

BRANSON PARKS AND RECREATION
Competitive League Baseball – U12 – Rules Summary

Except for the rules covered in these by-laws, Competitive (Competitive) League will be governed by USSSA (United States Specialty Sports Association) Baseball Rules.

- NUMBER OF INNINGS PLAYED: 6
- TIME LIMIT: 1 hour, 20 minutes
- MINIMUM REGULATION GAME: 4 innings or 45 minutes

RUN LIMITS

- When the batting team has scored 6 runs during any at bat, the at bat will end. Any runs that may have been scored beyond 6 will not be counted.

BATTING ORDER

- The USSSA rules concerning 8, 9, 10, and continuous player batting orders will be in effect.

BATTING/BASERUNNING

- On a dropped third strike, the batter will be declared out if he takes five or more steps toward his dugout before attempting to run to first base.

RUN RULE

- 15 runs after 3 innings
- 8 runs after 4 innings

PITCHING

- A pitcher may pitch the equivalent of one game per day. For the purpose of this rule, each out shall count as 1/3 of an inning.
- One game shall be equal to 6 innings.
- Umpires shall not be lenient and will not give a warning on balks in the U12 division.
- Pitchers shall have two minutes between innings to complete their warm up pitches. This is a speed of the game rule.

BASE & PITCHING DISTANCE

- Base and pitching distance shall be governed by the USSSA by-laws. A warning shall be given on the first balk. All balks following the initial shall be penalized according to Official Baseball Rules. Only the starting pitcher will be given this courtesy.

TIME LIMIT

- No new inning shall begin with less than five (5) minutes remaining. If an inning has started, the inning must be finished.

COACHES

- One defensive coach will be allowed to position themselves outside the dugout. All other coaches must remain in the dugout. One warning will be issued and upon the second offense the offending coach will be restricted to the bench for the remainder of the game. A third offense will warrant ejection. Coaches may not sit on a bucket past the opening of the dugout. This is a safety rule and is not applicable during time outs or dead ball situations.

- Under no circumstances will coaches or players argue judgment calls including balls and strikes. After a warning, a coach or player will be ejected.
- The team designated by the schedule to be the home team shall be the official scorekeeper for the game. The official scorekeeper must use a regulation scorekeeping book and must keep track of the following:
 - Count (balls, strikes, outs)
 - Score of the game (6 runs per inning, run rule, etc.)
 - Line up used by both teams.
 - COMMENT: The umpire’s focus should always be on administering the rules of the game of baseball/softball. The scoreboard is not an official account of the score and should not be treated as such.

TIES

- If the game is tied at the end of regulation, one extra inning will be played to determine a winner. If no winner exists following that extra inning, the game will end in a tie.

PROTESTS - No protests are allowed.

GENERAL

- For rules not covered in these bylaws, the Official Baseball Rules will be in effect.
- Branson Parks and Recreation Staff will record the scores of all games for record keeping purposes only.
- The Branson Parks and Recreation Staff will determine the readiness of the field for play of all ball games.
- The Field Supervisor will have power to rule on all infractions.
- Unsportsmanlike behavior may result in penalties being imposed upon the offending individual, including coaches, participants, or spectators. Penalties will be decided by a committee made up of Director of Parks and Recreation, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, and the Branson Parks and Recreation Staff person in charge of the activity.
- No batboys or batgirls are allowed in the dugout or on the field. This rule is instituted solely for safety’s sake.
- The Manager is ultimately responsible for the team's crowd and their actions. If a problem occurs in your team's crowd, you will be given a warning to take care of the situation. If the problem persists, the coach will once again be notified and the umpire will eject the offending spectators. Further problems will result in forfeit of the game and possible suspensions of team, coaches or fans.
- The Branson Parks Department requires that players, parents and coaches sign a “Code of Conduct” prior to the season starting that relates to behavior and sportsmanship to which ALL will be held accountable. Sportsmanship violations, including foul language, intimidation, and threat of infliction of bodily harm against game officials, staff or other participants, coaches and spectators will not be tolerated and those in violation will be subject to ejection from the game and suspension from future games at the discretion of the Parks Staff.
- The program supervisor will make final determination on any rules or interpretation that may arise throughout the season.
- Any rules not covered in this rules packet will be left to the discretion of the Recreation Specialist in charge of the program.