

## **Bullock Creek Little League Softball Coach Pitch Rules and Expectations**

This league is set up to prepare 7 & 8 year olds for the minor league. Players must be able to catch at a distance of 20 feet and have the mechanics to hit without assistance of a tee. Children who are 5 or 6 years old (by January 1 of the current year) will be required to attend a Skill Evaluation if they want to try out for Coach-Pitch.

### **FIELD**

- Pitching Distance will be 35 feet (just inside the circle). The adult pitcher pitches from a distance that is appropriate to skill of batters. The base distance will be 50 ft.

### **GAME**

- The official softball shall be an 11-inch (soft) softball shall be used.
- An inning is considered complete when the defensive team acquires (3) outs or the offensive team scored (5) runs.
- All games are six innings regulation. ***There is a one-hour fifteen minute time limit for each 8U game. Up to coaches discretion.***
- There is a maximum of 10 players per team. A team can have 4 outfielders. No player should sit the bench.
- The designated player rule is not used.
- There is no infield fly rule.
- There shall be no smoking, swearing or alcoholic consumption by managers, coaches, parents, fans or players at any time during practices or games.
- All players must wear their team uniform.
- Equipment: Catching gear (helmet, face mask with throat protector, chest protector, and shin guards) is required. Helmets with chinstraps are required for the batter and all base runners. The player is not called out for violation of this rule, but made to put on proper equipment.
- *Emphasis will be on teaching the game of Softball. Players should not switch positions every inning. Our objective is for them to learn how to play the position and one inning does not provide this opportunity.*
- Team that is batting provides the pitcher and a home plate helper. Home plate helper is encouraged to wear a glove. Their main job is to assist the catcher and provide hitting guidance to the batter. No balls and strikes are called.
- Each team will keep score and exchange batting lineups

### **PITCHING**

- Girls will only pitch to the first 4 batters of an inning. Girls will pitch (4 pitches per batter) then a coach or designated adult steps in to pitch (4) more pitches. If a hit does not result from the (8) pitches, the batter is out.
- The 5th batter and on of an inning will be pitched to by a coach or designated adult for (5) pitches. If a hit does not result from the (5) pitches, then the batter is out.

### **DEFENSE**

- Fielders should occupy traditional defensive positions, with outfield spots filled as permitted by roster size.
- Two defensives coaches may be on the field to give directions to the defensive players, if desired.
- A play is considered over when the stand-in pitcher (player, not adult) has control of the ball within the pitching circle. Base runners must return or go to the nearest base at this time.
- All fielders should position themselves a minimum of 35 feet from home plate.

### **OFFENSE**

- There is no stealing, and no foul ball outs.
- Following a hit, base runners may advance until the ball makes contact within the infield dirt. At this point, runners may continue to the next base, but may not take any extra bases. The coach of the defensive team monitors and sends runners back if needed.
- Players may not lead off. They may leave the base when contact is made with the ball by the batter.
- The batting order will consist of all players on the offensive team present at the game.
- Any player showing up after the game starts shall be inserted into line up after last batter in the lineup.