Sansei Baseball
Gameplay Guide

Rules:
Rules for each Division are on the website: League Rules

We encourage each team to print out at least the Ground Rules to have at each game for reference. Also, if something is not covered by the League's rules, we defer to the most current Little League rules (Little League Rules, Regulations, and Policies) so we encourage the Little League Rulebook App to be installed on your phone as well.

Scorekeeping:
Although Sansei does not keep standings, all games for Minor 1 Division and up are required to do scorekeeping for their games. This is both to encourage proper gameplay, and for Sansei's recordkeeping purposes as a youth sports non-profit organization. The League provides a scorekeeping book at each field, and although the home team is officially responsible, either the home or away team can serve as the scorekeeper. Here is a Youtube video which covers the basics of scorekeeping:
How To - Score keeping baseball - BASIC

Teams are also allowed to keep score using the GameChanger app, which is developed by Dick's Sporting Goods, a League sponsor. Detailed tutorials are at https://gc.com/gcu/scorekeeping-baseball-softball.

For the PeeWee Divisions, informal scorekeeping can be used to track batting order, number of outs, and runs per inning (for tracking the mercy rule).

Umpires:
The League is utilizing junior umpires for the majority of PW2 (player-pitch) Division games and up as a way to give current and former players and friends an alternative route to stay involved with the game and the League. The League is still developing and growing the program, and expects all coaches **and fans** to encourage and nurture the junior umpires' development. Any issues or comments should be directed to the League's umpire coordinator at umpire@sanseibaseball.com or your Division Commissioner.

Inter-Division Play:
To provide variety in the game matchups, the League has scheduled inter-division games throughout the season. **For inter-division games, the rules and field dimensions for the lower/younger Division shall be used, to the greatest extent feasible**. Also, the higher Division team should use these games as a way to provide developing players on their team an opportunity to try new positions, such as pitcher, catcher, middle infielder, etc. Their strongest players should not be pitching/catching for these games if possible.

Shortage of Players:
The League recognizes teams may have difficulty in fielding the minimum number of players stipulated in the rules, and encourages working with other teams in the League with similar aged players (i.e., up or down one Division, normally) to overcome player shortages. Ways of borrowing players include:

- Borrowing players from the opposing team, either to just fill holes on defense, or for the entire game (i.e. fields *and* bats with the borrowing team)
- Borrowing players from bye-teams: if there is a team with a bye for that week, reach out to them to see if any players can be borrowed
- Borrowing players from teams with games before/after your game

Please reach out to other coaches or your Division Commissioner as early as practically possible so that they can reach out to potential families as early as possible.

Borrowed players **shall not** pitch or catch, unless all involved coaches (the two coaches directly involved with the game, and if a player is borrowed from an outside team, that team's coach also) consents to such. This is to ensure arm safety for our players.

Field Preparation:
It is the **Home Team**'s responsibility to get the field ready for the game, but the Away Team is encouraged to help out. This includes wetting the field in preparation for painting the batters' boxes, and 1st & 3rd base lines. Also, base paths and the pitching mound need to be set to their correct distances. We encourage coaches to recruit their team's families to take care of the majority of this work, so that coaches can focus on game preparation with their players.

Game Balls:
Each team is provided a box of new game balls (12 balls) at the start of the season. The rules stipulate 3 new game balls; however, if a team has 5 home games, there will not be enough balls at the end of the season. The League recommends providing (unwrapping) 2 new game balls per home game to the umpire at the beginning of the game, and if necessary, provide the third as-needed.

Even with this recommendation, if there is a shortage of game balls at the end of the season, check if the away team has any to spare, and if not, please find a used ball that is in good shape to finish out the game.

Checklist of items all teams should have at each game:

- Physical copy of Consent to Treat for each player
- Printout of their Division's Ground Rules
- Contact info for Umpire Coordinator (if applicable) and Division Commissioner
- First Aid Kit (instant ice packs are great additions to First Aid Kits)
- Spare game balls