

# South Central Coach Pitch Rules/Guidelines

## Equipment

1. Jerseys and hats will be given to the players to wear at all games.
2. All batters and base runners must wear protective headgear.
3. Players supply their own gloves, baseball pants, and shoes.
4. Bats will be inspected and approved before each game. (see **Equipment** below)
5. Players are encouraged to have their own helmet. (see **Equipment** below)

## League Basics

1. **SAFETY FIRST!** - Safety of the players, coaches, and spectators is paramount! Coaches have the responsibility to stop any practice or game for any event they deem to be unsafe. Coaches are advised to especially be vigilant for children around the batter.
2. **Player Development** - Although games will be scored, Coach Pitch is about player development over competition. **Fundamentals will be prioritized over winning.** All adults should be positive when correcting or making a suggestion to a player. The goal is to have fun while teaching the basics that will provide the building blocks for future development.
3. **Sportsmanship** - Adults should constantly reinforce fair play and sportsmanship at all times. Temper tantrums and other displays of anger and/or frustration will not be tolerated. Coaches reserve the right to remove a player from the field if acts of aggression that threaten the safety of others are displayed (throwing balls, swinging bats, etc.).
4. **Field Maintenance** - Coaches, as well as spectators, are expected to ensure that their side of the field is clean of all trash and equipment at the conclusion of each game and practice.

## Playing Rules

1. Regulation Game
  - a. Games will be either 6 innings or 60 minutes, whichever is reached first. If the 60-minute time limit is reached before the game is complete, the current inning may be completed. A new inning may not begin once the 60-minute time limit is reached.
  - b. Games become official when four (4) complete innings have been played or 3 ½ innings if the home team is winning.
  - c. A maximum of five (5) runs may be scored per inning, except in the last inning when the offensive team may bat until three (3) outs are recorded.
  - d. Run-rule may be called when/if the home team is ahead by 15 runs after three (3) innings, 10 runs after four (4) innings, or eight (8) runs after five (5) innings.
2. Batter/Runner
  - a. A batter will receive a maximum of six (6) pitches, unless the last pitch is a foul ball.
  - b. A batter is out after three (3) strikes (swinging or foul ball combination) or after six (6) pitches.
  - c. Walks, bunting, infield flies, and stealing of bases are prohibited.

- d. A runner must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit by the batter. A runner who does not stay in contact with the base may be called out (after the issuance of a warning).
3. Player Participation
- a. All players present for a game (whether playing defense or not) will be included in the batting order (continuous batting order).
  - b. Each team may play up to 10 players on the field defensively.
    - i. Infield (5) - pitcher, catcher, 1st base, 2nd base, 3rd base, shortstop
      - 1. The player pitcher must keep one foot inside the pitching circle at the beginning of each play
    - ii. Outfield (remaining players) - must begin each play in the grass of the outfield playing area
  - c. If a player cannot bat due to injury or illness, an out may be called in place of that player's turn at bat.
4. Coach Pitcher & Player Pitcher
- a. The Coach Pitcher must remain in the diameter of the pitching circle while a batted ball remains in play.
  - b. The Player Pitcher must start each play beside or behind the Coach Pitcher until the ball has been pitched.
5. Umpiring Rules
- a. Coaches of teams not playing will serve as umpires for all games.
  - b. A batted ball will remain in play until the umpire grants and declares "time."
  - c. When a batted ball hits the Coach Pitcher, "time" will be called. The ball will be ruled dead. The pitch will not count. The batter will hit again.
  - d. When, in the judgement of the umpire, an infielder has control of the ball, "time" will be called when the lead runner:
    - i. Stops advancing
    - ii. Retreats to a base
    - iii. Is called out
    - iv. An overthrow is made in an attempt to stop the lead runner, resulting in one additional base for each base runner
6. Postseason Tournament
- a. A double elimination tournament will be held at the conclusion of the regular season and will be played the final week of the regular season.
  - b. Seeding will be based on head-to-head results between the teams in the South Central Coach Pitch division

### **Team Information**

- 1. When on offense, three (3) coaches may be allowed on the field; one (1) as pitcher and one (1) in each coaching box.
- 2. When on defense, up to (2) coaches may be allowed in the outfield playing area.

## **Equipment**

1. Approved coach pitch bats with the USA Baseball logo stamp are required.
2. Batting helmets must be NOCSAE approved.
3. A NOCSAE approved helmet may be worn by a defensive player.