

Official Coach Pitch Rules – April 2023

1. A team will consist of ten defensive players—six (6) infielders and four (4) outfielders.
2. A team must have eight (8) players present to play.
3. Outfielders must be “on the grass” at the time of the pitch. Outfielders are not allowed to make infield outs, meaning they cannot run in and tag a base or base runner in order to make an out. They must throw the ball to an infielder to make this type of out.
4. All players will be placed in the batting order. If players arrive late, they will be placed at the bottom of the order. If a player leaves early their spot in the batting order will be skipped. An automatic out will NOT be awarded.
5. If a player cannot complete a plate appearance, then the last out shall complete the appearance.
6. There will be a 2-hour limit for all games, regardless of the score. A tie score will be allowed to stand. No new inning will be allowed to start within 15 minutes of the curfew time.
7. The game will consist of 4 innings as time allows. **(NEW FOR 2023)**
8. The coach ‘pitcher’ must not pitch any closer than 7 paces (21 feet) from the back of the plate. A line will be marked during the initial setup of the field. The coach pitcher must make every attempt not to interfere with a play being made by the defensive team. This is particularly important on throws from 3rd to 1st. If there is interference, then the ball is dead, the base runners are sent back, and the pitch will be considered a foul ball.
9. The batter will be allowed 5 pitches to put the ball in play. If on the 5 pitch the batter does not put the ball in play, a tee will be brought out and the batter will receive two (2) attempts from the tee before being called out. Balls and strikes will neither be counted nor called. The umpire shall announce ‘last pitch’ after the first attempt from the tee.
10. A play can be called dead when an infielder calls time while inside the base paths.
11. An inning will consist of all batters on the lineup card batting. Last batter will be called by the batting team coach when the last player in their lineup approaches the plate. NOTE: If agreed upon by both coaches prior to the game, the 3 out ruling can be implemented. This will be “Rule 0” **(NEW FOR 2023)**.
12. Base runners must stay in contact with the base until the batter makes contact with the ball. Steals and lead offs are not allowed.
13. No base will be awarded on overthrows at first base and only 1 base will be awarded on overthrows at other bases. A runner at 3rd base cannot advance to home on an overthrow unless he or she is forced to.
14. Bunts are not allowed. The batter must take a full swing to the best of their ability.
15. The infield fly rule is not in effect.
16. Batters must wear protective helmets.
17. The pitcher must wear a pitcher’s helmet.

18. Catchers must wear full catcher's protective equipment. Catchers MUST be positioned behind the plate prior to the pitch being thrown. Catchers may NOT be positioned away from the plate, or back against the fence. (NEW FOR 2023).
19. Bases shall be 50 feet apart.
20. Players cannot repeat ANY position during the course of the game and coaches are encouraged to rotate players through all positions.

CHANGES FOR 2023 *updated May 2023*

- 3 out rule has been eliminated (development and quality improvement)
- Games will consist of 4 innings, with above noted time constraints (development and quality improvement)
- Catcher's now must be positioned behind the home plate, and not off to the side, or on the fence. (safety and development change)
- Rule 0 – this enables coaches to apply the 3 out rule to their game and must be agreed upon by the coaches of both teams prior to game start