GSA 7U-8U Coach Pitch Rules

FIELD DEMENSIONS

Pitching coach Box: Marked with Chalk or Paint.

Front of box will be **36 feet** from the back of Home plate.
Back of box will be **42 feet** from the back of Home Plate.

Defensive Pitcher Box: Marked with Chalk or Paint.

Front of box will be **42 feet** from the back of Home plate.
Back of box will be **46 feet** from the back of Home Plate.

60-foot base lines

Game Time limits and rules:

A) A complete game will consist of **6 innings** or **1 Hour and 30 Minutes** of play (inning will finish if time expires during the inning).

B) Championship games will have a time limit of **two hours** and will be determined by a coin flip.

C) Home and Away teams for **pool play** will be determined by a coin flip. For **bracket play** (excluding championship game), **Home team** will be determined by the **higher seed**.

D) An inning continues until the offensive team has scored **five (5) runs** OR until the defensive team has recorded **three (3) outs**.

E) A **10 Run Mercy Rule** will be in effect after **four innings of play**.

   a. **Pool Play:** IF the AWAY TEAM goes up by more than **10 Runs** in the **5th inning**, the HOME TEAM will have the option to hit in the 5th inning, attempting to score runs for Seeding Purposes. IF the AWAY TEAM goes up by more than **6 Runs** in the **6th inning**, the HOME TEAM will have the option to hit in the 6th inning, attempting to score runs for Seeding Purposes.

   b. **Bracket Play:** After the fourth inning, IF a team cannot mathematically come back to TIE or WIN the game, The game will conclude. 10 Run Mercy Rule is still in effect.

F) **Pool play** games can end in a tie at the end of a completed game or the time limit has been reached.

G) In the event a **bracket play** game is tied at the end of a completed game or a time limit has been reached, an "**international tie breaker**" will be put into play. The last out of a previous inning will be placed on second base with no outs; and will continue until a team has won.

H) **All games can start up to thirty minutes before the scheduled game time.**

I) All game times may be adjusted by the discretion of the site director.

J) Each batter will be given six (6) pitches, three (3) swings and missed attempts, or a fair hit ball. Foul balls with two (2) strikes will continue until the batter has either put the ball in play or swung and missed for strike three (3).

K) If the batter **does not swing at the sixth pitch**, it will end the at-bat as a strike out.

L) The Pitching Coach must be positioned to where they are not obstructing the players. If the umpire believes the Pitching Coach has obstructed with a live play, obstruction can be called.

   a. **Penalty:** Batter will be called out.

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M) If a **batted ball hits the pitching coach**: (***Umpires Discretion***)

- **a.** And **no attempt** was made to avoid contact with the ball, an out will be called and runners will return to the previous base.
- **b.** And an **attempt** was made to avoid contact with the ball, play will stop, runners will return to the previous base and batter will receive a "no pitch."

N) **The defensive pitcher shall occupy the pitching area with at least one (1) foot in the area of the defensive pitcher box.** The pitcher shall not leave the box until the batter has made contact with the ball.

- **a.** **PENALTY:** If, in the judgement of the umpire, the pitcher has both feet outside of the defensive pitchers box before contact is made, the play shall continue until all action has stopped. At that time, the umpire shall call time, explain the violation by the defense, and the offense shall have the option to take the result of the play or to reset all runners and have the batter hit again.

O) **Stealing** is **NOT PERMITTED** in Coach pitch. A baserunner **may not leave** the base until the ball is batted into play. If a runner leaves early and is not put out, he must return to his originating base. If a runner leaves early on a ball batted into play, the runner may only advance one base more than the batter.

P) **To end a play**, the defense must stop the lead runner. This may be accomplished by throwing the ball to the base ahead of the lead runner and either putting the runner out or forcing him to retreat to his last base established. The defensive team may ask for time out only when all runners have stopped any attempts for advancement. **Time out will not be allowed** if the umpire considers the play "live".

Q) The **infield fly rule** is **NOT** in effect.

R) All outfielders must remain in the outfield grass until the ball has been put into play by the batter.

S) The HOME team is responsible for the scorekeeping; The **umpire will keep the game score and will be deemed the final decision on all score related issues**.

Batting rules:

A) Teams must list at least nine (9) batters on the lineup card.

B) A team may start the game with 8 players, however the 9th spot in the order will count as an out until it is filled.

C) Teams have the option to bat as many players as they choose.

D) Any players not in the batting lineup **must be listed as a substitution player** under the section on the scorecard.

- **a.** **Penalty**: A Substitution player left off the lineup card, that enters the game is considered an illegal player regardless if the player is listed on the tournament roster. The game would resolve in a **Forfeit.**

E) **E)** **No team may add** a player to their lineup once the official score card has been turned into the umpire in chief. **Any errors to the scorecard** "MUST" be addressed prior to turning it into the umpire in chief. It becomes an "official game card" once it has been handed to the umpire in chief.

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F) If a player in the batting lineup is removed from the game due to a coach's decision or injury and there is no sub to go in, that position in the batting order will be listed as an **automatic out** when it is reached until the player returns to the game.

G) There will be **NO BUNTING** in the Coach Pitch Division.

H) **Faking a bunt then taking a swing** or a "butcher boy /slash play" is not permitted for **7u-12u age divisions**. Penalty will result in a dead ball regardless if contact is made or not. The batter is called out and all runners shall return to the base they occupied at the time of the pitch.

Intentional Walk Rule:

A) If an intentional walk is called for, the pitcher will not have to throw four pitches outside the strike zone. Instead, the team's manager may signal and point the runner to first base. No players can make this call.

B) For 7u-8u divisions, no batter can be intentionally walked more than one time per game.

Re-Entry rule:

Starters can re-enter only once in a game. Starters and substitutes are "married" to each other for the re-entry requirements.

Designated Hitter/Extra Hitter Rule:

A) Any team may use the DH rule for any player in their line-up. (Please see the MLB DH Rule 6.10 for detailed definition of the rule)

B) The "Extra Hitter or Extra Player" rule allows any team to bat eleven (11), twelve (12), etc. the EH/EP is free to substitute for any of the nine (9/10) defensive players on the field at any time. The batting order does not change. Any team batting their roster affords them the ability to bat their entire roster and have "free substitutions" on defense.

C) Should a player in the lineup be forced to leave the game for any reason and no legal substitutions are available, his/her spot will be an automatic out every time it comes up in the line-up.

Contact rule:

A) Whenever a tag play is evident, a runner must seek to avoid contact with the fielder and/or catcher.

B) Malicious contact shall supersede all obstruction penalties. Malicious contact is solely the judgement of the umpire.

C) Runners advancing to a base if in the judgement of the umpire interferes with a throw shall be called out for interference and the batter/runner may also be called out.

D) Runners may dive around and under the defensive player in an attempt to reach the base or plate safely.

E) There will be no diving over or leaping (landing on feet) over the defensive players. **PENALTY**: The runner shall immediately be declared out. Should contact occur, additional penalties may be assessed.

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Courtesy runner Rule:

- **A)** A courtesy runner may be used for the **catcher only** in Coach Pitch.
- **B)** The courtesy runner must be a substitute not in the batting line-up.
- **C)** If no substitutes are available, then the last recorded out will be used. The only exception is in the first inning where no outs have been recorded; in which case no courtesy runner may be used and the catcher/pitcher must run until an out is recorded by the defense.
- **D)** Should a courtesy runner be on base when their spot in the order comes up, the offensive team may not replace the "courtesy runner" with another but rather their position in the lineup will be called out.
- **E)** Should an illegal courtesy runner be used, and the defensive team brings it to the umpire's attention, no out shall be called but rather, the correct runner shall be inserted. This can be one any time before the runner scores. Should the runner score and they are deemed an illegal runner, they will be called out and the run will not count. *This must be done before the next pitch*

Defensive rules:

- **A)** For 7U-8U, a maximum of 10 players will be on the field for defense.
- **B)** The infield shift is allowed.
- **C)** Teams have the option to sub freely on defense (with their EH/s) without the umpire having to report changes.

Cleat Rule:

- **A)** 7u-12u divisions may only wear molded cleats or turfs.

Bat Regulations:

- **A)** 7-12u divisions will use bats which are clearly marked with 1.15 BPF, USA Baseball or BBCOR
- **B)** Wood bats are approved for all age groups

Coaching:

- **A)** The area directly in front of each dugout will be considered the "coaches' area". This area will run the length of the dugout and extend five feet out towards the playing field. Each team may have one manager and one coach in this area during the game. (Some fields do not allow buckets on the field so please respect the park rules)
- **B)** No coach or manager may walk down the foul line to coach or manager players.
- **C)** The **Pitching Coach may not coach** from the Pitching Coach Box.
- **D)** Umpires will have the final judgement on awarding or taking away bases should a live ball come into contact with either a coach or any foreign objects that are brought onto the fields such as buckets, chairs or stools.
- **E)** Each team may have a total of four (4) coaches in their dugout during a game. You may have three coaches and a scorekeeper but no more than four in total.

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F) Please note that a coach or player may not call "time-out." They may only ask the umpire, and it will be at their discretion to call an official time out.

G) Coaches may only use players that are on their tournament roster. No player shall play for multiple teams in the same tournament, regardless of age division. The first team a player plays in a tournament for will be the only team that player can play for, for the remainder of the tournament. **Illegal players in a tournament will be resolved in a forfeit**.

Ejection:

A) Any player or coach ejected from any game will have to leave the playing field. If the umpire believes the situation could become worse if the player or coach is near the playing area still, they may be asked to leave the field site.

B) If a player is ejected from the game and the team does not have a sub to replace the position in the offensive lineup, that spot in the order will be recorded as an out.

C) The player or coach may be able to return the next scheduled game depending on the severity of the ejection.

D) The ejected player or coach shall not return to the field even after the final out is recorded and the game is officially completed.

E) The site director or tournament director may extend the ejection for the next game or suspend them for the remainder of the tournament.

Protests:

A) All protests must be raised verbally by the offended team manager at the time of play and before the next pitch.

B) A fee of $100.00 in cash (refunded if the protest is upheld) must accompany the protest and be remitted to the site director. Only then will the official game clock stop.

C) All protest decisions are final. The site director and tournament director shall comprise the protest committee for all rule challenges.

D) Should the protest be upheld, the fee will be returned to the protesting team manager and play will resume.

E) Only decisions involving the misinterpretation or misapplication of a rule may be protested. No Protests shall be allowed in situations involving "judgement of an umpire."

Suspended Game Policy

A) Games that do not meet the official game policy due to weather/darkness will be considered a suspended game and resume (if possible) from the point of the suspension at the earliest time available.

B) If there is not enough time to resume a suspended game, it will be considered complete and official at the end of the last completed inning.

a. Pool play / consolation games:

i. If a game is suspended prior to being official and there is not enough to resume, the game will be considered complete at the end of the last complete inning. If tied at the end of the last complete inning, the game will stand as a tie.

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b. Elimination games
   i. If one inning hasn't been completed and the game is suspended without time to resume- the higher seed would advance to the next round.
   ii. If tied at the end of the last complete inning- higher seed would advance to the next round
   iii. If tied at the end of the last complete inning and the two teams are the same seed from different divisions entering the game – we would revert to the tie-breaking system in place.
   iv. If the championship game starts and is not able to complete due to weather/darkness and there is no time to resume – the game would be considered official at the end of the last complete inning
   v. If tied after the last complete inning- the higher seed will be named champions.

***Rules not specifically outlined will fall under 2022 MLB Rules and guidelines. ***

***Beginning Spring 2025, All rosters need to be Online.**

GSA
Global Sports Alliance