

# Rules of Play

## GENERAL RULES

### AGE GROUPS ARE AS FOLLOWS

- 5-7-YEAR-OLDS
- 8-10-YEAR-OLDS
- 11-13-YEAR-OLDS

Players should be within their age group as of **May 1<sup>st</sup>**.

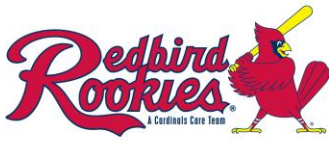
### Rules for All Ages

- All team rosters are due to the Redbird Rookies Commissioner's office by a date to be determined, no exceptions. Please check with your League Organizer for the current year cutoff date. Any participant not on a team's LeagueApps roster, will not be permitted to play.
- Prior to each game, coaches from each team must meet and exchange a lineup card which will include all players available to participate in that day's game.
- After the conclusion of every game, teams will lineup and shake hands.
- Only the team's coach(es) may discuss game rules or an umpire's call.
- Any fighting or unruly conduct will result in either the player, coach, or team's ejection/disqualification. Any such decisions are made solely by the umpire.
- All players will bat in one continuous batting order; this includes those who are not playing in the field.
- Teams will bat until the defense gets three (3) outs, offense scores five (5) runs or the offense has batted through their lineup.
- Substitutions should be made at the end of an inning, unless a player has been injured.

### Batting helmets must be worn at all times by:

- ✓ Batters
- ✓ Base runners
- ✓ Batters on-deck
- ✓ Players acting as first or third base coaches

*\*\*Anyone caught without a helmet, will be giving a warning. For any infraction after the warning, the player or offending team will be given an out.*



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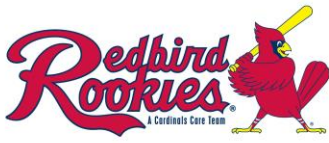
## AGE SPECIFIC RULES

### Tee – Ball | Ages 5-7

- All games are 4 innings or 60 minutes; whichever comes first. No inning may begin after 60 minutes.
- The 5-7 age group will field 12 players at a time. Four outfielders and extra infielders are to be stationed between the first and second base position, and between shortstop and second base. The fielding pitcher must wear a batting helmet and be within 3 feet of the pitching mound.
- A soft baseball should be used for gameplay.
- Bases will be 50-feet apart. No steals are permitted. Players may advance to the next base only when the ball is hit.
- Runners may advance to the next base until the ball is collected inside of the pitcher's circle/mound.
- All players on a team's roster must participate in the field of each game for at least two (2) innings (if time allows). Each fielder must use a glove while in the field.
- Batters are permitted 5 swings per at bat. If the batters last swing results in a foul ball, they are granted another swing. If missed, they are out.
- Batters must hit the ball fair, there will be no balls, strikes or bunting.

### Ages 8 – 10

- All games are 6 innings or 90 minutes; whichever comes first. No inning should start after 90 minutes.
- The 8-10 age groups will have 10 players in the field at a time. The standard nine positions plus an additional outfielder.
- Bases will be 60-feet apart. No steals are permitted. Players may advance to the next base only when the ball is hit.
- Runners may advance to the next base until the ball is collected inside of the pitcher's circle/mound.
- All players on a team's roster must participate in the field of each game for at least three (3) innings (if time allows). Each fielder must use a glove while in the field.



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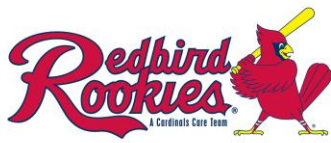
If pitching machine is used:

- The machine will be placed 46 feet from home plate.
- The speed of the pitch will be adjusted so as to allow each child the best possible chance of putting the ball in play.
- Batters are permitted 5 swings per at bat. If the batters last swing results in a foul ball, they are granted another swing. If missed, they are out.
- Batters must hit the ball fair, there will be no balls, strikes or bunting.

## **Ages 11 – 13**

- All games are 7 innings or an hour and 40 minutes; whichever comes first. No inning should start after an hour and 40 minutes.
- The 11-13 age group will have 9 players in the field at a time.
- Bases will be 75-feet apart. Stealing is permitted only after the catcher makes contact with the ball. Players are only permitted to steal 2nd and 3rd base. Players may not steal home or advance home on a passed ball or overthrow back to the pitcher.
- Players may advance as many bases as they can if the ball is in play. If a ball is thrown out of play, runners are to advance to the next base they were advancing toward, PLUS one more base.
- All players on a team's roster must participate in the field of each game for at least four (4) innings (if time allows). Each fielder must use a glove while in the field.
- Three strikes is an out in the 11-13-year-old-division.
- There will be no stealing on a no pitch call. Any action that occurs on a no pitch will not count.

*\*\*For age groups/teams that use pitchers, please refer to the MLB Smart pitching guidelines located on page 4 or [redbirdrookies.org](http://redbirdrookies.org).*



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## USA Baseball Pitch Smart Guidelines

Age	Daily Max	0 Days Rest	1 Days Rest	2 Days Rest	3 Days Rest	4 Days Rest	5 Days Rest
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	N/A	N/A	N/A
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
15-16	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+	N/A
17-18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+	N/A
19-22	120	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81-105	106+