

Johnston Little League
8 YEAR OLD BASEBALL
RULES Revised 05/19/2025

The general objectives are to enhance fundamental baseball skills, have fun, and teach good sportsmanship.

League Rules:

1. Teams should be divided into equal numbers of players. It is suggested that these teams be loosely divided by neighborhoods. This will not only provide familiarity with some friends, but also can be helpful for parents needing to car pool. Special requests may be honored (IE: parents wanting to coach together, friends wanting to be on the same team, etc.). However, these requests should never be done in order to upset the balance of talent, nor should it affect the requirements for equal numbers mentioned above. There should be 10 to 12 players per team but not more than 12.

2. An equal opportunity should be given to each player to play all positions at least one time during the season. Those players that may be placed in uncomfortable positions by pitching or catching don't need to play these positions, as long as their parents have been conferred with and their permission is received.

3. The batting order must rotate every game.

4. Each team will play 12-14 games. No games will be scheduled for the weekend, but may be used for make-ups. Weekday games will be scheduled to start no earlier than 5:15 pm and no later than 7 pm.

Game Rules:

1. The game will consist of no more than 5 innings. No new inning may be started after 1 ½ hours of play. The count will start at 1-0 for each batter.

2. 10 players will play defensively. Maximum of 4 infielders, 1 pitcher, and 1 catcher with the balance of fielders in the outfield. Each player must play at least six outs defensively.

3. All players will be in the batting order. The side is retired when 3 outs are made or when a team has batted through the order once. If the teams have an uneven number of players, the team with the fewest players may bat through the order a second time until the number of batters is equal for both teams. There are automatically 2 outs when the last batter comes to the plate.

4. **Pitching:** A pitcher must follow the pitching guidelines listed. Any pitcher not adhering to the guidelines will be immediately removed and will not be allowed to pitch for 7 calendar days. Any coach not adhering to the rules will be warned on the first offense, ejected from the game on second offense, and will not be allowed to coach with Johnston Little League if the offense happens a third time.

League Age	Pitches allowed per day
8	50

The rest periods required are listed below:

- If a player pitches 41 - 50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 21 - 40 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1 - 20 pitches in a day, no calendar day of rest is required before pitching again.

5. The pitcher's plate will be set at 40 feet.
6. Batters hit by a pitch from the kid pitcher will have the option of taking 1st base or allowing their coach to pitch to them, picking up the count where the kid pitcher left off.
7. Pitchers will continue to pitch to the batter until either:
 - a. batter puts the ball in play
 - b. pitcher throws 4 called balls
 - c. batter strikes out

If the pitcher throws 4 called balls prior to striking out the batter, the coach will take over to finish pitching and the batter will retain the same number of strikes he had incurred from the kid pitcher. The coach will continue pitching until either the batter puts the ball in play or strikes out. The offensive team's coach is to pitch from the front of the mound, and closer.

8. There are no balks.
9. There is no bunting.
10. There is no stealing.
11. There will be no infield fly rule.
12. Coaches from the defensive team will umpire, if a volunteer is not found.
13. Home team is responsible for field preparation prior to game. Visiting team is responsible for raking the field after game and cleaning up trash from dugouts.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

Steel cleats are "not" allowed.

Catchers need to wear all equipment described in the rulebook. Helmets will be worn when warming up pitchers and taking infield. If there is a problem with the equipment, bring this to the attention of the league representative. Catchers must wear proper catching equipment including a hanging throat guard.

A runner advancing to a base may "not" slide head first. The runner will be out. A runner returning to a base may slide head first.

There is no "on-deck" person.

Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated.

Please educate your parents. Many complaints can be handled in advance if you make them aware of the rules and exceptions.

Coaches should back up the catcher when there are no runners on bases to keep the game moving.

Teach your players all of the rules including base running. Make sure they understand no leaving the base until the ball has crossed the plate, a base runner is out if hit by a batted ball, etc.

Most of all make this fun for everyone involved.

A copy of these rules must be given to each manager.

NO changes may be made to these rules without the approval of the Johnston Little League board.