

# COACH PITCH 2022 MANUAL



**City Of Lawton Parks & Recreation**  
**1405 SW 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Lawton OK 73501**  
**(580) 581-3400**

Visit [www.teamsideline.com/lawton](http://www.teamsideline.com/lawton) for information and updates

To Our Coaches:

We want to take the opportunity to thank all of you fine coaches for the many hours you work with our youth. Without the time and energy you spend, the City's Sports programs could not possibly function so successfully.

We value the fact that you are helping to build good character traits in the children you coach. Thank you for being patient and considerate with the players, while at the same time maintaining control of your team.

The mark of a successful season is not the league records or trophies, but the lasting monument of good character traits instilled in the hearts and minds of the youth on your team.

This manual should be a tool to help you in the quest to build good character. We hope you will find the information helpful.

Thank you,  
Parks and Recreation Administration

## **PARENTS AND FANS**

The Parks and Recreation Department highly recommends that coaches have a meeting with the parents before the season starts to get player contract cards signed and to explain the conduct expected of them. A Legal Guardian must sign contract card. If a parent does not sign a contract card, that player is **ILLEGAL** until the signature is on file in the Sports Registrar's Office. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of the fans.

## **PURPOSE**

This program is designed to give boys and girls in Lawton an opportunity to play ball under good adult supervision. The primary goal of this program is to build the foundation of good character in the players. The attainment of exceptional athletic skill and the winning of games are secondary.

Everyone accepting responsibility in this program must see that the rules and regulations are carried out. They must strive to teach good sportsmanship, good health habits, good citizenship and good exercise habits. They must practice the type of behavior that sets a good example for players. Abuse or embarrassment of any players or team is not tolerated. All coaches should strive to practice and play all players on their team. The participants should be exposed to game conditions, regardless if the team wins or loses.

## COACHING GUIDELINES

All Coaches and Assistant Coaches that are on the field or in the dugout during league games Must Have Their NAYS TRAINING and BACKGROUND CHECKS complete

All Coaches and Assistant Coaches are required to adhere to the rules listed below: Coaches should understand that the penalty for violation of any of the rules is automatic suspension from coaching until reinstated.

- Coaches are expected to read the Manual distributed by the City of Lawton Parks and Recreation Department pertaining to the sport they are coaching.
- Coaches are never to make abusive, insulting remarks to or about other coach-umpires of the game, assistant coaches or players.
- Coaches are to hold regular scheduled practices and be there on time.
- Coaches are not to use profanity, consume alcoholic beverages or use tobacco when coaching or meeting with players.
- Coaches will set a good example of sportsmanship for the players. Coaches will keep in mind that the primary goal in this program is building good character, not winning. Losing teams, with their Coaches, will congratulate the opponents.
- Coaches will make maximum effort to keep spectators from razzing coach-umpires, players and other coaches.
- Coaches will play all players who practice regularly and with maximum effort, as the situation permits.
- Coaches will never take the team off the playing field until the game is finished.
- Coaches should recognize the situations that will result in ejection:
  - Using profanity, insulting or vulgar language or gestures
  - Attempting to influence a decision by an official
  - Disrespectfully addressing an official
  - Indicating objections to an Official's decision
  - Using a mechanical device to coach or to attract attention
  - Holding an unauthorized conference
  - Use of mechanical visual-aid equipment including computers, television and videotape for monitoring, replay or coaching purposes during the game including intermissions
  - Failure of a team to be ready to play
  - Failure of the head coach to have players wear required equipment
  - Be on the field or court except as a substitute or replaced player
  - Be outside the designated area (i.e., team/coaches box, bench or dugout)

Coaches should understand that the penalty for violation of any of the above is automatic suspension from coaching until reinstated. When a coach or assistant coach is ejected from a game, he or she will report to the Recreation Services Administrator before being permitted to participate further in the program. Coaches and assistant coaches that are dismissed from a game may be penalized by sitting out the next game or by being put on probation end of the season, at which time a decision will be made by the Parks and Recreation Commission as to whether the coach may continue another season. If dismissed from the last game of the season, the rule is in effect for tournament play, play-offs, or for the next season, depending on what game situation exists. A dismissed/ejected coach must be reinstated by the Recreation Services Administrator.

# COACH & MACHINE PITCH RULES AND REGULATIONS

**UNNECESSARY CONTACT AND UNSPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOR:** A coach, player, substitute, attendant or other bench personnel shall not:

- Deliberately throw a bat or helmet.
- Maliciously or deliberately collide with a fielder who has the ball.
- Use unnecessary roughness that might inflict injury to any player.
- As a fielder, fake a tag without the ball.
- Fail to slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag.
- Try to incite spectators to demonstrations using any word or act.
- Use profanity.
- Make remarks that belittle opposing players, Coach-umpire or spectators.

Any player who is ejected for violation of these rules will be suspended for *at least* one ball game. The number of games from which the player is suspended will be at the discretion of the Recreation Administrator. Any suspended player **must** visit the Recreation Administrator in person with his parent or guardian before he or she will be allowed to participate in another game. Coaches should be sure each player understands and follows these rules.

**GAME RULES:** Play shall be governed by the current National Federation Baseball Rules, except when those rules are specifically changed or modified by the rules and regulations in this book, by other changes made by the Board of Directors, or as voted by the membership. Exceptions to National Federation Baseball Rules are noted in this manual.

**PETS, TOBACCO:** No dogs or pets allowed in any City Ball Field Complex. No form of tobacco use is permitted on City Ball fields while coaching a youth team.

**AUTOMATIC OUTS:** Nine players will constitute a team. Teams must have at least eight players to play a game. If less than nine players, an automatic out will be recorded on non-player where non-player is in line-up.

## **EQUIPMENT:**

- Wood and metal bats are allowed.
- **MANDATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:** All runners, batters, on deck batters, or players in the coaching box, must have a helmet protecting the top of the head, temples, ears and base of skull. Helmets with chinstraps are recommended to prevent accidental loss of protective equipment while running or sliding.
- **MANDATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:** Catchers **MUST** wear all of the following: mask with throat protector, chest protector, shin guards, protective helmet and cup must be worn. **Note:** A cup is at the discretion of the coach and parent, but is recommended to prevent injury.
- Metal Cleats may not be worn.
- Coach/Machine Pitch Softball – is a .44 core/375 compression 11” Fiber Optic Yellow Softball
- Coach/Machine Pitch Baseball – is a standard Hardcore baseball.

## COACHES:

- The Defensive Coach may coach the team on the field. No more than two Defensive Coaches are allowed on the field at the same time, and coaches must stay behind the infielders.
- A coach of the team at bat will pitch to his/her own team. **The coach will pitch to their own team, and he/she may coach the team while pitching.** The Coach must allow adequate time for the Pitcher-Player to get in position before pitching the ball. If a batted ball hits the Coach-Pitcher, or the Coach-Pitcher interferes intentionally or unintentionally with a Defense player, the Batter is out.
- Each team is allowed **four coaches** in the dugout. Only coaches, players and one scorekeeper are permitted to be in the dugout or on the bench.
- The use of any form of tobacco by coaches and scorekeepers anywhere on the playing field or benches is not permitted.

**COACH UMPIRES:** Parks & Recreation will provide one official for Coach Pitch. Each team will furnish one coach-umpire at each game. Coach-umpires should ensure that catchers are in a safe position before the batter swings. All decisions of the umpire are considered FINAL.

**LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS:** We will have League Playoffs and Championship games for Coach Pitch.

**We will not have League Playoffs or Championship games for Tee Ball**

**POST SEASON TOURNAMENT** All teams will be seeded into a post season tournament bracket based on the final regular season standing.

If there is a tie at the end of regular season play, the following will be used to break the tie or ties.

1. WinningPercentage
2. Head-To-Head
3. Head-To-Head Differential
4. Total PointsFor
5. Total PointsAgainst
6. Total PointsDifferential
7. LowestNumber of Forfeits
8. CoinToss

**LEAGUE SCHEDULES:** Coach Pitch games are scheduled Monday through Friday. Games may also be scheduled on Saturday.

**FIRST GAME OF DAY:** Teams must be ready to play at scheduled game time; early arrival is recommended.

**SECOND GAME OF DAY:** The second game will start immediately after first game. Teams should arrive thirty minutes before the game is scheduled to begin. There will be NO infield practice on the second game.

**POSTPONING A GAME:** Rainouts will be rescheduled by the Parks & Recreation Department; rescheduled games will be based on field available.

**PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:** Teams will be formed from players living in the Lawton and the surrounding areas. Teams are not required to represent a particular school.

**PLAYER PARTICIPATION:** A team may play up to ten players on defense, and at least four must play in the outfield. No infielder can play closer to home plate than the distance to the pitcher's mound. All players should play in the game.

**STANDINGS:** NO STANDINGS IN MACHINE PITCH OR COACH PITCH.

**COED:** Machine and Coach Pitch are coed youth sports.

**LAST DAY TO ADD PLAYER: May 27th,2022**

## **ASSAULT ON AN OFFICIAL**

### **Oklahoma Statutes**

#### **Title 21. Crimes and Punishments**

#### **§21-650.1. Athletic contests - Assault and battery upon referee, umpire, etc.**

#### **Universal Citation: [21 OK Stat § 21-650.1 \(2016\)](#)**

Every person who, without justifiable or excusable cause and with intent to do bodily harm, commits any assault, battery, assault and battery upon the person of a referee, umpire, timekeeper, coach, official, or any person having authority in connection with any amateur or professional athletic contest is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one (1) year or by a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment.

**AFTER FIRST GAME** is played, no player may move up or down or change teams during that season.

**GAME PROTESTS:** There will be NO protests in Coach Pitch. Coaches may **RESPECTFULLY** discuss a rule during a game for clarification on a rule interpretation.

**TIME LIMIT of Games:** 1 hour – **NO** inning will start after time limit expires

**RUN RULE:** No team shall score more than five runs in one inning. If there are less than three outs when five runs are scored, the teams will switch sides. This rule does not apply in the fifth inning.

**BATTING & SUBSTITUTION:** Players must stay in same batting order. Players in field may be changed. Field changes do not need to be reported to other team.

**BATTER:** Each batter in coach pitch and machine pitch gets a maximum of six pitches or 3 swinging strikes. If batter foul tips 3 swing and has remaining pitches he will continue his at bat until the 6th Pitch or 3rd swinging strike, but will still get no more than 6 pitches per at bat.

**WALKING:** No walking. **EXCEPTION:** When a defensive player comes closer than 48 feet to a batter in the box, then everybody advances one base.

**PITCHER-PLAYER:** The Pitcher-player must be within 8 feet of the pitcher's mound when the ball is pitched. At the coach-umpire's judgment, when the player-pitcher is in possession of the ball and all play on the runner(s) has ceased, the coach /umpire will call time out. the ball at his point will be dead ,and then returned to the coach-pitcher.

Any batted ball that hits the pitcher and/or pitching machine is a base hit and the ball is dead. Runners are awarded one base.

**HOME TEAM:** Team Captains will flip a coin before each game to determine home team. Home team bats at the bottom of the inning.

**STEALING BASES:** Base runners are not permitted to steal or lead-off base and must remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit. **Penalty:** Runner is called out.

**INFIELD FLY RULE:** There is no infield fly rule.

**DEAD BALL:** Any batted ball or thrown ball which hits the pitching machine will be declared a dead ball. Batter and all runners will be awarded one base.

**OVERTHROW:** Out of play – 2 Bases; Fair Territory – All you can get.

**SLINGING A BAT:** A batter who slings the bat upon release of a batted ball shall be called out. No runners may advance and will be returned back to the base at the time of ball contact .

**CATCHER:** Catcher must stay in the Catcher's box behind the plate until the ball is hit.

**FAIR BALL ARC:** *There shall be a twenty (20) foot arc drawn from the 1st Base Line to the 3rd Base line in front of home plate. A batted ball must go past the arc line to be a fair ball. A legally batted ball is a ball hit past the 20' arc and in fair territory. Any fair ball that does not travel past the 20' Arc on the 3 swing will be considered an illegally hit ball and the batter will be OUT.*





# PARKS AND RECREATION REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

## TEAM COORDINATOR

Every local school in the program should designate a volunteer coordinator who serves as organizer and contact person for that school. Their responsibility is to obtain competent coaches. The athletic coordinator's name will be given to the Recreation Services Administrator at the beginning of the school year.

## AUTHORITY

The Recreation Administrator, facility coordinator, assistants and officials have the right to remove any coach, player or fan from sideline, gym or field of any sport.

## PLAYER CONTRACT CARDS

All players **must** have a contract card signed by a parent and returned to the Registrar's Office at least five days before the first game. This card indicates parental consent – any player participating without a card is an **ILLEGAL PLAYER**. All games in which an illegal player participates will be forfeit! Player Contract Cards must be submitted at least five working days before the first league game. **NEW PLAYERS may be added to the roster at any time**, BUT the new player's Contract Card must be turned in at the Registrar's Office before the player participates in any scheduled activity.

It is the **coach's** responsibility to check birth dates of players, submit contract cards, submit team roster, etc. All players' paperwork must be filled out **completely** (with the appropriate signatures) and filed with the Sports Registration Office. Players that do not have all the required paperwork submitted are **ILLEGAL PLAYERS!**

## TEAM ROSTER

Any student wishing to play ball will be placed on a team and allowed to play. To ensure everyone is allowed to play, team sizes should be considered carefully. Each player should be able to play approximately half the game, so plan your team size accordingly. Each team must turn in a team roster with **all** the players and coaches listed. The roster must be turned in at the Registrar's Office **five** working days before the first league game. It is the coaches' responsibility to see that all information on the roster is complete and correct. Coaches should make a duplicate roster for their own records; a coaches' copy should include players' telephone numbers. It is very important that coaches record players' telephone numbers on their copy of the team roster – coaches may not be able to communicate with players via the school (for instance, in the case of a rained-out game.) Please do **not** call the Sports/Aquatics Office to inquire about players' telephone numbers; you will not be given this information over the phone.

## PROTESTING AN ILLEGAL PLAYER

The **head coach** of a team may protest the eligibility of any player on an opposing team any time during the season. A completed protest form along with a \$50 protest fee must be filed with the Sports Office. If the protest is deemed valid, the protest fee will be returned. All games in which an illegal player participated will be counted as forfeit by loss to the offending team. The Recreation Services Administrator may protest any player's eligibility at any time during the season.

Birth certificates may be required for players who are larger or have exceptional ability. If a player's eligibility is under protest, a valid birth certificate is required. Birth certificates made from affidavits are not acceptable unless approved by the Recreation Commission.

After a protest has been filed with the Sports Office, the Recreation Services Administrator will review the case, interview anyone necessary and make a decision. All parties involved will be notified of the decision in writing. If either team is not satisfied with the decision of the Parks & Recreation Administration Staff ruling, either team may file a request for protest review by the Commission Rules Committee.

### **ILLEGAL PLAYER PENALTY**

Any team found using an illegal player forfeits all games in which the illegal player participated. The coach of the team with the illegal player may be put on probation and is subject to suspension from coaching, and the illegal player may be suspended from play. Player eligibility may be protested by an opposing head coach or the Recreation Services Administrator. It is the coaches' responsibility to verify birth date and enrollment status of each player.

### **MISCONDUCT REPORT**

Misconduct reports will be filed with the Recreation Services Administrator. Penalty for misconduct by players, coaches and/or fans:

- Fighting – One game to lifetime, based on severity of the act
- Profanity – Two games
- Obscene gesture – Two games
- Disrespectfully addressing an official – One game
- Objecting to an official's decision – One game
- Improper contact with an official – One game to lifetime, based on the severity of the act

All other player ejection penalties will be imposed at the discretion of the Recreation Services Administrator.

### **RULE AND PENALTY FOR GAME EJECTION**

When a coach, assistant coach or player is dismissed or ejected from a game, that person will report to the Recreation Services Administrator before being permitted to participate further in the program. Any player or coach dismissed or ejected may be penalized by sitting out the next game(s). Coaches and Assistant Coaches may be put on probation by the Parks and Recreation Commission until the end of the season, at which time a decision will be made as to whether the coach may continue in the next season.

### **REINSTATEMENT TO PLAY OR COACH**

The Recreation Services Administrator, Facility Supervisors, Assistants and Officials have the right to remove any coach, player or fan from sideline of any sport. Anyone dismissed from a game must be reinstated by the Sports Recreation Services Administrator. If dismissed from the last game of the season, the rule is in effect for tournament play, play-offs or for the next season, depending on what game situation exists.

### **APPEAL PROCEDURE**

Coaches may appeal suspension decision to the appropriate standing youth sports committee appointed by the Parks and Recreation Commission. After a protest or report of misconduct has been filed with the Sports Office, the Recreation Services Administrator will review the case, interview anyone necessary and make a decision. All parties involved will be notified in writing as to the results.

If either party disagrees with the decision, that person can make an official written appeal to appropriate standing youth sports committee, appointed by the Parks and Recreation Commission, to request a verbal hearing. The hearing will be scheduled within five working days of receipt of the written notification in which the appeal is received by the Sports Division.

At the time of the hearing, each party involved (including the Parks and Recreation Sports Division) may have

two representatives present. Each party will have fifteen minutes to address the youth sports committee as to their concerns.

If a solution on the appeal is not accomplished and agreed upon by all parties during the hearing, the standing youth sports committee will submit a written recommendation the Parks and Recreation Director to be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a ruling to be determined.

The Parks and Recreation Director will place the appeal on the next monthly Parks and Recreation Commission Agenda or the next special called meeting by the Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission. These meetings are open to the public and may be attended by all parties. The designated representative of all parties involved will be given opportunity to speak if the Chairman determines. The Sports Division representative involved in the appeal will be required to attend for requested comment on issues by the Chairman. The Parks and Recreation Commission, whose members are appointed by the City Council, will agenda the appeal item and make a ruling by vote on the appeal. The council's decision will be final and will not be subject to further appeal or change.

### **PLAYER MOVE-UP RULE**

Players may move-up **one** Division/Age Group. Player's parents and coach must complete the Player's Move-Up Form and return to Sports and Aquatics Office before the player participates in any scheduled activity. Once a player plays a game for a team, that player may not change teams for the duration of the season. A player may play for *one* team on **one** league in **one** division.

# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROCEDURES

## (National Federation Rule)

While risk of one athlete infecting another with HIV/AIDS during competition is close to non-existent, there is a remote risk that other blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as in other body fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential for transmission of these infectious agents should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before the athlete may participate.
- Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposure when contact with blood or other body fluids is anticipated.
- Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
- Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with an appropriate disinfectant before competition resumes.
- Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.
- Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags or other ventilation devices should be available for use.
- Athletic trainers/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.
- Contaminated towels should be properly disposed of/disinfected.
- Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling bloody dressings, mouth guards and other articles containing body fluids.

Additional information is available from your state high school association and from the National Federation.

# PLAYERS DISCHARGE FORM

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FOR RELEASING SCHOOL BOOSTER CLUB OR TEAM ORGANIZER WHO REPRESENT'S  
A SCHOOL THAT IS NOT ACCEPTING ANY MORE PLAYERS  
FOR FOOTBALL, VOLLEYBALL, BASKETBALL, BASEBALL, AND SOFTBALL

Player's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Play's Address \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

School Player Attends: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Playing For: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Sport: \_\_\_\_\_

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School Booster President  
Or Sports Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

School Booster President  
Or Sports Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Parent/ Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

Parent/ Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Releasing  
Team Head Coach: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

Releasing  
Team Head Coach: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Park & Recreation  
Sports Staff: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

Parks & Recreation  
Sports Staff: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature