

CITY OF RINCON RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
GENERAL RULES AND INFORMATION  
2009 BASEBALL – SOFTBALL SEASON

1. FORFEIT RULE AND GRACE PERIOD - This rule applies only to the first game of the evening and only on weekdays, Monday through Friday. There will be a five (5) minute grace period before play begins but the game clock will be started at the scheduled game time. (Ex. 5:45 game, play will begin at 5:50 but game clock will start at 5:45.) After the grace period ends the team with not enough to play will begin their at bat regardless of who was scheduled as home team. At this point the team that takes the field first will become the home team. If players show up while their team is batting then they will be added to the end of the lineup with no penalty and play will continue as in a normal game. However the now visiting team at-bat ends and at that point this team still does not have enough players to take the field, the game is a forfeit.

Note – A. If both teams do not have enough to play then after the 5 minute grace period has expired the game will be declared a double forfeit and each team will be credited with ½ a win and ½ a loss.

**B. If the Master schedule differs from the individual league schedule then we go by the individual schedule.**

2. POLICY OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

**A. Games stopped in progress will be considered completed if more than half-way through the game.**

**B. Games called before halfway will be started from the point where the game was stopped. Umpire must document stopping point in both scorebooks.**

**C. Games not started will be rescheduled if possible.**

3. TIED GAMES

Games that are tied at the end of regulation play (full 4 to 7 innings) or at the end of the time limit or end of rain out, when game is more than half-way complete, will be required to play one full extra inning, unless inclement weather prohibits further play. This extra inning will begin with the last batter from the previous inning on 2<sup>nd</sup> base. This is the speed up rule. Inclement weather games will be played at a later date. All other games still tied at the end of the extra inning will remain a tie and the two teams will each be credited with ½ win and ½ loss.

4. HOME TEAM SCOREBOOK IS THE OFFICIAL BOOK

**CRRD requires each team's scorekeeper to sit together and check with each other at the close of each inning to confirm score. Protests against scores will not be allowed unless the scorekeepers are sitting together.**

5. PROTESTS

**All protests, except over age players, must be verbally filed with the umpires at the time of the infraction and documented in BOTH scorebooks. All protests are to be brought to the**

attention of Rincon Recreation Staff by the end of the next working day. The protest must then be put on a CRRD protest form along with a protest fee of \$ 50.00. This form and fee is to be submitted to the CRRD office within 72 hours of the verbal protest. **NO FORM, NO FEE, NO PROTEST.** If the protest is successful, your money is returned; unsuccessful your money is retained.

Most protests can be handled on the spot by Rincon Recreation Staff.

- A. All protests concerning over age players or rules must be reported to CRRD within 48 hours.
- B. Disputes on must play rule must be reported directly to Game Supervisor or Director. CRRD will handle the situation with the coach in question. Most must play situation can be handled by coaches informing the other team that one of their players needs to get their innings in.
- C. (Mite Pitching, Midget boys, and Junior Boys only) If you use your pitcher more than the allowed pitches, the game at question if scorebooks are properly noted will result in a forfeit. Be aware of this ahead of time and communicate with the other coach to let them know if they are close to this situation.

#### 6. ONLY ONE TEAM

No Rincon Recreation player may be listed on any other roster, open league or different age group that plays in a league in Effingham County. In other words a player can't play on a Rincon Recreation team and an Effingham Open team or vice versa. Age group doesn't matter. Once again this applies to any team playing in a league in either Rincon or Effingham County. If a player is in violation of this they will be immediately removed from Rincon Recreation Roster. (Exception will be for Little League Roster)

**Legal** – playing on a team in Rincon Recreation and playing on a separate team that does not belong to a league in either Effingham County or Rincon. Example; Team Tornadoes are not affiliated with any league in Rincon or Effingham County but play on weekends in tournaments or in a Chatham County league, yet are comprised of players from Rincon Recreation and Effingham Recreation. That is legal. **However should a player skip a league game to play with his/her other team and is discovered and confirmed by Rincon Recreation this player will face the following consequences 1. Letter of reprimand 2. Loss of all-star privileges 3. Game(s) Suspension 4. Removal from League. If his/her team is forced to forfeit because of the absence then player involved may receive one, two, and three on a first offense.**

**Coaches who violate this will face similar consequences. 1. Letter of reprimand & game(s) suspension 2. loss of coaching tenure 3. removal from coaching position.**

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## 6A. CHANGING TEAMS

- a. Once drafts have been conducted, no player may change teams.
- b. Once drafts have been conducted, no player can switch to open league.
- c. You may switch to open league if the rec. league season is over.

## 7. LATE PLAYERS

**If a player is late, but show up before the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning, he must play his full time. Provided the game goes 4 complete innings. (REC)**

## 8. PLAYERS MOVING UP AN AGE GROUP

**A player may move up to another age group, providing they are in their last year of the other age group. EXAMPLE: an 8 year old may move to mites, and a 10 year old to midget, and etc.**

## 9. COACHING MORE THAN ONE TEAM

**A coach can be associated with more than one team provided they do not neglect the team of which they are head coach. If we find that you are neglecting your team, you will be suspended for one year. Example: This means if the team of which you are head coach on and you are in last place and the team which you help has a game and they are in first place, you should be at the game where you are head coach. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

## 10. DELAY OF GAME

**Because all games are on strict time limit, please encourage your team to hustle on and off the field. The umpire will inform each scorekeeper the starting time, they will write it in their scorebook.**

## 11. MUST PLAY RULE

Each player must play 2 defensive innings and get 1 at bat in any game that goes 4 complete innings or more. Players that don't start games must start the following game even if they only play the minimum amount. Example – Tyler doesn't start the first game of the season, he must then start the next game and play at least the minimum amount. He can then come off the bench in game three but must start game four. If he starts games two & three then he may be a substitute in game four. Essentially players must start every other game which should total half of the team's games. If a player is not going to play the coach must contact a Rincon Recreation staff member with the name of the player and the reason for not playing them **prior to the game**. If approved by the director, the coach must tell the opposing coach and the umpire the name of those not playing. **MUST PLAY RULE IS NOT A CONCERN OF THE UMPIRE, IT IS A CONCERN OF RRD.**  
(Rec. Rule)

**Option** – If a coach chooses to bat everyone and use free substitution then the above stipulation of must play no longer applies. However if coach's choose to play regular substitute rules for one game then the must play rule is back in effect and kids that don't start that game must start the next game even if you are batting everyone and using free substitution.

## 12. UMPIRE'S JUDGMENT CALL

An umpire's judgment call **CANNOT BE** protested. Example: Balls & strikes, fair & foul ball, force out and tag outs. Please understand that the umpires have complete control.

## 13. PARENTS & FANS CODE OF ETHICS

The coaches are responsible for and should control their parents and fans. If you have a problem you cannot handle, please inform a Rincon Recreation staff member who will be at all games. Also, all coaches and parents must sign and return a code of ethics form which will be included in game packets.

### 13a. COACH'S CODE OF ETHICS

- a. All coaches must act in accordance with NYSCA code of ethics and the City of Rincon code of ethics.
- b. Any coach acting in an unsportsmanlike manner or in a way that is harmful to the league, players, umpires, or spectators will be subject to the following disciplinary action by RRD.
- c. Disciplinary action:
  - (a) Language not suitable for children or league (Suspension 1 game)
  - (b) Unsportsmanlike conduct at an athletic event (Suspension 1 game)
  - (c) **Thrown out of a game (1st offense-Suspension next game and must leave the park immediately).**
  - (d) Damage to recreation property (Suspension indefinitely)
  - (e) Fighting (Suspension for one year from date of incident and must leave the park immediately.
  - (f) Touching or striking an official (Suspension indefinitely)
- d. **Acting in any of these ways will greatly affect being chosen as a coach again and also being chosen as the all-star coach.**

## 14. RULE INTERPRETATION

A rule interpretation by an umpire can be protested if you think they are wrong. **You must protest the exact moment it happened.** This must be documented in each scorebook by the umpires before play resumes. **Reminder: If in doubt – protest at time it happens.** The best way to take care of this is to call a conference with the umpire. The problem may be able to be taken care of peacefully. For protests, RULE 5 above.

## 15. PROFANITY

No profanity will be allowed. Umpires will especially guard against remarks between opponents and players on the field.

## 16. TOBACCO USE

No tobacco use is permitted within the confines of Macomber Park. This applies to coaches and umpires. Please pass this on to parents and help me enforce it. There are designated smoking areas outside of the gates of the park that may be used for smoking out of the presence of children.

**17. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

**CITY OF RINCON ordinance does not permit alcoholic beverages to be consumed anywhere on Macomber Park property. Coaches and umpires are not permitted to consume alcoholic beverages the day of the game.**

**18. STRIKE, SHOVE, PUSH, OR THREATEN AN UMPIRE**

**No player, parent, or coach may strike, shove, or push an umpire or threaten to do any of the above. If you do, you will be barred from the league. Also, there will be no charging out onto the field during games. Time must be called and then granted by an umpire.**

**19. INJURED PLAYER**

**If a player is injured, and no substitutes are left, that team can replace that player with a substitute that has participated in the game. Choice of that player is left to the opposing coach. No players removed from the game because of injury may re-enter. If you have 9 or more players, there is no penalty if you do not have a substitute for the injured player. In the Mite and Mini Pee wee age groups, you can play with 8 players, but the 9th position will be an out. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CAN A GAME FINISH WITH LESS THAN 8 PLAYERS.**

**20. PLAYER EJECTED. If a player is ejected, he cannot re-enter under any circumstances. If you have no substitute and the ejected player is a base runner or if scheduled to bat, then an out is declared.**

**21. INTENTIONAL WALK. Only one intentional walk allowed per player per game. This rule applies to the Mite and Midget Leagues, not Mini Pee Wee. Player must be pitched to otherwise. You may not intentionally walk someone to get to an automatic out. (for example-if a team is taking an automatic out for their ninth batter, you may not walk the eighth batter to get to the automatic out to end the inning)**

**22. DESIGNATED HITTER**

**No designated hitters in RRD rec league games. This is allowed in open league play.**

**23. SHOES**

**Shoes must be worn in all RRD games.**

**24. SERIOUS INJURY**

**If there is an injury and the umpire thinks it is serious, he has the authority to call time out at that moment, and then he will award the necessary bases to runners before play resumes.**

**25. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT**

**Any player ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct must sit out remainder of that game and the next game. EXCEPTION: Player ejected for the following will not be required to sit out the next game.**

- a. Removal of helmet after a warning.**
- b. Carelessly slinging a bat after a warning.**

## **26. COACH EJECTED**

**A coach who is ejected from a game: Suspension one game and must leave the park immediately; 2<sup>nd</sup> time, suspended for 2 games with the right to appeal, must be done before the end of the next business day; 3<sup>rd</sup> time, suspended until hearing with RRD. Coaches ejected during the year may not be the All Star coach unless allowed by the Director.**

## **27. BLOOD RULE**

**A player, coach, or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on his uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time, then that individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is left to the umpire's judgment. Uniform rule violations will not be enforced if a uniform change is required.**

**The umpire shall:**

- a. Stop the game and allow treatment if the injured player would affect the continuation of the game.**
- b. Immediately call a coach, trainer, or other authorized person to the injured player.**
- c. Apply the rules of the game regarding substitution, short-handed player and re-entry if necessary.**

## **28. STAYING IN THE DUGOUT**

**All coaches must stay in the dugout while players are in the field. No coaching from anywhere except the dugout. Umpire has the right to call you down on this rule. Only three adults are allowed in the dugout at one time.**

## **29. CHATTER**

**Everyone loves to do it, but No yelling swing or any negative or offensive remarks at the other team. We are all out here to have fun, but not at the other team's expense. Cheering and excitement is encouraged.**

## **30. TIME LIMIT**

**The head umpire is in charge of keeping up with the time of the game. When he calls game, the game is over. This is not a call that can be protested. Any discussion should be handled with the umpire. No new innings shall be started with **LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES REMAINING IN THE TIME LIMIT.****

## **31. COURTESY RUNNER**

- a. Courtesy runners must be a player not in the game**
- b. If all players are playing, the runner will be the player that made the last out in the previous inning.**
- c. Courtesy runners may be used for catcher and pitcher position except in pitching machine leagues where a courtesy runner can only be used for the catcher.**

32. RE-ENTRY RULE

(If you are playing the required number or are using a EH)

- a. ALL players may re-enter once, but all players must re-enter in their original position in the batting lineup.
- b. No exceptions to rule 4a.

33. 210 ft line – Ground Rule Double

There will be a 210 foot line painted in the outfields of fields 1 and 2. Any time a ball rolls beyond this line the batter will be awarded a ground rule double. If the ball is hit beyond this line in the air then it is ruled a home run regardless of height at the time it travels over the line. This is in effect for all recreational and open league age groups.

34. Bunting – No bunting will be allowed in Mini Pee Wee (7&8) and Mite (9 & 10) age groups. This includes telling player to hold out the bat and let the ball hit it.

35. Overthrow Rule – Mighty Minis, Mini Pee Wees, & Mites

Runners may advance at their own risk on any overthrow made by the defense. All runners must stop at third base. No advancement to home on overthrows. If runners try to advance to home plate and are put out, then the out stands. If runners try to advance to home plate and are safe they will be returned to third base.

36. YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST 8 PLAYERS--Teams may not play with less than 8 players, regardless of reason. If a team loses a player to an ejection for unsportsmanlike conduct and does not have an available substitute (legal or illegal) they will be forced to forfeit the game.