

2017 WNCYSA 6U COACH PITCH (5&6 YR OLDS) BASEBALL RULES

DIVISION FORMAT

- a. This is a coach pitch only division.
- b. Boys and Girls will play together in the Coach Pitch Division.
- c. For ages 6 and under.
 - i. A 4 year old may be eligible for the Coach Pitch Division with league approval.
 - ii. A 7 year old player that is deemed not ready for the Machine Pitch division will be eligible to play in the Coach Pitch Division. The decision to allow the player to play down will be the sole decision of the WNCYSA Directors.
 - iii. See age verification chart to see what your child's league age is for the current season.
- d. Teams will consist of 8 to 10 players.
- e. The season will consist of 12 games depending on the number of teams in this division.
- f. An end of the season single elimination tournament will be played at the end of the season amongst all Coach Pitch Division teams. Tournament seeding will be based on the regular season records.
- g. Game lengths will be no more than 1hr 15 minutes or five (5) innings. A new inning cannot be started if time has expired. Umpires will make the call on the last inning. The last inning can be during any inning depending on the time.

DIVISION PLAYING RULES

1. A player will receive 6 pitches or 3 strikes. A foul ball or foul tip on the 3rd strike or 6th pitch will keep the batter alive.
2. The entire team roster shall constitute the batting order.
3. An inning is complete when the defensive team records 3 outs or the offensive team scores 5 runs. No additional runs can be scored in the inning once the 5th run crosses home plate.
 - a. Clarification, this is the only stoppage of an inning. You do not change innings if your entire lineup has batted. If you have 9 players that day and all 9 players hit and you have not scored 5 runs or achieved 3 outs you will

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continue hitting until this occurs. In this case you may have some hitters that hit twice in that inning.

- b. The only exception to this rule would be in the last inning. The last inning will be complete once the defensive team has recorded 3 outs or the offensive team scores five (5) runs with a continuation of runs allowed in the final inning. Example: If the offensive team has 4 runs and the bases are loaded the hitter may drive in as many runs as possible during his at bat. The max allowed will then be eight (8) runs in the final inning. Once play has been deemed stopped by the umpire the inning will be completed.
4. All games will be 1 hour and 15 minutes or five (5) innings and the time limit will be enforced. If game in question is about to end in time limit and an umpire declares last inning (whether it be the 3rd or 4th inning), then the 5 run limit will allow for continuation. This will allow for a max of 8 runs to be scored in an inning. The home plate umpire will make the decision based on game start time. If an inning is started, that inning must be completed. If an umpire does not call last inning and the time limit expires in any inning, then the last inning with continuation will not be played. If the last inning was not called and there is time remaining umpires will call last inning and the game will be completed.
 - a. If the game ends in a tie and there is no time remaining the game will be counted as a tie. If there is time remaining in the original time limit an extra inning may be played to attempt to break the tie. You will play the tie breaking inning in the same way as the last inning with a 5 run limit with continuation.
 5. The ball shall be live after it is hit into fair territory, and shall remain live until it is returned to the kid pitcher in the circle. The pitching coach must move from fair territory as quickly as possible. Once the ball is judged dead, the play is stopped, runners still advancing to a base may continue to the next base if they have advanced at least halfway to that base. If the runner is not halfway to the next base, then he must return to the previous base.
 6. One base will be awarded to runner(s) on a ball that has traveled into a dead ball area. Umpires will clarify, at the start of the game, what area(s) will constitute a dead ball.
 - a. In the case of an overthrown ball to first base, from any fielder, the ball shall be deemed dead and runners will be awarded one base. It will be the

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- judgement of the umpire to allow or not allow the runner from 2nd base to be awarded home based on their advancement potential.
- b. An overthrown ball to any other base, such as 2nd or 3rd, will continue to be a live ball until stoppage of play has been called as mentioned in item 7.
7. To stop the play, the player, must get the ball to the pitcher in the circle, not the Coach. If the pitcher is in the circle and the ball is attempted to the pitcher and he misses the ball the play will be ruled dead. A pitcher fielding the ball out of position will have to return to the circle to constitute a stoppage in play. Example: If the pitcher moves to the second base area to cut off the throw from the outfielder he will have to run back to the circle to stop play.
- a. This is a judgement call by the umpires and will need to be clarified at the beginning of the game with both head coaches their perception of when the ball is declared stopped in the circle. Once the ball has reached the circle perimeter umpire should call the ball dead, regardless if the pitcher is fully in the circle.
 - b. Stopping of the lead runner will also constitute stoppage of play and the umpire will call time.
8. There will be no base stealing or base leading allowed.
9. Sliding:
- a. If there is play at home plate the runner does not have to slide but must avoid contact during the play. Umpires will call runners out if interference occurs. It is encouraged for runners to slide into home plate
 - b. Players cannot slide head first into any base, only on a return to the base. Players should be called out on first offense.
10. Throwing of the bat is not considered an out on the first two offenses. If players are continuing to sling bats, there will be a team warning issued and if the umpire deems necessary the next player throwing a bat will be called out. Players will not be ejected from the game unless the umpire deems the player has thrown the bat in a malicious manner. This is for the safety of our catchers and umpires.
11. Managers and/or Coaches should be on the playing field coaching and teaching all players at all times. Keep the number of coaches on the field to 3. Coach

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directions may be given from foul territory within the infield areas or coaches can be in the outfield. To keep congestion down in the infield no coaches shall be in fair territory in the infield positions.

12. Coaches should not touch a player while the ball is in play. Any attempt to gain an advantage by stopping the runner will constitute an out. This will be the judgement of the umpires.
13. The entire team shall take the field. It is encouraged to rotate your players so that everyone is getting experience in different positions. If a coach deems a player must be in the outfield for the entire game, due to safety concerns, then the Coach shall communicate this with the parents. Remember we are still teaching at this level and concerns of winning over teaching should not be our emphasis.
14. All infield positions shall be positioned as normal. No more than one player in the pitcher circle. Remaining players need to spread throughout the outfield and should not be within the infield areas. If playing on Field 3 and Field A, outfielders should begin their position in the grass. If you are playing on one of the bigger fields you may allow the players to play on the dirt but not in the infielder's area.
15. The Coach pitching to the kids must not be any closer than 20 ft from the back of home plate when pitching the ball to all kids. A 20ft line will be placed on the field for reference. You must have at least one foot behind the line while pitching.
 - a. This 20ft line is the minimum, it is encouraged to adjust based on your players ability.
 - b. As an FYI, Coach's pitching for our tournament team, selected at the end of the season, will have to pitch with one foot in the pitcher's circle.
16. Catchers can be utilized in the Coach Pitch Division and will be the sole discretion of each coach to do so. If a team is using a catcher, that catcher must have full catcher's gear with a throat shield on the catcher's mask. Catchers must wear a protective cup.
 - a. To speed the game up it is not recommended to utilize a catcher.
17. A team must have a minimum of 7 players to begin the game or the game will be considered a forfeit. In the case of a forfeit, the opposing team shall let the forfeited team borrow players, to become as even as possible, and will then play a scrimmage game. This game will not be made up and the teams records will be affected accordingly.

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- a. In the case your team drops below 6 players during the game. The game will be deemed a forfeit and will then finish the innings or time limits remaining as a scrimmage. Remember you must start with at least 7 players to constitute a regular game.
 - b. A player who leaves the field for a bathroom break and is not back in time to bat their turn will be skipped and then will return back to their normal spot in the lineup for their next at bat.
 - c. A player who leaves the game for whatever reason and is not returning will be deemed out the first time their at bat occurs after leaving the game. After this the spot will be skipped and no out will be recorded.
18. Coaches it is very important that we are teaching kids how to play the game of baseball/softball. We would like to express the importance of teaching your player to throw the ball to the bases and allowing the fielders to learn how to catch the ball and achieve a "Team Out".
- a. A base runner will be deemed safe if a player is rolling the ball to the bases to achieve an out. This includes purposely throwing the ball in the dirt so that it rolls to the base. This will be the discretion of the umpires. A pitcher should be attempting to throw the ball in the air to the first baseman so that he can attempt to catch the ball in the air.
 - b. A base runner will be deemed safe if the pitcher attempts to run down the base runner to achieve an out at first base. This includes the pitcher running the ball to first to tag the bag.
 - c. These rules are in place so that we can ensure we are teaching the fundamentals of the game.
19. Coaches please show sportsmanship during your games. You should be rotating your kids in the infield if your team is up by 10 or more runs. This gives everyone the opportunity to play different positions and grow in the sport. This also allows the opposing players from getting discouraged.
20. Parent and coach conduct needs to foster the encouragement of all players, this includes the opposing team. Umpires will be instructed to warn teams of parents and coaches who are conducting their behavior in a negative manner towards players, coaches, and/or other parents. Please let the parents know that poor conduct will not be tolerated and will result in removal from the field.

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21. Umpires are instructed to stop the play of the game and communicate with the head coach any problems occurring during the game due to poor conduct by anyone involved at the field. After the second warning the umpire will have full discretion to stop play and issue a forfeit to the team not obeying our conduct policy.
22. Coaches not following these rules can be asked to relinquish their coaching duties and may not be allowed to coach in preceding years.

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