

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 rules 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 60 feet apart in a normal "diamond" configuration.

Game Conduct

3. A game is 6 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 thunder/lightning is in the area. No weekday game may go beyond 8:00 P.M.
4. Teams on Defense will have 10 players, 4 of which will be in the outfield. No player should play in the field more than one inning longer than any other player and no player should be off the field for two consecutive innings. Therefore, if one player plays 3 innings, no one else can play more than 4. Exceptions to this rule may only occur as the result of injury or premature termination of a game due to weather or darkness.

Playing time must be spread evenly amongst all players over the course of the season.

All players on the offensive team bat.

5. A team stays at bat until **three outs have been recorded or the team has batted one full time through its lineup** - whichever comes first. An inning is over when both teams have been up to bat.

Pitching

6. Coaches pitch overhand to their own team or a League approved pitching machine will be used.
7. There are no balls or strikes called.
8. A batter gets a maximum of 5 pitches to put the ball into play.
9. After 5 pitches, the player will need to hit off the tee to put the ball in play and keep the game moving. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

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 the ball is under control of a player or the pitching coach in the interior of the infield. All base runners must go to the base to which they are nearest (either advance or return) when the play ends.
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.
15. The batting order for the team shall include all team members and each player will bat in order. Batting orders must be rotated each game. Over the course of the season, the batting orders should be spread evenly amongst all layers.
16. There is no infield fly rule.

17. 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

18. There are no umpires. Coaches will make all the calls. If the coaches do not agree on a call, the “pitching” coach shall have final say. Coaches should generally defer to the opinion of the coach who had the best view of the play.

19. 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.

20. Jeering at or teasing the opposing team’s players will not be tolerated. It is up to the coaches to enforce this rule.

21. The “Home Team” is in the field first and bats last.

22. 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. The Coach Pitch coordinator will e-mail the coaches if the fields are closed.

23. 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

24. All batters, runners and catchers must wear protective helmets. Catchers must also wear a facemask, chest protector, shin guards and protective cup.

25. All bats not being used at the plate must remain on the ground. Warm up swings are only allowed at the plate. There is NO ON DECK CIRCLE. Only the batter is allowed to have a bat in their hands/swing a bat.

26. Sliding is permitted, and is encouraged to avoid collisions. Sliding is only allowed FEET FIRST. NO HEAD FIRST SLIDING IS ALLOWED. The runner is out if they slide head first.

At home plate, a runner must slide when a defensive player has the ball and is attempting to put the runner out.

Team Administration

27. All players must be exposed to all fielding positions and playing time at all positions should even out amongst all players over the course of the season. All players must change positions after the second inning of each game. This is the minimum. Positions should be changed more frequently.

Scoring

28. Score is not kept at the Coach Pitch level; there are no wins or losses during the regular season.

Playoffs

29. There are no playoffs in Coach Pitch. However, time/weather permitting, there will be a one or two day tournament at the end of the season in which score will be kept, and games will be won/lost.