

# Bi-County 8u Coach Pitch Rules

Last updated 3/1/2024

## **I. Player Eligibility**

1. Coach Pitch players may not be 9 before **September 1**.
2. A player must play ball with their hometown team or the team from the town where they attend school, if that town provides the appropriate age level team. If a player starts the season with a team, they must stay with that team for the remainder of that season unless their residency changes. Once a player has opted to join a team sponsored by the baseball association or equivalent in a particular town, then they are required to continue with the program in that town unless the town should no longer offer an age appropriate team or if the player moves. If a town does not offer a team in a particular age group, the players in that age group from that town are allowed to play in another town which offers an age appropriate team.

## **II. Field and Equipment Requirements**

1. Bases are set at 60' aprt. Batter's box must be drawn and enforced.
2. Official ball size: 8u boys- RIF level 5. 8u girls- 11' compression ball
3. Pitch from 27'
4. 1 umpire behind home plate is required. 1 field umpire is optional but recommended.
5. Any ground rules regarding the home field must be discussed prior to the onset of each game with both umpires and the coaches of both teams.
6. Uniforms or shirts will be required to be of the same color with a different number on the shirt required for each player. Uniform number must be clearly visible from either front or back side.
7. Players in all divisions must wear batting and running helmets. Catchers in all divisions must wear protective gear including shin guards, chest protector, mask, and helmet.

## **III. Lineups and Fielding Positions**

1. Teams will bat their entire lineup.
2. Teams can field 10 players.

3. Only 6 players, including the pitcher and catcher, are allowed to play in front of the baseline. All other players must play behind the baseline. Only one player may play the pitcher position.

4. **The coach (pitcher) must start their pitching motion from behind the 27' line.** After three (3) strikes or five (5) pitches, the batter will be called out. If a batter hits a foul ball on the last pitch, they will get another pitch. The batter at no time may intentionally bunt the ball. It will be the discretion of the umpire to determine an intentional bunt.

5. The coach (pitcher) will do his utmost to get out of the way of a batted ball. If a batted ball hits the coach, it will be a live ball. If the coach does intentionally touch the ball, it will be considered a dead ball, the batter will be out, and all runners will return to their bases.

#### **IV. Game Play**

1. Coach pitch will play 5 innings or 1 hour.

2. Coach pitch has a 5 run limit per inning.

3. Stealing bases is not allowed.

4. The Bi-County has no mandatory slide rule. No deliberate running down of players. This will be the discretion of the umpire. First offense- the player will be called out. Second offense- the player will be ejected from the game.

5. There is no limit on how many bases a player may advance during a single at bat. A play is considered dead when **the ball is possessed by a fielder inside the baseline. Once the ball is possessed inside the baseline, runners more than halfway to the next base may continue to that base otherwise they must return to the previous base.**

#### **V. Scheduling and Cancellations**

1. Home team must attempt to reschedule any game canceled due to weather within one week or the home team will forfeit. If a game is canceled due to circumstances other than weather, the requesting team must attempt to reschedule that game within one week or they will forfeit. **Games must be rescheduled, not necessarily played, within a week to avoid forfeit. Any game canceled multiple times due to weather or any game canceled in the week before the tournament will not need to be rescheduled and will not result in a forfeit.**

#### **VI. Standings and Tournament**

1. **Winning percentage** will determine position in the tournament. In the case of a tie in the standings, head to head records will be used. If still a tie, run differential among tied teams, lastly a coin flip. If more than two teams are tied, the tie breakers are used to determine the top seed among the tied teams. After one spot is determined, the remaining teams will start

over with the tie breakers. Records must be submitted to tournament host coordinator as soon as possible. **Coaches please contact the tournament host 7-10 days prior to the start of the tournament with your current record, in an effort to speed up the seeding process.**

2. During each tournament, the tournament host team will be responsible for providing a minimum of two umpires for each tournament game. Each team will be responsible for contributing two new balls to the host team during the tournament.
3. Early round games will use regular season time limits, but Championship and 3<sup>rd</sup> place games will be played to their entirety. Mercy rules and mathematical elimination will still be used in all games. Any games suspended due to weather will be resumed at the point the game was suspended and played to its completion.
4. Teams will not be permitted to warm up on the field before games during the tournament.
5. All lineup changes must be reported to the official scorekeeper and to the opposing team.
6. The Bi-County baseball league will furnish awards for the first, second, third, and fourth place teams, unless there are 6 or fewer teams in a league then only three places will be given. Awards will be given to each player on the regular season first place team.

## **VII. Conduct and Process**

1. If a coach is forcibly removed from a game due to un-sportsmanlike behavior, it will constitute a one game suspension for the next game. Any future such instances will constitute a lifetime ban from coaching in the Bi-County League. Any such incident is to be reported to the Bi-County League.
2. These rules are specific to this league, anything not covered is subject to the National Little League rule book.
3. It is expected that these rules will be understood and adhered to by all coaches and umpires in the Bi-County League. Every attempt should be made to work out any differences and clarify ground rules prior to the beginning of each game to minimize any difficulties, which may ensue. Protest of games is discouraged by the Bi-County League.
4. Protests are discouraged and must be made by town presidents.
5. Anyone, including fans, using profanity or offensive words towards the umpires, coaches or players will be removed by the umpire or tournament director.