



CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT 2022 COACH PITCH RULES

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to provide an organized recreation program that is fun for the participants and also provides opportunities to learn the fundamental aspects of the game of baseball. Since the ages of the Coach Pitch players are just 7-8, competition is not the primary objective. Therefore, a strong commitment should be made to de-emphasize the aspect of winning and emphasize the improvement of skills and enjoyment of the game.

II. ELIGIBILITY

The Coach Pitch Program is for players 7-8 years old as of May 1, 2022.

A. There will not be any changes to team rosters unless approved through the Parks and Recreation Department.

III. EQUIPMENT

A. Molded rubber cleats or tennis shoes are recommended for all players. Metal cleats and bare feet are not permitted.

B. Batting helmets must be worn by all batters and base runners.

C. Each player must wear a glove in the field.

D. Catchers must wear equipment consisting of a helmet with a facemask, throat protector, shin and chest protectors, and athletic cup.

IV. UNIFORMS

A. There will be no additions made to any part of the uniform by a parent or coach.

B. No uniforms from the previous season can be worn by participants unless approved by the Parks and Recreation Department.

C. Uniforms will consist of a hat and shirt.

D. Each player must player in his/her uniform

V. PLAYING RULES

- A. Ten players constitute a team, but a team may begin with only eight (8) players until additional players arrive.
- B. Each team shall submit a line-up to the press box **ten (10) minutes before the scheduled game time.**
- C. There will be a 10-minute grace period for the first day of the game and 5-minute grace period for all other games.
 - i. The 10-minute grace period WILL NOT count towards the official game time but all other grace periods WILL count toward the official game time.
- D. Each game will be six (6) innings or a one (1:15) hour time limit. In the event of inclement weather, a game will be considered complete after 4 innings (3.5 if home team is ahead) **OR** 55 minutes of game time. Any game called because of weather before it is a complete game will be restarted at the point in which it was left.
- E. No new inning can begin after the 1:10 minute of play mark.
- F. **The offensive team will bat until three (3) outs have been made or five (5) runs have been scored, whichever comes first.**
- G. CONSECUTIVE BATTING ORDER – Each coach will make up a batting order consisting of all members of the team that are present for the game. Players will bat in this order throughout the game. Any player arriving after the game has started must be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
- H. A maximum of **six (6) pitches** will be thrown to each batter. If a player does not hit the ball after the maximum number of pitches are thrown, the player will be declared out. There is no three (3) strike rule.
- I. The pitcher will be a coach from the team that is batting.
- J. No base stealing or bunting is allowed. Also, there will be no base on balls or hit batters.
- K. There will be a mandatory base runner for catchers with two outs. (The runner must be the player who made the last out)
- L. A batted ball will automatically become dead if it touches the adult pitcher. If the adult pitcher hits the ball unintentionally then the ball is dead and the batter is placed on first base and other runners advance only if forced. If the coach intentionally makes contact with the ball the batter is out. The call will be a judgment call by the umpire.
- M. Action will be stopped after each play has been completed. A runner may advance at his/her own risk when the ball is being thrown from the outfield to the infield. It will be the judgment of the umpire to decide when the ball has been returned to the infield and time is called. Runners should go to the nearest base when time is called. If the ball is overthrown and goes out of play (over the fence or into the dugout) each base runner will be awarded one (1) base.

- N. There will be no slinging the bat!!
- O. Free substitution will be allowed.
- P. Mandatory Playing Rule – All players must play every other defensive inning. A player may not sit out two consecutive innings. All players must bat in the consecutive batting order.
- Q. Ten (10) players will be used on defense, 6 infielders and 4 outfielders. The outfield will be defined as 15 feet behind the base paths.
 - i. CORRECTION – The player assuming the position of ‘Pitcher’ must be inside of the pitching circle.
- R. All players sliding into a base must slide feet first.
- S. There will be no infield fly rule.
- T. Any player, coach, or spectator is subject for removal from the game by the umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct, profanity, or other objectionable behavior. Once the umpire removes the player, coach, or spectator, that person has to leave the premises immediately. Chatter from the dugout or field must be in support of the teammates only and not directed toward the opposition in any way.
- U. Any ejection from a game carries a **minimal** one (1) game suspension and, depending upon the severity of the ejection, the person may be banned from the program by the Parks and Recreation Department.
- V. The use of tobacco products in the dugout and on the playing field is prohibited.
- W. Team personnel must clean up their respective dugouts before leaving each game.
- X. All players and coaches are to demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. Lining up at the end of each game to shake hands with the other team is mandatory and only a small token of sportsmanship. Remember to demonstrate good sportsmanship from the beginning to the end of each game.
- Y. There will not be any changes to team rosters unless approved through the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Z. On the **first overthrow** to any base, runners may advance **one base only**, at their own risk. If a ball is overthrown a second time during a single play, the players will not be allowed to advance. Infielders should be taught to make a play.
- AA. Most of all HAVE FUN AND ENJOY THE GAME!