

Section I**Information**

- This is a coach pitch league.
 - This means a coach or parent pitches to his/her own team.
- Each batter will receive up to, but no more than 6 pitches.
 - If the sixth pitch is a foul, the batter receives one more pitch.
 - The batter must hit one of the six (6) pitches in fair ball territory to get on base or he/she will be out.
 - Once the ball is hit, the ball is played just like regular softball.
- There are no balls or strikes.
- If a foul ball is hit and caught in the air, the batter is out.
- The plate umpire keeps track of the number of pitches made.
 - If the batter does not swing at a pitch it is still counted as one of the six (6) pitches.

Section II**The Game**

- A game will consist of 5 innings or a 1 hour 15 minutes time limit, whichever occurs first.
 - No inning is to begin after the time limit.
 - Starting time needs to be established on both score sheets.
- Ten players, with the positions designated as in regular slow pitch softball, will constitute a team.
 - No game is to start with less than 8 players per team.
 - Any games played with less than 8 players per team will be for practice only.
- A kindergarten and 1st grade team may be coed, playing against all boys, all girls and/or coed teams.
- Prior to a ball being hit by a batter, no infielder will be positioned in front of the imaginary line extended diagonally across the infield between 1st base and 3rd base.
 - Only 5 fielders (including the pitcher) may line up in the infield.
 - The outfielders must be 5' or more behind the baseline.

- Each player on a team will play at least 2 defensive innings of each game unless benched for disciplinary reasons, sickness, injury, or just simply does not want to play.
 - Please communicate with the parents about these situations.
- In case of inclement weather or other similar circumstances which would cause the umpire to terminate play, 3 complete innings will be an official game.

Section III

The Field

- Field dimensions are:
 - 45' base paths, 30' from home plate to pitcher's plate, 63'71/4" home to 2nd base, and home plate to be at least 15' from the backstop.
- The home team provides the bases.
 - Throw down bases will be provided to each team.
- The baseline is 3' on either side of a direct line drawn between bases.
- Infielders can only be in the baseline while attempting to field the ball.
- OBSTRUCTING a base runner will result in the umpire awarding the base runner the number of bases the base runner would have obtained had he/she not been obstructed.
 - This is a judgment call by the umpire.
 - A base runner is not called out for running out of the baseline UNLESS he/she is trying to avoid being tagged by a defensive player and you are outside the 3' area of the baseline.
 - See Field Diagram

Section IV

Batting

- List all players present in a batting order.
 - Players do not have to play in the field to get a turn at bat.
- In coach pitch softball, three (3) outs will retire the side; meaning that all 10 batters may not hit every inning.

- If the tenth batter in the inning comes up to bat, then the tenth batter rule applies.
- When only 10 players are present, the batting order will rotate each inning as follows to prevent the same batters from batting first and last in each inning: ***(Once again, this batting order will only be used if your team batted all 10 batters the previous inning, and so on.)***
 - 1st inning batting order - 1-10,
 - 2nd inning batting order - 2-10 + 1,
 - 3rd inning batting order - 3-10 + 1-2
 - 4th inning batting order - 4-10 + 1-3,

 - 5th inning batting order - 5-10 + 1-4
- Explanation of 10th batter rule —

The 10th batter is the last batter in an inning. When the 10th batter hits, the action should take place as if there are two outs. This means that all third out softball rules would apply in any situation. The 10th batter does not have to be put out. Any runner may be put out or the 10th batter must be tagged or just simply go touch home plate. The 10th batter may not be walked. An overthrow will not stop the action. Only an out or a home run ends the inning.
- A slung bat, intentional or otherwise, which in the judgment of the umpire is in any way an act of poor sportsmanship, will cause the batter to be called out.
 - Umpire, please warn child / coach.
- The batter must drop the bat before reaching first base.
- The infield fly rule, due to the difficulty of interpretation, does not apply in Coach Pitch softball.
 - Try and work on the infield fly rule during your practice time.
 - The infield fly rule is as follows: You must have runners on 1st and 2nd or bases must be loaded with less than 2 outs when a fly ball is hit in the infield only.
 - The batter is out the base runners may advance at their own risk.
- Overthrow - a runner or runners will advance 2 bases from the last base he/she touched at the time the ball was THROWN by the infielder or

outfielder, NOT 2 bases from when the ball actually leaves the playing field.

Section VI

Pitching

- A child must be assigned to the pitchers position to stand beside the adult pitcher as a member of the defensive team.
 - The adult pitcher must not make any attempt to field or catch a hit ball or thrown ball by a member of the defensive team.
 - The adult should move out of the way of the ball being played or hit.
 - In the case of inadvertent or accidental contact of the ball with the adult, the ball is considered to still be in play.

Section VII – Time Out

- Time out is when any one of the following occurs:
 - The umpire calls “time.”
 - When an infielder has control of the ball in the infield and the action stops.
 - All base runners stop running and the umpire calls “time.”
 - Action stops.
 - It is better to call a time-out a second too late than a second too early.
 - Time-out will be called by the HOME PLATE umpire.
 - Overthrow situation
 - When a ball is thrown into Dead Ball Territory. (See Field Diagram)

Section VIII

Umpires

- The home team will provide the plate umpire and the visiting team will provide the base umpire.

- Coaches are urged to have or develop two to three knowledgeable and trained individuals who will umpire in your game in either position.
- The umpire's judgment prevails and is not subject to further discussion by either team or other persons.
- **Coaches are responsible for their players, parents and supporters in regard to overall conduct and treatment of the umpire.**
 - Umpires are empowered to suspend play and/or call a forfeit if necessary to control a situation.
- The umpire shall not call a runner out for missing a base.
 - Adult umpires should be used.
 - This is an appeal play by the defensive team.
 - Coaches, please remind your base runners to touch every base.
 - Touch the inside corner of the base when running the bases.
 - Please work on this drill in practice.

Section IX

Miscellaneous

- Rules will be the same as regulation slow pitch softball.
- Protests are not in harmony with the spirit or philosophy of Kids, Inc.
- The umpires are in charge of the game.
- A game which is tied at the expiration of the time limit will remain a tie.
 - NO EXCEPTIONS
- Definition: Appeal Play – A play upon which an umpire cannot make a decision until requested by a player.
 - The appeal must be made before the next legal or illegal pitch.
- **Appeals-**
 - **Missing a base**
 - **Batting out of order**
 - **Leaving the base too soon on a caught fly ball**
- A base coach should not physically touch a base runner while the BALL IS IN PLAY.

- If the base coach touches the runner, the base runner should be called OUT.
 - This does not apply during time outs.
- Only the 2 umpires and the 2 base coaches should be on the playing field.
 - All other coaches and spectators shall not be on the playing field.
- Kids, Inc. issues the following equipment to coaches to use for the season: Two (2) aluminum bats, one (1) catchers mask, one (1) chest protector and three (3) - 11" softballs, and one (1) set of throw down bases.
All equipment issued by Kids, Incorporated, with the exception of the 3 softballs, shall be returned by Friday, June 24, 2011.
- Shoes - No steel cleats!
 - Tennis shoes and rubber cleats are acceptable.
- Home team is listed first on the schedule.
- BOOKKEEPERS OF EACH TEAM MUST SIT TOGETHER.
- THE UMPIRE SHOULD CHECK AT EACH INNINGS CONCLUSION TO CONFIRM THAT THE BOOKKEEPERS AGREE ON WHAT INNING THE GAME IS IN AND THE BATTING ORDER FOR THE UPCOMING INNING.
- IN CASE OF DISPUTE, THE UMPIRE WILL MAKE THE FINAL DECISION.
- All catchers must wear a face mask and a chest protector.
- Coach-Pitch team members must wear the Official Kids, Incorporated T-Shirt.
- Participants must currently be in Kindergarten, 1st or 2nd grade in order to be eligible to play coach pitch softball.
- NO HARD OR PLASTER CASTS ARE ALLOWED TO BE WORN BY ANY PLAYER.

No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products are allowed on any field or spectator area during practice or games.

All coach pitch games will be played on Tuesdays and Fridays and will begin at 6:00pm with a 1 hour 15 minute time limit. Our T-ball Leagues play on Monday and Thursday evenings, so these days are not good days for make-up games due to field availability. If you need to make-up a game, Saturday mornings or Sunday afternoons usually works well.



Coach Pitch Rules

**Thank you for your participation and
commitment to the youth in our community. Please help us keep the parks
clean.**

**Be sure to pick up trash after each game.
Thank you and have a GREAT SEASON!**