

# 2010 Reynoldsburg Youth Baseball and Softball Rules

## Reynoldsburg Recreational Youth Sports...

### *P.O.S.I.T.I.V.E.!*

*Participation Opportunities Safety Increased Skill Development*

*Teamwork Improved Fitness Volunteers Encouragement*

The National Federation of High School Associations Baseball and Softball rule books shall be used. The following are special rules, exceptions and game requirements for the Reynoldsburg Youth Leagues.

1. The league is for youth meeting the following grade requirements:

Coach Pitch Softball	2/3 Grades	Coach Pitch Clinic	First Grade
Junior Softball	4 - 5 Grades	Coach Pitch Baseball	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade
Intermediate Softball	6 - 8 Grades	Minor Baseball	3/4 Grades
		Major Baseball	5/6 Grades
		Pony Baseball	7/8 Grades

2. Teams will be issued t-shirts and hats by the Parks and Recreation Department. No other uniforms shall be issued to teams participating in this program.

3. The only awards that are approved by the Recreation Commission will be certificates to be given to all persons that play in the league this season. If teams do decide to buy their own awards, these awards shall be distributed at a team picnic or party and not at a league contest.

4. The scheduling of games will be done by the Parks and Recreation Department. All games will be played as scheduled. All games will begin as scheduled on time with **NO** grace period. All games which are postponed due to inclement weather will be rescheduled as fields are available by the Parks and Recreation Department.

5. Complete Games:

A. In all leagues, except Kindergarten & First Grade Coach Pitch Clinic, "No new innings" will be announced on the PA system two hours after the supervisor announces "play ball." No new innings may begin after this announcement is made. In Pony League, no new innings will be called by the umpire after 2 hours.

B. A regulation game consists of six innings or 2 hours of play. Games will be considered complete if at least four full innings have been played (and/or 1 hour and 15 minutes) or the home team has scored a greater number of runs in three or three and a fraction turns at bat than the visiting team has scored in four turns at bat.

C. All games which are not considered to be complete as per the definition in the rule book or this rule sheet will be considered to be suspended and may continue at a later date from the point of suspension.

D. Extra innings will be permitted to break a tie game; however the two hour time limit still applies. If a game is tied and the time limit has been reached, the game will end as being tied.

E. In the baseball leagues, after four (4) or more completed innings, a team leading by ten (10) or more runs shall be declared the winner by the umpire. In the softball leagues, after four (4) or more complete innings, a team leading by ten (10) runs shall be declared the winner by the umpire.

6. It is expected that all team personnel (coaches, players, parents and attendants) will conform to sportsmanlike behavior. **Violations such as the following will not be tolerated:**

- 1) Verbal/Physical abuse toward officials, Parks and Recreation Department staff, coaches, participants, parents or attendants.

- 2) Foul, profane or obscene language or gestures.
- 3) Tampering with player rosters during or following the team drawing/draft.
- 4) Violation of Parent, Player or Coaches' Code of Ethics Pledge.
- 5) Coaches encouraging participants to "sandbag" or play poorly during draft evaluations in order to gain an advantage in team selection.
- 6) Recruitment of an assistant coach in order to gain an advantage of having that assistant coaches' son or daughter on the team. Assistant coaches must assist the coach in the majority of games and practices by instructing and coaching the participants.
- 7) Arguing with umpires or supervisors and/or refusal to be supportive of all decisions made by the umpires, supervisors or staff.

The following disciplinary actions will be taken by the Parks and Recreation Department should one of the above violations occur:

- 1) An oral or written reprimand and warning.
- 2) Suspension from participating in team activities for a period of time.
- 3) Probationary coaching status.
- 4) Permanent expulsion from the Parks and Recreation program.
- 5) All suspensions or expulsions must be approved by the voting members of the Recreation Commission.
- 6) A player ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior will be suspended for the next game scheduled for that team. A player ejected for a second time in the same season in that sport for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
- 7) A coach ejected by the officials will be suspended for the next scheduled game for that team. A coach ejected for the second time in the same season in that sport will be suspended pending a hearing in front of the Recreation Commission who will make the determination regarding additional penalties to be imposed against that coach. Additional penalties may include revocation of NYSCA certification and permanent suspension from coaching any Reynoldsburg Parks and Recreation youth sports program.
- 8) Coaches should be aware officials and staff will be checking rosters to insure the appropriate players are playing. Attempts to alter rosters will result in player reassignment and coach ejection from the current game and next game on the schedule.
- 9) In addition to the above disciplinary action, verbal or physical threat or verbal or physical assault towards any person in attendance at a Reynoldsburg youth sport function will automatically result in a call to the Reynoldsburg Police Department and a report filed.

#### **7. Player chatter is not permitted.**

8. It will be the head coach's discretion to make use of disciplinary action against players of his/her team due to the missing of team practices and/or games, or for unsportsmanlike behavior. Any action taken will be done only after consultation with the Recreation Supervisor. General action to be taken would be a one game benching or reduced playing time of the player.

9. Home team sits on the third base side and has a fifteen (15) minute use of the field beginning prior to the scheduled starting time (5:45 - 6:00pm), except in First Grade Coach Pitch Clinic. The home team is second team listed on the schedule unless otherwise indicated on the schedule. There will be no scheduled warm up period for 8:00pm games.

Visiting team sits on the first base side and has fifteen (15) minute use of the field beginning 30 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time (5:30-5:45pm), except in First Grade Coach Pitch Clinic. There will be no scheduled warm up period for 8:00pm games.

10. All players present at the established starting time for the game will be listed on the batting order of a team. All players will then bat in that order during the entire game whether they are in the defensive lineup or not.

11. No child can sit a second inning defensively until every child has sat at least one defensive inning. Failure to follow this rule could result in forfeiture of the game in which the action occurred, or disciplinary action.

12. Every child must play at least one defensive inning in the infield. This can be waived if the parent(s) request that the child not play in the infield.

13. If both teams have 10 or more players present during a game, then 10 fielders must be used (4 outfielders). If one team has 9 or less players present during a game, then 9 fielders must be used (3 outfielders).

14. **ONLY** the head coach (or his/her assistant during an absence of the head coach) may discuss interpretations of rules by the umpire. Umpires may refuse to discuss decision with any other affiliate of the team. Umpires may also refuse to discuss decisions if not approached by the head coach in a reasonable manner. **Coaches and parents are prohibited from standing behind the backstop or between openings in the dugout fence.**

15. Teams will be permitted three (3) defensive conferences per game. These conferences may be taken at any time during the game. After the third conference has been taken, each subsequent conference shall cause the pitcher to be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game. Offensive teams will be permitted one conference per inning only.

16. Each batter and runner is required to keep their batting helmet on at all times except when play is suspended by rule or by order of the umpire. Failure to meet his requirement will cause the team involved the following:

First Infraction: Team Warning Issued

Subsequent Infractions: Player will be declared out.

*Please note: Each team is entitled to a separate team warning.*

17. Only the on deck batter is permitted to have a bat in their hand and the on deck batter is to be located out in front of the safety fence in the designated area only. The on deck batter must have on the batting helmet when in this position. **No swinging of bats behind the dugout!** Each team shall designate an adult to oversee this section of the rules for the safety of all involved. The umpire will suspend play until this requirement is met.

18. Players who throw the bat after swinging at the ball shall not be declared out, but shall be warned by the umpire to control the bat for the first offense only. The umpire shall notify the scorekeeper of the bat warning. Second and subsequent throwing of the bat by the same player will result in the same player being declared out by the umpire. The ball will be declared dead and no runners may advance.

19. Pitching Distances: All ball diamonds at JFK Park have two pitching rubbers. One at 40' and one at 46'. The following leagues will use the designated pitching rubbers:

**40 Feet**

Coach Pitch Softball  
Junior Softball  
Intermediate Softball

**46 Feet**

First Grade Coach Pitch Clinic  
Coach Pitch Baseball  
Minor League Baseball  
Major League Baseball

**54 Feet**

Pony League Baseball

20. Due to the level of play in our leagues, our department is waiving the National High School Federation bat ruling regarding the length/weight ratio and certification for all Parks and Recreation bats issued with the equipment bags to coaches.

21. The dropped third strike rule is not applicable in the Reynoldsburg Parks and Recreation Department's baseball and softball programs playing in Kennedy Park.

22. **Metal/Steel cleats are not permitted in any Reynoldsburg Parks and Recreation Youth Baseball or Softball Leagues (including the Pony League).** Players wearing metal/steel cleats while on base or batting will be called out. Players must change into appropriate shoes or will not be permitted to play.