

## NIBLEY/WELLSVILLE BASEBALL ROOKIE (1st & 2nd Grade) LEAGUE 2025 BYLAWS

Current Year NFHS (Highschool Baseball Rules) will be followed with the following exceptions:

1. At least 5 players are needed for a non-forfeit game. No outs will be recorded for missing players. If a team is short players, coaches may utilize registered players from a T-ball team from their town to avoid a forfeit. In a forfeit situation, the coach from the opposing team is encouraged to offer players to the shorthanded team to fill in until when and if that team has at least 5 players.
2. No new inning after 50 minutes of playing time. The home team is encouraged to play out the bottom of the final inning even after time has expired regardless of the score. Forfeit time is game time or right after the previous game has ended whichever is later.
3. Home team will be determined by the schedule. The home team will provide 5 game balls for the pitching machine.
4. Sides will be retired after 3 outs or 5 runs have scored in that inning. Only 5 runs count, even if 6 or more cross home plate before the inning is officially over.
5. Pitching is done with a pitching machine, which is fed by the offensive team's coach. No hand thrown balls. The coach at the pitching machine will be the umpire for that half of the inning. The umpire will be the one to ensure all rules are enforced.
6. Players are given 5 pitches to hit the ball into fair play. If the batter fouls off the 5th pitch, the batter will get only ONE more pitch. The batter will be out if the ball is not hit into fair play within these pitches.
7. Stealing is NOT allowed in the Rookie League.
8. ALL members of the team must play at least 3 consecutive outs on defense or your team will forfeit. Only 10 defensive players are allowed on the field (one position is an outfield rover that must start each play in the outfield). Each player must play the correct defensive position (i.e. do NOT move the outfielders into the infield to fill the gaps).
9. A continuous batting order will be used with all players batting. Players that come late may be added to the end of the batting line up.
10. Bats no larger in diameter than 2 ¾" (Big barrel) are permitted.
11. Free substitutions on defense.
12. Only one base on an overthrow. (Example: batter hits the ball and runs to 1st. Defensive player throws the ball over 1<sup>st</sup> baseman's head and the runner runs to 2<sup>nd</sup>. Even if the defensive players try throwing to 2nd, the runner may not advance to 3rd on the overthrow).
13. Only Coaches are allowed on the field of play during the inning (except for the offensive team's coach feeding the pitching machine). The coaches may "coach" from foul territory. Absolutely no parents on the field or in foul territory during game time, except to facilitate play when a player has a diagnosed condition that impacts their child's ability to play.
14. Lightning: In the event that lightning is seen and/or thunder heard, the Umpire and Coaches will stop the game and clock to check the (FREE) **Weather Bug Phone App** "**Spark**" page to determine the proximity of lightning. If lightning is detected within 6 miles, players and spectators will be asked to take cover in vehicles. The Umpire will confirm that the score-books are up to date and match. The game will resume after 20 min if there is no lightning within 6 miles of the ballpark.



\*No tournament this year so you don't need to report wins and losses to City Rep. There will be a game under the lights for Nibley City teams at the end of the season.