



## Competitive 8U Bronco League Rules

Revised 4/28

- USA rules apply (refer to USA softball of Nebraska Code and Rule Book pg 24) unless otherwise specified below with an open substitution format and all players will be included in the batting order. Umpires will be USA registered. Umpire decisions are final and no protests will be allowed.
- RIF 11" ball will be used. We supply the game balls.
- Play is 5 innings or 60 minutes whichever comes first. Time starts at the first warm up pitch.
- Tiebreaker rule will be used to break ties after 5 innings or time has expired.
  - Tie Breaker rule: All games tied after 5 innings or if 60 minutes has elapsed, the international tie-breaker will apply. The player batting in the last position at the start of each additional half inning will begin at second base. (EX: If the number 5 batter is to lead off then the number 4 batter will be sent to second base).
- Each team on offense will be allowed 5 runs or three outs per inning. Balls and strikes are not kept or called.
- Each batter will be allowed five pitches to bat the ball in play. A batted foul ball on the fifth, sixth or seventh pitch will give another pitch to batter. Each batter will be allowed a TOTAL of 8 pitches to bat the ball in play. Pitches 6, 7 and 8 can only occur if the previous pitch was a foul ball and not just a miss. Each batter that fails to hit the ball in play after 5, 6, 7 or 8 pitches is considered OUT.
- Flip-Flop Rule: When visitors are ahead by 6 or more runs with less than 10 minutes to play we will clear the bases and the home team will continue to bat a new inning for 3 outs or 5 runs whichever comes first. After this, the game ends.
- The Home team will occupy the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout and remain there if playing a double header.
- All players must bat using continuous batting order (all players including bench players will bat).
- Base runner may lead off when pitch crosses home plate **but not steal including home**.
- Base runners may take only one base on an overthrow from the infielder or outfielder.
- Runners can only score on a batted ball.
- 6 infielders and **4 outfielders**. At the start of each pitch, all outfielders shall be positioned in the outfield grass, and the player-pitcher positioned in the 8 ft pitchers circle next to the coach/pitcher.
- Each team uses **10 players on defense**.
- Coach has the option of using the pitching machine or shall pitch the ball in an underhand motion to each batter of his/her team.
- Team awards will be given at the conclusion of the tournament to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place if 8 or more teams and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> place if 4-7 teams and 1<sup>st</sup> place if less than 4 teams.
- There will be a Hastings Parks & Recreation staff to keep scorebook. Please compare scorebooks if needed to avoid conflicts in standings. The schedule and standings can be viewed by searching for Hastings Teamsideline. The game scores and team league standings will be updated on the league website throughout the season.
- Teams are asked to be at the playing field 30 minutes prior to game time and ready to play. Coaches will exchange lineups before the game to the scorekeeper, umpire, and opponent. **If a team is not able to make it to a game for any reason, please call the Parks and Recreation Dept at 402-461-2324 by 5pm so communication is relayed to staff and other teams in a timely manner.** Those games will be counted as losses and the fees for those games will not be refunded.
- In case of rain or other postponements, the league commissioner has the right to cancel the game. Please call the Parks and Recreation Dept Activities **hotline # 402-462-7109**. If rain or threat of rain, games may be shortened by time or innings to get the games in if possible. League fees are non-refundable.
- All teams, players, umpires and spectators participating in this league do so at their own risk. League officials will not be responsible for any injuries or obligations sustained as part of any league play or participation.
- Batting helmets must have facemasks, chin straps, and must be NOCSAE certified stamped. At the completion of each game, please clean up and trash left in the dugout area.