



Little Sluggers Rules, Policies, & Philosophies

When you assume the position of coach, you make a positive statement that you are interested in helping young people learn valuable life-lessons. Not only will you be teaching our youth the skills, fundamentals and rules of our national pastime, you will also be helping to instill in them important values including sportsmanship, teamwork, honesty, and a sense of fair play.

The League Officers of Spokane Indians Youth Baseball are here for one reason only - the players. This program was founded and exists for kids; but they need capable, responsible adult leaders to help carry out this vision. We ask that you accept this responsibility seriously, understand that you will be a role model, and make every effort to work within the framework our program provides.

This booklet contains important information regarding rules, policies, philosophies and procedures that you will need for a successful season. Please read it very carefully and keep it handy throughout the season. It is suggested that you keep this booklet with you at games as well. It may help clarify various situations that develop. By coaching a team in Spokane Indians Youth Baseball, you agree to adhere to all of the rules, policies and procedures in this handbook.

If you have any questions, suggestions, concerns, or just desire to discuss youth baseball, please do not hesitate to contact your League Commissioner. In the event he/she is unavailable or cannot answer your questions, please feel free to contact the SIYBS Rules Committee through electronic mail at rules@siyb.org. Have a great and fun-filled season. And, please remember:

The player is more important than the game

Sportsmanship and Team Responsibilities

Sportsmanship

All players, coaches and fans will be expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. The umpire or baseball coordinator can remove anyone from the premises for unsportsmanlike behavior. Any individual ejected from the game will miss the remainder of that game, plus the next game. The baseball coordinator has the right to reinstate the player/individual based on the severity of the ejection. Any player, coach, or fan whose conduct is unbecoming, malicious or abusive, will, at a minimum, be removed from the premises at the discretion of the baseball coordinator, Umpire-in-Chief and umpires. Failure to comply with these rules will result in forfeiture of the game.

Use of Parks and Fields

SIYBS rents many of their field locations. The posted rules and regulations of each field and location needs to be followed. Coaches are to be inside dugouts at all times unless acting as a designated base coach. Teams are REQUIRED to pick up their own trash and debris. NO SEEDS IN THE DUGOUTS!!! Soft-toss into the chain link fences is not allowed.

Spokane City Parks and School Fields Rules and Regulations

1. Alcohol is prohibited in all forms on the fields, in the parking lots on public streets and sidewalks and all areas in close proximity to the field. Coaches will be responsible for the enforcement of this rule on their side of the field. If they are unable to control an infraction, the game may be stopped. The umpire may then request that proper authorities be called and may, at his discretion, declare a forfeit.
2. Tobacco is prohibited in all forms on the fields, in the parking lots on public streets and sidewalks and all areas in close proximity to the field. Coaches will be responsible for the enforcement of this rule on their side of the field. If they are unable to control an infraction, the game may be stopped. The umpire may then request that proper authorities be called and may, at his discretion, declare a forfeit.
3. Spectators and players are responsible to clean up after themselves and dispose of all debris before leaving the field after practices and games.
4. The use of fields has become extremely competitive. Please be aware that neither the city nor the school districts are required to allow us the use of their fields and take every precaution to not cause them to reconsider the courtesy they have extended us.
5. If you have a problem with another party using a field during our permitted time, please notify your league commissioner.

Codes of Conduct

- **Zero Tolerance Policy**

- Spokane Indians Youth Baseball will be following a “Zero Tolerance” policy regarding inappropriate behavior. This policy will encompass all interactions during the course of the season which includes but is not limited to practices, games, tournaments, all stars or any other league sponsored events. The league, coaches, umpires, parents, and fans must make it a priority to promote fair play, good sportsmanship, and to teach our children how to play the game the correct way. Too often, we as adults can forget this goal of youth sports.
- Link to the SIYBS codes of conduct:
<http://spokaneindiansyouthbaseball.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-Parent-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

Reports about incidents or members of the SIYBS community that have broken the codes of conduct can be reported here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdToAVagI8GoLsR4q0MNDcD4viFqldNq8xRQzZXd1A3-aJ1Sg/viewform>

Coaches' Responsibilities

The SIYBS Coach must be an individual who can act as a leader among young people, their families, and the community. Where "Coach" is found in this document it shall be implied to mean "Coach and Manager". Players are strongly influenced by their coaches in establishing their own ideals and aspirations. It is important that the coach be a person who can be respected by their players, not only because they might lead them to the league championship, but because they did their job in giving them the proper inspiration needed in becoming better citizens through proper mental and physical development. The coach is such an integral part in the success of the league; the coach shall at all times conduct themselves, both on and off the field, in a manner that reflects the privilege and authority their role bestows.

- Coaches shall make the development of each player's baseball ability and good sportsmanship their primary goal.
- Coaches are responsible for teaching the fundamentals and skills of baseball, maintaining equipment, scheduling and running practices, managing games and the other duties commonly associated with coaching
- Coaches will be held responsible for the conduct of their team, assistants, bench personnel and fans.
- Rostered coaches shall be present or make arrangements for a substitute at all scheduled games or practices.
- Coaches shall teach and abide by the "Official Rules of Major League Baseball, Pony National Rules and/or SIYBS local rules.
- Coaches must ensure that all of their players are on their roster in Bonzi (Bonzi Team). Rosters are locked after the second week of the season. Any roster changes after that time must be approved by the SIYBS Rules Committee. No non-rostered players will be allowed to play in a game.
- Coaches shall not use alcoholic beverages at, or within an hour prior, to games, practices and any gathering of the team is inappropriate and will not be tolerated. Coaches shall also refrain from the use of tobacco products at games and practices.
- Coaches will be responsible to the league for the dollar value of all league property used by his/her team. Coaches will sign for, and return upon request, all league equipment and uniforms issued to them. Coaches will be held financially responsible for bases that are not properly put away. Coaches are also responsible for registration fees, release forms, birth certificates and fundraiser products and/or monies received by his/her team. A coach whose team has outstanding debts to the league in the form of monies, information or material, will not be eligible to play.
- Coaches shall remain at the practice field until all players have been either picked up by a parent/legal guardian or have left the practice field for home on foot or bicycle.
- Coaches will conduct themselves with dignity at all times in order to gain and maintain the respect of their players, parents, board members, umpires and spectators. Profanity, verbal abuse and excessively rough play have no place and will not be tolerated.
- Coaches who deliberately violate the rules, use vulgar language and/or signs, use or encourage rough tactics during games or practices or abuse their players physically or verbally will be suspended or dismissed by the SIYBS rules committee. Any coach suspended or dismissed will not be entitled to hold an office in SIYBS during the period of the suspension or dismissal.
- Coaches scheduled as "home team" shall post the game score online within 24 hours of game completion.

Playing Rules

T-ball and coach pitch are usually the first experience a player has with the sport of baseball. With that in mind, SIYBS strives to make the game as enjoyable as possible so that the love of baseball can be built into each youth that participates. Fun should be the priority of these ages.

T-Ball

- 50-foot base length.
- Everyone on a team bats each half inning. The last batter is the “home run hitter.” That batter will run around the bases on their hit. Coaches WILL make sure every player gets to experience being a home run hitter during the season.
- 14 players max defensively (rotate players from outfield to infield each inning).
- Infield should have players at first base, second base, shortstop, third base, and pitcher. Positioning players is up to you, but a healthy rotation so that kids aren’t stuck in the outfield all game is recommended.
- Teach players to get the balls hit in their direction, rather than chasing the ball across the field. Players should not be dog piling onto the ball.
- **No catchers are allowed in this league.**
- 5 swings to get a hit. After 5 with no hit, the player will be “walked” and take first base.
- No leading off or stealing.
- Outs recorded in the field should be celebrated aren’t counted.
- Game lengths will be 3 innings max, but no new inning can start after 45 minutes.