

## THE BASICS

- NO sunflower seeds, chewing gum, tobacco, or alcohol products.
- NO bikes, hoover boards, scooters, roller blades, skateboards, etc.
- NO metal spiked shoes of any kind allowed on the turf.

## AGE REQUIREMENTS

- For the 8U division, a child must not turn nine (9) prior to January 1, 2025.
- In the event a player's age is disputed, the player's parent or legal guardian will be required to present a birth certificate to the Kids, Incorporated office before the next date of play. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of any games in which the player was listed on the roster.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- For insurance reasons, the dugouts are restricted to current team players and coaches with completed, up to date background checks. Absolutely no others will be allowed in the dugouts.
- Coaches will bring their own team into this league. Kids, Inc. will not place kids on teams. There are no guidelines on team formation in the fall season except for the age requirements.

## REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- A batting helmet with ear protection is required for all batters.
- The catcher must also wear protective head and body gear at all times on the field.
- Bats can be a maximum of 33' in length and 33 oz in weight, with a maximum of -13.5 differential.
- A 9" regulation size baseball will be used.

## THE FIELD

- The pitching rubber will be set at 42' from home plate.

## THE GAME

- All rules for OK Kids baseball will be used with the following exceptions:
  - All league games will consist of 5 innings, time limit (60 min), or the run rule. A timer will be used to keep the time and will be started by the umpire in charge of the game.
    - No new inning after 55 minutes.
    - Each game will last until all innings are played, or the designated time has expired or the run rule has been met.
  - Run Rule
    - 13 after 3
    - 7 after 4
  - The team must have eight (8) players to start the game. If a team loses a player to injury or illness during the course of the game, his position in the batting order will remain the same in the event he may return to the game.

## **THE GAME CONT.**

- Only one (1) defensive coach will be allowed on the field at a time and must stay within five (5) feet of the dugout.

## **BATTING**

- All teams in Coach Pitch MUST bat their roster each game of league play only.
- In the Coach Pitch division, a player must not advance to first base when the catcher misses or drops the third strike and the other runners may not advance.
- A base runner must have one foot in contact with the base until the batter has made contact with the ball.
- The on-deck batter may warm up in the on-deck circle on the side of the field behind the batter for safety reasons.
- No “fake” bunting. Bunting is allowed, however, the batter is not allowed to indicate bunting to the degree that a fielder or fielders may charge toward the batter, and then withdraw the indicated bunt/position/stance in order to swing at the pitched ball.
  - Penalty: The ball/play is “dead” regardless of the result of the action and the batter will be called out. A bunt that goes foul on the third strike is out.

## **DEFENSE**

- Coach Pitch has ten players on the field.
- Defensive players removed from the game by the manager/coach may re-enter the game at any time, however, every attempt should be made to make these substitutions at the end of each inning. (LEAGUE PLAY ONLY)
- All players will remain in the batting order in the same order as when the game begins. There is no limit on the number of times a player may be removed and re-enter on defense.
- For safety precautions, all infielders must remain no more than 5 ft in front of the baseline prior to the ball crossing home plate.
- All outfielders must start at least 15 ft behind the baseline, until the ball is hit.

## **PITCHING**

- Each batter will receive five (5) pitches or three (3) swings, whichever comes first.
- There will be no walks in Coach pitch. The batter either hits or is out.
- If the fifth (5th) pitch is hit foul, the pitcher will pitch again until batter misses the pitch, hits the ball fair or fouls out to a defensive player in the game.
- The player/pitcher must start out at least even with the coach/pitcher
  - After the ball leaves the coach/pitcher’s hand, the player/pitcher is free to move about
- The coach/pitcher must have one (1) foot in contact with the pitching rubber when the ball is released to the batter.
- The pitching coach must exit fair territory after the ball is hit and/or avoid contact.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

- The Code of Conduct applies to parents, coaches/volunteers, spectators, parents, contracted employees, officials, and professional staff.
- Profane, obscene, abusive, degrading/threatening language, gestures and/or taunting in the presence of anyone attending a Kids, Incorporated event is prohibited.
- Do not handle a child/participant in an aggressive or abusive manner.
- Any act of violence is prohibited.
- Accept the decision of the game officials as being fair and called to the best of their ability.
- Do not knowingly permit an ineligible player to play in any game.
- Please use good sportsmanship.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

- The use of drugs, alcohol, vaping, or tobacco in any form is not permitted while attending any Kids, Incorporated event.
- No firearms or weapons will be permitted at any Kids, Incorporated event.

**AT ANY TIME, AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF KIDS, INCORPORATED, VIOLATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT IS SUBJECT TO SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION FROM OUR PROGRAM.**

## **CONCUSSION PROTOCOL**

Our commercial insurance carrier requires us to have a concussion protocol in place should an injury ever occur where a concussion is suspected or even a remote possibility. Here is our policy:

In the event that an injury occurs during a Kids, Incorporated sponsored activity, and where a possible head injury is involved, the Kids, Incorporated office should be notified immediately. Generally, our paid officials will contact our office should an event of this nature occur.

Kids, Incorporated will require a "Permission To Return" document from a licensed, medically-trained professional, before allowing the player to participate in future scheduled activities.

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact our office at 580-374-4332.