

## ***Spring 2021 Rules – Kindergarten (Modified Coach Pitch/T-ball)***

1. **FIELD DIMENSIONS** - Bases – 50 ft, Pitching Plate – 30 ft
2. **INNING LIMIT** – 5 innings
3. **TIME LIMIT** – 60 minutes (minimum of 2 full innings will be played)
4. **BALL SIZE** – 10-inch safety ball
5. **EXTRA INNINGS** – No
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** – N/A
11. **INFIELD FLY RULE** – not in effect
12. **GENERAL RULES**
  - PSA Modified Coach Pitch/T-Ball Softball is about creating a fun environment for girls to develop the fundamentals of softball and learn to play the game properly.
  - The HOME team occupies the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout.
  - Coaches are responsible for games starting and ending promptly within their assigned field times.
  - There are no umpires or officials assigned to T-Ball to manage game time.
  - Coaches should exchange batting lineups prior to the start of the game.
  - There will be NO official scorekeeping for any games. Coaches should be aware of the number of runs scored or outs recorded in order to end/start the innings.
13. **UMPIRING-GAME OFFICIATING**
  - a. Umpiring responsibilities will be shared evenly by the teams during the games as explained in Coaches section 14.
  - b. The head coaches are to maintain complete control of the game and must have good knowledge of the rules.
  - c. A meeting between the two head coaches is recommended to fairly resolve any questionable play.
  - d. Play is stopped when one of the two defensive field coaches acting as field umpires has called "time".
  - e. Coaches will stop play immediately upon an injury to any player. Base runners will be awarded only the next base.
  - f. All players on the field will kneel/sit down at their positions during the injury timeout.
14. **COACHES**
  - a. Offensive coach is allowed at home plate to help the batter, retrieve pitched balls and place the ball/tee as needed. The home plate offensive coach is responsible for removing the batting tee after a playable ball is hit.
  - b. Offensive base coaches are allowed at 1st and 3rd base (base coaches are not permitted to touch the players when the ball is in play. Specifically, this means the coach cannot push the player to get him/her moving toward the next base or restrain them from advancing to the next base).
  - c. Two defensive coaches (one on each side of the infield, behind the base paths) are allowed on the playing field but must not interfere with the flow of the game. Defensive coaches can set up the defense prior to each play and **shall act as the field umpires.**
  - d. Other offensive & defensive coaches shall remain in the dugout
  - e. An adult coach must be in the dugout at all times when players are present.

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### **15. COACH PITCHER**

- a. The Coach Pitcher can pitch in front of the pitching rubber at a comfortable position for the batter inside the pitching circle; it is not required to have one foot on the rubber.
- b. 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 pitcher touches a batted ball, obstructs the play of the defense or in any way interferes with the defensive play, the batted ball will be declared a “NO PITCH”. 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.
- c. The Coach Pitcher may instruct the batter/runners prior to throwing a pitch but may not instruct the batter once the ball leaves the coach pitcher’s hand and may not instruct any runner on a ball put in play.
- d. The Coach-Pitcher should not instruct or direct any opposing players in any way while on the playing field.

### **16. BATTING**

- a. A batter will be given 3 pitches by the coach-pitcher, whether the batter swings or not (to encourage the players to swing the bat). Exception: A foul ball not legally caught on the last (i.e., 3rd pitch) entitles the batter to one more pitch.
- b. If the batter does not put the ball in play after 3 pitches, the assisting plate coach will put the ball in play by placing it on the Tee.
- c. While on the Tee, if the batter does not put the ball in play after 5 attempts/swings off the tee, the batter is out. If the batter hits a foul ball on the last pitch, she continues batting.
- d. If using a tee, the ball must travel at least 8 feet from the tee in fair territory or it will be considered foul. If the tee is struck or knocked over instead of the ball, it will be considered a foul ball. Prior to the game and refreshed as needed, a designated half circle shall be drawn by a coach in front of home plate from 1st base line to 3rd base line to indicate the 8-foot area.
- e. Any part of the ball may be hit to place the ball into play.
- f. After hitting the ball in fair territory, a player may take as many bases as possible until the ball is returned to the pitching circle as determined by the defensive field coaches acting as umpires. The coach umpire will signal “Time” to call play to a halt. If a base runner is not to the base when “Time” is called, the runner will return to the base they were coming from. Leading off of a base is not permitted and runner may not leave base until the ball is hit.
- g. The batting order shall list all eligible players who have shown up for the game. Each player must bat in the order they are listed before starting over with the top of the batting order. Players showing up late will be added to the bottom of the batting order.
- h. Throwing the bat is a major safety concern in Softball. If this occurs during the game, once the in-progress play is over and “Time” has been called, the batter should be reminded by an offensive team coach to be aware of the bat release.
- i. Bunting is not allowed.

### **17. FIELDING**

- a. There will be 9 defensive players on the field. For infield play, there is only one player allowed to play each appropriate position. (P, 3B, SS, 2B, 1B). Therefore, there are 5 players allowed within the base-paths at any given time. The remaining 4 players play outfield positions backing up the infield positions. The outfielders cannot be positioned closer than the edge of the outfield grass. No Catcher position will be used in Modified Coach Pitch/T-ball. An individual player may only play in the pitcher position for one inning in any given game.

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- b. Each player must play a minimum of two defensive innings per game (time permitting). No player will be a substitute on the bench for two consecutive innings.
- c. Coaches should attempt to have all players play an equal number of outfield and infield positions during the course of the season.
- d. During a game a player may play one inning at either First base or Pitcher. The same player may not play in both positions during the same game.
- e. The defensive team will have the pitcher positioned three (3) feet to the right or left of the pitching rubber. The defensive pitcher will not be in front of the pitching rubber.
- f. 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 edge of the outfield grass until the ball is hit.
- g. The pitcher may not tag out a batter who is running from home plate to 1st base or run with ball to tag 1st base. Pitcher must throw/toss ball to teammate to record out at 1st base.
- h. Pitcher position can make a play at home plate at any time.
- i. IT IS NOT ALLOWED TO RUN PLAYERS DOWN EXCEPT IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA WHERE THE BALL IS FIELDDED. (Ex: 1st baseman cannot run a player down across the field at 3rd base). This is to encourage learning defensive throw & catch skills.

### **18. STOPPING OF PLAY & OVERTHROWS**

The following two (2) 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 a runner, the fielder throws the ball to the pitcher, and the ball passes through the plane of the circle while the pitcher is inside the circle.

- If the runner has not reached the next base when either (1) or (2) has occurred, the runner must return to the previous base.
- On an overthrow to a base which remains in the field of play, 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 a 2nd overthrow occurs, the runner may advance to the subsequent base at her own risk.
- Under no circumstances may a runner advance more than ONE base on ONE overthrow.
- After an overthrow has occurred, if no subsequent defensive play is attempted on a base runner, a ball delivered back to the pitcher is considered a dead ball.
- An overthrow straight back to the pitcher without any type of defensive play attempted is treated the same as an overthrow to a base IF it is the first overthrow on a given play.

### **19. SCORES/STANDINGS** – not kept in Kindergarten Modified Coach Pitch/T-ball league.