

JTLL 2011 Clinic

Season:

- Practices can begin on April 3st, weather permitting.
- Games will begin on April 23rd, tentatively.

Practices:

- There will be 1 to 2 practices per week prior to the start of the games.
- Each team will practice:
 - **West Side of Town** - Stanlick A (the large field to the back right of the school) or Stanlick B (behind the school all the way to the left).
 - **East Side of Town** - Cozy Lake or Mahlon Dickerson
- Practices should not last more than 1 1/2 hours. On weekdays, you cannot start before 6:00 PM and you must be done by 8:00 PM.
- **Helmets must be worn by all batters and baserunners!**
- You are not allowed to soft toss and hit the ball against any fences.
- Introduce pitching to all of the players.
- Make sure each child has a mitt and something to drink at each practice.

Games:

- Each game will be played:
 - **West Side of Town** - Stanlick A, unless we need to makeup games in which case Stanlick B will also be used for games.
 - **East Side of Town** - Cozy Lake or Mahlon Dickerson
- **Helmets must be worn by all batters and baserunners.**
- Bat up to 6 players in an inning. We will play 4-inning games, so each player should get up at least twice. Play only 9 in the field, but everyone will be in the batting order. The players who are not in the field must be in the bench area. The maximum time per game will be 2 hours. Keep to the schedule.
- Bases should be 45 feet apart and the pitcher's mound should be 35 feet from home plate.
- Do not keep score. Teach and play the kids in different positions and also **Good Sportsmanship.**
- The batter and baserunners should advance as many bases as the batted ball allows, but please don't advance on overthrows. Overthrows happen quite often at this level. A batter who singles shouldn't be scoring on the same at bat.
- When the defense cleanly fields the ball and makes an out, the runner is out and must leave the base.
- Even if 3 outs are actually recorded in the field (something that would make news), make sure that you continue batting so that 1/2 of your lineup gets up that inning. Let the team in the field know when your last batter is up for that inning.
- Sliding is permitted, **feet first only.** No head first sliding! You must slide at home plate and you are not allowed to slide at first base. Teach the players to run through first base as fast as they can. Sliding into first is actually slower.

- There are 5 swings/strikes per batter when pitched to by a player. Try to avoid strikeouts, especially early in the season. If the ball is not put into play after 5 swings/strikes, then the coach should take over the pitching for that batter. The coach should pitch from their knees to give the batters a more realistic angle. If the coach stands up to pitch, it becomes much more difficult for these 1st and 2nd graders. After the coach then throws 5 pitches with no batted ball or strikeout, have the batter hit off of the tee. We need to keep the game moving. When the next batter comes up, let the player pitch again.

Safety and Tips:

- No one is allowed to hold or swing a bat or be in the batters cage except for the batter. Keep all of the bats in a designated area.
- The players are here to learn, but keep the practices as a fun, learning experience.
- Please use common sense where the weather is concerned. If there is a red flag posted on the field, you cannot play. If there is no red flag and it has rained, bring a rake and if possible, a gas blower to remove as much standing water as you can. If the field is soaked, don't even try to use it. As muddy as the infield will be, the outfield grass will be just at slippery – Don't Play! As soon as the Director knows of any cancellations due to the weather, he or she will call you.
- After each practice and game, please clean the field and bench areas of all garbage. Make sure all of the equipment is collected and the bases and tee returned to the box behind the backstop on Stanlick A or wherever the equipment originally came from.
- Keep your players together in the bench area when your team is batting. They shouldn't be running around. Keep them involved in the game. HAVE FUN!