

# 5/6 Modified Coach Pitch Rules

## RULES

- The playing rules CFBBA uses shall be the USSSA rules as published on the USSSA.com website, except as modified herein.
- If you have any questions regarding rules, please reach out to your age group VP for clarification.

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

- Games will last one hour and fifteen minutes (75 mins).
- Each team must have a minimum of 8 players, less than 8 players will result in a forfeit.
- Pool players may be used to bring the roster to 9 players. Please see pool player rules at the bottom. Know your pool player rules. Breaking pool player rules will result in a forfeit.
- One umpire per game.
  - Judgment calls are final and cannot be disputed or protested.

## PREGAME REQUIREMENTS AND SCORING

- Everyone:
  - At the plate meeting, let the umpires know which division your team is in and go over the rule caveats. Umpires can ump in several different youth leagues, going over the rules at plate meetings can prevent issues during the game.
  - Provide two game balls to the umpire. If balls are fouled, umpires may ask for additional baseballs. Please have a couple of gently used baseballs ready.
- Home team:
  - Assigned the 1st base dugout.
  - Home team for the first game of the day sets up the bases if not already set
  - Chalks the base lines and batters boxes
    - **Failure to chalk the field will result in the loss of home field advantage in real time. Home and away can be swapped at the plate meeting.**
  - Must complete the scorebook via the league created Game Changer team.
  - Remember the final score and scorekeeping (plays, batting, outs etc.) must be recorded in Game Changer, just as you would on the old paper books. We need this data, should a team protest the game / player.
  - Note: Teams that have more than one Game Changer (the leagues and your own) please have someone doing both of your Game Changers or at a minimum the leagues Game Changer.
    - **Failure to keep a proper book (score & scorekeeping) will result in an automatic forfeit.**
  - *If you have any questions regarding chalking the field or keeping the book, please reach out to your VP.*
- Visiting team:
  - Assigned the 3rd base dugout.
  - Must set the batting line up in Game Changer. This will allow the home team to scan the line up in their GC and help prevent the home team from having to manually enter everything at the start of the game. \*\*\*
- Both teams:
  - *ALL teams in this age division must enter jersey numbers in Game Changer at the start of the season. This only needs to be done once for the duration of the season. This rule exists to help home team keep a correct book. \*\*\**

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\*\*\* Failure to follow these two rules will be as follows:

- I. 1<sup>st</sup> offense – warning (email)
- II. 2<sup>nd</sup> offense – Team will lose next home field advantage
- III. 3<sup>rd</sup> offense – The head coach will not be allowed at the next game

### **POSTGAME REQUIREMENTS**

- Stephanie will go in and pull the final game scores from there. Coaches do not have the ability to report the score on the website.
- Home team of the last game puts up the bases (FB Fields Only)

### **FORFEITED GAMES**

- All teams involved in a scrimmage due to forfeiture will vacate the playing field at least one- half hour before the next scheduled game.
- Umpires are not allowed to remain for any scrimmage which may result from forfeited games.
- A team failing to field at least eight (8) uniformed players within the grace period must forfeit the game.
- If a team starts the game with only 8 players, the missing ninth player will be an automatic out until they enter the game. This occurs in the ninth batting position.
- Teams are allowed a fifteen-minute grace period after the regularly scheduled game time to field the required number of uniformed players. The clock starts running when the umpires/coaches start the plate meeting.

### **POSTPONED / RESCHEDULED GAMES**

- Games will only be rescheduled if postponed or canceled due to weather.
- Make-up games are rescheduled based on field, umpire availability and blackouts.

### **GAME PLAY**

- All games will finish the inning unless the home team is winning.
- 5-minute rule: no NEW inning may be started with 5 minutes or less remaining in regulation time.
- Artificial noisemakers are forbidden and include items like air horns, whistles, cowbells, musical instruments, and any other amplified device. Music & speakers are welcome – please be courteous to the other team

### **MINIMUM PLAYING TIME**

- Each player must play a minimum of two (2) defensive innings, but these do not have to be consecutive.

### **FULL ROSTER BATTING**

- Full roster batting will be used in this age group.
  - If a player becomes injured or unable to play, his spot in the order will not be considered an out unless the batting roster falls below 9 players.

### **ROSTER ADDITIONS**

- A player may not be added to a roster in-season without prior board approval.
- Any player added to the roster of a team after the first game of the season is ineligible to pitch or catch without board approval. All roster additions must be approved by the age group vice president.

- Paperwork on all roster additions must be provided before the player plays in a game, with the exception of pool players.
- Players can only play on one team in CFBBA – there is no exception to this rule.
- A player may play on a CFBBA team and another team that does not play in CFBBA (such as a select or traveling team). CFBBA is not responsible for scheduling conflicts that arise due to playing on multiple teams.

## **POOL PLAYERS**

- Pool players are allowed to be used if a team has less than nine rostered players available. The pool player must be registered in CFBBA.
- You can only use pool players to bring your lineup to nine players.
- Pool players must wear their normal team jersey.
- Pool players cannot pitch or catch and must bat last.
- If at any time during the game one or more of the players on the standard team roster show up the non-roster players will be replaced with the roster players.
- League age requirements are in effect.
- Players registered to play in an AA division may not pool play in a single A division.
- Players registered for a single A division may pool play for a team in the AA division of their own age group.

## **PLAY INTERRUPTION**

- Team huddles are allowed at the umpire's discretion. Umpires should discourage such huddling when it tends to delay a game.

## **COACHES LEAVING COACHING BOX**

- No coach is allowed to leave his coaching box or dugout and enter the playing field without first receiving permission from an umpire. The coach's box is defined by the length of the dugout and the foul line.

## **APPEALS / PROTEST**

- What is an illegal player? Some examples...
  - Not using the pool player rule appropriately
  - A kid pitcher that has pitched over the allowable amount.
  - Using pool players in post season
- If you are not sure of a player situation, please reach out to your age group VP for help.
- Please keep in mind that head coaches are responsible for all rules.
- If you feel your opponent is using an illegal player, please complete the following steps:
  - Notify the umpire that you will finish the game but under protest.
  - Gather as much evidence as you can. i.e., photos, line up, Game Changer etc.
  - After the game, email your age group VP. Send them all that you have.
  - Your VP & the Board of Directors will try to determine if an illegal player was used.
- Consequences if you are found to have an illegal player:
  - 1st offense: team forfeit & head coach receives a warning.
  - 2nd offense: team forfeit & head coach receives a 2-game suspension.
  - 3rd offense: team forfeit & head coach will be suspended for the season.

## **EJECTIONS**

- Any coach who requests time and then once it is granted proceeds to question, dispute, argue, or in any way displays disapproval with a judgment call such as, but not limited to, balls, strikes,

safe, out, fair, foul, obstruction, interference, unsportsmanlike conduct, or balks, etc. shall be removed from the game and required to leave the confines of the playing and spectator areas.

- The parking lot is the closest the ejected person can be to the field. For failure to leave, the head umpire has the option of forfeiting the game to the other team.
- Any ejected coach or manager is subject to suspension from the next game played by that team at the age group VP & league president's discretion.
- Any coach or manager ejected for a second time will be suspended for 4 games beginning with the next game.
- The third time a coach or manager is ejected, the coach or manager will be removed from their position as coach or manager for the remainder of the season.
- If a manager or coach makes any physical contact with an umpire:
  - That manager or coach shall be ejected from the game and required to leave the confines of the playing and spectator areas.
  - A minimum four-game suspension comes into effect beginning with the next game.
  - Any subsequent ejection for physical contact will result in the coach / manager's dismissal for the season.
- Control of spectators is the direct responsibility of coaches and their respective teams.
  - If an umpire warns any spectator to refrain from continuous verbal or physical disagreement/harassment, the coach or manager of the spectator's team is directed to control his spectator. The individual will be warned that continued action will result in his or her ejection.
  - If ejected, the individual(s) and the coach must leave the premises within 2 minutes, or the game will be forfeited.

## **PLAYER SUSPENSION**

- A player ejected from the game is subject to a one game suspension, subject to appeal to the age group VP & Divisional Presidents.
- A player ejected for a second time will be suspended for 2 games, beginning with the next games played by the players team.
- Ejected players are required to remain in the dugout.
- Suspended players are required to serve their suspension in the dugout during the games for which they are suspended.

## **JEWELRY**

- Players are not allowed to wear jewelry, except for medical information/identification.

## **SUNGLASSES**

- Only prescription sunglasses are allowed while a player is at bat or pitching. All other fielders may wear standard sunglasses.

## **OFFENSE**

- The batter shall be declared out after failing to hit 6 balls:
  - 4 coach pitches followed by 2 swings placed on a tee OR
  - 5 coach pitches followed by 1 swing placed on a tee OR
  - 6 coach pitches.
- Extra pitches will not be given if the coach fails to throw strikes.
- Any player hitting from the tee, the ball must travel to the infield grass and shall be restricted to a single, regardless of the batted ball or an overthrow. All other base runners may only attempt to advance one base.

- Batters are not permitted to bunt or swing easily at the ball. Any ball that does not travel to the infield grass from home plate shall be considered a strike.
- Base runners are not permitted to steal or lead off a base. They shall remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit.
- Late arrivals to a game shall be placed at the end of the batting order.
- 5 run rule per inning.
- Mercy rule is 10 Runs after 4 innings.
- In the case of an overthrown ball, runners can advance one base. In other words, an overthrow at 2nd the runner can advance to 3rd and play stops. (This is not allowed if hit from the tee.)

## **DEFENSE**

- Ten defensive players are allowed on the playing field; However, only six players are allowed to be positioned in the infield (catcher, pitcher, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B). The remaining players (up to four) shall be positioned in the outfield area as it designated for the field being played on (i.e. in the outfield grass).
- The catcher shall be in the normal catcher's crouch position while the batter prepares to swing.
- To encourage rotation of players, no player shall remain at the same defensive position more than two consecutive innings, and no player shall remain in the infield more than four innings.
- If the pitcher fields the ball and elects to try to make the out at first base, he must throw the ball to the first baseman. He is not allowed to run down the runner going to first or allowed to tag the first base bag. The pitcher may tag other bases or runners while they are attempting to advance past first base.
- A player shall not remain on the bench (defensively) in consecutive innings.
- When the batted ball has been returned to the infield area if a runner is already attempting to take the next base they may continue towards that base at their own risk. This is a judgment call, and the umpires call will be final.
- The "pitcher" must wear a batting helmet and stand parallel to the coach pitcher with one foot in the dirt and one foot in the grass.

## **PLAYING FIELD**

- For the offensive team, adult coaches should be positioned in both the first and third base coaching boxes as well as the pitcher's mound to pitch the ball.
- For the defensive team, as many as three adult coaches are allowed on the field to help position players. (One coach behind the plate to help the catcher) Never touch the ball in play!
- For postseason tournament play - No coaches are allowed on the field for the defensive team.

## **REGULATION GAMES**

- Games duration: 75 mins
- Mercy rule: 10 runs after 4 innings
- 5 runs per inning - non-cumulative
- Game time starts on the umpire's call (usually the start of the plate meeting).
- Forfeit will be recorded as a 6-0 game.
- When a game is tied at the end of regulation time, it is considered a tie game and will not be played in extra innings unless time remains in time limit. Tie games count in the standings as 1/2 win & 1/2 loss.

## **SUSPENDED GAMES**

- If a game is suspended, it will be considered complete if three innings have been played or if it is the bottom of the third and the home team is ahead.

## **PITCHING**

- The distance between bases is 60 feet with the pitching mound at approximately 38 feet from home plate.
- The pitching coach shall take a position standing or kneeling at 38 feet and must throw the ball **OVERHANDED**. His foot must be in contact with the pitching mound, if no pitching mound the umpire will designate one.
- If a batted ball strikes the coach and remains in fair or foul territory, the ball is a **NO PITCH AND ALL RUNNERS RETURN TO THEIR BASE PRIOR TO THE PITCH**. That ball does not count against the batter's pitch/swing count.

## **EQUIPMENT**

- A soft T-ball shall be used.
- All batters and base runners shall wear batting helmets at all times.
- Catchers shall wear full catchers gear, including helmet, mask, chest protector, shin guards and a protective cup. (Catchers gloves and protective cups are not provided)
- At all times during the game, every player on the field shall wear baseball pants, team jersey and hat.
- Each team should provide two game balls per game.
- Rubber cleats or turf shoes are allowed; metal cleats are **NOT** acceptable.