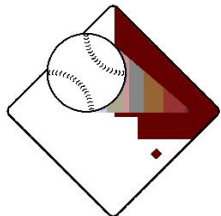




What is Yard Ball?

Yard Ball is an action packed, fast paced modified game of baseball. This program allows participants to engage in social interactions, conflict resolution, improve motor skill development and learn the principles of fair play. Australian Baseball Federation in conjunction with Major League Baseball has designed this modified game which has the opportunity for ages 11 and up with both male and females to participate in a safe and social environment.

Along with what is mentioned above, Yard Ball utilises lightweight plastic equipment that makes the game of baseball less threatening to first time participants, ensuring higher levels of participation. All the skills of baseball i.e. throwing, catching, running and striking are practiced within the Yard Ball program in a games format. The dimension of the field is considerably smaller than a regular size baseball field and each team has no more than four players per team with each game lasting no longer than 20mins, which in turn creates maximum participation for all participants.



BASEBALL QUEENSLAND



Where do I set up?

Yard Ball overcomes the facilities barrier as this game can be played on any grass, dirt, rebound ace or indoor flat surface, with a single field requiring only a 20 square meter area. For example two games can be played on a tennis court or eight games on a football field. In the 2009 Baseball Queensland Yard Ball Championship there were 12 fields set up on the outfield grass alone.

The dimensions of a regular Yard Ball field is 10 paces between each base, 12-15 paces between pitchers plate to home plate and the home run fence down both foul ball lines is 20-25 paces from home plate. Like the game, the dimensions can be altered to suit the desirable needs for all participants involved.



Equipment Used

All equipment used is light weight and easily transportable. The bat is plastic and the length ranges from 30- 34 inches. The ball is also plastic and is the same size as a baseball, 9 inches in diameter, which is full of holes. The holes allow for deceleration, 60%, of velocity after releasing or hitting the ball. All bases and the pitchers plate is rubber and the strike zone is modeled from a fold up picnic chair.

Baseball Queensland's Yard Ball Program

The Development Staff of Baseball Queensland utilizes Yard Ball in many ways. Baseball Queensland is funded from Queensland Government to deliver Yard Ball to rural and remote regions within Queensland. In 2009 Yard Ball was delivered to over 10,000 participants and in 2010 the number of participants has already exceeded 15000. The game is also used within Baseball Queensland's recruitment program, "Batter Up", when conducting clinics for years 4-7. In 2009, the Development Staff delivered "Batter Up" to approximately 18000 Primary School students in South East Queensland during July to September and in 2010 we have 21000 students scheduled to participate. Baseball Queensland, in conjunction with Major League Baseball also holds an annual Yard Ball Tournament during the Christmas schools holidays. This tournament was heavily participated by members of Baseball Queensland. This tournament targets three age groups. They are U12, U14 and U16. In 2009 this tournament attracted 160 players at Windsor Royals and Surfers Paradise Baseball field. This tournament is the final day of a three day event. The first two days is a Baseball Expo called "Training with the Pros" where participants ranging between the ages 9- 13 spend half a day being exposed to professional baseball players who pass on their knowledge.



Rules

1. Game length is five (5) innings or 20 minutes whichever comes first.
2. Three (3) strikes equals an out.
3. Four (4) balls equals a walk.
4. The ball must be pitched overarm.
5. If a batter does not swing at a pitch and the ball lands in the strike zone, then the batter is out.
6. The lead runner in a force situation is forced out on all groundballs fielded in front of the in-field line. Both of the fielders' feet must be in front of the line when fielding the ball.
7. A ground ball, fielded in front of the line may be fumbled for an out as long as it is not dropped to the ground.
8. If a thrown plastic whiffle ball hits a runner below the shoulders while the runner is not in contact with a base, then the runner is out. If a runner is hit above the shoulders, the runner will advance to the base he/she was going to plus one (1).
9. A ball caught in the air in the field of play will be ruled an out.
10. There is no leading off or stealing.
11. If one team leads by ten (10) or more runs after four (4) complete innings that team will be declared the winner.

Note:

- All other rules fall under the rules of baseball.
- All other rules can be altered, which both teams must agree to before the first pitch.
- If there are any arguments within the game, the two players involved play paper, scissors, rock to determine a result.