

# Streetsboro Junior Baseball and Softball

## General Operating Rules and Playing Rules

*Revised for 2012 season*

### 1. Residency

The President and Vice President must reside in Streetsboro. These members must live at a Streetsboro address from February 1<sup>st</sup> through November elections of the current year to be eligible. A mailing address does not prove residency. All remaining Board Members, players, managers and coaches must be residents in the city of Streetsboro or surrounding communities. Any team found to be playing with an ineligible player, manager, or coach will be made to forfeit any and all games in which the said person participated. If, during the season, an eligible person will be moving outside of the city limits and desires to remain with the team until the end of the season, they shall be permitted to do so.

### 2. League Divisions and Age Limitations

#### a. Softball

**Traveling League:** Ages 6 – 18 years old. Teams will adhere to the age limitations as defined by the league in which the team is participating.

**Pigtail:** Ages 4 - 6 years old. Players must be 4 years old before June 1<sup>st</sup> and must not turn 7 years old before June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Ponytail:** Ages 7 – 8 years old. Players must be 7 years old before June 1<sup>st</sup> and must not turn 9 years old before June 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### b. Baseball

**Traveling League:** Ages 18 and under. Teams will adhere to the age limitations as defined by the league in which the team is participating.

**Minors:** Ages 9 – 10 years old. Players must be 9 years old before June 1<sup>st</sup> and must not turn 11 years old before June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Coaches Pitch:** Ages 7 – 8 years old. Players must be 7 years old before June 1<sup>st</sup> and must not turn 9 years old before June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Pee Wee:** Ages 4 – 6 years old. Players must be 4 years old before June 1<sup>st</sup> and must not turn 7 years old before June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### 3. Manager and Coach Selection

Returning managers may remain with their same league and should indicate so with a Manager/Coach application that must be turned into the league board.

Openings for managers will be filled in accordance with the following procedure:

- Signing a Manager/Coach Application
- Consideration of past performance
- Final determination decided by Executive Board

Any manager, coach or individual responsible for fees of any kind, uniforms, or equipment belonging to the league who fails to turn in such equipment within 3 weeks of their final game of the same season, shall forfeit his/her right to return to the league the following season and are financially responsible for the equipment. Equipment forms need to be signed. The responsible individual pays for all damages. The Executive Board has the right to overrule the date for equipment return.

An individual may only manage/coach one team in any traveling league/division. All managers and coaches for the girls traveling league must successfully pass a background investigation.

All managers for Boys Traveling must attend the ACE Coaches Clinic.

#### 4. Player and Coach Eligibility and Restrictions

- a. Each inner city team is eligible to have one manager and two coaches.
- b. Teams shall be made up of players drafted from the eligible registrants. Late registrations will be placed on a waiting list and assigned if space permits.
- c. Team rosters will be made up via the draft by the board no later than April 1st. Vacancies after that date will be filled with the late registrants according to draft rules.
- d. No player will be allowed to play until his/her registration fees and/or fundraising fee have been paid in full and a copy of a birth certificate is on file with the league. **All fees must be paid before uniforms will be given out.**
- e. When it is agreed that a player that is older than the stipulated age limit may participate, that player is not permitted to play the positions of pitcher or catcher.
- f. For Girl traveling leagues, no player can play for SJB if she lives in an area that also has a team in the same league unless she gets a release from the league where they live and the league approves it.

#### 5. The Draft

Pee Wee and Coaches Pitch divisions will hold a blind draft. All registration forms will be turned over so that no one can see the player names. Older children will be picked before the younger children. We will draft numbers in round robin order.

Minors will have an open draft. Players in Minors, with the exception of coaches and sponsor's kids, will be drafted according to age in an attempt to evenly distribute the age groups. No team will enter the draft with more than four players on a team. This would mean one player from the manager, one player from each of the two coaches and one player from the sponsor. If there is no player for the sponsor, the team enters the draft with only three players.

Traveling baseball teams will be formed through try-outs and evaluations.

Traveling softball teams will have an open draft at the lowest division. No team will enter the draft with more than four players on a team. This would mean one player from the manager, one player from each of the two coaches and one player from the sponsor. If there is no player for the sponsor, the team enters the draft with only three players. These teams will remain together through-out the upper divisions. New players will be

added to the upper division team through an open draft. The teams with the least number of returning players will pick first.

All rosters are final after the draft except for late registrations.

**6. Insurance**

All players will be enrolled with the insurance company retained by the league. The parents, team manager, or coach must report all injury claims within 24 hours of the injury. Also, a letter must be filled out by the team manager and sent to the board to file as a matter of record. SJB and league insurance are secondary.

**7. Field Dimensions**

<b>Softball</b>			
<b>League</b>	<b>Base Lines</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> to Home</b>	<b>Pitcher's Mound</b>
Pigtail	40 feet	57 feet	25 ft. with 6 ft. circle (player) 30 ft. (coach)
Ponytail	60 feet	84 feet, 10 ¼ in.	32 ft. with 16 ft. circle
Coaches pitch	60 feet	84 feet 10 ¼ in	30 ft. with 16 ft. circle
Fastpitch Class A	60 feet	84 feet, 10 ¼ in.	35 ft. with 16 ft. circle
Fastpitch Class B	60 feet	84 feet, 10 ¼ in.	40 ft. with 16 ft. circle
Fastpitch Class C	60 feet	84 feet, 10 ¼ in.	40 ft. with 16 ft. circle
Fastpitch Class D	60 feet	84 feet, 10 ¼ in.	40 ft. with 16 ft. circle

<b>Baseball</b>			
<b>League</b>	<b>Base Lines</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> to Home</b>	<b>Pitcher's Mound</b>
14U - 18U	90 feet	127 ft., 1/3 in.	60 feet
13U	80 feet	113 ft., 2 in.	54 feet
11U, 12U	70 feet	99 feet	50 feet
Minors	60 feet	85 feet	46 feet
Coaches Pitch	55 feet	78 feet	38 feet
Pee Wee	40 feet	57 feet	25 feet or more
Champion	40 feet	By ability	By ability

**9. Postponements and Game Changes**

- a. Teams will meet at their assigned field at game time unless games are cancelled due to weather or field conditions. The President or Administrative Assistant will make this call. No game may be cancelled or postponed by anyone other than the league President or Administrative Assistant.
- b. No game other than rainouts will be postponed without at least 72 hours advance notice. Both managers have to be in agreement. The president, vice president or Administrative Assistant will make this call. The league board will establish game times for inner city games.

The deadline for starting will be 15 minutes after game time if a team cannot field enough players to start the game. Any team short players up to that 15 minutes will lose the game by forfeit. Official score for that game will be one win, one loss.

- c. Games will be played for the scheduled number of innings for each division or a time limit of 2 hours and 15 minutes. No new inning will be started after 8:30 p.m. If an inning starts before the time limit, and yet is called due to darkness before a winner is determined, the game will go down as a tie. Any night games played under the lights must start by 8:00 p.m. and end before the 11:00 p.m. curfew. No new inning may begin after 10:30 p.m.
- d. Champion Commissioner has the right to cancel Champion games at their discretion.

**10. Legal Games**

- a. All games will be scheduled as follows:

<b>7 Innings</b>	<b>6 Innings</b>	<b>4 Innings</b>
All Traveling Leagues	Minors Coaches Pitch Pee Wee Ponytail Pigtail Softball Coaches Pitch	Champion

- b. No inning will start after 8:30 p.m.
- c. Games called because of time limit, darkness, or weather shall be considered complete is 4 ½ innings (in a 7-inning game), or 3 ½ innings (in a 6-inning game) have been played and the home team is winning or 4 innings are played and the visiting team is winning.

**11. General Playing Rules and Rules of Conduct**

**Throwing of Bats or Any Other Equipment:**

- a) Any batter that throws or releases his/her bat or any other equipment in a manner when endangers any player, official or spectator shall be declared out by the umpire. If belligerent force is used, the umpire will eject the offending party.
- b) Suspensions will be addressed as written in the Manager/Coaches application forms, including relation to individual league rules. There are no appeals.

**Intentional Collisions**

If a base runner collides with a fielder on an attempt to do more than dislodge the ball, the runner will be called out for Unsportsmanlike conduct and interference. All other base runners will return to the last occupied base. Intentional collisions will result in the player being called out and the umpire reserves the right to eject the player also.

**Conduct**

Profanity or continual berating of the umpires, team members or spectators will not be tolerated. Any team member, manager, coach or spectator must not display bad sportsmanship. Ongoing displays will cause ejection by the umpire and possible suspension by the league board. This will also cause forfeiture of the game. Coaches and managers are responsible for their own spectators. You must give the first warning

before the game starts. The second offense is automatic forfeit of the game. No appeals are allowed.

### **Tobacco and Alcohol**

Team members, managers, coaches, or umpires will not under any circumstances be allowed to have to use alcoholic beverages or be under the influence of any illegal substance before, during, or after any team activity while functioning in their capacity as a member of the league. The use of tobacco products is prohibited within the playing area or 20 feet from any playing area.

### **Spectators and Bench**

Managers are responsible for the conduct of the fans on their side of the field. No one is permitted in the bench area except team members. Players are to remain in the bench area during the game. This is the responsibility of the manager and coaches with the final decision being made by the umpire with the support of SJB. Such action may result in the forfeiture of the game. No one is allowed behind the backstop unless a commissioner is asked to observe a game.

### **Practices**

When school is in session, practices for inner city teams will not exceed 8:00 p.m. on school nights. The combination of games and practices will not exceed 3 per week. Alcohol and tobacco rules are in effect at practices. Please be responsible about the length and hours of practice. Please use your assigned fields.

### **Modified 8 Run Rule**

In the respective divisions when, the modified 5-run rule is in effect, a team may not score more than 5 runs per inning, except in the case where a team has 4 runs already scored in an inning, yet still has 1, 2, or 3 runners still on base. If the next batter hits a fair ball, any runs scored directly resulting from that hit will count. Therefore, the modified 8-run rule has the possibility of scoring 8 runs per inning.

### **Suspension**

Any player, manager or coach ejected from a game will be subjected to an additional one game or more suspension of the next playable game. Anyone ejected from the game must leave the immediate playing area "OUT OF SIGHT OF UMPIRE". Refusal to leave will cause the umpire to suspend the game or call it a forfeit.

### **Forfeits**

Any team unable to field the required number of player within the 15-minute grace period shall forfeit the game. If neither team is able to field enough players, both teams will be charged with a forfeit. Any game that is forfeited may be played as a scrimmage if desired. Umpires will not stay and call the game. Managers are asked to take special caution to avoid unnecessary injuries.

### **Pitching Visits**

A manager or coach may visit each pitcher at the mound one time each inning. Visits should not last more than 30 seconds. On the second visit to the same pitcher in that

same inning, that pitcher must be removed from the pitching mound, except in the case of an injury.

### **Lineups**

All late arrivals after the start of the game will be placed at the bottom of the batting order. In Pee Wee, Coaches Pitch and Pigtail leagues, a player has ½ hour after the game start time to enter the lineup unless amended in the respective league rules.

### **Player Use**

All managers have the right to reasonably discipline their players with the approval of the executive board. This also includes reasonable suspensions. Managers are to inform each other before the game of any suspension for that game. Managers are also to inform the commissioner how long and why the player(s) are suspended. Once a player is suspended for a game, they are out regardless of the number of players, injuries or other circumstance the team may be involved in after the game has started.

### **Pee Wee, Coaches Pitch and Pigtail Pitching**

Only managers, coaches, and/or spectators are permitted to pitch to their team while batting. If in the event only the manager is present or no manager and only one coach is present, one parent of a team member may be selected before the game starts to help with the coaching duties for that particular game. This selected parent may also pitch to the team if desired, but only this selected parent. A manager or coach can only select one parent per game.

### **Ponytail and Minors**

Once the game has started, managers, coaches and spectators are not permitted on the field except for injuries or pitching mound visits. All lineup changes for defensive purposes should be done before the players have taken the field each inning. If a manager or coach comes onto the field and talks to a player and that player in turn walks over and talks to the pitcher, this is considered a trip to the mound even though the actual coach didn't directly address the pitcher.

### **Abusive Actions and Behavior**

Verbal and/or physical abuse will not be tolerated toward any player, umpire or league official by managers, coaches or spectators. Managers and coaches will be accountable according to the manager/coach application forms and league rules. All actions will be noted as further considerations are given to a person returning the following season.

### **Protests**

At the time of infraction, the umpire will decide if judgment call or a rule violation. Streetsboro Junior Baseball has the right to determine if managers, coaches or sponsors may return to the league. This is a majority vote decision by the Executive Board based on performances with the team, reasons, written complaints, conduct both on and off the field while in City Park