



# COACHES PITCH RULES

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425 NE Mock Ave  
Blue Springs, MO 64014  
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**This is an instructional league designed for beginning level players to learn the basic fundamentals of the game except unlike T-ball, scores will be kept and outs will be called.**

**AGES:** Children who will turn 6 to 8 years old during the session may participate. Anyone who will turn 9 during the session can not participate

**AWARDS:** All participants will receive a participation medallion.

**CATCHERS:** Shall take a position at a safe distance to the rear of home plate. Catchers MUST wear a helmet.

**COACHES: (and parents)**

- \* Coaches may stand anywhere within the field of play to assist the base runners or fielders during the game.
- \* Coaches may not obstruct defensive players.
- \* No more than one (1) parent on the field per child.
- \* There must be two (2) offensive base coaches on the field at all times.

**DEFENSIVE TEAM:**

- \* One adult representing the defensive team may be positioned in the outfield to provide instructional aide. If a batted ball strikes the field adult, the ball shall be considered live.
- \* The defensive team must play three outfielders beyond the infield and play one infielder in the pitching area. A catcher must also be provided. If a team is short one player, an adult may catch but a team member must make all defensive plays.
- \* There shall be no limit on the number of defensive conferences between coaches and players.

**EQUIPMENT:** All equipment, excepts gloves which are optional, is supplied. Mouth guards are strongly suggested but are not supplied. SportsCity will supply batter helmets but not catchers helmets.

**GAME DURATION:**

- \* All games shall consist of six (6) innings or one (1) hour, whichever comes first.
- \* A game may end after the 4th inning is a team is ten (10) or more runs behind and both teams have had their turn at bat.

**INFIELD:**

- \* Infield Fly shall not be enforced.
- \* The last batter can only advance to 2nd base on an infield hit.

**OFFENSIVE TEAM:**

- \* Shall bat until three outs are made or until every player in the lineup bats. If opposing teams have an unequal number of players at the game, then the maximum number of players allowed to bat in an inning shall be equal to the number of players on the team having the fewer players. Exceptions: if one team has only eight players, then the opposing team may bat nine players in one inning.
- \* There shall be no limit on the number of offensive conferences between coaches and players.

**PITCHERS: Coach or designated adult only**

- \* Each coach or designated adult shall pitch to their own team.
- \* A player shall receive seven pitches. If the batter fails to hit in seven pitches, the batter is out. If the batter fouls off the seventh pitch, then one more pitch shall be allowed. If this pitch is fouled off, the batter is out.
- \* Balls and strikes shall not be called, but a batter may strike out swinging.
- \* No bunting is allowed.
- \* If a batted ball strikes the adult pitcher, it shall be ruled dead and no pitch shall be charged against the batter.
- \* Coaches must pitch from between 40 and 45 feet from home plate.
- \* Adult pitchers must wear and use a fielder's glove.

**PLAYERS:**

- \* A team may start and finish a game with eight players. If there are only eight players, then the ninth position in the batting order is an automatic out.
- \* Every player on the team shall be placed in the batting lineup and shall bat in turn. However, only nine players shall play in the field. Free substitution of fielders is allowed, but every player must play three complete innings (nine outs) in the field, unless prevented by end game situation such as legal game shortened by weather or darkness.
- \* If a player is removed from a game for injury, illness, or a situation beyond the coach's control (e.g., parents removing a player from a game), then the team's batting lineup shall be reduced one player and the allowable batters in one inning for the opposing team shall also be reduced one player.

**PLAYING REGULATIONS:**

- \* **NO** hard balls allowed. Only RIF (Level 5) balls allowed and are supplied by SportsCity.
- \* The diamond shall be a sixty (60) foot square. Bases are to be no more than twenty-five (25) feet apart.
- \* The pitching rubber shall be twenty-five (25) feet from the back tip of home plate.  
**NOTE:** Due to ages playing, bases and pitching rubber can be moved in but can not be less than eighteen (18) feet apart.
- \* The batting tee shall be placed on home plate.
- \* All players are considered "infielders" and can play any position in the field.

**PRACTICES:**

- \* All teams will receive a one (1) hour practice before the start of the session.
- \* After the session starts, each team will have a half hour (1/2) practice before each game.
- \* Teams may have additional practices but these practices are not supplied by SportsCity nor is SportsCity liable for practices outside its facility.

**RULES of PLAY:**

- \* Eight (8) players are allowed to play defense in the field. Catcher is considered the 9th player.
- \* All players per team, will be in a continuous rotating batting order.
- \* Each inning will consist of the home and visiting teams batting their entire lineup regardless of the number of outs or runs.
- \* Strikes are defined as:
  - \* Any ball hit foul but not a third strike. There are **NO** strikeouts but strikes should be called so player learns.
  - \* Any ball that is swung at and missed.
- \* Play is dead when the ball is in complete control by the players regardless of their location inside the baselines.
- \* When play stops, the ball is "dead" until placed on the tee.

**STEALING:**

- \* **NO** stealing. Runners cannot advance until the ball is hit. After the ball is placed on the tee, runners leaving the base before the batter hits the ball, will be returned to that base.
- \* Leads shall be permitted after the pitched ball reaches home plate. If a runner leads early, the pitch shall be ruled dead and shall be charged against the batter (unless it is the seventh pitch, whereupon the batter shall be given another seventh pitch).

**TEAMS:**

Though not guaranteed, teams formed by SportsCity may be co-ed and should not consist of less than eight (8) or more than ten (10) players.

**UNIFORMS:**

Two coaches per team and all players will receive a "team t-shirt" for them to keep. Color of shorts is of no bearing. Tennis shoes or cleats that do not have metal spikes can be worn.

**NOTE:** Teams wanting to provide their own shirts may reduce their fee by \$10.00