

Sugar Land Little League Coach Pitch A DIVISION GROUND RULES

**The Little League Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules shall govern the
“Playing Rules” for the Coach Pitch A Division.**

**The Sugar Land Little League Coach Pitch A Division Ground Rules listed below are
additional, modified, or detailed explanations of the “Playing Rules” for the Coach
Pitch A Division only.**

1. **SCHEDULED GAME START TIME:** All games shall begin promptly at the scheduled start time. If a team is unable to field at least 8 players by the game’s scheduled start time, then the game will be rescheduled by both managers' agreement. If the game cannot be rescheduled, the game will be canceled.
2. **CURFEW:** There is a 1 hour & 15-minute time limit, in which no new inning shall begin. No new inning will begin after 10:00 pm and no game will be played after 10:30 pm.
3. **LENGTH OF GAMES:** All games shall consist of 1 hour & 15-minutes or six (6). The ten-run rule does not apply. The game will be considered complete when the time has expired and the inning has been played in full, the game is shortened due to weather, or 6 innings have been played. Games may end in a tie.
4. **SCOREKEEPING** – Score may be kept by the coaches during the game, but an official scorebook will not be kept, and standings will not be recorded.
5. **RUN RULE:** Each team will record either 3 outs or bat the entire lineup each inning.
6. **LENGTH BETWEEN INNINGS:** Teams shall change positions as rapidly as possible at the end of each inning. Play should resume within 1 minute after the last out of the previous half inning.
7. **RAIN-OUTS:** Rain-out games shall be rescheduled by the League Division VP. In the event a team cannot field enough players on the initial makeup date and notifies the Division VP and Opposing Manager 24 hours before the scheduled game time, a second date will be set. If the team cannot make the 2nd makeup date, that team shall forfeit – the game score will be recorded as 7-0.
8. **COACHES:** Each team is allowed 1 manager and 3 coaches. Each team is allowed 2 coaches on the field, but they must remain in the outfield while the ball is in play. An adult coach must be in the dugout at all times. An adult coach from the offensive team will be the pitching coach. The pitching coach is allowed to instruct the batter verbally or with gestures but should not approach the batter. If a child is at risk of being hit by a pitch, he should be instructed to avoid injury.
9. **PLAYERS:** Coach Pitch AAA division is for 6-year-old league-age players.
10. **UMPIRES:** There will be no league provided umpires. Each team will umpire their own game opposite their respective dugout. The home team will umpire 1st and 2nd base while the visiting team will umpire 3rd base and home. The stoppage of play will be the responsibility of the pitching coach.

11. **BATTING ORDER:** Each team will use a continuous batting order with unrestricted defensive substitutions. A player who arrives after the start of the game will be inserted at the bottom of the batting order. Batters are to keep one foot in the batter's box throughout their at-bat. If a batter refuses to take the batter's box, the umpire will issue a warning. After one warning the umpire will call a strike until the batter takes the box, or the batter is retired.
12. **PLAYERS:** The Coach Pitch A division is for league age 6 players. Very experienced league age 5-year-olds who have played T-Ball may be allowed to play Coach Pitch A.
13. **MANDATORY PLAY:** Each player on the team's roster and present at the start of the game shall play a minimum of 1 inning in the infield no later than the 4th inning and may not sit more than 2 innings in a row. The penalty for violating the mandatory play rule will be assessed to the Manager as follows:
 - 1st Offense – Manager suspended from the next scheduled game,
 - 2nd violation – Manager suspended from the following two games,
 - 3rd violation – Manager will be removed from the league as a manager.[EXCEPTION: for weather, shortened games, illness, injury]
14. **INFIELD FLY:** The infield fly rule is not in effect.
15. **DEFENSIVE FIELDERS:**
 - a. Infielders may not position themselves more than 5 feet from the baselines, not the grass line. This limitation is removed upon presentation of the batter "squaring around to bunt;" at that point, the 1st and 3rd basemen are allowed to move no more than halfway toward home plate.
 - b. A team may utilize up to 4 outfielders. Outfielders must remain behind the 30ft stripe until the ball is pitched. No unassisted play can be made by an outfielder on a force play. He must throw the ball to the base.
 - c. The designated pitcher must have both feet behind the pitching rubber before each pitch (one in the dirt and one in the grass). The pitcher may not cross this plane until the ball crosses the plate. The pitcher must also wear a protective helmet with a facemask.
 - d. Teams may play 10 players defensively. However, with 10 players, there shall be 4 outfielders who shall play no closer than 30 feet to the infield dirt.
16. **STOPPAGE OF PLAY:** Play will continue until the lead runner is stopped and/or the "umpire" has called time. The position of each base runner will be the last base legally touched unless otherwise determined by the "umpire." Runners may attempt to advance only 1 base on an overthrow from the infield, the runner can be thrown out attempting to take the base. A runner can only score from 3rd on a batted ball put in play; the runner may not attempt to advance to home on an overthrow from the infield.
17. **BASE RUNNERS:** Steals are not allowed in Coach Pitch. Runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit. A runner is out for leaving the base before the ball is hit. The runner may only attempt 3rd base to home plate on a batted ball. Runners may advance only one base on an overthrow.

18. DUGOUT ASSIGNMENTS: The Home team will occupy the 3rd base dugout while the Visiting team will occupy the 1st base dugout.

19. COACH PITCHER/PITCHING DISTANCE:

- a. The coach pitching must release the ball no closer than 35' from the tip of home plate.
- b. A coach pitcher is prohibited from coaching while in the pitching position, either physically, or verbally (one warning will be allowed. Two violations will result in immediate removal from the mound).
- c. Each batter shall receive a maximum of six (6) pitches or three (3) swinging strikes. If a batter hits a foul ball on the sixth pitch, he or she is allowed to continue batting or he or she either does not make contact with the ball or puts the ball in play. A strike is defined as a batter offering at a ball with a swing or check swing, and/or fouling a pitch. Everything else will be called a ball regardless of location. No walks are permitted.
- d. Players will not take first base if they are hit by a pitch. If hit by a pitch, then that is one pitch against the total number of allowed pitches (6). If the player is hit by a pitch on the 6th pitch, then the batter is out.
- e. A batted ball hitting a coach pitcher is declared a dead ball and the batter will advance to first base. If in the umpire's judgment, a coach pitcher intentionally makes contact with a batted ball, the batter is out, and no runner can advance.

20. BUNTS: Bunting is NOT allowed.

21. ON-DECK BATTER: No on-deck batter is allowed. Players must remain in the dugout and are not allowed to swing bats in the dugout.

22. INFIELD FLY: The infield fly rule is not in effect.

23. FIELD MAINTENANCE:

- a. The home team shall be responsible for making sure the field is prepared before each game (putting out bases, marking the field, lightly watering, etc.)
- b. Both teams are responsible for picking up the trash in their respective dugouts.
- c. The visiting team is responsible for raking and watering the field after the game.

24. INJURY REPORT: An injury report must be filled out for every injury, no matter how minor. Forms can be found in the concession area or ask the Board Member on Duty. The incident must be reported to the league Safety Manager within 24 hours of the injury.

25. END OF SEASON PLAYOFFS: No playoffs will be played. A playoff type feel may be used for the last two games of the season.

26. TOURNAMENT "BLUE-GRAY" TEAMS: No tournament teams will be selected at this division.