

## Dell Rapids Little League Guidelines

The Dell Rapids Little League board has put together a list of guidelines for coaches to use throughout the year. Our mission is to teach the fundamentals of baseball while making it enjoyable and FUN for the players of all ages.

- Try to schedule at least 2 practices prior to the first game of the year. We know field time is very limited due to the number of baseball/softball teams needing practice time, but having a couple of practices before the first game will at least get the players in baseball mode by the first game
- Don't argue with the umpires. The MinnDak League does not hire sanctioned/professional umpires for their games. More often than not, the umpires are 14-18 year-old kids making a few extra dollars on their summer nights. They are going to miss calls...expect it. Remember this is for fun, so be sure to set the example for your players.
- Stay positive...even when facing frustration. We are coaching 6-12 year olds. They will all have varying levels of capability and experience. Again, the main goal is to teach kids the fundamentals of baseball and provide a fun and positive experience. Mistakes are going to happen, probably every inning. This is a great opportunity to teach kids to pick themselves up from mistakes and try again.
- Try to keep kids pitching more on a pitch count. The MinnDak League uses an inning limit instead of pitching limit. The inning limit for both Pee Wee and Midgets is 3 innings a game. This can both be positive and negative. It's a positive to have 3 innings for those kids that have a lot of talent and can sometimes get through an inning in 10 pitches. This does happen. However, this can be a negative to have 3 innings. It can sometimes be tempting to leave a pitcher in there for a 3<sup>rd</sup> inning even if he has thrown 60-75 pitches. It's our job to look over the kids and make sure we don't stretch them too far.
- Try to rotate your batting order every game. The hitters at the top of your lineup usually get more at-bats than the bottom of the lineup during a game. Moving the lineup around throughout the year will even out the at-bats by the end of the season. Plus it gives every player the chance to hit in a different spot in the lineup throughout the year and learn different situations. Another developmental opportunity.
- Try to rotate the positions every couple of innings. Kids all have their favorite positions. Kids also have a position they are stronger at than others. We want to give kids a chance to learn as many different positions throughout the year as possible. There is a good chance we will find someone who can play a position very well that we didn't think about before. We allow for coach discretion here. If it is apparent that it's a safety situation with a player at a certain position, the DRLL board fully supports the coach's decision to keep that player from playing that position.
- Be organized. Volunteering to coach is a huge time commitment, and we recognize that. Being organized helps everything run smoothly. Pee Wee

and Midget coaches have even more added responsibility in lining up the umpires for home games. Having a clear game plan for every day helps optimize your time to focus on teaching young players.