a base and the umpire sees this, the team will receive one warning (one warning per game). The second time, the runner is out.

25. The league website is [www.bgbaseball.com](http://www.bgbaseball.com).

Here you will find links to the individual teams. Click from the left menu on Leagues and Teams. Choose Rookie League and you will see the list of teams. Choose your team and you will come to a page that lists the team roster.

B. Above the coach's information is a link called Team website. Click on this link will take you to a page that shows Team news and the Team schedule. The coach has access to log on and change the news section at his/her discretion.

C. After all the teams are selected in March, all players and coaches will be listed on the roster. The coach or team parent must log in to assign the players numbers.

D. Contact Jeff at [webmaster@bgbaseball.com](mailto:webmaster@bgbaseball.com) for your username and passwords. They will be given to you on selection day with instructions on how to log on.

\*The Rookie League rules have been created for the **2009** season. We are trying to enhance the experience of the game for the players. This will better prepare the players for the next level of play. (Pee Wee)

We have noticed that many players that move up to the Pee Wee division, sometimes do not have the skills to play at that level and our quickly forgotten or sometimes do not return for that game level the following year.

Our overall goal is to make the game more exciting for all players while teaching a better understanding about the game, preparation for the next level and understand the concept of winning, losing and good sportsmanship.

Remember the purpose of the Rookie League is that it should give the kids the basic fundamentals and be a positive learning experience for all the kids that sign-up to play. Let's keep the league fun & enjoyable for all the kids, coaches, and parents. Let's keep in mind that these are 7-8 yr olds and not the Major League All-Stars. Have a GREAT SEASON!

**\*\* WE THANK ALL COACHES, PARENTS, AND OFFICERS FOR THEIR  
VOLUNTEERED TIME & ENERGY**

President-Tim Dunn 353-2918

Rookie League Comm.-Dave Dohanos 352-1115

Secretary/Asst. Comm.-Jeff McIntyre 266-4787

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