

NEZ 9U SENIOR ROOKIE

Rules and Guidelines

Senior Rookie is a developmental baseball league where the focus is on learning the fundamentals of baseball. The league is intended to develop batting skills using a pitching machine in games and in practice since a machine will deliver a ball with more consistent velocity and location compared to a pitched ball.

The objective of the hitting experience in Senior Rookie is for all players to make contact with the ball. The focus of development at this level should be on hitting and fielding. Base running is a part of the game of baseball but we must not exploit the lack of skills of the defensive players by trying to take extra bases. Base runners can only be advanced when hitters make contact with the baseball as opposed to advancing via errors or any other actions. While the league provides an introduction to the concepts of strikes, outs and scoring runs, *emphasis must be on skill development above all.*

- 1) Diamond setup: Bases set at 55 feet apart. The pitching machine is set at 38 feet from tip at the back of home plate to the front bar of the pitching machine.
Speed of machine set at 36-38 MPH.

Machine settings are Micro Adjust 3—Release Block 4—Power lever 7.

Home team is responsible for setting up the diamond as well as providing the pitching machine.

- 2) Each batter will receive 5 pitches to hit a fair ball.
 - a. For the first half of the season, if a fair ball is not hit after the 5th pitch, the batter will hit the 6th ball off the tee.
 - b. For the second half of the season, if a fair ball is not hit after the 5th pitch, the batter will be declared out. A foul ball on the pitches 1 through 4 will count as a “pitched” ball. A foul ball on the 5th or any subsequent pitch will not be counted and another pitch will be thrown.
- 3) Base runners may only advance on a fair hit ball. Hitters may advance as many bases as they can before the ball is returned to the infield. For example:
 - a. If the ball is hit into the infield, all runners may only advance a maximum of one base regardless of any overthrows.
 - b. If the ball is hit through the infield whether by a hit or a fielding error, runners may advance until the ball is returned to the infield. This does not require the ball to be in control within a defending player’s glove. The play is considered dead as soon as it arrives in the infield and no further advancement of runners may occur.
- 4) Base runners may not leave their base until contact has been made with the ball. Lead offs and stolen bases are not allowed.

- 5) Except for extenuating circumstances (ex. fewer than 9 players on a team or safety concerns), no player may play the same position for more than 1 inning in the same game.
 - a. It is recommended that the players get the opportunity to play every position throughout the season.
 - b. **Note:** Up to 10 players may play defence at one time: 6 infielders and 4 outfielders.
- 6) Fielders must assume correct fielding positions, regardless of the strength of the hitters or the likelihood of a batted ball reaching the outfield. If applicable, the extra (10th) player must take a defensive position in the outfield.
- 7) The player playing the pitchers position must be positioned within 5 ft. of the pitching machine, on either side but not ahead of the machine. If there are only 7 or 8 players available, eliminate the catching and/or pitching positions.
- 8) Games start at 6:30 and are a maximum of 5 innings. No new innings to start after 8:00 pm.
- 9) 6 runs or 3 outs will end each half inning.
- 10) The team at bat will have two base coaches who will also act as umpires to determine close plays on the bases. The machine operator may also assist on a decision if required.
- 11) All safety equipment must be worn including full catchers equipment, double earflap batting helmets with chin straps for batters, base runners and on deck batter. Athletic cup is also required for boys and girls.
- 12) No metal cleats are permitted.
- 13) All coaches, parents, players and spectators are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct and the Fair play agreement.