

# CYA SINGLE A HOUSE RULES

## 1.0 PURPOSE

This document outlines the policies, procedures and rules of the Chantilly Youth Association's (CYA) Single A League spring and fall baseball programs. No changes or waivers to any portion of this document are authorized unless approved by the Single A Coordinator, American League V.P., National League V.P., and League President.

## 2.0 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Any child, male or female, who resides in the greater Chantilly region and is league-age seven or eight, is eligible to participate in the Single A program. Exceptions require the approval of the Single A Coordinator and when applicable, the Youth Baseball Coordinator.

League age for the fall season is defined as the age of the player as of April 30 of the following year. For example, a player who turns seven on or before April 30, 2010 is league age seven for the fall 2009 season.

League age for the spring season is defined as the age of the player as of April 30 of that spring season. For example, a player who turns eight on or before April 30, 2010 is league age eight for the spring 2010 season.

## 3.0 TEAM ORGANIZATION

Team rosters are limited to a maximum of thirteen players each. Teams are formed by the Single A Coordinator. Any special requests made by parents, guardians, players and coaches will be considered but not necessarily granted by the Single A Coordinator.

## 4.0 SAFETY

Safety is the first priority for all CYA programs and is the responsibility of all managers, coaches, players, parents and spectators. The prevailing rule is when a safety hazard is identified take a common sense approach to prevent the hazard from becoming an accident which causes injury to people or damage to equipment or property. The following are major safety regulations which must be enforced **without** exception.

**4.1 No player shall ever be left alone after a practice or game.** The manager, coach or a designated adult is responsible for remaining with the child until the parent or guardian arrives.

**4.2** Play is stopped **immediately** in the event of thunder and/or lightning. A game or practice may resume if no thunder and/or lightning occurs for thirty minutes after the last instance of thunder and/or lightning. Use extreme caution when dealing with inclement weather!

**4.3** For practices, players may only swing bats with adult supervision in designated batting areas.

**4.4** For games, the only player that may have a bat in his/her hand is the player at-bat. **There is no on deck batter permitted anywhere on the field!** This includes coaches and/or parents using "hit-sticks" to warm-up batters.

**4.5** Everyone must keep off the backstops, batting cages, fences and equipment boxes.

**4.6** The lid of the metal storage containers must be closed except when equipment is being removed or stowed.

**4.7** Tobacco use is prohibited at all Single A fields.

**4.8** Pets are not allowed on Single A fields per Fairfax County.

## 5.0 SAFETY EQUIPMENT

All protective gear must be checked before game time to make sure it is in good condition.

**5.1** During all games and practices, players must wear protective batting helmets while at bat and when running the bases.

**5.2** Catchers must wear a chest protector, shin guards and a catcher's mask with a throat guard when playing the catcher's position.

**5.3** A protective cup *must* be worn by all catchers and is highly recommended for all players.

## 6.0 PLAYING RULES

Little League baseball rules will be followed except as modified below.

**6.1** If a batter unintentionally throws a bat, the home plate umpire will defer to the manager of the player to take corrective action. If a player intentionally throws a bat, the player will immediately be removed from the game for the remainder of that game.

**6.2** Leading off from any base is not permitted.

**6.3** Base stealing is not permitted and runners may not advance on a passed ball.

**6.4** When playing on a field that is not completely enclosed, an overthrown ball at first or third base that travels beyond the sideline fence will be considered a dead ball and the base runners will be awarded one base.

**6.5** If a defensive player blocks a base *except when in possession of the ball and making a play* then obstruction will be called and the runner will be granted one base.

**6.6** A base runner advancing to any base must attempt to avoid a collision with a defensive player. A base runner that makes no attempt to avoid a collision by sliding or taking other evasive action will be called out.

**6.7** A pinch runner shall replace the base runner that is scheduled to be the catcher when the team takes the field next. This gives the player additional time to put on the catcher's equipment and eliminates delays between innings. The player who is currently at the end of the batting order shall be used as the pinch runner.

**6.8** A player or an adult coach may serve as a base coach at first and third bases. If it is a player then he/she must wear a protective batting helmet.

**6.9** Every player present for the game will remain in the batting order and will bat in his/her spot whether or not that player is in the field during that or the previous inning. If a player must leave the game early or is injured then his/her spot may be skipped with no penalty. An injured player may return to the game but must reenter in his/her original spot in the batting order.

**6.10** No player shall sit out more than one inning until every other player sits out one inning; no player shall sit out two innings until all players sit two innings, and so forth. However, when a player arrives after the game has started then that player is not subject to these participation rules. Give ample consideration to playing time for players arriving late.

**6.11** All games have a *firm two hour time limit* regardless of where the teams are in the game. The start time is when the defensive team takes the field in the top of the first inning. Both coaches shall confirm the start time with each other when the game begins. Teams must leave the field and dugout area *thirty* minutes before the start time of the next scheduled game.

**6.12** The visiting team is listed first and the home team is listed second on game schedules. For example: Orioles vs. Nationals – the Orioles are the visitors and occupy the third base bench and the Nationals are the home team and occupy the first base bench.

**6.13** Games that are started but suspended because of inclement weather or darkness may be rescheduled if less than four full innings are completed. The game will continue where the original game was suspended. Any game that completes four full innings is considered a complete game and will not be rescheduled for completion. For rescheduled incomplete games, all participation rules apply as if the game had not been suspended.

**6.14** It is required that teams have a minimum of seven players present from the team's roster to start the game. A team that has seven or eight players at the start of the game may utilize players from the opposing team to fill defensive positions. The “borrowed” players shall play the corner outfield positions – right and left field.

**6.15** Players **may not** slide head first into a base, **except** when returning to a base to avoid a tag. Players that slide head first will be called out.

**6.16** Each team is limited to five runs per inning. When the fifth run crosses the plate then that half of the inning is over and play stops. If a defensive team gets three outs before the offensive team gets five runs then that half of the inning is over.

**6.17** All games are six full innings unless the game is shortened because of darkness, inclement weather or it has reached the time limit.

**6.18** A traditional ball and strike count is not maintained. Walks are not awarded and first base is not awarded if a batter is hit by a pitch. A batter is limited to **five pitches** that fall within his/her strike zone. Coaches shall **not** arbitrarily award batters additional pitches/strikes. An additional pitch will be granted if a batter fouls off or foul tips a fifth or succeeding pitch that is not caught by a defensive player. The pitching machines provided by CYA shall be used for all games.

**6.19** Once the batter hits a ball in fair territory, the batter and base runners may advance and be put out according to the normal Little League rules of baseball. However, play is ended and the home plate umpire shall declare time out when a defensive player gains control of the ball anywhere **inside the baselines** and makes no attempt to continue play. Control of the ball outside the baselines does **not** stop play. If a base runner is less than halfway between the bases when the defensive player gains control of the ball inside the baselines and makes no attempt to continue play, the runner must go back to the previous base. The ball is dead and no runners may advance when the ball is in the possession of or being thrown to the adult pitcher.

**6.20** Outfielders are required to be at least fifteen feet outside of the infield dirt. **No outfielder shall be positioned in such a manner that the player will be able to execute normal infield defensive plays.** One example is the right fielder throwing out a batter/runner at first base.

**6.21** A fourth outfielder may be positioned in the outfield in an effort to achieve maximum participation by defensive team players.

**6.22** **Two** adult coaches are permitted to roam the outfield area, **not the infield**, during the game and provide coaching instruction to defensive players. All other adults must remain completely off the playing field during games with the exception of the umpires and adult pitcher.

**6.23** Catchers must use a catcher's mitt when playing the catcher's position. An exception can be made for a left-handed catcher when there is no left-handed catcher's mitt available.

**6.24** There is no infield fly rule.

**7.0 UMPIRING**

Each team will provide one umpire for the game. The home team will provide the home plate umpire and the visiting team will provide the base umpire.

**7.1** The home plate umpire will take up a position behind home plate and will call plays at home plate and third base. If no umpire equipment is available he may be positioned behind the adult pitcher on the pitcher's mound.

**7.2** The base umpire will take a position just inside the first base foul line when a runner does not occupy that base and take a position midway between first and second base (outside the base path) when a runner is occupying first base and call plays at first and second base.

**7.3** The home plate umpire will establish the start and finish times of the game and will alert the respective coaches when fifteen minutes of playing time remain.

**8.0 FIELD MAINTENANCE**

Single A has entered into a formal "Adopt-a-field" agreement with the Fairfax County Public Schools for the fields at Oak Hill Elementary School and Poplar Tree Elementary School. This gives Single A priority use of the fields after school hours but obligates Single A to maintain these playing facilities.

**8.1** It is up to the coaches to determine field playability so use the following guidelines when the fields are wet or it is raining. You should not play on a baseball field if any of the following conditions exist:

**8.1.1** There is standing water on any portion of the field.

**8.1.2** The sound of a footstep (squish-squish) can be heard while walking on the field.

**8.1.3** While standing on the field, water can be observed gathering around the sole of the foot.

**8.1.4** While walking (not running) across a grass portion of the field, a footprint is left in the soil (not just the grass bending over).

**8.1.5** While walking (not running) on any dirt portion of the field, an impression ½" or deeper is made in the soil.

**8.2** There are some days during the season when the fields will not be available to CYA due to school functions. All games and practices will be rescheduled accordingly.

**8.3** It is the responsibility of each team to monitor the playing areas after each game or practice. This includes the access areas to/from the field where players tend to discard their snack containers and wrappers. Leave the field and surrounding area as clean as it was when you arrived, if not cleaner.

**8.4** All abandoned water containers shall be put into the trash cans and not placed in the metal equipment boxes in hope that they will be reclaimed.

**8.5** Collect equipment (bats, gloves, clothing, etc.) left at the fields and notify the Single A Coordinator and the other Single A managers so it can be returned to its owners.

Please remember that Single A fields are situated on Fairfax County Public School property and our failure to maintain the fields properly may result in the loss of access to these facilities.