

South Hadley Recreation Baseball
Grade 1/2 Baseball Rules

The grade 1/2 baseball league is designed to provide young baseball players with the opportunity to play baseball in a fun, safe and positive environment. The goal of the league is to improve the overall skills of the players while staying competitive and stressing fair play and sportsmanship. We do not keep score and standings in this division.

Game Play Rules

- 1) Games will ideally be six innings and no new inning can start after 90 minutes. If more innings can be played within the time limit, the coaches can make that decision.
- 2) The game will be played on a 60 ft. diamond.
- 3) Batting/Offense:
 - a) Round robin batting (i.e., everybody bats regardless of defensive position or starting spot).
 - b) Any players that arrive late must be added to the bottom of the batting order.
 - c) Each player will bat once an inning. It is recommended to reverse the order each inning (or start at a different point), but that is not mandatory. This gives kids a chance to bat under different circumstances.
 - d) Leading or stealing is not allowed. Players cannot leave the base until the ball is hit.
 - e) Teams are not permitted to bunt.
 - f) The strike zone is any ball that crosses the plate that is between the batter's chin and shins.
 - g) Players can keep running until a play is made on them, or the ball is under control in the infield.
- 4) Defensive rules:
 - a) There are unlimited defensive substitutions, the positions can and should change every inning.
 - b) All players must play at least three full innings in the field. The only exception to this rule is for injury or specific disciplinary action.
 - c) Players should be moved around, trying several positions. No player is permitted to play more than two innings at any position.
 - d) There is no catcher with gear this season. If there are enough players, a player can be positioned off to the side, and step in for plays at the plate after the ball is hit.
 - e) There will be a player at the pitcher's mound that will field the balls hit there.
- 5) The infield fly rule does not apply.
- 6) Players do not advance bases on overthrows. We want to attempt to preserve force plays whenever possible.

Safety

1. Batting helmets must be worn when batting, on deck and base running.
2. Metal cleats will not be allowed.
3. If there is any lightning or thunder, play must be suspended immediately, and teams must wait 30 minutes before resuming play.

4. Players must make every effort to slide at each base when there is a play being made on them (exception is first base). All sliding must be feet first.
5. Any intentional collision will result in the player being called out (at a base if the fielder has the ball).
6. A Reduced Injury Factor (RIF) #1 ball will be used in this division.
7. Throwing the bat will result in an automatic out. There will be one warning issued per team.
8. Spectators and siblings are not permitted in the bench area.

Pitching

1. The coaches will pitch to the players (coaches will pitch to their own teams). Each player will get six good pitches to hit if they do not swing.
2. Players can strike out if they swing and miss at three pitches.
3. If a player missed on those pitches, they could use a batting tee as well.
4. Coaches should challenge their better hitters.

Conduct

1. Swearing will not be tolerated by any coach, player, or fan.
2. Equipment should not be thrown at any time.
3. No alcohol or tobacco use at any team function.

All coaches must be CORI checked and agree to the Recreation Department's coaching agreement form.