

Avon Little League Coach Pitch Baseball Rules

This league shall be primarily governed by the “Official Rules of Little League Baseball,” 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.

All games and practices shall take place on Avon Little League sanctioned fields (Little League Park and Veterans Park). At no time shall a coach/parent helper move a practice to any location other than those mentioned above. Any coach/parent helper found in violation of this rule is subject to disciplinary action set forth in section IV.C, below.

Avon Little League encourages all coaches to have players be active participants at this age level. Some of these rules have been modified to keep the attention of kids and have them all hit, score, and field. T-Ball and Tot Ball is not competitive baseball, it is meant to teach kids the fundamental aspects of baseball while they learn the game.

I. Pre-Game and Post-Game Rules:

A. Home Team Duties and Responsibilities

1. Uses the 1st base dugout.
2. Use the field for practice from 35 to 20 minutes before start of the game.
3. Furnishes a new game ball.
4. Responsible for cleaning trash from their respective dugout.

B. Visiting Team Duties and Responsibilities

1. Uses the 3rd base dugout.
2. Uses the field for practice 20 to 5 minutes prior to start of game.
3. Furnishes a good back-up ball.
4. Puts away the tee in the storage shed after the game.

C. Dual Pre-Game Responsibilities

1. Visitors will be listed first on the game schedule unless otherwise noted.
2. Any available practice time prior to 35 minutes shall be shared equally.
3. If a prior game or event on the field reduces combined practice time to less than 30 minutes, available time will be shared equally.
4. All players and equipment not directly involved in the game must remain on the bench.
5. Batting practice is NOT permitted on the field, within 1 hour before the start of any game.
6. Soft toss into the fence is NOT permitted at any time.
7. Pre-game soft toss into hitting nets IS permitted but can only take place in the outfield.
8. Each team is responsible for cleaning any trash from their respective dugout.

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II. General Rules and Avon Little League Rules

A. Equipment

1. 9” Soft Baseball Incrediball will be used.
2. Batters must wear a helmet.
3. All players must be in full uniform.
4. No player is allowed to wear necklaces, bracelets, or earrings.
5. Bats must feature the Little League or USA Baseball Logo and the barrel of the bat cannot exceed 2 ¼”.

B. Game Play

1. Managers will not be allowed to cancel any games.
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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.
2. There are no call-ups for Coach Pitch Baseball. If there are not enough players available to field a team, teams are encouraged to use players from the other team.
3. There will be no tracking of wins and losses.
4. 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 actual start time, not game time.
5. Score will NOT be kept.
6. The maximum number of innings played will be 5 innings.
7. There will be NO extra innings played.
8. Each inning will have a 5 run limit. An inning is over after 3 outs or 5 runs are scored.
9. There will be NO mercy rule.
10. 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 in each position throughout the season.

C. Offensive Game Rules

1. The offensive team is allowed 3 coaches on the field – a 1st base coach, 3rd base coach, and one coach pitching.
2. The coach of the offensive team (team at bat) will pitch using an overhand delivery at a speed which will challenge, but not overwhelm, the players.
3. If after 5 pitches the batter fails to hit the ball in fair territory, the batting tee must be used. It is suggested that the coach throw the ball while on 1 knee to help eliminate an arc.
4. The ball must travel 5ft or be declared a foul ball.
5. On balls hit to the outfield, runners will be frozen as soon as the ball is in the infield

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- whether or not the ball is in possession of a defensive player. Runners rounding a base when the ball gets back into the infield will be allowed to advance to the next base.
6. All players present will bat in a continuous batting order.
 - a. Coach will allow ALL players to be given the opportunity to bat first and last in the lineup at least once throughout the season.
 - b. If a player shows up late, he will assume the last position in the original batting order.
 - c. If a player is injured or leaves a game early, his spot in the order is bypassed and no out is recorded.
 7. Coach Pitch is a station-to-station league, there will be NO extra bases allowed on fielding or throwing errors.
 8. THERE IS NO ON DECK POSITION IN LITTLE LEAGUE. NO BATTER MAY WARM UP ON THE FIELD OR OUTSIDE THE FIELD OF PLAY AND TAKE WARM UP SWINGS. ALL PLAYERS MUST REMAIN IN THE DUGOUT UNTIL THEIR AT BAT.
 9. There will be NO steals.
 10. Leading off is NOT permitted.
 11. There are NO walks.
 12. There are NO strikeouts, but outs will be called in the field.
 13. Sliding is NOT permitted.

D. Defensive Game Rules

1. Avon Little League encourages all players to be active participants at this age level. The defensive set up will be as follows.
 - a. Infield will consist of 5 players, NO catcher. All infielders must assume normal defensive positions (P, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B)
 - b. Outfield will consist of the remainder of players, set up to cover areas.
2. 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.
3. Each team shall provide a coach or parent helper to be stationed behind home plate to act as the catcher and speed up the game.
4. During coach pitch, the defensive pitcher will stand alongside the coach that is pitching in the following manner.
 - a. Opposite the side of the batter. (Right side if left-handed batter, left side if right-handed batter).
 - b. No more than 3 feet from the side of the adult pitcher.
 - c. No more than 3 feet behind the adult pitcher.
5. A batted ball that hits the coach pitcher is a LIVE ball.
6. A batted ball caught by the coach pitcher, out of reflex, is a DEAD ball.
 - a. Batter gets first base.
 - b. Forced runners advance one base.
7. No player will be permitted to play the same position more than 1 inning in a game.
8. Defensive players must not be moved during an inning except for an injury or other emergency.
9. Infield fly rule is NOT in effect.

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10. All infielders must assume normal defensive positions.

III. Umpires

A. Umpires are NOT used in Coach Pitch.

1. The first base coach will call outs at 1st base.
2. One of the defensive coaches in the field will call outs at 2nd base.
3. The 3rd base coach will call outs at 3rd base.
4. The coach/parent helper manning the tee will call outs at home.

IV. Rules Violations or Disciplinary Issues

A. 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,

B. 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 rules violations or conduct detrimental to Little League Baseball.

C. The following disciplinary measures have been established by Avon little league Board of Directors.

1. First incident – Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) self-assessment and completion of PCA online course.
2. Second incident – One game suspension and a second PCA online course.
3. Third incident – Removal as manager for the remainder of season and possible permanent removal from coaching.

D. In addition to the rules listed above related to players and coaches conduct the following shall apply.

1. Any member of the Board of Directors not involved in the game being played is authorized to warn and/or order the ejection of any person (player/coach/fan) violating the good order and esteem of Little League Baseball. There shall be just cause to order the ejection of a person.
2. Any board member managing a game should only take action upon witnessing an egregious act that could/would escalate to something more serious than questioning an umpire's decision.
3. Law Enforcement may be called in times where a person(s) refuse to leave the field of play or any the Little League Field when ordered to do so.

V. Lightning

A. If a lightning strike occurs 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 cancelled and rescheduled as set forth under the General rules and Avon Little League rules section.

B. The official Little League rule pertaining to a 30-minute wait between lighting strikes is suspended in this instance and not adhered to by Avon Little League.