



COACH PITCH

The OBLL Coach Pitch Division is a developmental division. Although scores will be kept and records maintained, managers and coaches are encouraged to focus on proper fundamentals and on ensuring equal opportunity for all players to participate and learn.

Eligibility: Coach Pitch is open to players 7 to 8 years old.

Games: The Coach Pitch season will consist of 10-12 games. To the extent possible, each team will be scheduled to play two games per week. A tournament will be played at the conclusion of the regular season. Number of Players Assigned to Each

Team: Rosters will consist of no more than 13 players.

Defensive Positions: There shall be ten defensive positions (1B, 2B, SS, 3B, P, C, L, LC, RC and R). There shall be no more than 6 players in the infield positions including a catcher. There should be 4 outfielders (each of whom must be positioned at least 15 feet behind the base path – and should not be able to make a play at the base unless they are throwing the ball in).

Coaches in Field of Play: The defensive team is permitted to have up to two coaches on the field during play. Coaches may not interfere during a live play.

Length of Games: Games shall consist of up to six innings. No fourth, fifth or sixth inning, however, shall start more than 75 minutes after the first pitch of the game. A game is deemed to be a “regulation” game after 3 complete innings. Games which are suspended for any reason prior to the conclusion of 3 full innings shall be re-scheduled and re-played in their entirety. In the event a game is tied after six full innings, additional innings may be played if time permits.

Minimum Number of Players: A team may play a game with a minimum of eight players. If a team has fewer than eight players available within 10 minutes after the scheduled start of the game, the game will be forfeited. Nevertheless, in the event of a forfeit, the teams are encouraged to play an unofficial game.

Pitching: Coaches must pitch from an area between 30 and 40 feet from home plate and in a direct line between home plate and second base. The coach must throw the ball over-handed and should attempt to avoid lobbing the ball to any batter. Once a ball is batted, the coach should not interfere with

the ball or with any player. A batted ball which hits the coach or the coach's glove is a live ball and is therefore in play. If a coach catches a batted ball, he should immediately drop the ball and, to the full extent possible, move out of any defensive player's path.

Number of Pitches Allowed/Strikeout Rule: The "pitcher" may throw no more than six pitches to any batter. A player who fails to hit the ball into fair territory after six pitches shall be declared out. If the sixth or later pitch is hit into foul territory, the batter shall be given unlimited pitches if they continue to hit foul balls. A pitched ball which hits the batter will not count against the pitch limit, but such a pitch shall not cause the runner to advance to first base. The six pitch rule is to be strictly enforced, even if the pitches are unhittable. There shall be no strikeouts, i.e., a player may swing and miss at up to six pitches.

Defensive Player in Pitching Position: The defensive team shall place a player in the pitcher position. Such player shall be positioned behind and to the side of the coach throwing the pitches, such that the defensive player has a clear view of the hitter.

Position of Infielders: Infielders are not permitted to position themselves within 45 feet of home plate.

Base running: Base stealing is not permitted. No base runner shall leave any base until a ball is batted. Any base runner who leaves early shall be declared out.

Length of Half-Inning: Each half-inning shall conclude when the defense makes three outs, or the batting team scores five runs, whichever occurs first.

Continuous Batting Order: Teams must use a continuous batting order, which shall include all rostered players present at a given game, regardless of the defensive positions played during the game.

Bunting: Bunting is prohibited.

Overthrows and Dead Ball Rule: Base runners may not advance because of an overthrow (or otherwise mis-targeted throw) made by an infielder. Once the ball is thrown by an infielder (or once the ball is held by an infielder (while in the infield) without the intent to throw the ball), a base runner may not advance beyond the base to which he or she was running at the time of the throw (or at the time the infielder indicated his intent not to throw). Base runners will stop advancing once a throw is attempted by an outfielder. This attempt does not have to make it to the infield. If a runner is more than half way between bases they will be allowed to continue their advance.

Equal Opportunity for Players: Except for reasons of safety, as determined by the manager's good faith discretion, all players must generally be afforded equal opportunity to play both infield and outfield defensive positions. During each game, every player shall play at least two defensive innings as an infielder or catcher, and at least one inning as an outfielder. No player shall play more than two innings at the same defensive position during a single game.

Player Substitutions: Players who arrive late to a game, or who exit the game for any reason, may be inserted into, or deleted from, the lineup at the manager's discretion. If a late-arriving player is inserted into the line-up, the player should be scheduled to bat at the end of the line-up.

Scores: Both teams shall assign a scorekeeper. The final score should be agreed upon by the managers at the conclusion of each game and reported, by the home team manager. All final scores shall be reported on the day of the game. If a score is not reported on the day of the game, the Umpire Coordinator has discretion to declare the game a forfeit in favor of the visiting team. In the event of a discrepancy between managers as to the final score of any game, the managers shall attempt to reach agreement. In the event agreement cannot be reached, both scores shall be reported to the Umpire Coordinator, who shall have authority to decide the final result.

Enforcement of Rules: There will be no umpires for regular season games. These rules should be applied by the managers in the interest of fairness and the spirit of cooperation. Coaches of the offensive team shall make all "umpiring" decisions during the course of the game. If there is a dispute please contact the coach pitch commissioner.