

# **Beanbag Baseball Tournament Rules**

## **Principle of the Game**

Beanbag baseball is played on a board stand that has been modified with openings and beanbags. Beanbags will be made of cloth with finished measurements of 2 ½" x 4", and a thickness of 1".

Rules for the game are similar to the real baseball game. The person throwing the beanbags (batter) continues to play until he gets a hit or three strikes for an out.

An inning is over when each team has three outs.

## **Team Play**

Five to 12 players are required for each team, depending on how many want to play. It is desirable to have nine players. Keep teams even numbered for competition sake. You may bring in a substitute, but once a sub is brought in the player he replaced is out for the remainder of the game.

Each team nominates a captain and chooses a name.

Have a baseball play-off chart showing the progression of the winners and the team names.

## **Players Distance**

From home plate to the rear of the game board, a distance of 21 feet is required: 17 feet from the front leg.

## **Positioning of the Players and the Stand**

The game board must be placed in such a way as to allow a chair to be placed behind it (2<sup>nd</sup> base), a chair to its right (1<sup>st</sup> base), and a chair to its left (3<sup>rd</sup> base). Make sure there is a reasonable separation between the chairs marking the bases and the chairs for the teams. Teams should sit between home base and first, and home base and third.

A line on the ground must clearly indicate where the thrower stands. If the thrower's toe goes ahead of the line, he is OUT. The best way to mark the line is by a small rope held down with two large nails.

Team chairs must be placed in such a way as to not obstruct the thrower's view.

It is important that each player retains the same chair, in the same team, for the entire game.

## **How to Score**

Each player is allowed to throw beanbags until he has a base hit, three strikes or throws an out.

When the player has thrown a beanbag into one of the holes, he then is to do what is written under the hole.

For instance, the beanbag enters the first base hole; the player drops the remaining two beanbags and sits on the first base chair. He cannot leave his base until the next player(s) successfully throws a beanbag or the team scores three OUTS. (Players must WALK from base to base. If he runs, he is OUT.)

If the next player throws a beanbag into the second base hole, the player at first walks around touching second base and continues to the third base chair. The person who has just thrown the beanbag walks to and touches first, walks to second base chair and sits down.

If the following player throws a beanbag into the first base hole, he walks to first and sits down. The player on third base cannot go home to score; he has to be forced home.

When all bases are loaded, and the next player throws into the first base hole, all players advance one chair; the player on third gets to score. If the player had thrown in the second base hole, two players would score. If the beanbag had been thrown into the third base hole, three players would have scored.

A home run advances all players on bases to home plate, including the player throwing the beanbag.

Each bag thrown and not entering a hole is a strike. If the first or second bag enters the FOUL hole, it too is a strike.

A player is OUT when he has three strikes, or he throws a beanbag into the OUT hole.

If the third bag enters the FOUL hole, the player is allowed to throw beanbags until he has a base hit, a strike (thereby an out), or throws into the OUT hole.

The umpire will keep track of the OUTs and call the number out as they are made.

The inning ends when each team scores three OUTs. When a team has three OUTs, the player following the one who had the last OUT will start the next inning.

A flip of a coin determines which team captain will start. The winner has the option of starting first or letting the other team be first to play.

If a beanbag only halfway enters the hole it does not count. If the following beanbag thrown by the same player pushes it in and enters the same hole, or another hole, only the first bag counts.

Beanbags must be thrown underhand.

A game is complete after nine innings. Short innings may be scheduled.

For expediency purposes, six runs in any one inning by a team is the maximum. When a team has scored six runs in an inning, it is considered as if they have three outs.

It is preferable to have an umpire who is not a player. His role is to watch the board to see which hole is entered, and that the players stay behind the line. The umpire also makes sure that base runners sit in the chairs, touch the chair as they pass the bases and touch home plate. Failure to comply may cancel the run.

One scorekeeper is required for both of the teams and to call out the names of players as they come up to throw. The umpire will also call out the strikes and OUTs.

### **Filling in the Score Sheet**

Each team uses a separate score sheet. Fill in the team's name at the top and the player's names on the left column.

If each team has more than nine players, use a second score sheet.

If a player throws a beanbag in the first base hole, circle 1B. The same is true if it should be 2B, 3B or HR.

When a run is made, fill in the little box above the letters HR on the score sheet for the person making the run. The solid boxes are how to keep track of the runs.

When a player throws into the home run hole, circle HR and fill in the little box for his run. If he drives in runs from any who were sitting on bases, fill in the boxes under their names.

When a player is OUT, insert an X in the box. An inning is over when you have an X in three boxes.

Draw a line under the square of the player who makes the third OUT so that the next inning begins with the following player.

Do not shift to the next inning column each time; keep track of the innings by these lines. The whole team may have to play before having three outs or six runs and you may run out of columns. Using the line method you may only need five columns during the nine innings. Use as many as needed.

The bottom line on the score sheet is for reporting the runs. Each inning column has two triangles. The first triangle is for the runs made by the first 10 players. The second triangle is the running total of the game. Count the filled-in boxes in the column to give the total number of runs made for the first triangle.