

Tiny Tim 8's – League Rules

The following rules have been adopted by the executive Board of the Ramsey Baseball Association. All rules of the various national baseball and softball organizations with which the RBA is associated will be official except where superseded by Ramsey Local Rules as published. Local rules for in-town play only.

1) GENERAL PROCEDURE GOVERNING CHANGES IN LOCAL RULES:

Changes in rules will normally originate within the individual leagues. The League President and managers meet and recommend changes to the rules. These recommendations are passed on to the Rules Committee in writing prior to February 1st in order to be acted on for the current season. The League President meets with the Rules Committee for the discussion of the recommendations. The Rules Committee shall present its opinion and the original recommendations to the Executive Committee for finalization.

The Rules Committee must submit any recommendations they initiate to the individual league before forwarding to the Executive Committee.

The various leagues should meet at the end of the season to discuss rules and recommend changes if needed.

2) DISCIPLINE:

- The manager must control the conduct of the team. The opposing manager must be advised before the start of a game if a player is being disciplined.

3) GAME RULES:

- An official game is six (6) innings.
- When the home team is in the lead, three and a half (3 ½) innings constitute a game; otherwise an official game is 4 innings.
- If an official game is tied, but called, the game will be continued from the inning it was interrupted at the point of interruption.
- If a game is called prior to it becoming an official game, it shall be picked up from the point it was called. League pitching rules shall apply.
- If a game does not start within ninety (90) minutes of its scheduled starting time, it must be cancelled and rescheduled.
- If a team does not have enough players – eight (8) minimum – it may borrow a player from the opposing team.

- The tenth (10) player on each team on the field must play in the outfield. The four outfielders must play in the positions left, left-center, right-center, right. There will be no short-fielder.
- Players and / or spectators shall not be permitted behind home plate during the game.
- Each game shall run on an informal and relaxed basis.
- There can only be a maximum of 10 batters in each inning regardless of the amount of outs a team has. This rule is waived in the sixth and subsequent innings.
- After four (4) innings, if a team is leading by thirteen (13) runs, the game is officially over. The other two (2) innings may be played for practice at the discretion of the managers. Any runs scored in these innings shall not be added to the score.

4) PITCHERS AND CATCHERS:

- A player may only pitch two (2) innings per game. One (1) pitch constitutes an inning.
- Each Player may only pitch a total of six (6) innings per week. A pitcher's week begins on Monday.
- A pitcher may not be returned to the mound once he has been removed as a pitcher.
- At least one foot must make contact with the pitching rubber when the pitcher is delivering the ball to the plate.
- A pitcher shall be removed if he hits two (2) batters in any one (1) inning or three (3) batters in the game, regardless of the number of walks issued.
- Catchers must wear a catching helmet, throat protector, chest protector, athletic supporter w/cup, and shin guards while catching.
- The names of the pitchers and the number of innings pitched shall be given to the League President when the results of the games are called in.

5) BATTING:

- Each team must bat in order every player who shows up for the game. This order must continue unchanged for the entire game whether or not the player is playing in the field when his time at bat occurs.
- Batters must wear a batting helmet while at bat.
- There is no catcher's interference; if there is contact, there is no pitch.
- No bunting.

6) **PLAYING RULES:**

- All players will play in the field at least three (3) innings. These need not be consecutive innings.

7) **BASE RUNNING:**

- Base runners must wear a helmet while on base.
- There will be no leading off base or stealing. Tagging up on fly balls is **not** permitted.
- There is no infield fly rule.
- If, on a wild throw or error, the ball goes out of bounds, the runner is entitled to the base he was heading for, plus one additional base. If the ball is inbounds, the base runner / runners can take as many bases as they can.
- A base runner is out if he dislodges the ball from the fielder making the play by “plowing” into the fielder. The runner must slide feet first or make an attempt to avoid contact. There is no sliding head first.
- On a ball hit to the outfield, once the ball is under control on the infield, if the runner is less than halfway to any base, he must return to that base.
- No pinch running unless there is an injury.

8) **FIELD:**

- The pitching rubber is thirty-six (36) feet from home plate. (Back of plate)
- First base is sixty (60) feet from home plate.

9) **SPECIAL RULES:**

- **Spirit of the game:** There will be no harassing of any player by spectators, coaches or members of the opposing team. For example, yelling “swing” as the ball is pitched to the batter is not allowed. Normal infield chatter (encouraging the pitcher) should not be discouraged. It will be the responsibility of the umpire and the offending team’s manager to enforce this rule and the umpire will have the option of awarding the batter first base if the offenders cannot be controlled.
- **Darkness:** No new inning shall start after 8:10 PM. No play will be allowed by the umpires after 8:20 PM under any circumstances. The applicable league rules for “called games” will apply in these instances. It is understood that an umpire may still call any game prior to these times if, in his judgment, conditions are such that play should not continue.

10) **ADDITIONAL RULES AND GUIDELINES:**

- The first 4 games will be pitched by the coaches; the next 5 games will be pitched by the coaches in the first three innings and the players in the last three innings; the last 5 games and the play-offs will be pitched by the players only.
- When the coaches pitch, there are no bases on balls allowed, and there are no called strikes.
- Umpires are not required during the games in which coaches pitch.
- Coaches from other teams will umpire the last 5 games and the playoffs. Please note the umpire schedule. Managers are responsible to have a representative from their team umpire as scheduled. The umpire calling balls and strikes must do so from behind home plate. Managers / coaches shall umpire their own games only as a last resort.
- Taking time between plays to give instruction to players is allowed and encouraged.
- There will be no standings and the seeding for the playoffs will be done randomly by the league president. The only “official” games are playoff games.