

## **Knox Youth Sports Baseball**

### **Farm League Rules & Regulations**

#### **ORGANIZATION**

1. Organization. Knox Youth Sports (KYS) Baseball is a division of Knox Youth Sports, Inc., a Tennessee not-for-profit organization.
2. Purpose. The purpose of the Knox Youth Sports Baseball program is to provide children with an opportunity to learn to play sports in a positive, wholesome and enjoyable environment. Emphasis will be placed on player participation, good sportsmanship and fair play.
3. Governing Body. Except as modified herein, KYS Baseball will be governed by TSSAA.

#### **FIELD DIMENSIONS**

1. Basepaths. Bases will be placed at 60'.
2. Pitching Distance. The center of the coach/pitcher circle is 40'. A center line will be drawn from the pitching circle to home plate. The coach/pitcher may pitch to their team anywhere along the center line.

#### **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

1. Time Limit. Games are scheduled for a one hour time limit.
2. Home / Away. The home team will occupy the 1<sup>st</sup> base dugout and the away team will occupy the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout.
3. Scoring / Umpires. Score will be kept and KYS will provide one umpire in the field, generally located at home plate.

#### **PLAYING RULES**

1. Participants. Each team must have at least eight players present to start the game. If a team does not have the minimum of eight, then that team will forfeit the game. Coaches must present a line-up with each player's name and uniform number to the scorekeeper prior to each game.
2. Player Participation. Each player present will play in the field and be in the batting order for the entire game. If a player arrives late, that player will be added to the end of the batting order and may enter upon arrival.
3. Defensive Positions. A team shall consist of players in the following positions:
  - a. A coach from each team will serve as the pitcher for their team when batting
  - b. Teams will have one "pitcher", playing within 6' on either side of the adult/coach pitcher with no more than four additional infielders.
  - c. Teams will have a catcher, playing behind and to the side of the batter, who must make any play at home plate – to include pop-ups/foul balls. (An adult assistant

- coach will be positioned as a catcher to return the ball to the pitcher after each pitch in order to speed up play.)
- d. All outfielders must be positioned in the grass. Outfielders will not be allowed to come in to cover a base, except in unusual situations (examples: overthrows or rundowns).
  - e. NO coaches allowed in the outfield when on defense.
  - f. Must have coaches at 1<sup>st</sup> base and 3<sup>rd</sup> base when batting.
  - g. No more than 5 coaches/dads total.
4. Batting Regulations. When a team is at-bat, the following rules will apply:
    - a. Each batter will receive 7 pitches or 3 strikes, whichever occurs first.
    - b. Each half inning will consist of 3 outs, or the team scoring a maximum of 5 runs, whichever occurs first, during the first (3) innings. After (3) full innings of play, each half inning will consist of 3 outs or the offensive team batting through their lineup, whichever comes first.
    - c. No bunting will be allowed.
    - d. No walks will be awarded.
    - e. If a batted ball hits the adult serving as pitcher, the ball is still in play.
    - f. There will be an arc drawn from the third baseline to the first baseline in front of home plate. A batted ball must go past this line to be a fair ball.
  5. Slaughter Rule.
    - a. 10 Runs After 4 Innings of Play
    - b. 8 Runs After 5 Innings of Play
  6. Infield Fly. Infield Fly Rule will not be enforced.
  7. Overthrows. Overthrows into the dugout or over the fence will result in automatically awarding the runner one additional base. If a runner has already “made” the base, the runner gets that base plus the next.
  8. Stopping Play. Time will be called and play will be stopped once a defensive player has the ball in hand or glove and forced any runners back to a base.

## GAMES

1. Location. All games will be played at Lakeshore Park on Lyons View Pike.
2. Game Day Announcements. KYS will make announcements regarding game postponements or cancellations due to inclement weather or other extraordinary situations at 4:00 PM on weekdays and prior to the first game on weekends.
3. Postponements / Rescheduling. Games can only be postponed or rescheduled by KYS. Coaches will be notified as soon as possible of rescheduled games.
4. Regulation Game. Teams will play 6 innings or one hour, whichever occurs first. No new inning will begin 55 minutes after the game has begun.
5. Tie Games. When the score is tied at the end of the time limit, the game will be called as a tie.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. **Coaches.** Coaches are the authority figures for their teams and shall conduct themselves in a fashion designed to promote good sportsmanship and fair play.
  - a. Under no circumstances should a coach verbally or physically threaten, harass or abuse any player, umpire, coach or spectator.
  - b. Coaches will serve at the pleasure of Knox Youth Sports
2. **Participants.** All KYS participants are expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner.
  - a. Under no circumstance should a participant verbally or physically threaten, harass or abuse any player, umpire, coach or spectator.
  - b. Participants shall not throw batting helmets, bats or any other equipment.
  - c. Participants are allowed to encourage and cheer for their teams, while using common courtesy toward opposing teams.
3. **Spectators.** All persons other than those participating in a game may view the contest from the bleachers or other areas outside the playing field.
  - a. Spectators are not allowed on the playing field.
  - b. Under no circumstance should a spectator verbally or physically threaten, harass or abuse any player, umpire, coach or other spectator.
4. **Penalties.** If a coach, participant or spectator violates the Code of Conduct, KYS will take the following actions.
  - a. First offense will result in a warning.
  - b. Second offense will result in expulsion from the park with child and possible forfeiture of the game.
  - c. Third offense will result in possible suspension from KYS programs, to be considered by the Knox Youth Sports Board of Directors.

## **AMENDMENTS**

1. **Amendments.** KYS may make amendments to these regulations as are needed. When changes are made, coaches will be notified as soon as possible.
2. **Modifications.** KYS reserves the right to make certain modifications, when deemed necessary, to the regulations, practice schedules, game schedules, etc.