

Yearling League Rules

General Rules

1. Sportsmanship shall be #1 priority for coaches, players, and parents
2. It is required that all players wear an athletic protector (cup).
3. Teams will be set by a draft. Refer to draft rules on setting of teams.
4. All coaches and parents helping on the field must be certified in concussion and heat illness training before working with players.
5. Coaches are instructed to have parents and players to be positive to both teams. *(It is ok to stress to parents not to coach from the fence or stands as this is a safety issue. If the child is watching for instruction from a parent, they are not listening to their coach and injuries could occur.)* Please refer to RABA Code of Conduct for additional information.
6. Players shall be encouraged to hustle on and off the field at all times.
7. Please do not allow the batters to stand outside the dugout, in the dugout entrance, and please do not allow the players to climb the dugout fence at any time.
8. Coaches shall provide batting order only to the other coach at least 10 minutes before the game starts. The batting order will remain the same throughout the entire game.
9. Prior to all games, the umpire and both head coaches will conduct a coin flip to determine which team is home and which team is visitor during regular season scheduled games.
10. Each team shall keep a score book. Umpires are not responsible for knowing the score. Umpires are responsible for time limit, calling outs and decisions on runners advancing and scoring. *(You may have a volunteer to keep track of your scorebook.)* Those keeping the books are encouraged to check with opposing team's book at the end of half innings. Home team book is official.
11. There are no protests. Umpire's rulings are final. Only the head coach can request the umpire to explain a call.
12. No player, coach or parent at any time throw equipment or use inappropriate language.
 - a. First offense is a verbal warning.
 - b. Second offense is automatic ejection from the game.
 - c. Third offense will result in suspension, along with a meeting with the Board of Directors.
13. California Rule extra innings will be played in the tournament only as needed. See "California Rules" listed on website.
14. All games will be pursuant to all USSSA rules.
15. All bats must be approved with USA or USSSA stamp. No wooden bats permitted.
16. Weather cancellations during a game, will be rescheduled when possible. During the regular season, games will be official after 3 complete innings or the home team is up and batting is not needed to win. Tournament weather related rules will be sent prior to the start of the tournament.

17. Use the player substitution rule on website as needed. All coaches will assist a team with players as needed.

18. Up to 3 coaches in the dugout at one time for Mustang, Bronco and Pony leagues. 3 coaches and a parent helper for yearling and Shetland league.

Yearling Specific modified rules

1. Regular season games are a maximum of 6 innings or 75 minutes, no new innings after 60 minutes. The umpire will start a timer after coaches meeting. Umpire has official game time. The game will expire at 75 minutes regardless of game status (not including tournament games)

2. The Base path will be 60

3. The pitching distance is 35 for coaches and 30 for kid pitch starting on June 1st.

4. There is no mercy rule at this age.

5. Use the player substitution rule on website as needed. All coaches will assist a team with players as needed.

Offensive Play

1. Each team will allow all players to bat every game.

2. Each ½ inning will consist of 3 outs or batting line up (bat the larger team's number) or 5 runs, whichever comes first.

3. One on-deck batter at a time and the player must wear a helmet. Coaches shall assist on deck-batters to be ready with helmet on.

4. The offensive coach shall pitch from the rubber set at 35' either standing or kneeling. The coach shall pitch overhand only. There are no walks. A maximum of 8 pitches will be pitched. The pitching coach shall instruct his player from the mound by telling the batter how many pitches he has left and how many swings he has left. If the batter does not hit by the 8th pitch, an out will be recorded. A player can stay alive at bat by foul tipping off until either a 3rd strike happens or a hit allowing batter to advance towards 1st base.

Starting June 1st, players will pitch to each other. Defense will send a pitcher who will be guided by the adult offensive pitcher and only allowed to pitch 5 pitches total regardless of foul tips. If no hit occurs in the 5 pitches, the offensive pitching coach will pitch. If the player has zero strikes, the coach can pitch 4 ball, if the player has one strike, the coach can pitch 3 balls and if the player has 2 strikes, the coach can pitch 2 balls. This applies to hit by pitch as well. If the pitching player hits the batter, the adult coach will come out to pitch based on those same rules listed above.

5. Batters are not allowed to bunt in yearling league.

6. The adult coach pitcher shall avoid interfering with play and use their best effort to move out of the way of defensive players. The ball is dead if the ball hits the adult pitcher, and all players will return to the bases that they were at prior to the play and the ball will be counted as a foul ball. The batter will return to

the batter box at the previous same ball count prior to the hit in the event the ball hits the adult pitching coach. Adult pitchers shall not instruct base runners and shall remain quiet during play.

7. Base coaches are solely responsible to instruct players on the basepaths.

8. Runners can advance to bases at their own risk of being tagged out except home. Home plate is closed until and players can only advance home on a RBI. After Memorial Day break, home plate is open unless the score has a run difference of 10 runs. Home plate can open and close during the game should a team close the 10 run gap.

9. A primary lead off is allowed. RABA defines the primary lead off to be two steps off the bag. Runner is not allowed to advance to next base until ball is hit into play. This rule is set to start teaching fundamentals of baseball. Coaches shall instruct their players to tag up between pitches. *Umpires will give a team warning to the head coach if a player is too far off the bag, a second warning will result in the player being called out. Two steps is: Left foot on bag, and right foot is one step followed by left foot moving to the left of the right foot and the right foot taking one step. No skip steps or hopping steps.

10. Upon a hit into the outfield grass, the ball will be considered LIVE and runners are allowed to advance at their own discretion. Keep in mind advancement rules in rule 8 of Yearling Specific Rules

11. Runners can advance until the ball is secured by the pitcher's helper and the play is considered over.

Fielding Rules

1. Up to 10 players shall play in the field with a "pitcher's helper" that must wear a helmet with a cage. 4 outfielders are permitted at this age.

2. There is no infield fly rule.

3. Each team on defense shall shag the balls and develop the catcher. The adult shall instruct the catcher on proper technique at this age and encourage making plays as home plate will be open. The catcher for the next inning shall be prepared as soon as possible with coaches help. As soon as the catcher comes in from batting, he shall start gearing up for the position.

4. All hits to the outfield are live until the ball is secured by the pitchers helper the play is over. Coaches are encouraged to teach players to hold the ball and avoid the over throws starting at this age.

5. 2 Coaches/parent helpers are allowed in the outfield to help with communication of players while on defense.