

YBASEBALL™

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.
YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City
8 & Under Rules

I. **The Field**

- A. No more than 60 feet between bases and 40 feet from home plate to the pitcher's rubber.
- B. The lengths may vary due to field location.
- C. There will be a loft circle made around the pitcher's mound.

II. **General Rules of Play**

- A. A game will consist of 1 hour.
- B. No inning shall start 10 minutes prior to the end of game time. There is a 10-minute forfeit period.
- C. Each player must play at least 2 full innings of the game defensively.
- D. All players will bat regardless of whether he/she plays defense the inning.
- E. Teams will consist of 10 players on the field, plus substitutes. The 10th player will be an additional outfielder. A team may start a game with as few as 7 players.
- F. 3 outs or 6 runs is the end of an inning.

III. **Batting**

- A. Each team will designate an adult coach to pitch to its own team. Each coach/pitcher can adjust pitching delivery based on the batters ability.
- B. The adult pitcher may not field the ball after it has been hit-if this happens, the ball will be declared "dead" by the umpire. If the ball makes contact with the coach, it will be considered a "live ball" and will be "in play."
- C. The adult pitcher may direct or coach any of the base runners. They may also assist verbally in the alignment of the batter.
- D. Each player will be given 4 chances to make contact with a good-pitched ball. (4 strikes, unlimited balls)
- E. 3 outs or 6 runs is the end of an inning.

NOTE: In the judgment of the umpire- a hittable pitch is termed as any pitch that goes over any area of the plate between the batters shoulders and the top of his knees. If in the judgment of the umpire, the ball is not hittable, the pitch shall be called illegal and will not be counted as one of the four pitches. In the event that the batter should swing and strike an illegal pitch, the ball remains in play. The batter cannot strike out unless he/she makes absolutely no contact with any of the first four pitches. If after the batter has three strikes and a foul, the batter fouls off the next hittable pitch, then the umpire will call the batter out.

- F. Umpires and Coaches must insure all players the opportunity to bat once. Teams will be allowed to continue the last inning to insure this rule.

- G. Walks and bunts are not permitted.
- H. A hit ball must travel outside the ten-foot arc at home plate to be considered a fair ball. Otherwise, the umpire shall call the struck ball a foul ball.
- IV. Base Running**
- A. Players are not permitted to steal or lead off. Runners will return to previous base in the event of a stolen base.
 - B. Runners may leave when contact is made between the bat & ball.
 - C. There is no infield fly rule.
 - D. When an infielder has control or possession of the ball the play will not be ruled dead. However, base runners may not advance on an overthrow.
 - E. A base runner must be at least half way to the next base in order for that base to be awarded to the runner in case of a “dead ball”.
 - F. POSSESSION IS THE JUDGEMENT OF THE UMPIRE.
- V. Scoring**
- A. Each team may score a maximum of 6 runs in their half of the inning.
 - B. No “run rule” will be in effect.
 - C. Final score for league standings will not be kept. The emphasis of YMCA baseball is on having fun, building skills, and developing healthy attitudes about winning and losing.
- VI. Equipment**
- A. All batters and base runners must wear batting helmets. Helmets will be provided by the YMCA for games.
 - B. Catchers must wear protective gear. This will include helmet, mask, and chest & leg protectors. Catcher’s gear will be provided by the YMCA for games.
 - C. A RIF (Reduced Injury Factor) ball will be used during play.
- VII. Coaches**
- A. The hitting team will be allowed to have 2 base coaches.
 - B. The fielding team will be allowed 2 coaches outside of their team’s dugout, along the fence. Coaches will not be allowed in the field.
 - C. Any thrown ball that hits a coach will be ruled a “live ball”
 - D. One coach should be designated prior to the beginning of play. This designated coach will serve as the spokesperson for the team and will be the only person allowed to approach the umpire during the game. All questions addressed to the umpire should be done in a friendly and sportsman like manner.
 - E. All coaches and parents should remember that they are role models to the players on both teams and are expected to conduct themselves appropriately in all situations.
 - F. If a coach or a fan is ejected from the game, they will automatically be ineligible for the next game. Further penalty may be assessed if necessary.
- VIII. YMCA Mission Statement**
- To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.