

St. Anthony's CYO Minors Baseball—3rd & 4th Graders Divisional Rules

General

- ❖ Practice for 10 minutes starting at the appointed time.
- ❖ Game begins after the Opening Pray and the National Anthem, and not before. Please line players up along the foul line at your dugout for the Opening Pray and National Anthem. Please have the players tuck their shirt into their pants, and take their hats off.
- ❖ Players can not wear their hats backwards.
- ❖ Helmets must be worn at all times when batting and running bases. Helmets must have a face mask, even if it is a child's personal helmet. This is a zero tolerance rule.
- ❖ Mandatory cup-rule for catchers.
- ❖ Play all players in field.
- ❖ 3 outs per inning.
- ❖ **In case of light rain, when games are not cancelled, the pitching machines will not be used. Revert to coach pitching.**
- ❖ There is no leading or stealing.
- ❖ A batter is not allowed to slide into first base (*added to rules mid-2010 season*).
- ❖ Work with the 3rd and 4th graders on [pitching mechanics](#). The kids start pitching at the sixth game.
- ❖ There is a 5 run per inning mercy rule. The mercy rule is waived in the last inning, agreed upon by both coaches.
- ❖ At the conclusion of the game, each team will line up on their respective foul line for the traditional good sportsmanship handshake at home plate (*added to rules for 2005*).

Practices

- ❖ Practices are only at St. Anthony's Field, and never away from the CYO Complex.
- ❖ No Practices before the opening of Spring Training.
- ❖ In-season practices are only on specified night for one hour.

Batting

- ❖ There is no on-deck circle.
- ❖ No bunting.
- ❖ In practice the coach's will tell each batter if the pitch was a ball or a strike.
- ❖ Through the fifth game a batter will be considered out after he misses his fifth good pitch
- ❖ Starting with the sixth game, strikes and balls will be called by the Umpires. Strike zone is the width of the plate, and from the knees to the armpits. The Umpire has final say of the strike zone.
- ❖ Batter is entitled to his batting position, then the catcher can set-up.
- ❖ [Infield fly rule](#) is in effect.

Base Running

- ❖ Stealing is not allowed.
- ❖ Players cannot take more than one stride for a lead.
- ❖ Bases are 60' apart.
- ❖ Tagging up is allowed.

Fielding

- ❖ Play one player at each infield position (inc. one next to the pitching machine), and spread the rest throughout the outfield.
- ❖ Start to work with players at the pre-season practice at the catchers position. Coaches will teach the hitters the strike zone which also teaches the catchers the strike zone.
- ❖ 3rd and 4th Graders should be playing the [catchers position](#) at the start of the season.
- ❖ Bases are 60' apart.

Pitching Machines

- ❖ Coaches please arrive early enough to get the pitching machines and extension cords from the CYO storage facility.
- ❖ You must also return the pitching machine and electric cords after the games.
- ❖ *Don't allow any players to touch the machine and do not leave the machines unattended by a coach.*
 - ❖ Please follow the St. Anthony's [CYO Philosophy](#) rules.
 - ❖ *Have Fun and Play Ball!*

[All Divisional Schedules](#)