

ROCKCASTLE LITTLE LEAGUE - Coach Pitch Softball Program

Only 1 appointed Coach to the draft.

Section 1: The Offensive team SHALL bat all players present; however, they must bat a minimum of nine (9). In the event a team does not have 9 or more players present at game time, that team may start with 8 players. In the Event that a team does not have 8 players and the opposing team has a full roster they may ask to barrow players to start the game. Teams must start the game with a player in the pitcher and catcher position. The remaining players positions are as desired on the field of play, provided that they do not violate any other rule in the program. Teams may use allotted time to scrimmage, but not exceed time limit. All players must bat and play defense.

Section 2: An offensive representative shall pitch anywhere within the circle as long as one-foot stays in the circle after delivering the pitch. The defensive pitcher must take a position behind the coach pitcher, to the side, but within the 16-foot circle. The Offensive representative is not allowed to block the play of the game.

Section 3: The batter will receive 5 pitches. No walks or called strikes are allowed. A 5th pitch can be fouled and continues the at bat.

Note: At any time during the at bat if a foul tipped ball goes above the batter's head and caught by the catcher the batter is declared out; if the 5th pitch is foul tipped by the batter and caught by the catcher batter is declared out.

Note: If a player is struck by a pitch thrown by the coach, the pitch will still be counted, but the player will not be given first base. The batter will continue their at bat.

Section 4: Three outs or 5 runs an inning, 6 inning or 75 minutes. No new Inning will start after time has passed, Finish last inning. A 7th inning will be played at the start of the 8th inning will go to international rule. (International rule: last batted out will be placed on 2nd base and 1 out will start the inning. The home team will get the same chance of play.)

Section 5: Ten defensive players are permitted. Before the ball is batted, no more than six may take a defensive position on the infield. Unlimited defensive substitutions are permitted.

Section 6: No infielder will be closer than 30 feet (halfway between home and 1st and 3rd), Prior to the release of the ball by the coach-pitcher.

Section 7: Bunting, slapping (chop swing), or half swing are not permitted. In the umpire's judgement, if a batter intentionally takes a half swing, slaps or bunts, the ball is dead, a pitch is called on the batter, and the offensive team manager is given one warning. If it happens again, the umpire will declare the batter out.

Section 8: The infield fly rule is not in effect. The ball remains alive with all runners in jeopardy of being put out.

Section 9: On an overthrown ball in fair or foul territory, all runners may advance at their own risk, until time is called by umpire. If Overthrown ball goes into dugout or hits any equipment in the dugout area, Runner are award an extra base. Play is call dead.

Section 10: Time will be called by umpire when one of the following has occurred:

- A. The player-pitcher has the ball under control inside the circle, or the lead runner has stopped.
- B. When the ball is held in front of the lead runner.
- C. When an infielder has control of the ball in the infield, and the runners have stopped.
- D. Umpire's judgement will call time

Note: Runners more than halfway to a base will be awarded the next base when any of the above occurs, if not more than halfway, runners must return to the base they came from.

Section 11: The official softball used in Coach Pitch program shall be the 11-inch softball.

Catcher's protective equipment must be used, helmets with mask chest protector shin guards.

Pitchers must wear face mask and chest guard; all offensive players must wear helmets while on the field. All defensive players must wear face mask while in defensive play.

Section 12: If a batted ball hits the offensive representative, (Coach), The ball is dead. All runners return to their previous base. It is ruled a no pitch.

Section 13: Courtesy Runner maybe used for your pitcher and catcher.

Note: Courtesy Runner will be your last recorded out. In the event of no outs recorded then it will be last runner scored.

Section 14: In the event of a close play at home plate or any other base runners are required to slide to avoid injury with the catcher or any other defensive player. Failure to slide will be the Umpire judgement to declared an out on the play.

Section 14B: Sliding head first is not allowed if the player is advancing any base. The only **exception** is if the player is returning to base that was previously occupied.

Section 15: Absolutely No Steel or Metal Cheats will be used in league play or practice.

Umpires will report the outcome of the game and the score at the end of the night to league commissioner. Each team must have a scorekeeper.

Section 16: Both teams are to keep a score book. The home team will be the official scorekeeper. The umpire will refer to the home team scorekeeper for questions. The home team will keep a official score book that will be turned into the ump at the end of the game.

Section 17 Field Keeping: Coaches and Umpires will be responsible for chalking the field of which they are playing on for the night and to be done in such a manner for which the games will start on time both teams of the last game is responsible for dragging the field and putting up score board. Each team is responsible for cleaning their dugout. Throw away all bottles and paper in the trash cans provided. Get the dugout prepared as quickly as possible for the next team coming in to play.

Section 18: Coaches and volunteers must have a background check and completed the Abuse Awareness training to be on the field or in the dugout.

One 1st base coach and one 3rd base coach are permitted on the field but must remain near the respective base during play. Other coaches must remain in the dugout or area during play.

It is Coaches responsibility to keep players in the dugout during there at bat. Teams shall have one player at the plate, one player in the on-deck area.

Sportsmanship—Coaches should...Demonstrate sportsmanship, expect sportsmanship from your players, and Encourage sportsmanship from the parents and fans.

Cursing and aggressive behavior will not be tolerated from coaches, players, or fans. You will be given a warning. In the event warning is not expected violator will be asked to leave. Coaches will be asked to help in situation if violator still does not comply then that team will be declared a forfeit. The Board will handle each situation on a case by case basis.