



Zeeland Little League Coach Pitch Softball Rules

General Rules

- A regulation game consists of four (4) innings.
 - A new inning may not start after 1 hour from the game start time.
 - A drop dead time is at 1 hour 30 minutes from the game start time.
 - There are no “extra innings” – a game may end in a tie
- There is no mercy or 10 run rule.

Coach Pitch Rules:

- Bring a bucket full of balls to mound, and put an empty bucket at backstop for pick up.
- Offensive coach is pitching to their team.
- Hitter gets 7 swings/strikes on Coach pitches to put ball in play, then TEE is brought in until player hits ball into play.
- No balls/strikes are called
- No Walks or Hit By Pitch allowed
- Coaches may pitch from any comfortable/safe distance per child.
- Coaches cannot play the ball but may defend themselves.
- Several coaches may pitch in one game.
- Coach pitcher calls the outs and safes for their own team
 - If a batter/runner is “out”, they are removed from the bases

Offense Rules

- Rocket batting rule, everyone bats
- Offense team ends their 1/2 inning at bat after any of the following occur:
 - Everyone in the lineup has had a turn at bat
- No stealing any base, including home, under any circumstance. This includes passed balls and wild pitches.
- Runners may advance one base when the ball is in the infield.
- Runners may advance an extra base when the ball is in the outfield.
- Runners may NOT advance on an overthrow to a base by the defense.
- No on deck batters are allowed.



Defense Rules

- Teams may play 10 players in the field.
 - 4 Outfielders (left field, left center, right center, right field)
 - 4 Infielders (third base, short stop, second base, first base)
 - 1 Pitcher
 - 1 Catcher
 - The catcher must be wearing a catcher's mask; the shin guards and chest protector are optional
 - The catcher will be positioned to the back side of the hitter and near the backstop per the diagram below
- Players should be rotated into different positions each inning
- A player may not sit on the bench for consecutive innings, and playing time in the field should be as equal as possible
- Free substitutions are allowed (meaning players may switch positions in the field and/or go from the bench to the field an unlimited amount of times).
- Coaches on the defensive team may station themselves in the field to help position their players and actively coach during the game

