



1st/2nd Grade Pitching Machine Bylaws 2022

I. GAME FORMAT

1. Games consist of 5 innings or 45 minutes. No new innings can begin after 40 minutes.
2. Running Clock
3. No score will be kept.
4. First team listed is home team. Home team starts in the field on defense.
5. All players will bat once each inning.
6. There is no limit to the number of outs or runs scored each inning. Each player gets a turn at bat regardless of the amount of outs.

II. EQUIPMENT/FIELD SIZE

1. Bases will be 60 feet apart.
2. Pitching machine will be set at 46 feet away from home plate.
3. Bats: 24"-26" bats will be provided
4. Ball: 9 in. dimpled pitching machine baseball
5. No metal cleats will be allowed on the field.
6. Batters and base runners will be required to wear batting helmets.
7. Hard casts or braces must be covered with a soft material.
8. No jewelry shall be worn except religious or medical jewelry which must be taped down.
9. Catchers must wear a face mask with helmet, chest protector, shin guards, and must use a catcher's glove. Boys recommended to wear a protective cup.

III. PLAYERS

1. Each team roster shall consist of 10 players maximum.
2. Batting order consists of all team players present, each batting in the same rotation throughout the game. All players will bat each inning regardless of the number of "outs".
3. All players must remain in the dugout if they are not playing defense, batting, on deck, or base running.
4. All players will play defensively each inning. Teams must have a player in the pitching position.

IV. PITCHING MACHINE RULES OF PLAY

1. Pitching machine speed is set by the official depending on game and field conditions.
2. The umpire has the right to adjust the pitching machine as needed throughout the game.
3. Most pitches are a strike, however, the umpire may rule a pitch to be a "no pitch" if it is out of the strike zone and the batter did not swing.
4. Each batter receives 4 pitches, unless a no-pitch is called or if they swing/ miss 3 pitches in a row.
5. **The count:** Strike 1, strike 2, warning (if no swing was made), strike 3. If the batter swings at and misses 3 pitches in a row, the batter will be called out.
6. This is an introductory pitching machine league and as such some players may need more time and practice to be successful, the player (or coach) may choose to hit off the tee before the third strike. The count remains the same and the player will still be called out after the 3rd strike.
7. A player who is declared out will return to the bench. The out will be explained, however outs are not counted in Pee-Wee. All batters bat each inning.
8. A batter hit by a pitch will be awarded first base.
9. A "dead ball" will be declared by the umpire in the following situations:

- a) A batted ball hits the pitching machine. **(Ruling:** Batter will be awarded first base)
- b) A batted ball is judged to be unplayable due to the placement of the pitching machine. **(Ruling:** Batter will be awarded first base.)
- c) A batted ball is popped up directly above the pitching machine. **(Ruling:** Batter will bat again; the count will remain the same.)

V. BASE RUNNERS

- 1. All base runners must tag up and may not leave the base until the ball has been fairly hit (NO STEALING BASES). **Penalty:** base runner may be declared out.
- 2. Base runner must attempt to avoid contact with the catcher by sliding into home plate whenever there is a play at home (as determined by the official). **Penalty:** base runner may be declared out and may be ejected if the contact is deemed intentional by the umpire.

VI. RESCHEDULING

- 1. Conditions permitting, all games will be played when scheduled. If a game or practice is canceled, rescheduling is NOT guaranteed. However, the recreation department will strive to reschedule whenever possible.
- 2. It is the responsibility of the field supervisor and the umpire, to determine whether or not the condition of the field, the elements and other conditions should stop play of the game.

VII. CONFERENCES/COACHES

- 1. One adult coach is permitted in each coach's box. All other coaches must remain in the dugout. Coaches under the age of 18, must wear a helmet if they are in a coach's box.
- 2. Defensive Conference – While on defense, each team is allowed two conferences during a five-inning game, without penalty. These conferences are used for coaches or non-playing representatives to confer with a defensive player or players.
- 3. In an extra inning game, each team shall be permitted one charged conference each inning while on defense without penalty.
- 4. Time granted for an obviously incapacitated player shall not constitute a charged conference.

VIII. PROTESTS

- 1. Any violation or misinterpretation of a rule (not judgment calls) must be brought to the attention of the umpire BEFORE THE NEXT PITCH.
- 2. If the umpire cannot solve the problem the Site Supervisor should be found to make a final ruling on the play in question.
- 3. Any player, coach, or spectator ejected from a game must schedule an appointment with the Recreation Department before the next game in order to participate in the program.
- 4. Anyone ejected must leave the field immediately.
- 5. Spectators should not interrupt the game. If a spectator, coach or player has become disruptive, the umpire and / or field supervisor may ask them to leave the park.

IX. SPORTSMANSHIP PHILOSOPHY

- 1. The City Recreation Departments are dedicated to providing quality recreational sports programs in a spirit of sportsmanship and fellowship for all of our families, friends and neighbors. It is expected that all players, coaches, parents, and spectators will strongly adhere to all rules of play and etiquette involving the program.
- 2. Any player, coach or spectator ejected from a game must schedule an appointment with the Recreation Director, or program coordinator within 24 hours of the game in order to be reinstated in the program. An ejection will result in that individual not participating in the game following the ejection and may face expulsion from the league.