



Coaches Pitch Rules

GENERAL RULES:

- HAVE FUN!
- A 12-foot-diameter pitching circle with a line in the center of the pitching circle (at 46 feet for baseball and 35 feet for softball) drawn completely across the circle. The center of the pitching circle will be measured from the back edge of home plate.
- Limit of 10 players on the field (play regular infield and four players in the outfield). Coaches should be working to find players to fill the catcher position.
- All players will bat in a continuous batting order.
- Each player must play on defense six outs (three consecutive outs in two different innings).
- Five (5) pitches or three (3) strikes per batter. If the last pitch is fouled off, then pitch another one, otherwise batter is out.
- Three (3) outs or seven (7) runs per at bat or half inning.
- No big barrel bats. Bats must be stamped with *USA Baseball* mark (see online DYS rulebook for rules on softball bats – page 23).
- The infield fly rule is NOT applicable.
- Bunting/slapping is NOT allowed.
- Base stealing is NOT allowed.
- The dropped third strike rule is not in effect.
- Outfielders may play anywhere in the outfield as long as they are at least 20' behind the normal base path.
- One hour time limit (if the staff/game official says there is time for another inning, play ball - not limited to certain number of innings). The time limit is drop dead for this division during regular season, so be sure to hustle players on and off the field. Regulation baseball game is six (6) innings and softball is five (5) innings.
- Player pitcher must wear a face guard or helmet with face guard and must be in the pitching circle upon pitch delivery by the coach pitcher.
- Catcher position must be filled. Catchers must wear full catcher protective equipment.
- The coach pitcher shall pitch from within the designated pitching circle with the coach pitcher's feet remaining in the designated pitching circle until the pitch is released. NOTE: Coach pitcher does not have to pitch from the pitching rubber or halfway mark in the pitching circle. If one foot is within the circle and any part of the other foot is in contact with the chalk or paint outlining the circle when the pitch is released, the coach will be considered in the circle.
- The coach pitcher shall exit the playing field behind the runner or away from any play on the field when the ball is hit into fair play to avoid interference.
- Only one defensive time out is permitted per inning and only three offensive time outs are permitted per inning.

Base Running:

- If a runner has passed a base prior to the player pitcher gaining control of the ball in the designated pitching circle and does not stop, he/she may advance to the next base at his/her own risk.
- With runners on base, a timeout will be called by the umpire after each play comes to a natural end.
- A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher only (last out made).

Staff/game officials will meet with coaches before the game about the above rules and any potential special circumstances.

