

Spring 2021 Rules – 1st Grade Coach Pitch

1. FIELD DIMENSIONS

Bases – 60 feet

Pitching plate – 30 feet

2. INNING LIMIT – 6 innings

3. TIME LIMIT – 70 minutes.

4. BALL SIZE – 11 inch safety ball

5. EXTRA INNINGS – in post season tournaments only

6. INNING RUN RULE – 5 runs max

7. GAME ENDING RUN RULE – N/A

8. BUNTING – not allowed

9. STEALING – not allowed

10. DROPPED 3RD STRIKE – batter is out

11. INFIELD FLY RULE – not in effect

12. PITCHING

- a. The batting team's adult representative will do the pitching. When the adult representative pitches, there are no walks.
- b. The Coach Pitcher must start with at least one foot on the pitching rubber.
- c. If at the umpire's discretion, the adult designated pitcher is actively coaching on the field, then the batter will be declared out and all advancing runners will be returned to their point of origin.
- d. There are no called strikes if the batter does not swing.
- e. A maximum of 6 pitches will be allowed for each batter. If on the 6th pitch and any subsequent pitch, the Batter hits the pitched ball into foul territory, the batter may continue to bat until the ball is either hit into play or the batter swings and misses (strike). The batter has no limit on the number of foul balls. If the batter swings and misses on the 6th or subsequent pitch, the batter is called out regardless of how many strikes have been recorded. If the batter does not swing on the 6th or subsequent pitch, the batter is out
- f. The batter is not out if she swings at and misses 3 pitches, if it is before the 6th pitch
- g. If the ball is hit during Coach Pitching, the coach-pitcher must make his/her way off the field as quickly as possible and/or in a direction that will not affect the play. If the coach obstructs the play of the defense or in any way interferes with the defensive play, the batted ball will be declared a "NO PITCH".
- h. The batter will then resume with the same count as before the original pitch and all base runners will return to their point of origin.
- i. There will be no advance on a passed ball or if an overthrow occurs when the catcher is returning the ball to the pitcher after a pitch. This is a dead ball situation. NOTE: The adult pitcher is to help field the returned pitch.
- j. The coach-pitcher may not instruct or direct any opposing players in any way while on the playing field. An offending coach-pitcher will be given one warning, and then removed after repeated infractions.

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13. STOPPING OF PLAY

The following three (3) scenarios STOP the play by the defense:

1. The pitcher has control of the ball with both feet inside the pitching circle.
2. After an attempt to make a play on the runner, the fielder throws the ball to the pitcher, and the ball passes through the plane of the circle while the pitcher has both feet inside the circle.
3. Ball is controlled by an Infield defensive player in front of the lead base runner. Lead runner must be stopped to have time called.

*If a base runner is in motion when the play is ruled dead, and they HAVE NOT reached the next base, the runner must return to the previous base. The only exception is that each base runner is permitted to advance one base (at risk) when a ball is put in play. (This covers a scenario, for example, where there is a runner on second only and the ball is hit straight back to the pitcher, in the circle, and she does not attempt to make a play. The runner on 2nd, while not being forced to go to third, is allowed to take one base).

14. ADVANCE ON AN OVERTHROW

On an overthrow to a base, a runner may advance to the next base at her own risk. If the defensive team attempts to throw out the runner advancing to the next base after an overthrow occurs and another overthrow occurs, the runner may advance to the subsequent base at her own risk. Under no circumstances can a runner advance more than one base on one overthrow. If the defense does not attempt to throw out the runner advancing on an overthrow, the play is stopped. An overthrow to the pitcher is treated the same as an overthrow to a base IF it is the first overthrow on a given play. Otherwise, an overthrow to the pitcher is a dead ball, not an attempt on the play.

15. PITCHER POSITION

- a. The defensive team will have the pitcher positioned three (3) feet to the right or left of the pitcher's plate.
- b. The defensive pitcher will not be in front of the pitcher's plate.
- c. Interference committed by the adult representative, such as touching the batted ball or failure to position herself/himself so that the pitcher can play to ball, will result in the batted ball being declared a "NO PITCH".
- d. The batter will then resume the batter's role with the same count as before the original pitch.

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16. DEFENSIVE POSITIONS

- a. Infielders will be no closer than 10 feet in front of the baselines (imaginary lines which connect the bases) and outfielders shall be no closer than 20 feet behind the baselines until the ball is hit.
- b. A coach from the defensive team can act as a backup catcher in order to speed up the game. The adult backup catcher may not coach or instruct any player for any reason. The adult backup catcher is prohibited from discussing plays or calls with the umpires. The umpire has the discretion to send the parent to the bleachers at any time.

17. PINCH RUNNERS – Not allowed except for injury.

18. BUNTING - Bunting and Fake Bunting is not allowed. Slapping is allowed.