

# Avon Little League

## Rules for Coach Pitch Softball

This league shall be primarily governed by the “Official Rules of Little League Softball,” as published by Williamsport, PA. The following exceptions and modifications to the existing rules have been generated and Board approved in the interest of safety, fair play, and more even competition.

### I. **Pre-Game and Post-Game Rules:**

#### **A. Home team duties and responsibilities**

1. Uses the 1<sup>st</sup> base dugout
2. **Furnishes 5 game balls (balls in like new condition)**
3. Gets out the tee from the storage shed before the first game of the day

#### **B. Visiting team duties and responsibilities**

1. Uses the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout
2. Puts away the tee in the storage shed after the last game of the day

#### **C. Dual responsibilities**

1. Visitors will be listed first on the game schedule unless otherwise noted.
2. Any available practice time prior to a game shall be shared equally. Coaches are encouraged to work together to involve all available players (regardless of team) in pregame warmups.
3. All players and equipment not directly involved in the game must remain on the bench.
4. No batting practice is permitted on the field within 1 hour before the start of any game. No soft toss is permitted into the fence at any time. Pre-game soft toss into hitting nets is permitted but can only take place in the outfield. Pre-game batting practice in the outfield is permitted only if using wiffle balls.
5. There is no on-deck position in Little League. No batter may warm up outside the field of play.
6. Each team is responsible for cleaning trash from their respective dugout.

### II. **General Rules and Avon Little League Rules:**

#### **A. Game Play**

1. Time limit will be 1 hour and 15 minutes from the start of the game. Once the time limit has been reached, the current inning should be finished. This is the actual start time, not game time. The next inning begins after the 3<sup>rd</sup> out or 5<sup>th</sup> run is scored.
2. The maximum number of innings played will be 5 innings. If there is a tie after 5 innings, the game is over. There will be no extra innings played.
3. **The home team will only take 5 balls onto the field, NO buckets or bags are permitted on the field during the game. Only 5 balls.**
4. Each inning will have a 5-run limit. An inning is over after 3 outs or 5 runs are scored.
5. The coach of the offensive team (team at bat) **will pitch from the knee at a distance of 15 feet away from home plate**, using an underhand delivery at a speed that will challenge but not overwhelm the players. Pitching from the knee is to provide a realistic pitch and swing path for the batter. The coaches should make a “mark” in the dirt so they know where to pitch from. Coaches should use a pad or towel for their knee since it will be on the ground.
6. If after 5 pitches the batter fails to hit the ball in fair territory, the batting tee **MUST** be used. Please do not pitch more than 5 pitches, this slows the game. **Stick to this rule! Coaches must hold each other accountable, it is OK.**
7. Teams will use all players defensively. The infield will include 5 players, with no catcher, and they must assume normal defensive positions. The rest of the players will be placed in the outfield and must play on the grass, not the dirt. All Players in the pitching position must play even with or behind the rubber, they may not play in front of the coach.
8. There will be no steals. There will be no extra bases allowed on fielding errors.
9. On balls hit to the outfield, runners will be frozen as soon as the ball is in the infield. “In the infield” means that the ball has crossed the dirt/grass boundary, regardless of whether or not the ball is in the possession of a defensive player. Runners en route to the next base when the ball enters the infield may continue to that base at their own risk.

10. Leading off is not permitted.
11. There are no walks and no hit batters. If a batter is hit by a pitch, she does not take her base.
12. There are no strikeouts, but outs will be called.
13. Score will be kept, there is no mercy rule and there will be no tracking of wins and losses.
14. Infield fly rule is NOT in effect.
15. Sliding is not permitted.

**B. Players and Coaches**

1. The defensive team is allowed 2 coaches on the field, typically one on the right side of the field and one on the left side of the field. The offensive team is allowed 3 coaches on the field – a 1<sup>st</sup> base coach, 3<sup>rd</sup> base coach, and one coach pitching/manning the tee.
2. There are no call-ups for Coach Pitch Softball. If not enough players are available to field a team, teams are encouraged to use players from the other team.
3. All players will play the infield and outfield evenly. It is the manager's responsibility to be sure that all players have had a chance to play each position throughout the season.
4. No player will be permitted to play the same position for more than 1 inning in a game.
5. Defensive players must not be moved during an inning except for an injury or other emergency.
6. All players present will bat in a continuous batting order. If a player shows up late, she will assume the last position in the original batting order. If a player is injured or leaves a game early other than for an ejection, her spot in the order is bypassed, and no out is recorded. All players will be given the opportunity to bat first in the lineup at least once.
7. Managers will not be allowed to cancel any games. Any cancellations due to inclement weather will be decided by the League President or his/her designee, in consultation with the Avon Parks and Rec Dept. If a conflict exists with a school function affecting several members of the team, the manager must contact the GM, not less than 7 days before the assigned game, to request a change of schedule. All make-up games must be rescheduled with the GM and Scheduler.

**C. Equipment**

1. 11" yellow soft Incrediball will be used.
2. All fielders must wear a fielder's mask.
3. Batters must wear a helmet with a facemask.
4. All players must be in full uniform: league provided jersey and softball pants.
5. Jewelry will be permitted, as long as it does not pose a danger or distracts other players.
6. The barrel of the softball bat cannot exceed 2 ¼" and must have the 1.20 bpf, USSSA or USA Softball logo.

**III. Umpires:**

Umpires are not used in Coach Pitch. The first base coach will call outs at 1<sup>st</sup> base, one of the defensive coaches in the field will call outs at 2<sup>nd</sup> base, the 3<sup>rd</sup> base coach will call outs at 3<sup>rd</sup> base, the coach catching will call outs at home.

**IV. Rules Violations or Disciplinary Issues:**

At the recommendation of the GM and at the discretion of the President or his/her designee, a player, manager, or coach may be suspended for disciplinary reasons or rules violations for one game. If this occurs a second time, the Board of Directors shall review the player, manager, or coach, for possible expulsion from the league. All league officials can recommend disciplinary action to the President for all off-field violations by players, managers, coaches, parents, etc., while on Little League property at any time.

**V. Lightning:**

If a lightning strike is seen 30 minutes prior to the start of a game or during a game, ALL games being played at the park where the lightning occurs (Veterans Memorial Park or Little League Park) shall be immediately canceled and rescheduled as set forth under the General rules and Avon Little League rules section. Avon Little League does not adhere to the rule pertaining to waiting periods prior to the resumption of play. Any game stopped due to lightning will not resume that day.