

# 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 exception based on the player's skill and ability.
- 2) Games are 6 innings unless concluded by time limit, darkness, or mercy rule.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Three swinging strikes and you're out. No called strikes, no walks, no hit by pitch.
- 6) FIVE pitch limit per at bat. If the batter does not get a hit after FIVE pitches, they are out. If the 5<sup>th</sup> pitch is batted foul, then the batter will get another pitch until:
  - a) 1) batter swings and misses,
  - b) 2) does not swing or
  - c) 3) puts the ball in play.

*\*\*\*Even if the 5th pitch bounces in the dirt, the batter is out. Coaches must learn to throw strikes and batters must learn to swing at good pitches.*
- 7) Each offensive team's inning ends when whichever of the following happens first:
  - a) Three outs are recorded by defensive team
  - b) Bat your entire batting order (defined by the team with the most players)
  - c) Score 5 runs.
- 8) 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.
- 9) 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
- 10) HITTING
  - a) No bunting is permitted.
  - b) Before the game, coaches should determine the outfield lines if not normally decided by outfield grass line.
  - c) 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.
  - d) On balls that are hit into the infield, base to base rule applies 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.
  - e) No stealing is permitted.
  - f) Base runners cannot leave the base until the pitch crosses the plate.
  - g) Tagging up 1 Base— Permitted in any scenario at all bases.

- 11) Coach Pitcher will pitch 35ft from home plate. If kneeling – back foot must be on the line. If standing – back foot must start on the line. If sitting – you must be sitting on the line. NO UNDERHAND PITCHING.
- 12) Coach Pitcher will hold in his possession the 5 baseballs he is using to pitch. DO NOT PLACE ON GROUND OR IN A BUCKET.
- 13) Player pitcher must have at least 1 foot on the pitcher's mound dirt and must be behind the pitching rubber.
- 14) Catcher MUST use gear with throat guard, wear athletic supporter (cup) and play in their respective positions behind home plate.
- 15) 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.
- 16) 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.
- 17) 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.
- 18) Continuous batting order must be used. All players must bat in the same order all game even if they are not playing defense.
- 19) Coaches on the field:
  - a) OFFENSIVE (3) – Coach Pitcher, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base coaches.
  - b) DEFENSIVE (3)– 2 coaches standing in the outfield grass, 1 coach behind catcher at home plate.
- 20) Coaches will be the umpires during the regular season. Calls at 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the base coaches. Calls at 2<sup>nd</sup> will be the defensive coaches stationed in the outfield grass. Calls at Home or fair/foul will be coach at home plate. An umpire will be used for the playoffs.
- 21) 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.
- 22) Game Cancellation: Coaches can only cancel games due to weather/field conditions. ANY OTHER REASON MUST GO THROUGH YOUR HOME TEAM'S LEAGUE PRESIDENT. Please remember that this must be done in a timely fashion or it will not be allowed. NOTE: The day of the game is NOT in a timely fashion.
- 23) Game make up policy: Any game cancelled for a valid reason MUST be played by the Friday of the following week. The game should be played as soon as possible, but at the latest, the Fri of the following week. If the cancelled game is NOT played by the following Friday, of the originally scheduled game, then either team can contact the Home team's President (of the cancelled game) and that President will set the FIRST AVAILABLE date for that game, regardless of the schedule of either team. PENALTY-- Failure to play this rescheduled game will result in a forfeit by the team that is refusing to play this rescheduled game. (Games can be made up at later date with home team's president approval)