

LAKESHORE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

COACH PITCH RULES

Objectives

1. The primary objectives of Coach Pitch Baseball are to continue teaching young players the fundamentals of the game, to improve the players' skills, and to develop habits of good sportsmanship. The most important rule are that the kids should always have fun, and that they should come away from the season feeling encouraged to continue with baseball.

Field Layout

2. Bases are set 45 feet apart in a normal "diamond" configuration.

Game Conduct

3. A game is four innings or 1.5 hours, whichever comes first. A game may be shortened by mutual agreement of the coaches for reasons such as darkness or inclement weather. A game must be halted immediately if lightning is in the area. Extra innings may be played, provided that the 1.5 hour time limit is not exceeded.
4. The batting order for each team will include all team members and each player will bat in order. Batting orders should pick up where they left off in the previous game, in order to assure, insofar as possible, that all players get an equal number of at bats.
5. All players on the defensive team play in the field. No more than 5 players (pitcher, first base, second base, shortstop and third base) may be positioned in the infield, or within 20 feet behind the baselines. All players must change positions after the second inning of each game. This is the minimum. Positions may be changed more frequently. All players must play all fielding positions during the course of the season. Positions must be recorded in the team's score book.
6. A team stays at bat until three outs have been recorded or the team has scored seven runs, whichever comes first.

Pitching

7. Coaches pitch to their own team. Coaches must kneel on one knee and pitch overhand.
8. There are no called strikes or balls. A batter can neither walk nor strike out.
9. If a batter has not put the ball in play after 10 pitches, he or she will hit off a tee. A batter hitting off the tee is limited to two bases (a double) regardless of how far the ball is hit.

Rules of Play

10. There is no base stealing or leading. Runners may not leave the base until after the bat has made contact with the ball.
11. There is no bunting.
12. Runners may not advance after a caught fly ball. There is no "tagging up." If a runner leaves the base before a fly ball is caught, and the ball is thrown to the base before he returns, he is out (i.e. "doubled up").

13. A play is over when it would be expected to end in a game among skilled ballplayers. Generally, this means play ends whenever the ball is in the control of a player or the pitching coach in or near the interior of the infield, even if the player with the ball has no idea what to do with it or has poor throwing ability. For example, a runner may not advance from third to home when the ball is being held by the shortstop a few feet behind the baseline. When a play is deemed over, all baserunners must go to the base to which they are nearest (either advance or return).
14. If a thrown ball goes out of play, regardless of where the throw originated, the play is dead and runners advance one base beyond the base to which they are nearest. For example, both a runner who is approaching second, and a runner who has just rounded second, will advance to third.]
15. There is no infield fly rule.
16. A runner who intentionally collides with a fielder is out. If a fielder obstructs the path of a runner, the runner advances to the next base without liability to be put out.

Game Administration

17. There are no umpires. Coaches will make all the calls. If the coaches do not agree on a call, the “pitching” coach will have final say. Coaches should generally defer to the opinion of the coach who had the best view of the play.
18. For teaching purposes, a coach or coaches on the defensive team may be on the field and may direct the positioning and play of the fielders.
19. Jeering at or teasing the opposing team’s players will not be tolerated. It is up to the coaches to enforce this rule.
20. A field coordinator designated for the league will determine whether fields are playable. Coaches must not conduct practice or play games when the coordinator has determined the fields to be unplayable.
21. There is no requirement that cancelled games be made up. Coaches are encouraged not to use the limited time available for practice to play make-up games, but are not prohibited from doing so.

Safety

22. All batters, runners and catchers must wear protective helmets. Catchers must also wear a facemask, chest protector, shin guards and protective cup.
23. All bats not being used at the plate, must remain on the ground. Warm up swings are only allowed at the plate.
24. Sliding is permitted, and is encouraged to avoid collisions.

Parents’ Game

25. There are no playoffs in coach pitch. Instead, there is a parent/player game to end a fun and educational baseball season.