

# Bi-County 8u Coach Pitch Rules

Last updated 3/25/22

## **I. Player Eligibility**

1. Coach Pitch players may not be 9 before April 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. All leagues play at 60' bases. Batter's box must be drawn and enforced.
2. Official ball size: 8u boys- RIF level 5. 8u girls- 11' compression ball
3. Coach pitch will have at least one qualified umpire behind home plate.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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. Coach pitch will bat entire team.
2. Coach pitch will field no more than 10 players on the field

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) may pitch from any distance so as to allow the batter to hit the ball. 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, the 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, as long as it doesn't touch his glove or his pitching hand. 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 in Coach pitch.

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

5. Coach pitch has no limit on how many bases a player may advance during a single at bat. A play is considered dead when all runners have stopped advancing. Play is considered stopped when the ball is possessed by an infielder in the infield. Players may not intentionally throw the ball to the pitcher to stop play, if this happens all runners advance to the next base. Once a player stops advancing, they may not advance further unless a play is made on another runner. A throw to the coach (pitcher) is not considered a play on another runner.

#### **V. Scheduling and Cancelations**

1. Home team must make every attempt to reschedule any scheduled game that needs to be rescheduled because of a rainout, within one week or the home team will forfeit. The requesting team must make every attempt to reschedule any scheduled game rescheduled for any other reason within one week or they will forfeit. **Games must be rescheduled, not necessarily played, within a week to avoid forfeit.**

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

1. Win/loss record 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. Any league with more than 8 teams will start their tournament on Sunday, leagues with 8 or fewer teams will start on Monday.

5. Teams will not be permitted to warm up on the field before games during the tournament.

6. All lineup changes must be reported to the official scorekeeper and to the opposing team.

7. 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 has to be 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.

Bi-County President- Dan Summers