



## Vernon Baseball Association 9U Division General Rules

Coaching team to review these rules and incorporate them into game play:

1. Good sportsmanship **must be displayed at ALL times by coaches and parents**. Kids need to be taught how to be encouraging and accepting of all other kids and skill levels.
2. The first 6 nights will be practices. After that, two-inning games will be played. The second team listed on the schedule is the HOME team and is responsible for setting up / taking down the field, and will bat in the bottom half of the inning.
3. Kids will take 4 pitches off the Vernon Baseball issued pitching machine, then hit off the tee to ensure everyone gets to hit. Strikeouts are NOT in play.
4. If batter / runner gets put out while running the bases, they will return to their team in the 'dugout'. They must start learning about outs at this level.
5. Every player hits in every inning. 3 out rule is NOT in play.
6. If a batter hits a foul ball, they will return and try to hit again. This gives the kids more practice.
7. Players are NOT permitted to plow through defenders while running the bases, even if they are in their way. All kids are learning the basics, and will not understand that the base runner gets the baseline.
8. Every player must get a chance at every position throughout the season.
9. Catchers need to be used for each defensive inning. It's crucial to start developing catchers at this level because it's the most challenging position to play, and if they have no exposure to it at this level, it will hinder them in the future divisions.
10. Players **are** permitted to run more than one base at a time IF THE HIT WARRANTS IT. Please don't keep your kids running on defensive throwing errors. This will teach the other team to 'throw the ball around', which is not something we want the kids learning to do. Stop your base runners from running once the ball has been returned to the infield. More aggressive base running\* is a skill they can learn in more competitive baseball.
11. At the end of the game, teams will race each other in a relay around the bases. Make sure to cheer on your team AND the other team. Again... SPORTSMANSHIP. End the night with teams lining up to shake hands.

**Have FUN, stay LOOSE, and remember they are KIDS out there to have fun!!**

**\* If you have some kids on your team that are more competitive and play at a higher skill level, encourage them to try out for the Summer All Star team. This will give them an outlet for their competitive nature.**