



Coach Pitch Playing Rules – Spring 2024

1. **Game Time Limits:** Games are six innings or 90 minutes, whichever comes first. If no game scheduled after, that half inning can be finished up to 105 minutes only. Hard stop at 105 minutes.
2. **Mandatory Playing:** Every player on a team roster will participate in each game they attend.
3. **Substitutions:** Substitutions are allowed at any time at any position.
4. **Batting:** Every player in attendance on the roster bats in the lineup.
5. **On-Deck:** An on-deck batter is not allowed at any time. Players remain in dugout.
6. **Stealing and Leading Off:** Stealing and leading off is not allowed.
7. **Fielding:** It is recommended that 9-10 players occupy the field in standard positioning. Until May 24, 2024, all players can be placed in the outfield. Outfielders shall remain at least five (5) feet behind the bases until the ball is hit.
8. **Rotating Fielding Positions:** Players should be allowed and encouraged to play in any position that they desire at some point during the season. During each game, each player should have playing time in the infield (Pitcher and 1B is an exception). No player shall play the same position for more than two innings in a game.
9. **Inning Ends:**
 - a. A half inning ends after 3 outs are made or 5 runs are scored.
10. **Run Rule:** No run rules. Play until innings are played or time limit reached.
11. **Ball Hitting a Coach:** Balls remain in play if it hits a coach on the field.
12. **Play Stops:** Play stops when the coach has the ball or time is called by an infielder with the ball.
13. **Catcher Equipment:** All catchers must wear a catcher helmet, dangling throat guard, shin guards, chest protector, and cup (cup for boys only). No exceptions.
14. **Hits:** Only single base hits are allowed except a ball hit in the air that reaches the grass in the air. Then 2 bases are allowed for that hit.
15. **Hit Distance:** A batted ball must travel at least five feet to be considered a hit in play.

16. Pitching and Batting Prior to May 24, 2024:

- a. The batter shall be given 3 strikes (no called strikes unless continual not swinging).
- b. If the batter has not put a ball in play and gets 3 strikes, a tee shall be used.
- c. Coach must pitch from at least **seven (7) feet** away from the plate and may pitch underhand or overhand. The Coach can stand, kneel, or sit on a bucket while pitching. Pitches can be tailored to the player to try to get the ball in play. The goal is to give the kid success in hitting the ball.

17. Pitches and Batting On and After May 24, 2024:

- a. The batter shall be given 3 strikes (no called strikes unless continual not swinging).
- b. If the batter has not put a ball in play and gets 3 strikes, the batter is out on a strike out.
- c. Coach must pitch from at least **fifteen (15) feet** away from the plate and may pitch underhand or overhand. The Coach can stand, kneel, or sit on a bucket while pitching.
 - i. If both Team Managers agree, this distance can be shortened.

18. Umpires and Appeals

- a. The League will work to get an umpire for as many Coach pitch games as possible. This umpire will likely be a teenager and will be positioned in the field.
- b. The Umpire's role will be to enforce these rules and to make safe and out calls.
- c. All decisions by this umpire are final and no appeals are allowed in Coach pitch.
- d. If a Manager or Coach believes the umpire made mistakes, please contact the Coach pitch Player Agent to discuss.
 - i. Player Agent = Stephen Walls at stephenwalls2020@gmail.com

All topics not addressed here follow Little League rules and regulations.