

2012 LEVEL I LEAGUE RULES
2nd GRADE
(PLAYER/Coach Pitch)

All coaches are expected to familiarize themselves with the rules regarding conduct of coaches, spectators and players toward paid FCBC officials.

Note: Third-base dugout goes to the HOME team. Home team wears the royal side of jersey.

RULE 1 - Players, Field and Equipment

- 1-1 There shall be 9 defensive players on the field at a time, 3 outfielders, 5 infielders & a catcher.
- 1-2-1 The diamond shall be 60 feet between bases.
- 1-2-9 Throw Down bases will be provided by FCBC.
- 1-2-11 The pitcher's rubber shall be 35 feet from the point of home plate.
- 1-4-1 No metal cleats will be allowed.
- 1-3-4 The official ball shall be a safe-t-ball provided by FCBC.
- 1-5-5 Catchers must wear a helmet, which includes ear protection. The mask must have a separate, attached throat protector. The chest protector shall have a tail that protects the groin area. All male catchers must wear protective cups. It is strongly recommended that all players wear a protective cup.
- 1-5-12 Jewelry shall not be worn (See 3.3.1d) except for religious or medical medals ... taped and worn under the uniform ...

RULE 2 - Playing Terms and Definitions

- 2-8 Bunting will not be allowed.
- 2-19 There is no infield fly rule.
- 2-20-2 A 1/2 inning is over when there are 3 outs or when the number of players in attendance of the larger team have batted. A coach shall announce the last batter prior to their at bat. The last batter (and all runners on base) will advance until an infielder is in control of the ball (see rule 5). Do not have the runners continue running after the play has completed.

RULE 3 - Substituting – Coaching - Bench & Field Conduct-Charged Conferences

- 3-1-1 A team may start or end a game with 8 players and an automatic out will not be charged for the missing ninth player.
- 3-1-1 On defense, free substitution shall be allowed. All players will play – at minimum – every other inning. All players must be allowed to play one full defensive inning in the infield within the first three innings.
- 3-1-2, 3 A pitcher – once removed – may not be reinserted as a pitcher.
- 3-1-4 On offense the batting order shall contain the entire roster of players present.
- 3-1-1 Base-runners may only be substituted in the case of injury. In such case, the player who made the last out may be inserted for an injured base-runner.
- 3-2-1 Coaches are not required to be in team uniform. However, coaches must wear athletic attire that corresponds to his team's uniform colors. A player base-coach is required to wear a batting helmet. Players and coaches will show respect for the game by wearing hats bill-forward except while playing catcher.
- 3-3-1a Pitchers/Catchers that are warming up within the foul area of the ball field MUST have a PROTECTIVE Player between them and the field of play. **THIS WILL BE ENFORCED.**

3-3-1c A player who carelessly or unintentionally throws their bat or helmet shall receive 1 warning. Further infractions by the same player, or a player who intentionally throws their bat or helmet, shall result in the player being called out & in forfeiture of their next turn at bat (automatic out).

3-3-1g Bench and Field Conduct

'A Coach, player, substitute, attendant or other bench personnel shall not: commit any unsportsmanlike act to include, but not limited to,

6. any member of the coaching staff who was not the head coach (or designee) in 3.2.4 leaves the vicinity of the dugout or coaching box to dispute a judgment call by an umpire.'

The rules further state: For the head coach, the duties of controlling the dugout and team behavior includes being both accountable and responsible for the actions of assistant coaches and all other team personnel ... the head coach is the only coach responsible for communications with umpires, and it is not the role of the assistant coach to dispute or appeal play situations and rulings. (p.65, Points of Emphasis, paragraph 2)

PENALTY: The umpire shall eject the offender from the game, unless the offense is judged to be of a minor nature. The umpire may warn the offender and then eject him if he repeats the offense. **FCBC Reserves the right to suspend any assistant coach who violates this rule.**

RULE 4 - Starting and Ending the Game

4-2-1, 2 Games shall start and end on time. No inning shall begin later than 1 1/2 hours after the game's scheduled starting time.

4-2-3 The league will not reschedule rainouts. Managers may reschedule un-played games at their option.

RULE 5 - Dead Ball - Suspension of Play

5-1-1 Play on a batted ball ends when an **infielder is in control of the ball.**

5-1-1g On an overthrown ball that goes into foul territory, base runners shall only be awarded the bases to which they were **attempting to advance** at the time the ball crossed the baseline.

RULE 6 - Pitching

6-1-4 The strike zone includes the neck & the knees, the width of the plate PLUS 3 inches to either side of the plate. Batters should be swinging. Please be liberal with this.

6-1-6 Pitchers may pitch no more than 3 innings per week. Once another player has replaced a pitcher, they may not reenter the game as a pitcher.

- An adult pitcher shall be used during EVEN numbered innings. Players shall pitch during ODD numbered innings in 8 year old league.
- Adult pitchers will take over during ODD numbered innings after three (3) walks have been given up by a pitcher, or any combination of pitchers, in one inning.
- The adult pitcher shall be considered a defensive player.
- If a batted or thrown ball hits the adult pitcher, the ball remains live and play continues. If a batted ball lodges in the adult pitcher's clothing or is caught by the adult pitcher, the ball is dead, and the count reverts back to what it was before the pitch was thrown.
- If a batted ball hits the adult pitcher & bounces into foul territory without going past first or third base & without being touched by a defensive player, a dead-ball single is awarded the batter and base runners will not advance unless in a force situation.

- The adult pitcher should be either the coach or manager of the team, and shall pitch to the players of their team. If a coach or manager is unable to pitch, any ADULT may assume the pitching duties.
- The adult pitcher shall pitch to their own team when at bat. There are no restrictions as to how many adult pitchers are used in one game, or on how many times the pitcher may be replaced. If a change is made in the middle of inning, no warm-up pitches shall be permitted.
- Bases on balls are NOT awarded when an adult pitcher is pitching. If an adult pitcher is not able to throw strikes consistently, a new adult pitcher should be brought in. Bases on balls shall be awarded when the player is pitching.
- Adult pitchers are prohibited from fielding any batted or thrown ball, except in self-defense, other than a return throw from a fielder at the end of playing action. If a batted or thrown ball inadvertently strikes the adult pitcher, refer to the rule above dealing with this issue. If an adult pitcher, in the judgment of either umpire, intentionally fields a batted or thrown ball, **the batter is OUT and the play ends.**

6-2-4, 5 There will be no balks called.

RULE 7 - Batting

7-4-1b The dropped third strike rule is NOT in effect. On any dropped third strike, the batter is out and may not advance.

RULE 8 - Base Running

8-2-8 Once the pitcher has control of the ball within an 8-foot radius of the pitcher's rubber, runners must remain in contact with their bases until the ball crosses home plate. The first time a runner leaves too soon, a warning shall be issued to the runner. The second time, the runner shall be called out. Each runner shall be issued one warning per time on base. Warnings and penalties shall be called immediately, and the ball will be considered dead before the pitch.

8-4-1e A batter is out when the umpire, regardless of whether the ball is caught by the catcher or not, calls the third strike. **Any combination of three strikes (swinging or looking) and the batter is out.**

8-4-2 Sliding is allowed. Any slide must be feet first, and should be attempted only after proper training.

RULE 9 - Scoring - Record Keeping

9-2-1 Official game scores and team standings shall not be kept.

RULE 10 - Umpiring

10-1-1 Each team shall provide one umpire for each game. The umpires shall trade positions after three innings. The Umpire-In-Chief shall make the calls at home and third base, keep track of the count and number of outs, the Field Umpire shall make the calls at first and second base in the field, and determine that all base runners remain in contact with their bases until the ball has crossed the plate.