

Columbus Parks and Recreation
Coach Pitch Rules

1 Changes from last year highlights

- None.

2 Governing Rules:

- 2.1 All Leagues in the Columbus Parks and Recreation are governed by the “Official Playing Rules of Baseball”, superceded by the following “Local Rules of the Columbus Parks and Recreation”

3 Game Rules

- 3.1 Four innings (or 3 1/2 if the home team is leading) constitute an official game. Once a game begins and is subsequently ended for weather, it will be made up if an “official game” in duration has not occurred. ***The suspended game will resume from the last completed inning.***
- 3.2 Runs scored are recorded. There is no “mercy rule” (ending a game due to one team leading another by a wide margin).
- 3.3 A minimum of seven players must be available at the start of a game to constitute a starting line-up. No outs shall be taken for the missing player’s position in the batting order. If one team fails to have the minimum number of players available to start the game, the other team will be declared the winner, but a practice game will still take place.
- 3.4 The home team is the Official Scorebook. Each coach is required to turn in their league scorebooks to their division manager at the time they are eliminated from the year end tournament.
- 3.5 The length of a game will be either 6 innings or no new inning to start after 1:45 from the start of the game; whichever comes first.
- 3.6 Three outs or four runs scored constitutes a 1/2 inning. The 6th inning only will have no run rule to end it, only 3 outs.
- 3.7 The team batting will provide an adult pitcher. The team on defense will provide a player as catcher. Teams may utilize an adult (ball gatherer) behind the catcher, (near the backstop), to expedite play. This person may not interfere with any ‘live ball’ that a play can be made on, and should refrain from any coaching activities while providing this service. The only adult allowed to be in fair territory during any ‘live ball’ situation is the adult coach pitcher.
- 3.8 There are 10 players on defense including four outfielders. Outfielders must be positioned on the outfield grass at the time the pitched ball crosses the plate. The player pitcher must be positioned with one foot on the pitcher’s mound at the time the pitched ball crosses the plate. Coaches are encouraged to rotate players between infield and outfield across all positions during the season. The adult pitcher calls outs.

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- 3.9 The adult pitcher must pitch no closer than 42' (roughly 4' in front of the pitchers rubber), and must throw overhand.
- 3.10 Each batter gets a maximum of up to six pitches to hit a ball fair whereupon a strikeout will be recorded; however if a batter records three swinging strikes prior to the sixth pitch, a strikeout will also be recorded. The batter cannot foul out, i.e. fouling on the last pitch, will result in the batter receiving another pitch.
- 3.11 The entire roster constitutes the batting order.
- 3.12 Once the ball is hit fair and is in play, the defense should attempt to make an official out and/or get the ball back to the player-pitcher on the pitcher's mound. The umpire will then rule which runners should advance to the next base (if the runner was over 1/2 way to that base when the pitcher received the ball) or go back to the base from which they came (if they were under 1/2 way to the next base when the pitcher received the ball). These rulings start with runners heading home and work backwards (third base, then second base).
- 3.13 Leading off: No
- 3.14 Stealing: No
- 3.15 Dropped 3rd Strike Rule: N/A
- 3.16 Infield Fly Rule: No
- 3.17 Designated Hitter Rule: No
- 3.18 A runner cannot leave the base until the ball is hit fair in play.
- 3.19 A runner does not need to slide feet first (head first sliding is allowed, but highly discouraged).

4 Equipment

- 4.1 Metal cleats are not allowed.
- 4.2 The bat shall be not bigger than 2 1/4 inches in diameter.
- 4.3 A hardball will be the Official game ball.

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5 Participation

- 5.1 Each player must play a minimum of three complete innings.
- 5.2 A player or coach ejected from the game will at least be ineligible to participate in the team's next game. All ejections will be reviewed by the Columbus Parks and Recreation/Columbus Babe Ruth Baseball committee in accordance with the Code of Conduct policy.

6 Substitutions

- 6.1 Free substitution is allowed; meaning a player may be substituted for defensively and re-inserted as many times as a coach wishes.

7 Protests

- 7.1 There are no protests.

8 Pitching

- 8.1 Players do not pitch; therefore there are no pitching regulations.

9 Year End Tournament

- 9.1 There is a year end tournament. Won – Lost records from the regular season will be used to seed the teams for the tournament. **No time limit for Championship Game.**