

## BUTLER COUNTY 2025 INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE REGULAR SEASON RULES

There are 3 organizations that make up the 2025 Butler County Instructional League Association: Fairfield & Lindenwald

Games are scheduled between Instructional League 7U teams. The rules which shall govern game play are Local League Rules and CAL Ripken Rules, Local Rules will supersede CAL Ripken Rules and are listed below. Each organization is responsible for providing a copy of the rules to each manager and team and for ensuring that each manager is knowledgeable of these rules.

I. TEAMS- Each organization is responsible for creating teams and assigning managers and assistant coaches for each team.

II. Managers/Coaches-

a. All managers, coaches or adult involved in any way with the team will be required to submit a background check to their organization along with any other training and certificates that is required by their organization to participate. Failure to comply with these policies may result in removal of your position.

b. Only players, manager and up to 3 assistant coaches are permitted in the dugout during game play. Coaches should instruct players and coaches who are not involved in the game to remain in the dugout during game play. Exception to the rule: on deck batter, coaches in the coach's box while on offense. There may also be a defensive coach helping out their catcher to help speed the game up.

III. UMPIRES- Defensive team's coaches

IV. PRE-GAME-

a. Infield Practice: the home team shall take the field 35 minutes prior to game time and has the field for 15 minutes. The visiting team shall take the field 20 minutes prior to the start of the game for 15 minutes. League directors and Board members may dictate that no infield practice is permitted due to field conditions or scheduling.

b. Ground Rules: Each manager will meet each other at home plate 5 minutes prior to the start of the game. Home team will present ground rules to the opposing manager

V. Equipment-

a. Baseballs: Home team will be responsible for providing 1 new and 1 used, but in good condition approved baseball prior to the start of the game. The visiting team will be responsible for providing 1 used but in good condition approved baseball

b. Bats: bats may not exceed 33" in length and the barrel may not exceed 2 5/8" in diameter. USA Baseball emblem will be authorized to use. Tee Ball bats will be authorized for use.

Wood bat not to exceed 2 5/8" in diameter will be authorized to use. No BBCOR bats are allowed.

#### VI. GAME PLAY-

a. Continuous Batting: Instructional League teams will use continuous batting lineup during game play. If a player is ejected from a game, their time at bat will be recorded as an out. The batting lineup and defensive positioning is decided by the coaching staff. If a player becomes sick/injured during the game, that player will be removed from the game and may not return, their at bat will be recorded as an out when their at bat occurs. Any player arriving late for a game shall be added to the bottom of the batting order.

b. MANDATORY PLAY: It is mandatory that each player play 3 innings on defense in a 5 inning game. The exception to this rule is if the game is shortened due to a run rule, time limit or weather, any disciplinary reasons for not playing a player must be relayed to your organizations league director.

c. There will be 10 defensive position players: 1 "pitcher" which will be positioned no farther than 7' in diameter from the pitching machine, 1 catcher, 4 infielders and 4 outfielders

d. infielders only may call time out once in the infield. Runners more than halfway will advance to the next base.

e. overthrows at 1st and 3rd resulting in the ball going out of play all runners will advance 1 base.

f. BASERUNNERS: there will be no stealing or leading off. Runners leaving base early will be first granted a warning, then will be called out for subsequent violations.

g. There will be no infield fly rule

h. Runners cannot advance on a passed ball

i. Runners cannot advance if the catcher overthrows the pitcher when returning the ball to the coach following a pitch

j. A runner is out if he/she does not attempt to get around "avoid contact with" a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make a tag, or if he/she intentionally runs into the fielder maliciously

k. with 2 out, if the catcher is on base he/she must be replaced by a courtesy runner. The courtesy runner will be the last out made

l. offensive teams coach will load the machine for his/her team

m. pitching machine setting: spring 3, release lever 3 and arm 3

n. home team is responsible to make sure the settings are correct before game time

o. If the batted ball hits the machine this will be considered a dead ball single, the batter will be awarded 1st base, all other runners will advance to the next base, this will also apply if the coach loading the machine is hit by the batted ball, all coaches loading the pitching machine shall not intentionally interfere with a batted ball

## VII GAME LENGTH

a. 5 inning games, extra innings to break a tie are only permitted if time allows

b. a game is considered official after 4 innings (3 1/2 if home team is ahead) (weather)

c. no new inning will start after 1 hour 15 minutes, regardless of the score, drop dead will be in effect for the regular season, 1 hour 30 min time limit

d. Games suspended due to inclement weather that have reached an official status will not be rescheduled. Games suspended due to inclement weather that have not become official is subject to a reschedule and the game will start over (Regular season)

e. Run rule: after 4 innings ( 3 1/2 if home team) a team is leading by 10 runs or more that team will be declared the winner. If a team is leading by 12 runs or more after 3 innings (2 1/2 if home team) the game will be declared official and that team will be the winner

f. Max runs scored per inning is 7 in the first 4 innings, from the 5th inning on there will be no run limit, 3 outs must be made. 3 outs must be made or max runs per inning must happen for an official inning

g. more than 1 out may be made during a defensive inning

VIII Forfeits: Each team must have 8 players ready to play no later than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time, if a player does not show up 15 minutes after the scheduled start time a forfeit will be awarded, use this time for additional practice with players that are present

a. a team may not finish a game with less than 8 players due to an injury or sickness

b. any team that is a no show for a scheduled game, this game will be awarded as a forfeit and a 6-0 score will be recorded

IX GAME DELAYS: any time a game is delayed due to adverse weather you shall wait 30 minutes prior to calling the game, any lightning shall halt a game

X UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT- any unsportsmanlike conduct of any nature by managers, coaches, players, fan, parents, relatives or anyone in attendance at a game may result in a suspension from all Butler County Parks and from the Butler County Association. Ejection of a player, manager, coach, parent or fan...

a. 1st ejection - the offender shall be suspended for the next 1 full game

- b. 2nd ejection - the offender shall be suspended for the next 2 full games
- c. 3rd ejection - the offender shall be suspended for the remainder of the season

#### XI SCOREKEEPING

- a. during the game the opposing managers/scorekeepers should communicate with the other to assure an accurate and correct scorebook. The website [fyba.leaguetime.com](http://fyba.leaguetime.com) will be used to record game results which will be used to seed teams for the League tournament
- b. every batter will receive 6 pitches. If the batter fouls the 6th pitch off they shall receive a 7th. If a batter swings and misses 3 times this will be considered a strikeout/out
- c. at the end of the game teams should confirm score, it will be the responsibility of the winning teams manager to log score results, the losing teams manager should check leaguetime to ensure accuracy
- d. game scores should be reported and posted at least 24 hours after the completion of the game... penalty for failing to report a game score will result in a forfeit

#### **I. TOBACCO, MARIJUANA, AND RELATED PRODUCTS POLICY**

- a. The use of all tobacco products, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, vapes, and e-cigarettes is strictly prohibited.
- b. Additionally, the use or possession of marijuana, CBD, THC products, or any other marijuana related items, whether for recreational or medicinal purposes, is not permitted at any league event including games, practices, and team gatherings.
- c. This policy applies to all coaches, players, parents, spectators, and officials, regardless of age or local laws.

HAVE A GREAT SEASON!