



**TBALL
SOFTBALL
BASEBALL**

RULEBOOK

2025

CITY OF ESCALON RECREATION

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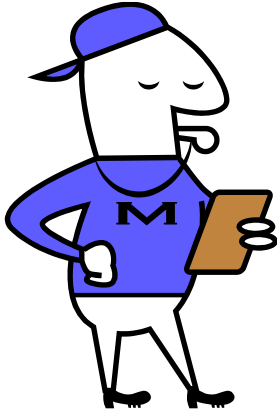
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CITY OF ESCALON YOUTH SPORTS PHILOSOPHY

The manager/coach of young athletes is the single most important adult in all of children's athletics. Other adults, such as officials and administrators, have important responsibilities, too. No task is as important as that of the manager/coach who must guide young children physically, socially and emotionally as they grow through childhood.



The youth sports manager/coach is required to play many roles. Most prominent among these is being a teacher and an instructor of skills, a friend who listens and offers advice, a substitute parent when their parents are not available or accessible, a disciplinarian who rewards and corrects behavior, and a cheerleader who provides encouragement when everything goes wrong.

The age and development level of the athletes will determine how frequently the manager/coach is asked to assume the various roles. Indeed, managers/coaches may find themselves switching roles minute by minute as the fast-moving, complex nature of a contest call for different responsibilities.

For young players to achieve success in any endeavor, they need to be confident that their efforts will be met with affirmation. Particularly with very young players, negative and impatient remarks can be very destructive to both spirit and motivation. Most children will work harder and achieve much more if they are met with enthusiastic support and helpful criticism.

Young people at this age are very impressionable and are developing attitudes that they will take with them for the rest of their life. Thus, it is imperative that you set the best possible example during practice and games. These kids and their parents are counting on you.

The goals of the Escalon Recreation Department are to teach good sportsmanship, the rules of baseball, and to have FUN! Remember: We are here for the children.

MANAGER/COACH RESPONSIBILITIES

You are to teach the basic fundamentals of baseball in a **fun and enjoyable** environment. To implement skills learned in a game situation with the challenges that competition present. To teach sportsmanship and team play through your example and instruction.

- **Managers/Coaches and spectators are not allowed to stand behind the screen where the umpire stands.**

- **All Managers & Coaches must be fingerprinted** every 2 years and must be approved to coach by the Chief of Police. They must also complete the **required concussion training** and submit the certificate of completion to the Recreation Department.



- Develop fundamental baseball skills in the players by implementing an organized, comprehensive game and practice plan.

- Communicate with parents and players on program information and upcoming events.



- Keep roster packet with you at all practices and games, schedule practices, distribute game schedules and uniforms.

- Contact and follow up with players who don't attend games or practices.

- Attend required meetings/clinics and complete proper paperwork. Complete the required ASEP course and turn certificate in to the Recreation Department.



- Display the highest sportsmanship and cooperation during the games and practices.

- Turn in your team's signed Code of Conducts to the Recreation Department by **the specified date**. Any individuals that have not turned in their signed C of C will not be permitted to participate.




- **Hey Managers...how do you want to be remembered? MAKE IT A FUN SEASON!**



TEAM ORGANIZATION TIPS

- Have a meeting with all parents at first practice.
- Be sure all players, managers/coaches and spectators show good sportsmanship.
- At last game of the season bring all equipment to turn in.
- All players must wear Escalon Babe Ruth issued shirts, EBR issued hats/visors or hats/visors provided by Manager. At the start of each game, players' shirts must be tucked in and team hats must be worn.
- Have your team clean up any mess they make on the fields and in the dugouts.

SPECIAL RULES OF IMPORTANCE AND EMPHASIS FOR ALL LEAGUES

1. A league schedule shall consist of each team playing a minimum of 8 games within their league or an interlocking schedule with other Cal Ripken.
 2. League divisions are based on player's age as of April 30 of same year (Baseball) and December 31 of previous year (Softball) **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
 3. Teaching runners how and when to slide is an important part of a coach's responsibility. Players should be instructed to slide or avoid being put out (without violent contact) on any close play at second, third, and home, not only to avoid injury to the fielder, but also to prevent personal injury.
 4. In a double play situation, regardless of whether the play at second is close, players should not be taught to stand up going into second in attempt to prevent the pivot man from throwing to first base or to cause him to throw wildly. The runner who does not slide, risks collision and the chance of being struck in the face by the fielder's throw. The proper technique is for the base runner to make a legal slide in an attempt to break up a double play. If the pivot man has already touched the base and is no longer in the base line, the runner should not go out of the base line in attempt to make contact with the pivot man. He will be declared out for the interference. If such contact is malicious or flagrant, the runner will be ejected from the game. If, in the opinion of the umpire, the runner's interference also prevented an out on other players, the umpire will declare the runner out also.
 5. **Contact Rule:** If a runner attempting to reach home plate or another base intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of home plate or a base, he/she will be called out and ejected from the game.
 6. **Bench and Field Conduct:** The City of Escalon Code of Conduct should be followed at all times. Unsportsmanlike conduct or inappropriate behavior can result in being banned from games.
 7. **Protective Gear:** All batters, catchers, on-deck batters, base runners, and players serving as base coaches must wear protective head gear. Any player who refuses to wear protective headgear will not be allowed to bat, coach the bases, or be a runner. The Recreation Department will replace only EBR issued protective gear if damaged.
- Anyone warming up a pitcher at any location shall wear a mask. A throat protector is considered part of the catcher's mask.
8. The City of Escalon Recreation Department establishes the times, dates and locations of play. This schedule is developed in the best interest of the total league.
 9. No game shall be allowed to go beyond 10:00 p.m.

10. The home team shall have the third base dugout.

11. **Fields and umpires are available on an extremely limited basis.** If teams have a conflict with their schedules, it is their responsibility to resolve this problem. The Manager of each team must find available fields and umpires and be held responsible for any consequences for rescheduling the game. The two Managers responsible must report standings, call all parents involved with the rescheduling of that game, and notify the Coordinator immediately in order to avoid any other conflict with scheduling.



12. **Dugouts:** Players are to remain with their team in the designated area until the coach releases them from the game. All players will help clean up their respective areas after each game.

13. **Chattering:** Chattering is allowed but not encouraged. There will be cheering from your team in good conduct only. No derogatory talk to the opposing team before, during and/or after the game will be tolerated. All problems will go through the Manager.

14. **Discipline:** Managers will handle discipline problems on an individual basis. In addition to their players, Managers are also responsible for controlling their Coaches and fans of their respective teams.

15. **Managers/Coaches:** Must stay in coach's box. If they touch players that aid in the play or has an impact on the game without a time-out, the runner is out. If manager/coaches or bystanders intentionally catch a foul ball or interfere in any way with a play, the batter will be called out on your team.

16. **Cups (baseball only).** Are required for safety reasons.

17. **Umpiring:** The umpire is the controlling force of the game. If a rule is in question, both managers and the umpire will have a conference. If a compromise of a rule can't take place, an official protest will be called. Remember, the umpire is in total control of the game. Any excessive arguing will result in one warning, and then if a problem continues, you will be ejected from the game which means you will leave the park and/or grounds immediately.



18. **Suspended Games:** If the umpire suspends the game due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, the game shall be resumed at the exact point of suspension of the original game. The completion of a suspended game is a continuation of the original game. The lineup and batting order of both teams shall be exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension.

19. **Coaches Charging Umpires on Judgment Calls:** There is no place for such tactics in amateur baseball. Any player, manager, coach or bench personnel who "charge" an umpire or question a judgment call by an umpire will be warned to stop

this action at once. If the warning is not heeded immediately, the offender will be banished from the game.

20. **Protests:** When a rule is in question, the coach will call a time-out immediately before the next play, and a calm discussion will take place between the coaches of both teams and the umpire. In the event that a decision can't be agreed upon, the coach must state that he or she is hereby protesting. **The game is to continue under protest**, and it is the responsibility of the protesting coach to notify the Recreation Services Coordinator in writing within 24 hours of the incident. The Recreation Services Coordinator will then decide if the protest is valid or not. If you disagree with the Recreation Services Coordinator's decision, you have the option of having the protest heard by the five appointed Recreation Commission members. You can protest **in writing** to the Recreation Commission whose decision is final. **Protests will not be discussed on the ball field.**
21. If a violation of the Code of Conduct is present, the Recreation Services Coordinator will exercise the right of removing the manager/coach or spectator for the remainder of the game. Offender(s) will receive a violation notice with applicable suspension or expulsion.
22. **Scorekeeping:** Home team keeps official score, innings pitched and game start time (communicate time with Umpire).
23. If there is a close play at home plate, the runner must slide to prevent a collision (refer to Contact Rule).

LEAGUE SPECIFIC RULES MINOR NATIONAL (10-year-old)

The set of In-House Rules are rules, which apply to the local League and supersedes the Babe Ruth National Baseball Rules. These rules may be necessary due to safety reasons in situations unique to the field or may enhance the normal set of rules implied by the Babe Ruth League.

TIME LIMITS:

Regulation games shall be six (6) innings in duration OR when a one-hour and 45-minute (1:45) time limit is reached. New innings started prior to the time limit and continued beyond the time limit, will be played in their entirety if necessary and conditions permit. No game shall be played past the time of official Sunset for that day. Games CAN end in a tie.

All innings started before one-hour and 15-minute (1:15) will consist of three (3) outs or when a team scores 5 runs in an inning. All innings started after one-hour and 15-minutes (1:15) will consist of three (3) outs. There will be No run limit in these innings.

No new inning may start with less than fifteen (15) minutes left.

MERCY RULE:

If the visiting team is ahead by 10 or more runs after four (4) innings, or the home team is ahead by 10 or more runs after 3 and a half (3.5) innings, the game shall end with the current score being final.

PLAYER AND POSITION RULES:

1. No player on a team may sit more than one (1) defensive innings before all players are asked to sit for one (1) defensive innings during the game.
 - a. One inning constitutes three (3) consecutive outs.
 - b. If a player shows up after the first inning is complete that player may be exempt from this rule.
 - c. If a player is hurt during the game that player is exempt from this rule.
 - d. This rule must be adhered to if 11 or more players begin the game.

- e. Infield can be any of the following positions: Pitcher, 1st base, 2nd base, 3rd base, shortstop, or catcher. This rule must be adhered to for all games where 4 innings or more are played.
- 2. Each team will play ten defensive players, to include a pitcher, who will perform the pitching duties. The tenth player will play a 4th outfield field position.
- 3. Four (4) outfielders will be used, and outfielders may NOT make a putout in the infield except for a multi-player “pickle” rundown situation or throwing the ball to a base to make a putout.
 - a. Example 1: RF, RCF, LCF, LF fielder can throw the ball to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or home base to make a putout.
 - b. Example 2: RF, RCF, LCF, LF cannot run into the infield or to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or home base to make the putout.
- 4. A team must start and finish a game with a minimum of eight (8) players or the game will be forfeited.

Penalties for Coaches:

- 1. First violation for not playing a player is a one game suspension and review by board of directors.
- 2. Second violation for not playing a player will require a hearing before the Board with possible suspension for remainder of the season and forfeit of the game in which the violation occurred.

*Note that a team must have a catcher.

PITCHING RULES:

- 1. Pitchers shall pitch from forty-six (46’) feet.
- 2. Balks will be called in this division.
 - a. Each pitcher will receive one warning. Balks will then be called at the discretion of the umpire.
- 3. The player Smart pitch format will be used for the entire season. Refer to the chart below for pitch count rules.

Daily Max (Pitches in Day)	Rest Period		
	0 Days	1 Days	2 Days
75	1-40	41-65	66+

Please note the penalty for the violation of any SMART PITCH rule is as follows:

- 1. The Manager will be suspended for one game.

2. If the violating team won, they would register a forfeit for that game.
3. The pitcher in violation will not be allowed to pitch in the following game that he is eligible to pitch in.

BATTING RULES:

1. All players must bat.
2. If a player must leave the batting order for any reason, including an injury, and they fail to bat in their batting position an out will be recorded.
 - a. If the player does not return to the game, no out will be recorded when the players' turn comes up in their following at bats.
3. If a player misses an at bat and returns to the game, they must bat in their original batting order position or an out will be recorded.
4. Any player that shows up after the start of the game will be inserted into the last batting order position.
5. The infield fly rule does NOT apply in this division.
6. If there is at least one out and the player scheduled to catch the next inning is on base, the manager may insert a courtesy runner for that player to speed up play. The courtesy runner shall be the last batted out.
7. Bunting is allowed in this division.
8. A batted ball that, in the judgment of the umpire, goes over the fence solely due to the fence bending shall be ruled a ground rule double.

OVERTHROW RULES:

1. Baserunners may advance on an overthrow; however, they advance at their own risk.

BASERUNNING RULES:

1. Runners will be NOT be allowed to lead off at first base, second base and third base.
2. Runners may steal any base, after the ball makes contact or passes the catcher, except for home.
 - a. The first instance of a runner leaving early shall be a warning. All subsequent instances of a runner leaving early shall be an automatic out.
3. With an attempted play, on any runner, all runners are free to advance at their own risk for the entire season.
4. A player shall not be allowed to advance home except:
 - a. when the ball is put in play by the batter or

- b. when a play is being made on any runner (including during a pick off or steal attempt).
5. The dropped third strike rule will NOT be in effect for the entire season.
6. The infield fly rule does NOT apply in this division.
7. Runners must slide on any potential play at home. Failure to slide is an automatic out.

COACHING RULES:

1. A team may have up to a total of 4 OBSA board approved coaches participating in the game. And not in the field of play
2. **UNIFORM RULES:**
 1. All players must wear the provided jersey by OBSA.
 2. Metal cleats are not allowed.

EQUIPMENT RULES:

1. A Babe Ruth approved baseball will be used in this division.
2. All non-wood bats must have the “USA” stamp/logo with a barrel no larger than 2 5/8” and a barrel no smaller than 2 1/4”.

PARTICIPANT RULES:

1. Negative chatter by ANYONE on or near the field will not be allowed and may result in removal from the game.
2. A spectator, player, or coach who uses profanity will be removed from the game at the umpire/coach’s discretion and must leave the area.

TEAM ADMINISTRATIVE AND HOUSEKEEPING RULES:

1. The home team shall have the third base dugout.
1. Home teams are to provide a brand-new game ball as provided by the league at the beginning of the season for every home game in addition to one gently used game ball.
1. Coaches must provide the umpire and opposing team with a lineup card.
1. Home teams are responsible for assigning a dedicated score keeper for each game. Score must be recorded in the official score book.
1. Any home team that does not record the final game score onto the league scoring app by the following morning after the game will forfeit the results of the game (win or loss) to the visiting team.
1. Home team is responsible for setting up the field before each game (bases, bumps/mounds, fences (if applicable). Visiting team (if the final game of the day) is responsible for removing and placing all bases, mounds etc. into the appropriate storage containers. Visiting teams must take into consideration the following games (if the visiting team is baseball and the next game is softball, then the visiting team needs to remove all mounds/bumps etc. not to be used by the coming softball team.)