

## **2014 Roanoke Youth Sports Sand Lot Rules**

1. The current official rules of Major League Baseball govern the play of Roanoke Youth Sports' Sand Lot program.
2. The following Roanoke Youth Sports "park rules" supersede the official rules:
3. The league is open to boys and girls ages 9-13. Unless approved by a Roanoke Youth Sports (RYS) representative, players must reach six (9) years old on or before May 1<sup>st</sup>. A player cannot participate if their fourteenth (14) birthday occurs before May 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. Before the start of each game, coaches must submit a line-up (batting order) to the opposing coach.
5. Although RYS strongly discourages rescheduling games for personal reasons, we understand that occasionally it is necessary. It is the responsibility of the coaches to address an upcoming scheduling conflict with RYS personnel early enough so that all parties can be notified of the rescheduled game. It is the coach's responsibility to notify their team of the re-scheduled game date and time.
6. A regulation game is comprised of six (6) complete innings or 90 minutes, whichever comes first. No inning may start after the 90-minute window has passed. In the event of inclement weather, the game shall be considered a regulation game if four (4) complete innings have been played. If four (4) complete innings have not been played, the game shall be replayed in its entirety as if the game had not been started.
  - a. In the event that a game is suspended, postponed, or cancelled due to weather or unsafe playing conditions, RYS will reschedule the games and notify the coaches. It is the coach's responsibility to notify their team of the re-scheduled game date and time.
  - b. A delay of no more than twenty (20) minutes can occur while waiting on weather conditions to improve. If after twenty (20) minutes the conditions do not improve, the game shall either be considered complete or rescheduled as outlined above.
  - c. Unsafe weather conditions can be determined by either coach or any RYS representative. Examples include high winds, lightning, thunder, rain, etc.
  - d. Without exception, games will not be played if a severe weather warning has been issued for either Huntington County or Roanoke.
  - e. A game will be halted immediately if lightning is witnessed by any coach, player, or RYS representative. A weather delay will then ensue with steps identified above followed to determine if the game is complete or needs to be rescheduled.
  - f. If a player is removed from a game by their parent due to weather conditions, that player shall not be penalized in any way by the coach or their staff.
7. An inning shall be considered complete if both halves of the inning have been played and three outs or the maximum number of players have batted for each team.

8. Each team shall have at least eight (8) players on the field. If a team has fewer than eight players, the game must be forfeited unless both coaches agree to play as such. Teams can play with a maximum of nine (9) players on the field. A maximum of six (6) players can be located on the infield as the ball is pitched. All outfielders must be in the grass when the ball is pitched.
9. Each player eligible to play must play defense on the field for at least six (6) defensive outs (assuming a six inning game). If the “mercy rule” causes the game to be shortened, the following criteria must be followed regarding length of time played on defense:
  - a. Three inning game (15 run differential or greater) – every player must play at least 3 defensive outs.
  - b. Four inning game (12 run differential or greater) – every player must play at least 3 defensive outs.
  - c. Five inning game (12 run differential or greater) – every player must play at least 6 defensive outs.

A violation of these rules will result in an inspection of the scorebooks and, upon confirmation, a forfeit.

10. The entire roster is eligible to bat in an inning. A player may only bat once per inning. A player need not play in the field in order to bat. The team at bat must notify the opposing coach when their last batter comes to the plate. Regardless of ability, all batters shall receive pitches. If the last batter on a roster makes it to the plate in an inning and they receive a walk (intentional or unintentional) or if they are hit by a pitch, they shall be awarded second base. Any runs that score as a result of the last batter going to second will be counted.
11. All players shall bat. All players must bat in a pre-determined rotation. If a player is removed from the game due to substitution, they shall retain their location in the batting order. In the event of discipline issues, if a player is removed from the batting order, they cannot return to the batting order or the field of play for the duration of the game. If a player is unavailable to bat in their spot in the order, they shall be counted as an out. An official at-bat begins when the player receives the first pitch.
12. It is the offensive coach’s responsibility to notify the defensive coach when the last batter in their order approaches the plate. When the last batter places the ball in play, the defensive team can end the inning by controlling the ball and touching any base regardless of the number of outs. Normal base advancing rules apply. If a runner is advancing towards home from 3rd base and the ball becomes controlled behind the runner, that runner’s run will count unless the third out is registered prior to them crossing the plate. If the last batter is walked (intentionally or not), they shall be awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> base and any runs that score as a result of being forced in shall count (for example if there are runners on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and the last batter walks, the only runner who would be forced in would be the runner that was on 3<sup>rd</sup>).
13. If a player completes their at-bat and is deemed to be out-of-order and the umpire is notified about it prior to the next batter receiving a pitch, the defensive team has the option of accepting the batter as being out or accept the results of the play in which the out-of-order batter batted. The order shall continue with the next batter after the out-of-order batter and the batters that were inadvertently skipped shall be required to

wait until their next at-bat. If the umpire is notified about the out-of-order batter during the out-of-order batter's at-bat, the correct batter shall take the out-of-order batter's place and assume the count as if they had received the pitches.

14. The defensive team may request an automatic walk to be issued to a batter as opposed to requiring the pitcher to throw four consecutive balls or "pitch out".
15. If the defensive team registers three outs prior to the offensive team going through their entire batting order, the batting order should be resumed in the next inning at the point where the last out was registered.
16. Each batter shall receive pitches until they put the ball in play, strike out, are walked, or are eligible to advance to first base after being hit by a pitch.
17. All batters and runners must wear protective headgear (helmets).
18. If any batter throws the bat, the batter's coach and the batter shall receive a warning. If that same batter throws the bat during the game in which they received a warning, their at-bat shall be considered an out.
19. A pitcher shall be limited to four (4) innings per game and seven (7) innings per week. For "innings pitched" considerations, a single pitch in an inning shall count as an inning pitched. Roanoke Youth Sports officials reserve the right to inspect score books at any time to ensure that inning pitch limits are being followed. A week shall be considered from midnight Saturday night to the following Saturday night at midnight.
20. Once a pitcher has been removed from pitching or has reached their inning limit, he/she may stay in the game at a different position, but they cannot pitch again that game (or that week in the case of a pitcher reaching their inning pitch limit).
21. Balks will not be called.
22. A dropped 3rd strike will result in the batter being declared out.
23. Pitching distances are as follows:
  - a. If the pitcher is 10 years old or younger, the pitching distance is 46' (the MIDDLE pitching rubber on Field #2).
  - b. If the pitcher is 11 years old or older, the pitching distance is 50' (the BACK pitching rubber on Field #2). Under no circumstances shall an 11 year old or older pitcher pitch to live batters from the 46' pitching rubber.
  - c. A 10-year old or younger pitcher may elect to pitch from the 50' pitching rubber.
24. No runners may advance to home on a passed ball or wild pitch. Runners may advance to 2nd or 3rd on a passed ball or wild pitch. Runners cannot steal home during the pitch. Runners can score from 3<sup>rd</sup> in the following manner:
  - a. On a batted ball that is put in play
  - b. Tagging up on a foul ball
  - c. On an overthrow at any base (including the pitcher's mound)

d. Being forced home by a walk or hit batsman

25. Once the catcher has successfully caught the ball and they are attempting to throw it back to the pitcher or any other player on the field – if the pitcher is in possession of the ball and is standing on the pitching rubber, the runner cannot lead off or steal until the pitched ball crosses the plate
26. RYS will appoint an umpire for each Sand Lot game.
27. Coaches are allowed in foul territory to act as base coaches.
28. Base coaches can be stationed at first and third bases to assist the baserunners.
29. The defensive team may not have a coach on the field.
30. If a base coach interferes with the ball in play other than described above, it shall be considered an out.
31. A coach cannot physically interfere with a runner in an effort to advance their position. In such cases, the runner shall be considered out.
32. There will be a tournament.
33. If a thrown ball goes over the fence, a player may advance one base. On overthrows that stay in the field of play, runners may advance at their discretion or at the coach's direction. Good sportsmanship shall be maintained.
34. Outs will be counted. A half-inning ends when either three outs have been recorded or the entire roster has batted.
35. Leading off and/or stealing can only occur once the pitched ball crosses home plate. If a player is not adhering to the rule, the offending team's coach shall be warned by the umpire. Any subsequent infractions by that team during that game shall result in the base runner being declared out. In the event of a suspended game being completed on a different day, each team shall be allowed one warning upon the resumption of the game.
36. Bunting is allowed.
37. A batter/base runner who intentionally runs into a fielder is considered out and a warning shall be made. In the event of a second infraction during the same game, the offending player shall be ejected.
38. The home team is responsible for promptly starting the game at the designated time.
39. No players can wear shorts. Long pants must be worn. Coaches should encourage male players to wear protective cups.
40. All male pitchers and catchers must wear cups. A male player is not allowed to pitch or catch unless they are wearing a cup.

41. The catcher shall wear the supplied equipment consisting of a helmet, facemask, chest protector, shinguards, and a protective cup (if applicable and if supplied by parent of said child).
42. Each evening, the home team is responsible for raking the baselines (if they are the last game on that diamond).
43. Each evening, the visiting team is responsible for putting away the bases and turning off the lights (if they are the last game on that diamond).
44. Team treats and drinks can be offered after the game at the discretion and the responsibility of the coaches.
45. Coaches shall have at least one organized practice each week with the exception of weeks in which they have two games.
46. Coaches and team personnel shall refrain from smoking, using foul language, and displaying negative behavior in the presence of any players, parents, or RYS personnel. RYS reserves the right to review any incidents and enforce disciplinary actions up to and including ejection from the league.
47. The infield fly rule shall be enforced by the umpire.
48. If a play is occurring at 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or home, players are required to slide or avoid contact with the player attempting to receive the throw or make the play. No head first slides will be allowed.
49. RYS reserves the right to modify the rules as deemed necessary. The rule changes will not take place until all coaches have been notified.
50. The MAXIMUM diameter bat that can be used is 2-3/4" regardless of the composition of the bat.
51. The MAXIMUM length bat that can be used is 34"
52. Composite bats are illegal (with the exception of those that have been approved by Little League International).

**If you have any questions, please contact RYS at 437-8210.**