

Columbus Parks and Recreation
Junior 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 All Leagues in the Columbus Parks and Recreation – are governed by the “Official Playing Rules of Baseball”, superceded by the following “Local Rules of the Columbus Parks and Recreation ”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. There is no minimum amount of innings needing played to constitute an official game. Once a game begins and is subsequently ended for weather, it is over and will not be made up.
- 3.2. Runs scored are not recorded. There is no “mercy rule” (ending a game due to one team leading another by a wide margin) since no score is kept.
- 3.3. Any number of players available at the start of a game constitutes a starting line-up. Therefore, all games are played regardless of the number of players available on each team.
- 3.4. There is no Official Scorebook.
- 3.5. The length of a game will be either 4 innings or no new inning to begin after 1:15 from the start of the game, whichever comes first.
- 3.6. Three outs or four runs scored constitutes a 1/2 inning.
- 3.7. The team batting will provide an adult pitcher. Either team may provide an adult catcher (ball gatherer). This is the choice of the offensive team. There is a limit of three defensive coaches allowed on the field to direct the defensive players.
- 3.8. There are 9 players on defense with 5 infielders and four outfielders and no catcher (he is an adult and **cannot be used for any out**). The adult pitcher calls outs. Outfielders must be positioned on the Outfield Grass at the time the pitched ball crosses the plate. No player should play the same position more than two innings per game. Coaches are encouraged to rotate players between infield and outfield, across all positions during the season. If a team has more than 9 players at the game the team may put extra players in the outfield so that no players have to sit out defensively.
- 3.9. The adult pitcher must pitch no closer than 42’ (roughly 4’ in front of the pitchers rubber), and must throw overhand.

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- 3.10. Each batter gets up to **three** pitches to hit fair. After three pitches, the ball will be placed on a Tee for the batter to hit. If the batter fouls off the third pitch, he gets another pitch until he misses.
- 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 adult pitcher on the pitcher's mound. The adult catcher will then rule which runners should advance to the next base (if the runner was over 1/2 way to that base when the adult 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 adult 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: No
- 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 RIF ball will be the Official game ball.

5. Participation

- 5.1. No player should sit on the bench while his team is on defense for more than 1 consecutive inning.
- 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.

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6. Substitutions

6.1. A coach may substitute defensively in the middle of an inning

7. Protests

7.1. There are no umpires, therefore 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 no year end tournament.