**7-8 Age Group**

***FIELD DIMENSIONS***

* The distances between bases shall be 55 feet apart.  Distances to the bases are measured from the point at the rear of home plate to the back edge of the base (or in the case of second base, to the point of the base pointing toward the outfield).
* The distance to the pitcher's mound shall be 40 feet.

***HOME TEAM***

* The 2nd team listed on the schedule is the home team.
* The home team must supply a new ball for each game (RIF10).
* The home team is responsible for the set up and take down of the field including setting the bases and any infield repair due to ruts or standing water.
* They must assist with the cleanup of all trash including debris left by others in designated trashcans.

***VISITING TEAM***

* The visiting team must supply a game ball (RIF10).
* They must assist the home team in setting up and taking down field.
* They must assist with the cleanup of all trash including debris left by others in designated trashcans.

***PITCHING***

* Players will throw the first three pitches to each batter. After the third pitch, the batter’s coach will pitch to the batter. If the player hits a batter, the coach should finish pitching to that batter. If the pitcher hits two batters, they must be removed from pitching.

***DEFENSIVE TEAM***

* Take care in positioning fielders.  Warn fielders/coaches when strong hitters are up. Fielders may not stand on the base and should be taught how to cover a base when a play is being made or to clear a base when no play is being made.
* Only standard infield and outfield positions should be used. Infielders must stand on dirt not grass. Outfielders must stand on grass not dirt. Position players so they are not in the baseline. Teach players to stand near a base only when a play at that base is going to be made. Do not allow defensive players to stand on top of the bases.
* Fill the outfield with at least three players before using a catcher.  Extra players should be placed in the outfield. No one should be left on the bench unless injured or being used as a bullpen session.
* Pitcher must stand on the mound, next to or behind the coach pitching. No one is allowed to "creep up" for weaker hitters.  If an infielder "creeps up" and records an out, the batter will be allowed to stay on the base, and the out will not count.

***PLAYING RULES***

* No sliding at 1st base or head first sliding.
* Only one player in the on deck circle at a time.  A coach/parent must monitor the on deck hitter at all times.
* When possible, limit defense coaches to two on the field at a time.
* Inning will end with three outs or three runs.
* Encourage throwing the ball to bases instead of running across the field and stepping on them.
* Rotate players evenly

***STEALING***

* No stealing in 7 - 8.

***BUNTING***

* No bunting in 7 - 8.

***ADVANCEMENT***

* Runners may advance until the ball is in the infield or thrown out of the playing field.

***ENDING A PLAY (DEAD BALL RULE)***

* A play ends either when the ball is in the infield or the ball is thrown out of the playing field.

***PLAYER DEVELOPMENT***

* Managers are required to rotate their players between various defensive positions, such that all players will get a chance to play in both the infield and outfield. One player may play no more than 1 inning in one position per game.

***ALL-STAR GAME***

* Date and Time TBD
* At the end of the season coaches should choose two players (preferably eight year olds) to participate in an All-star game.