



2021 Season – Coach Pitch Notable & Local Rules

- Official Game:** 4 innings or time limit (whichever comes first). [LR, Rule 4.10(f) and Reg. VII(h)]
- Time Limit:** **1 hour of play.** Time limit is “drop dead,” meaning that regardless of which team is batting, visiting or home, when the time limit is reached the game immediately stops. [LR and Reg. VII(h)]
- Home/Visitor:** Home team = 1st Base dugout; Visiting team = 3rd Base dugout [LR]
- Batting:** Continuous batting order that includes all players present for the game. [Rule 4.04 Note 1] All batters shall bat each inning regardless of the amount of outs made in the field. [LR] Regardless of how many players each team has, each batter shall only bat once per inning. [LR] The manager may change the batting order every inning. [LR]
- Coach Pitching:** The batter will be allotted **4 hittable** coach pitches to put the ball into play. If after that the ball has not been put in play, the batter will hit off the tee until he/she puts the ball into play. [LR]
- Player Rotation:** All players shall play in the field defensively. No player shall play the same position twice in a game. Every player must play at least 1 inning in the infield in a game. No player shall play in the infield twice before all players have had the opportunity to play at least 1 inning in the infield. [LR]
- Stealing:** Not permitted. [LR]
- Bunting:** Not permitted. [LR]
- Minimum Players:** There is no minimum players needed to play a game. However, if agreed upon by both coaches, a team that has less than 8 players may borrow players from the opposing team to field a full defense. If borrowed players are used, they must play in the outfield. [LR]
- Scoring:** No score is kept. [LR]

Offense

- There are no official outs in Coach Pitch for the 2021 Season. If a batter or runner is put out, that player will still be allowed to remain on base. [LR]
- All but the last batter of each inning will advance one base at a time. [LR]
- The last batter of each inning will hit a "home run" and all players on base will round the bases. Managers are encouraged to reverse batting orders each inning, or use multiple orders, to vary who hits the "home run". [LR]
- All offensive players must stay on the bench unless they are batting or are on base. A team parent or coach should be designated to assist in keeping the offensive players organized and ready to bat. Players should be ready to bat with helmets on. Don't let the game slow down waiting for the next batter. [LR]
- The ball is dead when there is an overthrow at any base. [LR]

Defense

- 5 infielders and one pitcher are allowed in the infield. The pitcher must wear a batting helmet. No catcher. All other players must play in the outfield. [LR]
- A player cannot play the same position more than one inning. [LR]
- Every player must play at least one inning in the infield. No player shall play in the infield twice before all players have had the opportunity to play at least 1 inning in the infield. [LR]

Pitching

- No pitching by players is permitted. Coach pitch is permitted. [LR]

Manager/Coaches

- A manager and 3 coaches are allowed in the dugout and on the field during a game. However, the manager at his discretion may allow as many adult "helpers" in the dugout or on the field as he deems necessary to maintain the safety and the focus of the players, offer instruction, and keep the game moving. [LR]
Note: Adult "helpers" must either actively help or they should stay in the stands.
- One offensive coach shall pitch. One coach will act as catcher. [LR]
- The coaches on the offensive team will determine whether base runners are out or safe. First base coach – responsible for first base. Third base coach – responsible for third base. Coach Pitcher – responsible for second base and home plate. [LR]
- Players, coaches and the manager may not have food or gum in the dugout or on the field at any time, only bottled water or sports drinks are allowed. [LR]
- If you choose to hold a post-game meeting, please do so off the field so the next teams can get ready for their game. [LR]
- BATS – It is the manager's responsibility to ensure that all bats in the dugout are USA Baseball compliant.

Safety

- All safety measures and protocols related to COVID-19 transmission issued by SOLL must be followed by all players and coaches at all times. [LR]
- Batting helmet face cages are not required, but are encouraged. [LR]
- Only official coaches, players, and manager-approved adult helpers are allowed in the dugout. No siblings, batboys/girls, etc. [LR]
- The pitcher must wear a batting helmet. [LR]
- Players must not wear jewelry *such as, but not limited to, rings, watches, earrings, bracelets, necklaces, nor any hard cosmetic/decorative items.* (EXCEPTION: Jewelry that alerts medical personnel to a specific condition is permissible). [Rule 1.11(j)]
- The on-deck position is not permitted outside the dugout. [Rule 1.08 Note 1]
- Only the first batter of each half-inning will be permitted outside the dugout between half-innings. [Rule 1.08 Note 2]
- No hitting sticks or the like may be used to warm up the first batter while outside the dugout between half-innings. [LR]
- No player may have a bat in his/her hand in the dugout/bench area. [LR]

Field Maintenance

- The home team manager shall be responsible for ensuring that the field is ready for play at the scheduled start of the game, including making sure a tee is present. [LR]
- The visiting team manager shall be responsible for general field clean-up after the game. [LR]
- These rules apply even if subsequent games will be played on the field that day. [LR]
- At the conclusion of the game, the manager is responsible for cleaning and vacating the dugout immediately, and to make sure that the bleachers are clean for the next game. [LR]
- The managers of the day's final game are responsible for emptying in-field trashcans into the main dumpsters. [LR]
- Both managers are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the facilities are locked and secured at the end of the last game of the day. [LR]
- These rules are not meant, in any way, to discourage mutual cooperation in field set up and cleanup between opposing managers. [LR]
- Should a team be found in repeated violation of these rules, the Executive board shall have the right to impose appropriate action upon the violating team such as suspending practice times. [LR]

Any Rule or Regulation not discussed above is governed by this year's Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules (the "Green Book").