

DeWitt Pinto Baseball Rules (8U)

League Purpose:

The goal of the league is for the players to enjoy and learn the game of baseball. Sportsmanship is the top priority of all players, coaches and spectators. Although a score will be kept, winning will not be emphasized. Coaches should work together to make this be the best baseball experience for our young players.

General Rules:

1. Playing Field

Pitching distance: 38 feet coach pitch / 40 feet player pitch
Distance between bases: 60 feet
Home plate to second: 84 feet, 10 inches

2. Equipment

- A. Wooden, metal, graphite or ceramic bats, manufactured specifically for baseball play, which are round and not more than $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter at the thickest part, nor more than 42 inches in length, are acceptable.
- B. Metal cleats are not acceptable
- C. All helmets must be NOCSAE approved.
- D. Catchers must wear a mask with a throat guard, chest protector, shin guards, protective head-gear and athletic supporter w/cup when behind the plate. This includes players who are warming up a pitcher.
- E. No jewelry, unless used for medical identification, will be allowed.
- F. Any illegal equipment shall be removed from the game.

3. Playing Rules

- A. All players in attendance at the start of the game will be in the starting batting order. Any player arriving after the start of a game will be placed at the end of the batting order. The batting order will not change during the game unless a player leaves early. Free position substitutions will be allowed throughout the game, with the exception of the pitcher (once a pitcher is removed, that player cannot pitch again in that game.) Pitchers are allowed 4 warm up pitches per inning.

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- B. Games will be scheduled for 6 innings. All games are subject to a time limit. No new inning shall start 1 ½ hours after the start of the game. The coaches will announce the game time to both sides prior to the start. Game time is when the home team takes the field. This will be called the “official game time.” It is the responsibility of both coaches to note this time. It shall also be recorded in the official scorebook. If time permits, a tie game will go one extra inning before being declared a tie. Games ending by time limit can be at tie. **(Rule Exception:)** If there is only one scheduled game on that field and no practices you will play the full six innings.
- C. Each player in attendance for the entire game will play in the field at least two innings for a game lasting four to five innings. For a game lasting three innings, a player must play one inning in the field. For a game lasting 6 innings they must play in the field three innings. You will move players from infield to the outfield when making any changes giving players a chance to play both areas.
- D. Home team will be the official scorekeeper.
- E. Either 3 outs or a five run per half inning mercy rule will apply for all innings, including the last inning. If a team is ahead more than five runs entering the last inning, the game is technically over, although coaches can continue if time permits to give players additional experience. Rule Exception: In the bottom of the final inning, the home team can score as many runs as necessary to tie game, but not to win the game.
- F. Any player on the hitting team who is on the field is required to wear a helmet. This includes the on deck batter, as well as players retrieving foul balls and in the coach’s box.
- G. Each team is allowed one bunt per inning.
- H. Stealing is not permitted. No player is allowed to steal home plate, even in the event of a passed ball. Leading off is not allowed.
- I. The only opportunity to score from third base is on a batted ball. Once the ball has entered the infield all players must stop at the closest base. There is no advancing on over throws.
- K. Batting line ups should stay the same though the season rotating the top 3 players to the bottom each week. This will give everyone the chance to be at the top of the lineup.

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4. Pitching Rules

- A. Players are allowed to pitch only TWO innings in a game. One pitch thrown constitutes an inning.
- B. Players are allowed to pitch only six innings in one week. A week is defined as Monday to Sunday.
- C. As soon as the player delivers one pitch to a batter, in live play, it is considered an inning pitched.
- D. The coach shall consider the strike zone to expand from the neck to the knees of the batter. Each coach should be advised of the strike zone prior to the start of the game. The object of the game is to get the players hitting and swinging the bat.
- E. Coaches will pitch in the beginning of the season to their own players. Would suggest that coaches pitch from one knee giving the players a true look. The player gets a total of 5 hittable pitches, unless the 5th is fouled off. If the 5th pitch is missed, this will be considered a strike out. The last four games in the season we will introduce kids pitching. The pitcher will get the opportunity for 6 pitches, after that point if a strikeout or hit has not occurred the pitchers coach will then throw 2 hittable pitches. If the player still does not get a hit they are out. **NO WALKS ALLOWED.**

5. General Rules

- A. There is no third strike drop rule. If a catcher drops a third strike, the batter is out in all cases.
- B. All players are required to avoid contact when going into second, third or home plate during a close play. Any intentionally running into players will result in the player being called out. Catchers are not allowed to block home plate.
- C. Teams will play four outfielders.
- D. Home teams are responsible for keeping the book and baseballs.
- E. Inappropriate behavior will not be allowed. Coaches may discipline a player by removing him/her from the field and the batting order. If parents or fans get out of hand they will be asked to leave the general area. If they still will not leave, they will be informed that their son or daughter will not play any more innings until they leave.

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- F. If a player throws their bat after swinging, the player will be warned. After the warning, the player will be called out for each bat throwing offense.
- G. Any rule not clarified above will be clarified by the governing body, which in this case is DYBSA.