



PYMATUNING VALLEY LITTLE LEAGUE

COACH PITCH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL RULES

Last revision - March 2026

EXPECTATIONS OF COACHES

- 1 Coach objectives are to teach and demonstrate good sportmanship, establish positive teamwork, as well as skill development. Some specific responsibilities of a coach are the following:
 - A *To encourage the participation and enjoyment of each player*
 - B *To teach the rules and develop fundamental skills of baseball or softball*
 - C *Provide a safe physical environment*
 - D *Communicate in a positive manner*
 - E *Direct players in competition*
- 2 Winning is secondary, but the official score will be kept. Coach pitch baseball and softball is designed to help further the player's understanding of the game in a fun and competitive atmosphere.
- 3 The coach is expected to have complete control of his/her team and communicate the rules, regulations, and expectations to all volunteer assistants and players.

COACH, VOLUNTEER, PLAYER & PARENT CONDUCT

- 1 The following actions will not be tolerated or permitted under any circumstance:
 - A *Abusive actions towards others, profanity, or unsportsmanlike behavior*
 - B *Abuse of league provided equipment, facilities, dugouts, or the fields*
 - C *Consumption of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal narcotics*
 - D *Players are not permitted to taunt the opposing team's players*
- 2 All coaches and volunteers stepping foot onto the playing field and instructing/assisting in any manner are required to have completed all training and background checks communicated by PV Little League in order to participate.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

- 1 All batters, base runners, and bat persons must wear protective helmets with or without a face mask. The helmet is to remain on until they are safely inside the dugout fence. Anytime an offensive player is in the field of play, a helmet is required. NOTE: Softball requires batting helmets with face masks. Baseball has no requirement for batting helmet face masks. 2 Every player on defense must wear a glove at all times while in the field of play
- 3 Metal cleats are not permitted.
- 4 All player jewelry must be removed before play. The only exception is for medical related identification, which must be hidden.
- 5 Players may use any bat in coach pitch baseball and softball that is Little League approved.
NOTE: Softball bats can have either a BPF 120, USSSA or USA stamp. Baseball bats can ONLY have a USA stamp.
- 6 Little League approved balls for each coach pitch baseball and softball level will be provided by PV Little League.

GAME PLAY DURATION / PARTICIPATION / BATTING ORDER

- 1 The time limit for all coach pitch baseball or softball games will be 1 (one) hour or 5 (five) innings.
- 2 Every player who is present must participate in each game defensively and offensively.
- 3 If the defense fails to complete 3 (three) outs in 1 (one) inning, the team batting has a 5 (five) runs scored maximum per inning.
- 4 A continuous batting order will be utilized & will not change during a game unless there is a player injury or emergency.

AT BATS / OUTS

- 1 No base on balls, intentional walks, or hit by pitch is allowed. Balls and strikes will not be called at pitches that are not swung at. Batters are encouraged to swing the bat and put the ball in play.
- 2 Bunting is not allowed. The batter must take a full swing and follow through.
- 3 Each batter is entitled to 6 (six) pitches, there are no 3 strikes and you're out, if the batter has not made contact into fair territory by the sixth pitch, the batter is considered out.
- 4 If the batter foul's off the sixth pitch, the batter is entitled to continue the at bat until the batter puts a ball into fair territory or swings and misses after the sixth pitch foul ball.
- 5 If a batter is hit by a pitch, then the pitch will not count as 1 of the 6 pitches, unless the batter swings at the pitch that results in a HBP, then this will count as 1 of the 6 total pitches.
- 6 Throwing or slinging (after hitting the ball) of a bat will not be tolerated.
- 7 Players will be called out for one of the following:
 - A If a player strikes out at bat (failing to hit the ball after six pitches)
 - B If the ball reaches the base before the runner, to complete a force out
 - C If the player is tagged by a fielder who has possession of the ball before the runner safely reaches base

BALL IN PLAY / BASE RUNNING

- 1 If the batter puts the ball in play in the infield, all runners are entitled to advance 1 (one) base maximum.
- 2 Base runners CANNOT advance on any errant over throws to a base.
- 3 If the batter hits the ball out of the infield and into the outfield grass under any circumstance the hitter and all base runners are entitled to run UNTIL the defensive team can successfully get the ball to ANY infielder. Once the ball is possessed by a defensive infielder, inside the dirt infield, he/she is to raise his/her arms and call for TIME.
Infielders CANNOT call for time with possession of the ball in the outfield grass.
Base runners that are at least half way to the next base when time is called shall advance to the next base. If the base runner is not to the half way mark, the base runner will return to their base of origin.
- 4 Runners are responsible for avoiding collisions with all defensive players.
 - A When a play on a runner is imminent, the runner must either slide to get around the tag or surrender to the tag without making physical contact with the defensive player in any way. If the base runner remains on his/her feet and crashes into a defensive player in possession of the ball waiting for the runner, the runner will be declared out.
 - B When a defensive player blocks the runner from the base without the ball and impacts the runner's ability to reach the base, the runner will be awarded the base due to obstruction.

DEFENSIVE POSITIONING

- 1 The defensive team is permitted to play only 9 players on the field. Those players MUST play traditional baseball or softball fielding positions. (P, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B) You may have 4 outfield positions (LF, LCF, RCF, RF). Those outfielders MUST begin play with their feet on the outfield grass and are NOT permitted to play in the infield dirt before a pitch.
- 2 The defensive team isn't required to field a catcher position. If there is a player who wants to play the true catcher position, he/she will have to wear all protective gear; throat guard, catcher's helmet, knee & shin guards, and chest protector. A cup is required for baseball. You can have a fully equipped catcher as a 10th fielder.
- 3 A defensive coach is permitted behind home plate to assist with returning the ball to the pitching coach to keep a good pace of play as well as encourage involvement to the players.

4 Two defensive coaches are permitted in the field of play behind the middle infield positions. Their involvement is to help assist the players in understanding certain baseball or softball situations.

5 Coaches are not required to rotate players each inning defensively, but it is recommended to rotate the players throughout the season so each player has an opportunity to play each position, within consideration if the player can safely do so.

PITCHING COACH

1 The BASEBALL pitching coach will:

A Use appropriate baseballs as recommended for the age division provided to them by PV Little League

B Pitching distance should be no closer than 20-30 feet, or within consideration of player's abilities

C The pitcher must throw overhand with little to no arc, or within consideration of player's abilities

D If a batted ball hits the pitching coach, the play is declared dead and considered a no pitch

E The pitching coach should do his/her best to move outside the base paths when a ball is in play in order to avoid obstruction

2 The SOFTBALL pitching coach will:

A Use appropriate baseballs as recommended for the age division provided to them by PV Little League

B Pitching distance should be no closer than 15-20 feet, or within consideration of player's abilities

C The pitcher must throw underhand with little to no arc, or within consideration of player's abilities

D If a batted ball hits the pitching coach, the play is declared dead and considered a no pitch

E The pitching coach should do his/her best to move outside the base paths when a ball is in play in order to avoid obstruction