

# COACH-PITCH BASEBALL RULES

(Eatontown, Long Branch, and Shore Regional Little Leagues)

Updated 2024

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- 1) All Players are expected to be Little League age 6 or 7 unless the league has made an exception based on the player's skill and ability.
- 2) This level requires the use of Level 5 Baseballs for player safety. NO HARDBALLS are allowed
- 3) Games are 6 innings unless concluded by time limit, darkness, or mercy rule.
- 4) ALL GAMES HAVE A TWO-HOUR TIME LIMIT. NO NEW INNING CAN BE STARTED AFTER 1 HOUR 45 MINUTES FROM THE START OF THE GAME. EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO START THE GAME AT THE SCHEDULED TIME.
- 5) The ten run rules in effect (Mercy rule) for all games, minimum 4 innings. If coaches would like to continue the game, they can, but the result (Win-Loss) is recorded at the mercy point.
- 6) Keep in mind that these kids are young and it's best to keep the game moving along. If they stand around for too long the game will not be fun for them.
- 7) Please share with all adults that this is a recreational level and not competitive baseball. A positive experience must be maintained for all kids regardless of the team they play for.
- 8) Game Cancellation: Coaches should only cancel games due to weather/field conditions. ANY OTHER REASON MUST GO THROUGH YOUR HOME TEAM'S LEAGUE PRESIDENT. Please communicate with the League Scheduling Manager to reschedule all games in a timely manner.

## COACH PITCHING

- 9) SEVEN PITCH limit per at bat. If the batter does not get a hit after SEVEN PITCHES, they are out.
  - a) (SEVEN PITCHES Until April 30th. On May 1st Pitch limit reduces to FIVE PITCHES)
  - b) Three swinging strikes and you're out. No called strikes, no walks, no hit by pitch.
  - c) If the 7th pitch is batted foul, then the batter will get another pitch until:
    - 1) batter swings and misses,
    - 2) does not swing or
    - 3) puts the ball in play.

*\*\*\*Even if the LAST (5TH OR 7TH) pitch bounces in the dirt, the batter is out.*
- 10) COACH PITCHER HIT BY BALL is a live ball and in play. The Coach MUST make every attempt to avoid getting out of the way.
- 11) Coach Pitcher will pitch 35ft from home plate.
  - a) If kneeling – back foot must be on the line.
  - b) If standing – back foot must start on the line.
  - c) If sitting – you must be sitting on the line.
  - d) NO UNDERHAND PITCHING.
- 12) No foreign objects allowed on field. EXCEPTION: A pitching screen can be used if the coach feels it is necessary, a bucket can be used for the coach to sit on while pitching, or a knee pads can be used if the coach kneels down to pitch
- 13) Coach Pitcher will hold in their possession the 7 baseballs they are using to pitch in hand or in a bucket. DO NOT PLACE BALLS ON GROUND as they can be confused in game play.

## **HITTING**

- 14) Each offensive team's inning ends when whichever of the following happens first:
- 15) Three outs are recorded by defensive team
  - a) Bat your entire batting order (defined by the team with the most players)
  - b) Score 5 runs.
- 16) No bunting is permitted.
- 17) Before the game, coaches should determine the outfield lines if not normally decided by the outfield grass line.
- 18) On a ball hit into the outfield (via fly ONLY), the batter can try to advance as far as 3rd base at their own risk. It is not a guaranteed triple. All runners on base can advance as far as home plate and score at their own risk, again not guaranteed and can be tagged or forced out.
- 19) On balls that are hit into the infield, the base-to-base rule applies,
  - a) 1 base permitted for all runners. If runners overrun 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base, they are live and can be tagged out.
- 20) No stealing is permitted.
- 21) Base runners cannot leave the base until the pitch crosses the plate.
- 22) Tagging up 1 Base– Permitted in any scenario at all bases.
- 23) Continuous batting order must be used. All players must bat in the same order all game even if they are not playing defense.

## **FIELDING**

- 24) Player pitcher must have at least 1 foot on the pitcher's mound dirt and must be positioned equal to or behind the pitching rubber.
- 25) Player Catcher MUST use gear with a throat guard, wear athletic supporter (cup) and play in their respective positions behind home plate.
- 26) Infield Players must play in their respective positions. No shifts or placing players on any physical base. Infield Players cannot play on the infield grass and may not charge or advance towards the plate until the ball has been hit.
- 27) Teams will play 4 outfielders and will position as Left Field, Left Center, Right Center, Right Field. No Shifts permitted. ALL 4 Outfielders MUST stand on the outfield grass line or outfield line determined before the game.
- 28) No player will be permitted to play the same position for more than 3 innings (9 outs) per game. All players must play at least 2 different positions in any game. Please make every attempt to play everyone at least one inning in the infield if it is not a safety risk.

## **COACHES ON THE FIELD**

- 29) OFFENSIVE (3) – Coach Pitcher, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base coaches.  
DEFENSIVE (3)– 2 coaches standing in the outfield grass, 1 coach behind catcher at home plate.
- 30) Coaches will be the umpires during the regular season.
  - a) Calls at 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the base coaches.
  - b) Calls at 2<sup>nd</sup> will be the defensive coaches stationed in the outfield grass.
  - c) Calls at Home or fair/foul will be the coach at home plate.
  - d) An umpire will be used for the playoffs.