

# MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Ages 12 to 9 (League age as of April 30th)

Welcome to another year of baseball at the Minor League level. It is our intent to let you and your coaches know what our objectives are for your child's baseball growth by providing a list of skills your child will be learning this season. The Minor League level is the first time your child's skills will be evaluated during an evaluation where coaches will be ranking your child's skills respective to their peers. This evaluation is used to help pick equally skilled teams and to help your coach better understand how to set up their practices to address improving the team skills.

- Play the game with an umpire, 3 strikes equals 1 out, 4 balls equals a walk and the pitcher is a kid of similar age.
- Teach proper running to first for infield and outfield hits
- Teach checking for overthrows to 1<sup>st</sup> that might allow advancing to 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Teach the proper distance to loop past 1<sup>st</sup> on a ball hit to right, center, and left field
- Taking a lead off the base once the pitched ball passes home plate
- Teach the proper technique to slide into a base (absolutely no head first slides)
- Teach paying attention to the 3<sup>rd</sup> base coach before rounding 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Teach situational baseball and knowing where the play is before the ball is hit
- Teach never to hold the ball in the outfield-throw it to 2<sup>nd</sup> if you have no idea
- Teach the sacrifice bunt
- Teach the defense for the sacrifice bunt
- Teach pitchers how to pitch-balanced, and no windup
- Teach pitchers how to hold runners at 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Teach signals coming from the 3<sup>rd</sup> base coach
- Teach proper cutoff positions when fielding hits to the outfield
- Teach throwing the ball to the base ahead of the runner
- Teach keeping the hitters in the batters box and how hitters should turn when pitches are thrown in the direction of the hitter
- Teach catchers to block pitches in the dirt, throw to second and positioning the throwing hand during the pitch
- Teach listening to the coach
- Teach GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

We want to make sure that the number one objective is that your child is having fun.