

2026 Rookies Baseball Rules

1. All games are 5 innings. No new innings will start after 1 hour and 30 mins. During the regular season if a tie occurs the score will be recorded as is if the time limit is reached.
 - 1.1. In case of a tie at the end of year tournament, the team up to bat will put the last player to record an out on second base and play out the inning.
2. Five run limit innings 1-4 & unlimited in last inning. Ten run mercy rule in effect after four innings.
3. 60-foot bases, 40-foot pitching machines set at 40MPH.
4. Standard baseballs will be used (no safety balls). Coaches will feed the machine pitches to their own players.
5. No leading off, no stealing on the pitch. First offense warning, next offense runner is out.
6. Each team will bat the entire roster and all players must play two consecutive defensive innings.
7. All bats must be JBO approved and have the USA Stamp. No bunting or metal cleats.
8. The player playing the pitcher position must wear a batting helmet (caged style). One foot must be in the pitching circle when the pitch is delivered. Helmets must be worn while batting and running bases.
9. Safety slide rule in effect, on close plays the runner must slide, failure to slide when the play is close will result in the runner being called out.
10. A batted ball that hits the pitching machine is a dead ball single. Runners on base advance one base, batter gets to go to first.
11. The ball remains live only after a hit as long as it is in the field of play until the pitcher has it in possession inside the pitcher's circle (at least one foot in the circle).
12. Each batter is allowed 5 pitches. Batter is out after 3rd strike or 5th pitch (unlimited foul balls).
13. Half way rule in effect. If the base runner has not crossed the halfway point to the next base when the play is dead the runner must go back to the last base he/she occupied. If the runner is past halfway and the play is declared dead, the runner is awarded the base (halfway points should be marked with chalk prior to start of the game).
14. Coaches are the umpires, on close calls coaches from both teams should converse to determine the correct call. Coaches are responsible for their players/fans/parents. In the event of un-sportsmen like conduct one verbal warning by the coach will be given. On the second offence the fan/player or coach will be asked to leave.