



## 7u/8u Coach Pitch Rules

The Waxahachie Youth Baseball Association (WYBA) has adopted the rules outlined by USSSA Sporting News Rules were stated otherwise by the WYBA governing body.

### Field Dimension:

- Base Paths- 60 feet
- Pitcher's Mound- 42 feet from the front of the pitching rubber to the back of home plate

### Equipment:

- Ball Type- Rawlings ROLB1 or manufacturer's equivalent
- Bat Type- T-Ball to 2 5/8' (No big barrel 2 3/4' or over)
- In age divisions 5u-12u, non-metal cleats shall be worn
- The catcher shall wear all appropriate protective gear including a catcher's helmet with facemask and either a built-in extended throat guard or a separately attached throat guard, chest protector, shin and/or leg guards, and protective cup.
- All offensive players shall use a double ear-flap batting helmet whenever at bat, on deck, on base or any other time outside of the dugout and the ball is live and in play.

### Game Length, Scoring & Lineups:

- Game Length
  - Each game will be 70 minutes or 6 innings, whichever comes first.

- If a new inning has been started before the 70 minutes expires, the inning will be completed. Unless it is not possible for the home team to win or tie.
  
- Scoring
  - 6 Runs Per Inning
  - Mercy Rule: 15 run lead after the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning or 8 run lead after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning.
  - Ties are allowed.
  - The home team is responsible for keeping the official score book and working the scoreboard.
  
- Lineups
  - Lineups will be completed by each team's coach and exchanged before each game.
  - Each team is required to field 7 players to start the game.
    - One out will be assessed for each time the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> player would have batted until the team rosters at least 9 players in the game.
    - Players that arrive late must be rostered at the end of the batting lineup.
  - If a team cannot field 7 players, it will forfeit the game and be scored as a loss.
    - A scrimmage may take place between the teams upon declaration of the forfeit. If a scrimmage takes place, the umpire will not be present.
    - Game time will not be delayed more than 5 minutes for a late player.

#### Batting & Base Running:

- Batting
  - Batting Order- All players will bat in a continuous batting order (all players will bat) and play under free substitution rule.
    - Batting order will remain the same unless a player is injured, then the player is scratched from the roster.

- Pitch Count- A batter shall be declared out after failing to hit a fair ball after 6 pitches or 3 missed swing strikes occur. Whichever comes first.
  - The at bat may continue past the 6-pitch limit, if the final pitch is fouled off. The at bat will then continue until a player makes no contact or hits a ball in play.
  - Walks are not awarded in Coach Pitch.
  - Hit by pitch is counted as a ball. If it is the final pitch the batter will be out.
  - A batted ball striking a Coach Pitcher is a dead ball and is treated as a foul ball and a pitch for the batter.
- Base Running
  - No leadoffs or stealing allowed in Coach Pitch. Runners can advance at their own risk on overthrows of hit balls.

#### Defensive Rules:

- Defensive Alignment- no more than 10 defensive players may play the field on defense.
  - Infield- every infield position must be filled, and catcher must set up in the catcher's box no more than 4 feet behind home plate.
  - Outfield- 4 outfielders must be used if 10 or more players are present at the game.
    - Outfielders must play at least 20 feet behind the base path in the outfield.
    - A force out will NOT be awarded to the defensive team if the ball is fielded by an outfielder who was lined up too close prior to the batter's swing.
- Player Position Rules
  - No player can sit out defensively more than 2 innings.
  - Each player MUST play 1 inning in the infield every game. 2 innings if the game is 5 innings or longer.

- The WYBA will allow for a player to skip infield rotation for the safety of the player, if deemed needed. However, the player will not be allowed to sit more than one inning if infield rotation is skipped.
- Play Stoppage
  - Play stoppage is at the umpire's discretion and is NOT subject to appeal.
  - Play stops when the defense has secured the ball, and the lead runner is not attempting to advance.
  - Overthrows will not result in any kind of stoppage.
  - A thrown ball hitting the coach anywhere on the field (whether in fair or foul territory) results in a call of interference and the batter will be out and dead ball declared.

#### Coach Rules:

- Coaches- a total of 4 coaches (head coach/assistant coaches) per team may be positioned inside the fence perimeter.
  - All 4 coaches MUST always have their badges on and visible. No exceptions will be made. If a head coach or assistant coach does not have a badge visible, you will be asked to leave the field.
  - Defensive Coaches
    - 2 coaches may be arm's length away from the dugout, the remaining 2 coaches must remain in the dugout.
  - Offensive Coaches
    - 1 Coach down left field foul line, or 3<sup>rd</sup> base coach
    - 1 Coach down right field line, or 1<sup>st</sup> base coach
    - 1 Coach Pitcher
    - 1 Coach in dugout
- Coach Pitcher
  - MUST pitch from the pitcher's circle and keep one foot inside the circle until the ball is thrown.
  - MUST pitch from a standing position.

- MAY coach the players at any time before the pitch is thrown, including coaching of the player at bat, and coaching before the play is in progress. Coach Pitcher may begin communications/coaching after play is ruled dead or stopped.
- Must leave the field of play immediately after the ball is batted. The Coach Pitcher must remain in foul territory on either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base side until the play is over. The coach pitcher may not be positioned behind the plate in foul territory.
  - Failure to comply with this rule after one warning, will result in Coach Pitcher replacement.
- Must not intentionally interfere in play. If it is determined intentional interference occurred, it will result in immediate replacement of the coach pitcher.

#### Sportsmanship:

- All players, coaches and spectators will conduct themselves properly and with respect for all others at the Optimist Fields.
- All players, coaches and spectators will abide by the rules of the Optimist Fields, at all times while on the premises.
- Profanity, assault (whether verbal or physical) or any other abuse of any person by another at any WYBA-sanctioned event is strictly prohibited.
- The Waxahachie Police Department will be immediately Summoned should any player, coach or spectator become involved in a fight.