

League Rules – Spring 2018 (Coach Pitch Division)

1. Coaches
 - a. Teams can have up to 3 assistant coaches max, and must have ID badge to be on the field or in the dugout
 - b. One adult coach must remain in the dugout at all times
 - c. Two (2) coaches can assist in the field during defensive play to help assisting the positioning of players and must remain on the outfield grass
 - d. Once a pitch is delivered the coaches cannot communicate with their players
 - e. No non-coaches shall be in the dugout during play
2. Game is six (6) innings or 1.5 hours of play from first pitch, no new inning will start after timed out. Teams can finish the bottom of the inning once timed out.
3. Five (5) pitches per batter (unless 5th pitch is fouled by batter)
4. Continuous batting order – all players must bat throughout the entire game
5. No infield fly rule, no walks, no bunting, no stealing, no lead-offs are allowed
6. Maximum five (5) runs per inning allowed (except for 6th which will bat through complete lineup or 3 defensive outs, lineup # of players is irrelevant)
7. Base runners must go on contact, no leads
8. Mercy rule is ten (10) runs after bottom of 4th inning or home team has the 10-run lead after top of 4
9. Only one (1) base on an overthrow, play is considered dead after one base regardless of additional throwing or fielding errors
10. Play is shut down when ball is returned to the pitcher or lands in mound circle. Pitcher does not need control of the ball to stop the play. There must be a reasonable attempt to get the ball back to the pitcher in the mound area. There is only ONE base for ONE throwing error per play. A throwing error back to the mound after an overthrow on the same play does not count as a throwing error. ONE BASE ONLY on a single throwing error per play!
 - a. Runner is sent back to previous base if not beyond $\frac{3}{4}$ distance once ball is returned to pitcher (spot to be marked in base path to determine $\frac{3}{4}$ distance to home)
11. Pitch location for coach – 5 to 6 feet in front of rubber, off knee or bucket, which will be marked
 - a. To start the season, pitcher must be no closer to 30' from home plate (16' off mound rubber) to deliver the pitch. All throws are to be overhand throws to simulate pitching motion, and preferred to be in a kneeling position at some point in the season to get used to the trajectory of the ball flight. At midseason point (or determined later based on player progress), pitchers must all pitch from the tournament required location.
 - b. Playoffs will follow tournament rules. Pitcher must deliver pitch from the mound, off knee and one foot touching the mound rubber
 - c. If hit ball makes contact with the ball bucket it is considered a dead ball. Ruled as NO PITCH and runners will return to previous base. If ball hits the pitcher, it is considered a live ball and play resumes.
 - d. No bucket to be used in tournament play, so all hit balls are live plays. At midseason point (or determined later based on player progress), the bucket will be removed and pitcher will have 5 balls to use for pitching.
12. Defensive assignments
 - a. Ten (10) defensive players, 4 to the outfield.
 - b. Catchers must play in full gear (with throat guard and cup)
 - c. Each player must play one inning of a defensive position in the infield (including catcher)
 - d. Four (4) defensive players will play in the outfield
 - i. Can play a "short" field behind 2nd base but must remain on the grass
 - e. No player will be allowed to play the same position for more than two (2) consecutive innings
 - f. Players must play in their designated positions, no shifts, covering both sides of the pitching mound or any other movement of player positions to maximize infield coverage is allowed. Play baseball the way it is meant to be played!
 - g. Playoffs will follow tournament rules where players must play at least six (6) consecutive defensive outs and one (1) full plate appearance
13. Gentleman's agreements will not be allowed to enhance or change the rules (# of pitches, pitching location, etc). all coaches are encouraged to hold a "coach's meeting" prior to the game to discuss any specific situations that may need to be discussed regarding anything that may be interpreted outside of the set rules to mitigate any confusion
14. Head coach will be only person allowed to contest calls with the umpire. Umpire's decision is final and play will continue.

League Rules – Spring 2018 (Minors / Majors Division)

1. Coaches

- a. One adult coach must remain in the dugout at all times.
- b. 1st and 3rd base coaches are allowed during offensive play
- c. No coaches shall be in the field during defensive play or sitting outside of dugout at any time during play
- d. No non-coaches shall be in the dugout during play.

2. Pitching

- a. Pitching age limits, cap limits and required rest
 - i. 11 yrs = 85 pitches max
 - ii. 9 or 10 yrs = 75 pitches max
 - iii. 8 yrs = 50 pitches max
 - iv. If pitcher reaches max allowable pitches while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue until any one of the conditions occur:
 1. That specific batter reaches base
 2. That specific batter is put out
 3. The third out is made to complete that half inning
 - v. Required rest for pitchers
 1. 66 or more = 4 calendar days of rest
 2. 51 to 65 = 3 calendar days of rest
 3. 36 to 50 = 2 calendar days of rest
 4. 21 to 35 = 1 calendar days of rest
 5. 1 to 20 = 0 calendar days of rest
 6. Pitch threshold log will revert to the previous cap on the max count for specific rest day. (i.e. – Pitcher starts his last batter at 32 pitches and finishes that batter on 37 pitches and gets pulled, the pitch count reverts to 35 as his log count, and applicable rest shall apply)
 7. Days of rest does not count the day the games are played, only days in between games (i.e. – Monday and Thursday game days means 2 days of rest)
 8. Pitchers who deliver 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the catcher position from that point on, 40 pitches is the threshold.
 9. Catchers who catch more than 4 innings cannot pitch that same day
 10. Pitchers cannot pitch in three (3) consecutive days, regardless of pitch count. Mostly will apply to rescheduled games and playoff formats.
 11. If a player reaches the threshold of a rest limit while in progress with a batter, they may finish pitching to that batter and the pitch count will revert back to that previous threshold
 - vi. Coaches are not allowed to warm up pitchers in bullpen area or at the plate during or before a game. “Bench” players can warm up pitchers in between innings provided they are in complete catcher’s gear. Pitchers during game can only be warmed up between innings and not in bullpen or outside of dugout during game play

3. Batting

- a. Standard baseball “balls and strikes” LL rules
- b. Continuous batting order – all players must bat throughout the entire game
- c. No Butcher Boy “fake bunts”
- d. On deck batters must remain in the dugout, no on deck circle, no practice swings during play (except for first “lead off” batter at the beginning of each half inning in designated area)

4. Base Running

- a. Run rabbit run for fielding / throwing errors
- b. Infield fly rule in effect at umpire’s discretion
- a. No lead-offs are allowed
- b. Stealing is allowed only when the pitch crosses home plate
- c. Majors only – dropped 3rd strike batter can advance unless 1st base is covered with a base runner with zero or one out, and can advance in any base running scenario with two outs
- d. Majors only – a batter becomes a live base runner if the catcher drops a 3rd strike and first base is not occupied with one or zero outs. All dropped balls on 3rd strikes with two outs, regardless of baserunners, become live runners

5. Defensive assignments

- a. Minors will have Ten (10) defensive players, 4 to the outfield. Shortfield allowed but must remain on outfield grass
- b. Majors will have Nine (9) defensive players
- c. Catchers must play in full gear (with throat guard and cup)

6. General

- a. Questions or disagreements will be resolved by the Head Coach approaching the umpire in a discreet and amenable manner. Yelling or poor behavior on any part of the Head Coach or his/her assistants will not be tolerated and discipline will be mandated by the league board as they see fit
- b. Game is six (6) innings or 1 hour and 50 minutes of play from first pitch, no new inning will start after timed out. Teams can finish the bottom of the inning once timed out.
- c. Time outs – limited to one (1) per inning on offense and two (2) per inning on defense, pitcher is removed upon 2nd visit to the mound in same inning. Three (3) total defensive time outs for the same pitcher will require a pitching change (managers will only visit a single pitcher twice per inning before a pitching change is required).
- d. Regulation games is four (4) complete innings to determine mercy rule and weather events. Mercy rule is ten (10) runs after four (4) innings, or fifteen runs (15) after three (3) innings.
 - i. If the visiting team has the ten (10) run lead after the regulation four (4) innings (or 15 runs after 3 innings), the home team will bat the bottom half of that inning.
- e. Suspended play for inclement weather will have rescheduled game start EXACTLY where it left off. Inning, pitch count, etc. Pitching rest will resume as the chart allows. Pitch counts less than 20 will revert to zero on rescheduled day.
- f. Maximum five (5) runs per inning allowed (except for 6th, which will bat through the entire lineup or the defensive team gets three (3) outs first, number of players is irrelevant to this rule.
- g. For the mercy rule (10 runs), the manager of the team with the lesser number of runs shall concede the victory to the opposing team.

7. Playoffs (Tournament rules)

- a. Green Book rules apply for batting order and substitutions
- b. "Married" rule for player substitutions will only apply to tournament play, not the regular season. You must bat continuous through the full lineup throughout the season.
 - i. **Green book substitution rules will apply when playing teams outside of our district. (i.e. – Majors teams playing in the Deerfield league, etc.)