

## HAYAA Boys Minor League (Age 9-10) Playing Rules and Guidelines

We will use The Little League Baseball Rule book with the addition of the following:

1. A 9-year old player must pitch one complete inning, or 3 outs per game.(may be split between innings)
2. A 9-year old player must pitch prior to the start of the fifth inning.
3. Any player may only pitch 3 innings in a game.
4. Any player may only pitch 6 innings in one day. (in the event of double headers, playoffs, etc.)
5. There are no “lead-offs” once the runner reaches 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base. A base runner will be allowed to attempt to steal 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base after a pitched ball passes the home plate. If there is a runner on 1st and 3rd, and the 1st base runner attempts to steal 2nd base, the 3rd base runner may not steal home. A base runner may only advance to home plate by a batted ball or walk.
6. Base runners will NOT be allowed to advance once the ball has reached the infield (from the outfield), and a player has controlled possession of the ball. In addition, a runner can advance from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> on a play in the infield but we would discourage sending that runner home. Unless, however, there is an overthrow resulting in out of play OR if the fielding team is making a play on that base runner.
7. We will use the 1 hour 45 minute length of game as a guideline. No inning may start at 8:16 p.m. or later. If an inning has not started by 8:15 then the game is over.
8. The maximum number of runs a team can score is 5 runs per inning. If **after 5 innings**, one team has a lead of 10 runs or more, the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent (AKA Mercy Rule). You can play the 6<sup>th</sup> inning (if there is still time left) to give the boys more playing time, but the scoring stops after the 5<sup>th</sup> inning is completed, and umpires do not have to stay.
9. The Mercy rule is NOT suspended in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, but the maximum number of runs allowed in the **sixth inning is increased to 7.**

### General Little League Minor Guidelines and FAQ's:

- The bases are 60' apart. The pitching plate is 46' from home plate.
- A game is 6 innings. Visitors (1<sup>st</sup> base dugout) bat first. 10 boys play the field on defense (4 outfielders). Every player on the roster will bat, even if they do not play the field that inning.
- On a dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> Strike, the batter may NOT attempt to run to first base.
- The strike zone is from armpits and top of the knees, when batter assumes a natural stance.
- **“Big barrel bats” and composite bats are not allowed.** 2-1/4” diameter maximum and max. of 33” in length. If a player is caught using an illegal bat, he is automatically out. A coach may inspect other teams bats at anytime, or ask the umpire to inspect.
- We do not keep a pitch count because we limit the number of innings pitched. (Little League rule book show 75 pitches per day max.). A pitcher may not return to the mound once removed from the mound. A pitcher must be removed if he hits three batters in a **game**. A balk is not called in the Minor League.
- A batter is allowed to bunt, but will be out if he bunts a third strike foul.
- A batter will be out when an **Infield Fly** is declared by the umpire.
- Players must wear a protective athletic supporter.
- All players should get similar playing time, and have opportunity to play at all positions..
- Home team supplies the umpire with two game balls (one new, one used).
- Scores are reported to commissioner by the umpires (coaches sign off on Umpires score card verifying final score).