

VANDENBERG YOUTH SPORTS BASEBALL

MINOR LEAGUE PROGRAM (7-9 YEAR OLDS) 2009

1. **PURPOSE:** The Vandenberg Youth Sports Minor League program is designed to afford each child the opportunity to develop skills in an organized program. The league is designed for the children, therefore rules and by-laws are adjusted to allow for safe, fun, and supervised competition.
2. **OFFICIAL RULES:** These by-laws will govern all league rules. These by-laws are subject to change.
3. **GENERAL POLICIES:**
 - a. Team Rosters: Teams will have a minimum of 8 maximum of 14.
 - b. Coaches are responsible for making initial contact with their parents and players and then ensuring contact is made when/if any changes occur in practice/game times and dates.
 - c. Newly assigned players must have one practice session prior to being eligible to play scheduled games.
 - d. Rainout Practices/Games: Practice cancellations will be determined NLT 12 pm for that day. The Youth Center will notify the coaches or team parent of a game cancellation by 3 PM prior to game day. Cancellation of practices/games may or may not be rescheduled. This will depend on availability of fields and time.
 - e. Coaches will have a meeting with all parents before the first practice to introduce themselves and brief parents on the briefing page provide from the youth sports office. Parents must sign and coaches need to bring this signed form with them at the time of picking up metals and pictures
 - f. Home team will provide a scorekeeper for the game.
4. **HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS:**
 - a. An injured player will not re-enter a game if the player's health is jeopardized.
 - b. A physician's decision will be abided by in all cases involving injuries to youth participating in the remainder of the season.
 - c. No participant will be permitted to participate if he/she is wearing a cast or other bracing apparatus.
5. **EQUIPMENT:**
 - a. A youth league regulation ball will be used.
 - b. Helmets that meet NOCSAE standards or equivalent with a face mask. All batters, base runners, and the on deck person will have a helmet on at all times.
 - c. Metal cleats may not be used.
 - d. Vandenberg Youth Sports will provide a hat and a game shirt to each participant. All equipment needed for games and practices will be stored in the baseball shed for the coaches to share. Please do not take equipment home or us for other location practices. All male players will wear a cup and supporter mandatory.
6. **PLAYING TIME:**
 - a. Each player will start a minimum of 2 games during the season.
 - b. Players must play at least 2 full innings per game.

- c. No player will sit out 2 innings in a row during a game. Every player on the team will sit out at least one inning per game; unless short players.

7. **LENGTH OF GAME:** All games will consist of 6 innings and/or a total playing time of 1 hour and 30 minutes. If the umpire doesn't feel the time is short and another full inning can't be played the score is recorded at that time, but the coaches are asked if they want to play the remainder of the time for fun. At 1 hour and 30 minutes the team at bats can finish and then game is over.

8. **PLAYING FIELD:**

- a. Playing field will be played as assigned to the team
- b. The location for practices and games will be assigned to the team.
- c. The home team will occupy the 1st baseline dugout, while the visiting team will occupy the 3rd baseline dugout.
- d. Teams will be responsible for cleaning their dugout area after each game.

9. **Pitching rule:**

- a. Pitcher must be 8yrs or older to pitch in the Minor League.
- b. Coaches will pitch to players 7yrs for the first five game of the season.
- c. Coaches can pitch to players 8yrs if the child is just not able to hit the ball, but only for the first five games of the season. Starting the sixth game they must hit off a youth pitcher only.
- d. Players 7yrs can hit off a youth pitcher after game five if the playing, coach, and parent feel that the child is ready to be successful hitting off a youth pitcher.

10. **PLAYING RULES:**

- a. Scores will be kept, however the standings will not.
- b. Games will end in a tie with no tie breaking play.
- c. If a team does not have enough players to start a game, every attempt will be made to ensure the game is played, i.e., sharing players and scrimmage.
- d. Only players and umpires are allowed on the field.
- e. When the pitcher has control of the ball on the pitcher's mound, all play will stop. The half inning will end after 3 outs or all batters have batted or 5 runs score. With 4 runs scored, count any additional runs during the last play.
- f. One base per pitch may be stolen. No stealing Home Plate.
- g. On overthrows to any base, the runner will be allowed to advance one base only.
- h. The runner must try to avoid contact with the fielder.
- i. Coaches must ensure the minimum playing time for his/her players. 10 players may be used for defense.
- j. The "Drop third strike will not be used.
- k. All players will bat.

11. **COACHING ETHICS:** All coaches will adhere to the NYSCA Coaches Code of Ethics.

12. **SPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT**

- a. Sportsmanlike conduct is expected at all times and by all involved with the program. Anything less will be unacceptable.

13. **HAVE FUN!!**