

The City Of St. James Summer Sports Program is intended for kids to have fun, learn basic aspects of the game, and learn good sportsmanship in a **SAFE** atmosphere. Listed below are some basic rules in which to follow during games.

- After the first pitch, the game will be 1 hour and 20 minutes long or 6 innings, whichever comes first. The umpire and scorekeeper will be responsible for keeping game time.
- Pitching distance is 50 feet and base distance is 65 feet.
- Each team must field at least 6 players. If a team cannot field 6 players, they must forfeit the game at a score of 10-0. The game can be played by using players from other teams or dividing up the teams. However, the game will not count.
- A 10 run mercy rule will be applied for all games. *10 run rule clarification:* The last batter up before the 10 run rule takes effect, all of that batters RBI's and their run count for score, even after 10 runs have been scored. For example: 9 runs have already scored and bases are loaded, person up to bat hits a home run, all 4 runs count for score. Play will be considered over once the ball is dead.
- 3 Strikes (Swinging or Called) is an out. 4 balls results in a walk.
- No player may lead off of the bases.
- Players are allowed to steal bases after the ball has left the pitcher's hand. They can also advance on passed balls.
- The catcher is not to block home plate unless he has the ball in his glove. Also, all runners must slide into home if there is a play at the plate. (This avoids injury and collisions.)
- While batting, all players must remain in the dugout unless they are up to bat or on deck.
- A coach may make two trips to the mound per pitcher, per inning.
- No steel cleats.
- No alcoholic beverages will be allowed. Smoking is prohibited near the playing field and dugouts.