***7-8 Rec Baseball Rules***

**FIELD DIMENSIONS**

* The distances between bases shall be 55 feet apart.  Distances to the bases are measured from the point at the rear of home plate to the back edge of the base (or in the case of second base, to the point of the base pointing toward the outfield).
* The distance to the pitcher's mound shall be 40 feet.

**HOME TEAM**

* The 2nd team listed on the schedule is the home team.
* The home team is responsible for the set up and take down of the field including setting the bases and any infield repair due to ruts or standing water.
* They must assist with the cleanup of all trash including debris left by others in designated trashcans.

**VISITING TEAM**

* They must assist the home team in setting up and taking down field.
* They must assist with the cleanup of all trash including debris left by others in designated trashcans.

**PITCHING**

* Players pitch to the batters until ball four, strike three or hit.
* Pitchers will only pitch one inning per game, 1 pitch is an inning.
* During kid pitch, the coach on mound will call balls and strikes.
* If a batter strikes out, then the coach pitches 3 balls to the batter.
	+ If the batter doesn’t hit after those 3 additional pitches, then the AB is over (no out recorded)
* If a batter walks from a player pitcher, then the coach’s pitch the remaining AB (example-
4-1 with the player pitch, the batter gets two more strikes vs coach).
	+ If the player strikes out with the coach, they get the 3 additional pitches (same as if they would strike out vs a player)
* No Walks
	+ If a player throws ball four, the coach on the mound will continue the at-bat with the current count until the batter hits or strikes out
* HBP- If the batter is hit by a player pitcher, then its automatic coach pitch for the AB
	+ Coach pitch must pitch overhand from 40’ only to his players.

**DEFENSIVE TEAM**

* 10 fielders are allowed 4 outfield and 6 infield including pitcher and catcher.
* Take care in positioning fielders.  Warn fielders/coaches when strong hitters are up. Fielders may not stand on the base and should be taught how to cover a base when a play is being made or to clear a base when no play is being made.
* Only standard infield and outfield positions should be used. Infielders must stand on the dirt, not the grass. Outfielders must stand on the grass, not the dirt. Position players so they are not in the baseline. Teach players to stand near a base only when a play at that base is going to be made. Do not allow defensive players to stand on top of the bases.
* Fill the outfield with at least three players before using a catcher.  Extra players should be placed in the outfield. No one should be left on the bench unless injured or being used as a bullpen session.
* Pitcher must stand on the mound when pitching and next to or behind the coach, when coaches are pitching. No one is allowed to "creep up" for weaker hitters.  If an infielder "creeps up" and records an out, the batter will be allowed to stay on the base, and the out will not count.
* Catchers are limited to 3 innings per game.

**PLAYING RULES**

* All players must appear in the batting lineup, if a player gets hurt or leaves there will be no penalty (no out).
* Game length will be (5) innings, **not to exceed 90 minutes**
* Mercy rule is 4 runs per inning or batting through the order
* **The only OUTs that count per inning will be plays made in the field.**
* Fielding team should supply a coach behind plate for ball retrieval.
* One coach is allowed in the outfield grass but there must always be at least one coach on the bench.
* Only one player in the on deck circle at a time.  A coach/parent must monitor the on deck hitter at all times.
* No sliding into first base.
	+ No head first sliding at any time. (base runner is out)
* Pinch/courtesy runner may be used for next innings catcher at any time.
	+ Pinch runner must be last recorded out.
* No bunting or “T’s” should be used in the game.
* Encourage throwing the ball to bases instead of running across the field and stepping on them.
* Rotate players evenly

**STEALING**

* No stealing

**BUNTING**

* No bunting

**ADVANCEMENT**

* On balls hit to the outfield, runners may advance until the ball is in possession in the infield by an infielder.
* A base runner may not advance on over throw.

**ENDING A PLAY (DEAD BALL RULE)**

* A play ends either when the ball is in the infield or the ball is thrown out of the playing field.

**PLAYER DEVELOPMENT**

* Managers are required to rotate their players between various defensive positions, such that all players will get a chance to play in both the infield and outfield. One player may play no more than 1 inning in one position per game.

**ALL-STAR GAME**

* Date and Time TBD
* At the end of the season coaches should choose two players (preferably eight year olds) to participate in an All-star game.