

Juniors

LOYBL Year-End-Goals 2004 Junior Division



Purpose: These Year-End-Goals have been created by the LOYBL for several reasons.

4. To assure that each player is being educated in the game of baseball according to his or her age and physical ability.
5. To help each coach teach their players a certain amount of skills; this will gauge the amount of coaching that actually occurred throughout the season.
6. To prepare each player for the next level of competition so that everyone is aware of the athletic expectations for the players.

Junior Division Overview: The majority of the players in this division have played at least one year of clinic baseball (machine-pitch), therefore the moving pitch should not be new to them. However, having the ball pitched by another player is a large hurdle. This is also the first year stealing is allowed and the players are encouraged to use more independent thinking on the base paths. In Juniors, the range in baseball ability begins to quickly expand and outfield play becomes more important as well as the development of pitcher and catcher skills. The players need to experience different defensive positions.

Teamwork, hustle and a positive attitude while having fun playing baseball are the basics

Mastery Skill Set: – Players should have mastered these areas/skills and have a complete understanding of them and how to execute them.

HITTING:

- Understand the strike zone dimensions
- Understand the ball/strike count (4 balls for a walk, 3 strikes for an out)
- Understand all the signals given by the coach

BASERUNNING:

- Advance to the next base on a wild pitch/pass ball
- Understand force and tag plays when running the bases
- Understand what tagging up on a fly ball means
- Slide safely into the base

FIELDING:

- Understand how to relay a ball from the outfield to the infield
- Outfielders should move on each play backing up other fielders on all batted balls and throws
- Be able to throw the equivalent distance from 2ND to 1ST base without a bounce
- Move feet to catch groundballs not hit directly at them

PITCHING:

- Understand how to go through the pitching motion on the mound
- Understand how to grip a 4-seam fastball

CATCHING:

- Catch each ball thrown in the strike zone by the pitcher

Sufficient Skill Set: – Players should have experience in the following areas/skills, but not have mastered them yet.

HITTING:

- Be able to make contact with each pitch that is within the strike zone
- Be able to position themselves in the batter's box to adjust to the pitcher's speed and control

BASERUNNING:

- Be able to take a secondary lead on all pitches thrown
- General understanding of how to avoid being doubled-up on a fly ball

FIELDING:

- Communicate with teammates on where defensive play should be made.
- Move to attempt to catch fly ball not hit directly at them

PITCHING:

- Be able to throw more strikes than balls in a pitching outing and general understanding of balk rules

CATCHING:

- Be able to block a throw in the dirt by the pitcher
- Be able to make a throw down to 2ND base when a base runner is stealing