



## ROOKIE RALLY CAP RULES

Rookie ball is a continuation of the instructional process that begins in Tee Ball and advances the player's knowledge of baseball and the proper skills to play the game. In the Rookie division, the score of the games is not recorded.

Please stay home if you are sick.

### Teams

1. Each team will consist of seven to ten players.

### Field Set Up

1. Each session will have 3 teams listed. Team A is responsible for setting up the field before the game begins. Field prep takes approximately 10 minutes and should be completed before the game start time so as to maximize play, especially in early spring when it's get dark early. Team C is responsible for putting the equipment away after the relay race.
2. Each Team is responsible for providing its own batting tee
3. Distance between the bases will be 50 feet
4. The distance to the home run line will be 90 feet
5. Use the chalk machine regularly to re-do the lines. A light rain or a game or two can make the base and home run lines difficult to make out. If the chalk is running low, let the coordinator know and they will replenish.

### The Game

1. In Rally Cap baseball, three teams will meet at the Park at the same time. Two teams will be playing a game while one team will be practicing in the outfield.
2. Team A will play Team B during the first game while Team C practices. Then Team A plays Team C while Team B practices. Finally Team B plays Team C while Team A practices. If a team is late, then the two teams present can play the first game and sort it out from there. Notifying the practicing team when there are 1 or 2 batters left can speed up transition between games.
3. At each turn batting, all players will come to bat. The half inning will end when all players from one team have completed their turn. It is customary to signify "last batter" to the opposing team.
4. Each player will be used in the field when the other team is hitting.

5. At the end of the games, a relay race around the bases will occur between all three teams that have participated in the games. Teams will start as follows: 1 team on 1<sup>st</sup>, one team on 2<sup>nd</sup>, and one team at home plate. Each player will run around and touch each base then pass off a ball to the next player. If a team has fewer players than the others, some players will run twice.

### **The Practice**

1. During the practice session, each team will practice the FUNdamentals:
  - a. Throwing
  - b. Receiving
  - c. Hitting
  - d. Base Running
  - e. General Knowledge
2. Coaches are encouraged to use the Getting Started Manual to help prepare practice sessions each time.
3. Players rotate through the different stations each time they have a practice.

### **Fielding**

1. All players “play out”, and we strongly suggest rotating the players so that everybody has a chance to spend some time in infield positions. If you have a player that has trouble catching thrown balls, do not put this player on first base.
2. Each team will have 1 of each: pitcher (located to one side of pitching machine circle), 1B, 2B, SS, 3B, LF, CF, RF. If there are more players present, they may be assigned additional positions in the outfield. Outfielders should be positioned approximately two metres from the home run line.
3. There are no catchers.
4. All players should wear a protective cup. If a player arrives without a protective cup then that player may bat and play outfield but is not permitted to play an infield position. It is the Coaches responsibility to administer this rule.
5. Each hit results in the batter running to and through first base and each baserunner taking 1 base. The fielders are encouraged to get the ball to the appropriate base before the runner.
6. All balls that are hit and cross over the home run line on the ground shall be deemed a double and all base runners advance two bases.
7. In the event a ball crosses the home run line in the air, all players on base shall run home and congratulate the batter.

### **Pitching**

1. The pitching machine operator will be either the manager or coach of the team that is on offence. The operator will show the ball to the batter before placing it on the lever. The ball to be used is a “softy” ball (preferably a #5 density). The pitching machine operator must be attentive to throws coming from the third base side of the circle to first base, moving out of the way or ducking to avoid interference.

2. Each batter receives a **maximum** of three pitches in which to hit the ball (can be extended for foul balls **on the last pitch**).
3. There are no walks or strikeouts.
4. After three pitches, if there has not been a hit (in fair territory), a designated coach or parent shall quickly place the Tee in proper position (with the pole positioned in front of the plate, not directly on top of the plate). The batter will hit off the Tee.
5. There will be a ten (10) foot diameter circle around the pitching machine. The pitching machine will be positioned at a distance of 40 feet from home plate. The speed will be set and will not be changed during the game. Only a coach or parent may operate the machine and adjust the height of the pitches, but not the speed.
6. Any batted ball that hits the pitching machine, pitching machine operator or comes to rest in the 10-foot circle will be called dead. The batter will be awarded first base and only runners forced to advance will do so.
7. Pitching machine operators should not catch balls thrown to them unless the ball has been declared dead.
8. Thrown balls, which come to rest in the 10-foot circle, will be called dead.
9. Under no circumstances will a player enter the pitching machine circle. The “pitcher” must stand outside the circle and no nearer than 40 feet from home plate (a line to be marked on each side of the circle). The pitcher is not to stand in front of the pitching machine and shall receive all thrown balls on either side of the pitching machine. In the event that the pitcher (or any other player) should step into the circle with one or both feet (on the line and reaching in is okay) and touch the ball, the ball will be immediately called dead.

### **Length of game**

1. Each game is one inning; if the inning goes quickly teams can play a second. Each game should last 30 minutes, so the total time at the field is 1.5 hours. Each team is encouraged to have batters ready to go when it's their turn, a parent or coach ready with the Tee should it be needed, and quick transitions between games to ensure we get as much playing time as possible.

### **Umpiring & “Outs”**

1. There are no official umpires. The coaches will call the plays. If there is a disagreement, the batting team's coach will render the final decision.

### **Rainouts**

1. For those days when it's raining, the coaches/manager for the scheduled teams should discuss calling a rain-out at least 30 minutes before game time. If they decide to call a rain out, inform your entire team and ensure one of the coaches emails the rally cap coordinator and the concession coordinator.
2. Make-up games, by mutual consent of the coaches, may be played at a time and a field of their choice, subject to availability.

### Miscellaneous

1. There is no stealing, even on passed balls.
2. Intentional bunting is not permitted.
3. A parent helper (behind the catcher) speeds up the game immensely.
4. Over running first base is encouraged.
5. Practice fields are not assigned - coaches must forage for available space.
6. All players - boys & girls - must wear a protective cup.
7. All players are required to wear a helmet when batting or running the bases.
8. Only the batter is permitted to hold a bat.

### June Rule Changes

For all games we will introduce 'Outs' to the game.

1. Outs can occur only after a ball is hit - no strike outs and use the Tee as you currently do.
2. At this level the only outs are force plays and caught balls. There will be no tagging of players, even if it is not a force play.
3. Each team will still bat through the order, everybody hits and the 'last batter' still hits everybody home (with the fielders trying to get that ball home before the last batter makes it around). Hint: Put your big hitters last for the next few weeks.
4. If a ball is caught by a fielder, returning that ball to the base from which the runner left does not render them out. We'll save that rule for next year. If this happens, however, make sure you encourage the fielder!
5. Coaches, ensure you incorporate the idea of 'Outs' into practice leading up to June.

Let's keep it fun. The coaches will call the plays. If there is a disagreement, the coach of the team at bat shall render the final decision. Safe/out calls are generally obvious. If a play is very close and difficult to call, the runner should be declared safe (remember this is an instructional division).