

Old Line Baseball

Official Coach Pitch Tournament Rules



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Major League Baseball Rules will apply except as modified or covered below.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Bases</u>	<u>Mound</u>	<u>Innings</u>	<u>Metal Cleats</u>	<u>Bat Restrictions</u>
Coach Pitch 6 and 7-year olds	60'	30'-42'	6	No	2 ¼" barrel * No Double Wall *Bats that comply with the USA Bat Standard may use any barrel size. Bat must have USA Baseball stamp. Wood bats are allowed. If a bat is not stamped USA Baseball then it must be stamped with the USSSA BPF 1.15 standard.

Coach Pitch Rules for Pitching

Pitching Protocol

The Pitching Coach must be a coach of the team at bat. The Pitching Coach must be at least 18 years of age. Any coach may pitch to any batter at any time. No warmup pitches are allowed for any substitute Pitching Coach.

Pitcher’s Circle

The pitcher’s circle is a circle with a 10 foot diameter, with the front edge 42 feet from the apex of home plate.

Coach Pitching

A straight line shall be drawn from a mark 30 feet from the apex of home plate to the front edge of the pitcher’s circle. The Pitching Coach shall place one foot on or straddle this line in order to pitch. The Pitching Coach can pitch anywhere between the 30-foot line and the pitcher’s circle.

While on the field as the pitcher, the Pitching Coach may not verbally or physically assist or interfere with any play. If, in the umpire’s opinion, the Pitching Coach interferes verbally or physically once the ball has been put in play, obstruction will be called.

If the Pitching Coach interferes prior to the ball being put in play, the Pitching Coach shall receive a warning. A second infraction will result in a game ejection.

When a batted ball hits the Pitching Coach, the following rules will apply:

- 1) If, in the umpire’s judgment, the coach did not make a legitimate attempt to avoid contact, the batter is declared out and no runners shall advance
- 2) If, in the umpire’s judgment, the coach did make a legitimate effort to avoid contact, the ball becomes dead and a no-pitch is declared.

Coach Pitch Rules for Offense

Hitter's Arc

There shall be a twenty (20) foot arc drawn from the first base line to the third base line in front of home plate. A batted ball must pass this line to be a fair ball.

Base running

No leading. Runners may not steal bases. A player may not leave the base he occupies until the ball is struck by a batter. If a runner leaves the base prior to contact by the batter on a pitched ball, the runner will be declared out. In this instance the results of the pitch do not count (i.e. no pitch). There are no warnings for this infraction.

Courtesy Runners

Courtesy runners are allowed for the catcher with 2 outs. The player that made the last batted out will run for the catcher.

Batting

Each batter will receive a maximum of five (5) pitches. If the ball has not been put into play after 5 pitches, the batter is out. A foul ball on the 5th pitch is considered a strike out.

Bunting is not permitted. If the batter attempts to bunt, a dead ball will be called immediately, and a pitch counted against the batter. If the pitch is the 5th pitch, the batter will be called out.

No intentional walks are allowed.

Maximum Runs per Inning

A team may score a maximum of seven (7) runs per inning. The game is over when the opposing team is mathematically eliminated from scoring enough runs to tie or win the game (run rules still apply).

Coach Pitch Rules for Defense

No dropped third strikes.

No infield fly.

Player Alignment on Defense

Ten (10) defensive players may be placed on the field. There will be 4 outfielders, 4 infielders, a pitcher, and a catcher. The extra outfielder may not assume an infield position.

The pitcher shall be positioned in the Pitcher's Circle prior to the pitch. The pitcher may leave the pitcher's circle when the ball has been struck by the batter. If the pitcher leaves the circle before the

ball is hit, the play continues under a delayed dead ball. At the conclusion of the play, the offense shall have the choice of taking the result of the play or a no-pitch.

Prior to the pitch, players must position themselves at least 10 feet beyond the hitter's arc. Prior to the pitch, outfielders must be at least 30 feet beyond the base path.

Time Out Rule

Any player, in possession and in control of the ball within the 60' base paths (and in fair territory) may call time out. If the umpire feels that the aforementioned requisites have been met, the umpire will grant time out immediately. Any runner, that in the judgment of the umpire is more than halfway to a base, will be awarded that base. Otherwise, the base runner will be returned to the previous base.

Time Limit

The official game start time (determined by the umpire) should be noted in both scorebooks prior to the start of the game.

In Seeding Rounds, no new inning may be started after one hour thirty minutes (1hr. 30 min). A Seeding Round game may end in a tie.

A new inning officially starts as soon as the third out is recorded in the preceding inning.

If an elimination game (excluding the Championship game) is tied after the one hour thirty minute no new inning limit is reached or after 6 full innings are played, all subsequent innings begin with the last batter from the previous inning placed on second base with no outs (international tie breaker rule).

There is no time limit for the Championship game.

General Rules

Uniforms

All players must wear matching team hats and numbered shirts/jerseys with shirts tucked in. No duplicate numbers.

Line-ups

Coaches are encouraged to play as many players as possible in each game. The coach must determine prior to the game how many batters he wants in his starting line-up. The coach can bat 9, the entire lineup, or any number in between. However, once the number of batters is established, it must remain the same throughout the game. This must be communicated to the umpire and the opposing coach/scorekeeper at or prior to the plate conference.

Substitutes

A substitute is defined as any player not placed in the original batting line-up to begin the game. As soon as a substitute bats or runs for another player, the substitute and the original starter are locked into that batting line-up slot and either one may bat or run at any time (in that line-up position only). If no substitutes are available, an out will be recorded each time that spot in the line-up is scheduled to bat with two exceptions:

Exception 1: A player may leave the game early if, before the first pitch of the game, the player's manager (or his scorekeeper) informs the opposing manager (or scorekeeper) and the official scorekeeper that the player must leave early, and of the appointed time the player must leave. Upon such notification, and upon penalty of forfeit, the player may not bat or play in the field after his appointed time of leaving.

Conversely, should the player be removed from the game prior to his appointed time of leaving, for whatever reason, that player is considered an out during his next one scheduled plate appearance, unless Exception 2, below, applies. To prevent potential protest situations, please sign the official scorebook prior to the game with details of the player's departure.

Exception 2: A player who is **injured** on the field of play, and who is **immediately** and **permanently** removed from the game, will not be considered an out in subsequent plate appearances.

Injured: Exception 2 applies only to players who are injured during play, not to players who may become ill, or need to be removed from the game for any reason other than injury.

Immediately: A player is considered to have been removed immediately after injury only if he is removed from the game prior to the next pitch.

Permanently: A player is considered to have been permanently removed from the game if he does not, following removal from the game, play in any defensive or offensive capacity for the remainder of the game following his removal.

Minimum Players

A team may play with 8 players, but must start the game with 9. A team with only 8 players must take an out each time the missing player(s) is/are scheduled to bat.

If an injury occurs to a base runner and no substitute is available, the last batted out may take his place on the bases.

Defensive Players

Any player on the roster may assume any defensive position in the field at any time throughout the game with one exception. A player once removed from the pitcher position may not return to pitch later in the same game. Coaches/managers are responsible for tracking/policing the substitution rules.

Home Team/Coin Flip and Dugouts

Coin flip prior to the game determines home and visiting team in preliminary round play. In elimination round play, the higher seeded team has its choice of home or visitor. Dugout selection is first come first served.

Home team maintains the official scorebook.

Official Game

Four (4) innings shall constitute an official game or three and one half (3 1/2) innings if the home team is leading. However, a game called due to the time limit is an official game regardless of the number of innings completed.

If a game is stopped for any reason (e.g. weather, lightning or darkness) before the game is official, the game is suspended and may be resumed from the point of curtailment at a time scheduled by tournament officials. If the game is unable to be rescheduled due to tournament considerations, the game will not be considered for seeding purposes.

Collision and Slide Rules

There are no head first slides into a base. Head first slides are only allowed when going back to a base.

NCAA slide rule will be used.

- 1) On any force play, the runner MUST EITHER slide, give up, or get out of the way. If the player slides, it must be directly to the base. In addition, the runner cannot interfere with a fielder's ability to throw the ball in any way.
- 2) A runner is out if he causes illegal contact and/or illegally alters the actions of a fielder in the immediate act of making a play, or on a force play, does not slide in a direct line between the bases. This is true even when the runner did not intend to cause contact.
- 3) Any runner who, in the umpire's judgment, is involved in contact of a malicious manner is not only out, but is immediately ejected from the game.

Protests

No protests are permitted on any umpire judgment calls. If there is a valid dispute over a rule interpretation, resolve any disputed rule questions before play continues. If a resolution cannot be reached, a protest can be filed. The decision of the tournament director (or designee) will be final. Protest must be made within 30 minutes of the end of the game.

Player Eligibility

If a coach/manager questions the eligibility of a particular player or players, he may do so privately with the tournament director (or designee). He/she will investigate and resolve eligibility questions immediately. Player eligibility protests must be addressed during the game or immediately (within 15 minutes) following the game.

This tournament is for “Baseball 5” and “Baseball 6” players. Age eligibility is determined as the players’ age on May 1st.

Additional Important Information

Pre-game Warm-ups

No batting practice or infield practice prior to the games. Teams are permitted to warm up in OF as time permits between the end of the game before and the start time of your scheduled game.

Reporting Game Results

On-Site Field Coordinators will provide Post Game Reports for each game. Immediately following the conclusion of each game, the winning team is responsible getting the form signed by both coaches and for turning in the Post Game Report to the On- Site Field Coordinator.

Failure on the part of the winning team to communicate the game result to the Age Group Coordinator within one hour of the completion of a game will result in the game being declared a tie and the runs allowed by the team that actually won the game on the field will be increased to the same number of runs allowed by the losing team.

Tie Breakers

After win/loss record, the following tie breaker criteria will be used to determine seeding following preliminary round play:

- 1) Head to head competition (only applies when two teams are tied)
- 2) Average runs allowed per game
- 3) Lowest single game runs allowed
- 4) 2nd lowest single game runs allowed
- 5) Coin flip

If more than 2 teams are tied in the preliminary round, seeding is determined by criteria 2, 3, 4, and 5. Head to head results between these teams will not be used to seed the teams.

Runs Scored does NOT affect seeding.

Playing Conditions

The tournament director (or his/her appointees) will make all decisions regarding playing conditions prior to each game. He/she will determine whether or not the field conditions are fit to play with the safety of the players first and foremost in mind at all times. Teams must check the tournament website for updates regarding field conditions and game postponements. After a game starts, the umpire is responsible for stops/starts. Any sound of thunder or sight of lightning in the area will immediately stop play for 30 minutes. Weather related make-ups/continuations may be re-scheduled by the tournament director.

Refund Policy

We will make every effort to get as many games played for our participating teams as possible. Unfortunately, weather conditions beyond our control occasionally conspire against us. In the event that the tournament is abbreviated, the following refund policy will apply:

Full refund for any COVID-related cancellations.

70% refund if all games are cancelled due to inclement weather; 25% refund if only one game is played; no refund if two or more games are played.

No refund will be given, under any circumstance, to a team that has been removed from the tournament due to a rules or sportsmanship violation.

Official Team Roster and Insurance

Every team must fully complete and maintain in their possession at all times a Roster & Waiver and Release of Liability Form (Official Team Roster) and a Certificate of Insurance. Old Line Baseball Company, LLC and Elkridge Youth Organization should be listed as "Additional Insured" on the certificate.

The Official Roster Form contains player birth date certification and will also serve as your team's Official Team Roster. Participating tournament teams are limited to a maximum of fifteen (15) players for ages 8U through 14U; and eighteen (18) players for 15/16U and 19U teams. A parent (or guardian) of each player must read and sign the document. The head coach/team manager is required to maintain in their possession a copy of the official team roster and a copy of each player's birth certificate in the event that an eligibility question arises.

It is not expected that an ineligible player would ever be asked by a coach/manager to play. However, if that were to occur and it is discovered, the player and his head coach/manager will be disqualified for the remainder of the tournament. A game underway will be forfeited immediately to the opposing team as would a game completed in which the ineligible player participated. The team (without its head coach/manager and the ineligible player) may continue to play in the remainder of the tournament.

Tournament Website

Follow the Old Line Baseball Company, LLC website for important news and updates leading up to and throughout the tournament.

Games results and scheduling updates will be posted to this site.

The website address is www.olbtournaments.com.

Sportsmanship

We anticipate that tournament games will be emotionally charged and competitive. However, we also expect that every participant will conduct him/herself at all times in a manner that is appropriate for youth baseball. Accordingly, arguing with or complaining about umpire judgment calls (balls/strikes, out/safe or fair/foul) or any display of inappropriate behavior (to include foul language used) by coaches, managers, players, parents or spectators simply will not be tolerated. Anyone (except players) in violation of this sportsmanship rule will be asked to leave the premises immediately by either the umpire or On-Site Field Coordinator. If after five (5) minutes the offending person is not out of sight and sound of the field, the team will forfeit the game in progress.

An ejected player will be confined to the dugout. A player ejected from a game is suspended from participating in the next game. A coach or parent ejected from a game is suspended from participating or being a spectator for the remainder of the day. Team head coaches/managers are 100% responsible for the conduct of their assistant coaches, players, parents and any other related spectators. If anyone is ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior by an umpire, the team's head coach/manager will be automatically ejected from the game in progress. Anyone who threatens a tournament official, umpire, opposing coach or player (either physically or verbally) will be asked to leave immediately and may not return for the duration of the tournament.

Team managers should make certain that everyone associated with their team is fully aware of the sportsmanship rules in advance of the tournament. The games should be fun for all involved, especially the kids playing in them.

The Tournament Director reserves the right to remove any manager, coach, player, or spectator from the ballpark for unsportsmanlike behavior.

MANAGERS/COACHES

Print a copy of this document and carry it with you. Read it carefully and share it with your assistants, players and parents (as appropriate) so that everyone is fully informed about the rules and other tournament matters.