**RYE LITTLE LEAGUE**

**MINORS DIVISION**

**LOCAL RULES FOR THE 2012 SEASON**

**Co-Commissioners: Steve Agosta (921-2637) and Tom Lavelle (835-27 )**

1. **Coaches**
No more than four (4) adults, the manager plus three (3) registered coaches or four (4) coaches in the manager’s absence will be permitted on the players’ bench during a game. A coach or manager must remain in the dugout at all times during the game. Coaches should arrive early to set up the pitching machine and field (bases and cones).
2. **Playing Time**
In the Minors Division, each player will play in every scheduled game at least three full innings (not necessarily consecutive). Each player will play at least two innings in the infield (infield for this rule includes the catcher and pitcher positions) and at least two innings in the outfield in each game. Players should not play consecutive innings at the same IF position. Players not in the game or not at bat are to remain on the bench, not behind the backstop in the playground, trees or in the stands. Parents are to remain in the stands. (Also see item 13 below)
3. **Base Coaches**
Team at bat shall have one coach at first and one coach or player (with helmet) at third base. Team in field may have one coach in shallow LF and/or shallow RF (near foul lines). No coach or manager should be in IF.
4. **Base Running**
On ground balls in the infield, runners should advance one base only. We do not want runners to keep running around the bases. This will allow the fielders to have a chance for a force play. If the ball is in the outfield, runners can continue to run. If the fielders have an overthrow, runners can advance one base only except if the overthrow occurs at First Base, in which case the runner shall not advance. There is no stealing, and the “infield fly rule” does not apply in the Minors Division. When the ball is returned to the pitcher on the mound, runners who have not advanced more than half way to the next base must return to the last base reached. Tagging up also is not permitted. If a team is having difficulty in the field, try to advance runners one base at a time regardless of where the ball is hit or thrown.
5. **Base on Balls - Bunting**
There will be no bases-on-balls. The umpire will call strikes only when a coach is forced to pitch (see No. 9 below), and three strikes will put a batter out. Bunting is not permitted in the Minors Division.
6. **Home Runs, Doubles**Because there is no outfield fence, cones will be used. Cones will be set up in the outfield 50 feet from the edge of the outer infield. Balls hit on the fly over the cone line will be home runs and balls hit on a bounce or grounded past the cone line will be ground rule doubles.
7. **Fielders**Each team can play with four outfielders (or five outfielders, but no more, if the coaches agree). Outfielders must be at least fifteen feet back behind the infield dirt. There are to be no short fielders and outfielders cannot cover a base on a force out. Have catchers put on equipment before next inning starts so they are ready to take their position.
8. **Batting Order**
All players on the roster will bat in succession whether they are assigned to a fielding position or not. Use the line-up forms or similar document. When there are three outs, or everyone on a team bats in the inning, the inning is over. If one team has more players than the other, for purposes of a full line-up batting in one inning, use the number of batters of the team with the fewer players.
9. **Batting**
Where available, a pitching machine shall be used, and each batter shall be out on three swinging strikes or receive a maximum of five (5) pitches (unless the player fouls off the fifth and subsequent pitches). The pitching machine shall be loaded by a manager, coach or other adult (no child is to touch the machine). If the batter strikes out on less than five pitches, the batter is out, and his turn is completed. If the pitching machine is not functioning consistently (i.e. pitches are not in the general area of the strike zone), the adult responsible for loading the pitching machine shall have discretion to allow additional pitches to the batter. In the event a batted ball hits the pitching machine or the adult loading the machine, the batter shall be awarded first base and the ball is dead.

While the pitching machine is in use, the player occupying the position of pitcher will stand just to the third base side or first base side of the pitcher’s mound during the pitch.

The League will inform Managers of the machine’s settings. (Please do not adjust the settings). If it rains, please put the machine away immediately.

The only player permitted to swing a bat shall be the batter when he is in the immediate home plate area. There shall be no on‑deck circle, and practice swings outside of the immediate home plate area are prohibited. Except for the batter, no one is to have a bat in his/her hands, including the on-deck batter.

10**. Game Length**Games are to be six innings long or 1:50 minutes maximum or when the next game is scheduled to commence. If it is a school night, it is getting late and both managers agree, a game can end after five innings.

1. **Rain**
If it rains on the day of the game or the fields are wet, you must call the hotline before game time (914-390-1379, ext 5) or check the website (www.ryelittleleague.com). Do not call the Commissioners. Rye Recreation will determine whether the fields are playable. You must respect their decision—WHETHER PRACTICE OR GAMES, DO NOT USE THE FIELD IF THE HOTLINE OR WEBSITE SAYS THE FIELD IS CLOSED OR THE FIELD IS MARKED CLOSED!

There are no make-ups of rainouts. If a team has many rainouts, and time permits and there are some field openings, we may try to make up some games.

1. **Clean Up**Before the players leave the field, they are to clean up their dugout area. All League equipment is to be put back in the equipment box and locked unless there is another game immediately succeeding your game. The Managers must make sure the box is locked and that all children have a ride home. Please keep track of baseballs.
2. **Umpires**

There are no official umpires. The adult operating the pitching machine will serve as umpire. On very close plays at first base, the runner may be called safe because we want batters to reach base. For very close plays at other bases, the runner may be called out, to give the fielders some confidence. Discretion and game circumstances should be taken into account.

1. **In General**
There is no score kept in the game. The purpose of this League is for kids to learn how to play baseball and have fun. The reason no score is kept is to put less pressure on the players, as well as the coaches. Rotate your players in the IF. Each player should play some infield and some outfield in each game. The Minors Division is an instructional one and should be conducted in such a way as to teach the fundamentals of baseball to both teams playing. Emphasis should be on the rules and techniques of the game, fair play, good sportsmanship and above all, enjoying the game. There must be no effort to overpower another team or to create pressure to win at all costs. Avoid blowouts. There are no Minors Division standings or playoffs and official scores are not kept. Please do not keep a scorebook or track player statistics.