



**7-8 COACH PITCH
YOUTH BASEBALL GUIDELINES**



League Rules & Regulations

Eligibility

- Section 1. The date of May 1, 2023 will be the age cutoff date for the Spring 2023 season. The players' age on that day will determine what age group they participate in.
- Section 2. A younger player may participate in an upper age division if they are within 2 months of the age cut-off date. They can only move up one division (EX: a 7-8 player who is 8 on May 1st of the current year can move up to 9-10). However, after one game in the upper age division, the player is ruled to be ineligible to participate in his or her respective age group for that season. Player may move back down to the lower age group for the following season if necessary.
- Section 3. A player cannot participate in more than one division in our baseball/softball league
- Section 4. We will approve each player's age by use of birth certificates at the start of each season. Each player must be on the team roster before they play their first game to be eligible to play.
- Section 5. A new player may be added to a team roster after the cutoff date with the approval of the athletic staff.

Team Composition

- Section 1. Each league/association that plays with Concord Parks and Recreation is responsible for their participants and volunteers. They must follow at minimum the draft policy set forth.
- Section 2. It is the responsibility of the league coordinators to conduct drafts, registration, and for placing Players on the teams and parents with questions or concerns should speak to their coordinator with the concern when it arises.

Duties of the Coach

- Section 1. *Required to wear Coach ID badge at all practices and games or be subject to dismissal from duties.*
- Section 2. All head coaches must be at least 18 years of age.
- Section 3. The coach is responsible for exchanging lineups before each game with the other team and to meet with the umpires before the game starts.
- Section 4. Head coach is to maintain proper conduct among his team and fans.

Game and Weather Postponements

- Section 1. In case of inclement weather on practice days, the coach should contact the players on the team. A coach should use reasonable judgment during threatening weather and remove his team from the field if necessary.
- Section 2. For game day cancellations, it is the duty of the home field/association to cancel games when playing conditions are not adequate. The home field coordinator is responsible to contact the coordinators of the teams playing at their site and the officials booking agent. Each coordinator should then call their respective coaches who are responsible for contacting their players.

Jurisdiction of Rules

Section 1. The City of Concord League Rules are under the jurisdiction of the City of Concord Parks and Recreation Athletic Staff. They have the authority to make amendments to the rules in order to obtain the program objectives.

Officials

Section 1. After a game has begun, assigned league coordinators and league officials will be responsible for discontinuing the game for any reason.

Section 2. All officials should report ejections of a player or coach to the home site coordinator. Each site should then contact the league coordinator of the ejected party with information about the ejection who is in return responsible for the disciplinary action as outlined.

Section 3. In the event that only one official is present for a game, that official must start the game on time. The game cannot be protested when only one official is present.

Code of Conduct

Section 1. Coaches should always keep in mind that they are setting examples in sportsmanship and fair play and should conduct themselves accordingly. Constant yelling and abusive behavior toward players on either team is strictly prohibited.

Section 2. Any coach not carrying out the duties and responsibilities and policies as established by the league will be subject to dismissal from the league.

Section 3. A coach will be suspended indefinitely for playing ineligible players.

Protests

Section 1. Only protests that involve an interpretation of playing rules or the use of an ineligible player will be permitted. Judgment calls cannot be protested.

Section 2. Procedure for protests is:

- Notify the umpires that protest is being filed.
- Umpire should stop play.
- Notify the umpires exactly what is being protested.
- Umpires should then contact home site coordinator/protest committee.
- Protest fee of \$50.00 is payable to the home site coordinator/protest committee.
- The home site/protest committee should rule on the protest at the time of protest.
- If protest is denied, coach will forfeit the fee. If ruling is upheld, the fee is refunded.

Section 3. Any coach who wishes to protest should do so carefully considering the impact of poor relationships and ill feelings that could arise from the process.

Practice Guidelines

Section 1. Practice sessions are made and scheduled by the athletic staff.

Section 2. Coaches violating practice schedule will be subject to dismissal from coaching indefinitely. All practices and games must take place on assigned playing facilities by the City of Concord. No practices are to be held prior to 6:00 PM on school days.

Section 3. Players must attend practices to be eligible for games. Any player not attending practice and shows up for the game that week is subject to the coach's option to play or not. A coach must announce to the home plate umpire before the game which players are being held out for missing practices. The coach must also notify their coordinator of the situation prior to the game and state that the player did not attend practices during the week.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

- Section 1. If a player, coach, or spectator is removed from a game/facility by an official or site supervisor for unsportsmanlike conduct (which includes profanity, disruptive behavior, violence, threats, etc.), said person automatically suspends self from the next two (2) consecutive games for which that team is scheduled to play and from attending all practices before then. A coach/player/spectator who is suspended may not coach or practice with any team that they are affiliated with during that time, regardless of age group. If the removal is on the last game of the season, said person shall be suspended from coaching/playing the next consecutive season. The ejection of a coach or assistant coach results in the forfeit of the head coach's credit at the end of the season.
- Section 2. Any time a player or coach is suspended twice during the season, they will result in an indefinite suspension.
- Section 3. Any player, coach, or spectator that pushes, strikes, shoves, or threatens an official, gym supervisor, staff member, opposing player or coach, or fan with bodily harm, verbal abuse, or other inappropriate conduct before, during, or after a game will receive an indefinite suspension from all Concord Parks and Recreation sponsored youth leagues. This includes being involved in a fight before, during, or after a department sponsored practice or game.
- Section 4. A player or coach who pulls a team off the field for any reason will be suspended indefinitely. If the suspension occurs in the last game of the season, an indefinite suspension will occur.
- Section 5. No player, coach, official, or fan shall at any time lay a hand on, push, shove, strike, or threaten to strike another player, coach, fan, or official before, during, or after a game. Officials include umpire, scorekeeper, coordinators and designated volunteers, department staff personnel, other players, coaches, or fans. This will result in an indefinite suspension from all City of Concord Athletic Leagues.
- Section 6. Any player or coach who refuses to abide by any officials' decision could result in suspension from the game or game forfeiture.

Playing Rules

NC High School Federation Rules apply with following exception of local league rules.

Team Composition

- A team must field 7 players from its own roster to avoid a forfeit.
- A team can play 10 players on defense (6 infielders and 4 outfielders).
- An outfielder cannot freeze a play, acquire a timeout, or make the first play on a base runner.
- The ball must be thrown to an infielder to make a play at a base or on a base runner.
- Players arriving after the start of the game can be added to the bottom of the lineup without penalty.

Pickup Players

- A team must have 7 of its own players before being allowed to pick up players.
- There is a maximum of 3 players allowed to be picked up. Pickup players are required to play outfield only and must bat in the last 3 positions of the lineup.
- **If players are picked up a team is limited to playing with no more than 10 players.**
- Pickup players must be from the same age group as the teams **AND** be on a team in the league **AND** must be replaced by eligible team members if they arrive after the start of the game.
- Players removed from the game because of sickness, leaving early, injury, etc. are skipped in the lineup with no penalty. First time the player bats after being removed from the lineup is not an out.

Player can re-enter on their next at bat after being removed but if they do not return at that time then they are out for the remainder of the game. They are not charged with an out.

Grace Period

10-minute grace period from the games scheduled start time for a team that does not have 7 eligible players. A team with less than 7 players after the grace period will forfeit the game. Grace period time begins from the **scheduled start time**.

Length of Game

The length of the game is 6 innings or time limit is reached. See Section 8.

Regulation Game

It is a regulation game if 4 or more innings of playing time has been played is called because of darkness, curfew, etc. If the game is called before 4 innings or 1 hour is complete then the game will be restarted if rescheduled.

Tie Games

Any game that is tied at the end of regulation will not continue pass the time limit.

Run Lead

Run lead is in effect as follow: 15-run lead after 3 or 10-run lead after 4 (providing the losing team has had equal number of bats).

Time Limit

Time limit - 1 hr. and 15 minutes from the start of the first pitch of the game.

****NO new inning will begin with-in ten minutes left in the ball game (All age groups)***

Curfew Times

Weekday & weekend curfew times for all practices/games are 9:00 pm.

Participation Rule

- The entire roster shall bat.
- Each player must play defense in every other inning.
 - First offense: Failure to abide will result in head coach being suspended for one game.
 - Second offense: Failure to abide will result in head coach being suspended for remainder of season.
- Each player must sit out at least one inning on defense in every game.
- Each player must sit once during the game and cannot sit a second time until all players have had to sit out. **EXAMPLE:** A player cannot be the same one setting out every other inning.

Shoes

Players are not allowed to wear metal cleats.

13-15

Metal cleats are allowed except for pitchers when pitching on a portable mound.

Jewelry

7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-15

- Jewelry is not allowed to be worn during games.
- Jewelry is not allowed to be taped over.

- a. (Penalty) When discovered, the player is asked to remove it. Failure to remove it will result in that player being removed from the game.

Base Paths & Pitching Distances

Base path is 60 ft.
Pitching distance is 40 ft. with an 8 ft. circle.

Playing Equipment

Batters Helmets

- Batting helmets must be worn by all batters and base runners at all times.
- Failure to wear a helmet results in player being removed from the game.

Catchers Gear

Catchers must wear mask/helmet, shin/leg guards, throat guard, chest protector, and protective male cup during all practices and games.

Game Balls

Two game balls will be provided by the organization at the beginning of each game. Additional balls needed during the game can be practice balls that meet the required standards provided by either coach. They must be Little League or other National Organization approved (PONY, Federation, Dixie, USSSA, NFHS, etc.).

Bats

Age Group	Bat Requirements
7-8	USA Baseball stamped * 2 5/8" barrel maximum * NO BBCOR ALLOWED
9-10	USA Baseball stamped * 2 5/8" barrel maximum * NO BBCOR ALLOWED
11-12	USA Baseball stamped * 2 5/8" barrel maximum * NO BBCOR ALLOWED
13-15	USA Baseball stamped / Max of Drop -5 / BBCOR ALLOWED

Players & Coaches Positions

Defensive Players Position

Defensive player must play even with the pitcher or behind the pitcher on either side.

Offensive Field Coaches

- Base coaches and coach pitcher are allowed on the playing field.
- Base runners' coach may only instruct the base runners.
- Coach (Pitcher) is not allowed to instruct runners.
- A coach may be positioned behind the catcher to assist with passed balls but they are not allowed to give instructions.

Defensive Field Coaches

- A coach may be positioned on each foul line in the outfield and must remain in dead ball territory at all times in an area (coaching area) that is halfway from outfield fence to first and/or third base.
- The outfield coach is confined to coaching the outfielders only. A coach in violation of the coaching box rules will be confined to the dugout (can be replaced by another coach).
- At no time may a coach step onto the playing field except in the case of an injury.

Batter/Run Limit

- Each team may score a maximum of 5 runs in the first inning.
- In the 2nd – 5th innings, the team leading may always score 5 runs, even though their lead could be greater than 5 runs.
- The team behind when batting after the first inning may always be able to score as many runs as possible to even the score and then 5 additional runs in those innings as well.
- The 6th inning is unlimited scoring. NOTE: Unlimited scoring is not in effect if the umpire deems any inning other than the 6th inning as the last.

On Deck Batters

On deck batters are allowed to go to the opposite circle to be behind batter.

Speed Up Rules

- Speed up rules will be used for the catcher only.
- The last batter that is not on base may run for the catcher at any time but it is not mandatory.

Bunting

- Bunting is allowed.
- Player (pitcher) can charge once the batter squares to bunt.
- No fake bunts allowed. Once a player squares to bunt he must bunt (or take the pitch). **PENALTY:** Batter is out and ball becomes dead and no runners advance.

Dropped Third Strike

- A batter is declared out and cannot advance on dropped third strikes.
- The ball is dead and runners cannot advance.

Base Stealing/ Overthrows

7-8

- Base stealing is not allowed at any time. Batted balls, unless called foul by the umpire, are live and in play until the defense stops the progress of all runners and the umpire calls time. Ball remains dead until next batter.
- Runner must stay in contact with the base until the batter has hit the ball. If a runner leaves the base before the ball is hit, the umpire shall indicate the infraction immediately by removing the runner from the base. The ball/pitch becomes dead immediately and NO PITCH is declared.
- The first overthrow at a base on a batted ball will result in the batter and base runners being only able to advance one extra base and they do so at their own risk. **NOTE:** Overthrow is considered any ball **not caught** by the defensive player at any base.
- Runners MAY advance one base if the pitcher overthrows a base while attempting a pickoff (except 3rd base runner)
- 3rd base runners may only advance to home plate on a batted ball or forced walk

Appeal Play

- The appeal play is not in effect.
- The umpire will call the infraction when play becomes dead.

Infield Fly Rule

There is no infield fly rule for this age division.

Head First Sliding

Head first sliding is not allowed at home plate.

- a. (Penalty) - Runner is out and ball remains live.
- b. Dive backs to the bases (head first) are not considered head first sliding.

Coach Pitch Rules

- The pitcher/coach must release the ball with one foot anywhere within the 8-foot circle.
- Total of 5 pitches can be thrown.
- If a batter swings and misses 3 times, the batter is out.
- The fifth pitch may be fouled or tipped indefinite number of times.
- There are no bases on balls or hit by pitch advancements to first base.
- Player (pitcher) must stand besides, even with, or behind the pitcher/coach until the ball is batted.
PENALTY: Batter is awarded first base and other runners advance only if forced to do so.
- Baseball coaches pitch overhand.
- Any batted ball that hits a pitcher/coach is dead. The pitch will not count and the pitch will be done over.

ALL MOUND VISITS ARE LIMITED TO ONE COACH AND ONE PLAYER FOR ALL AGE GROUPS

Tournament Play Rules - NO TOURNAMENT PLAY

REVISED: January 2023



City of Concord Parks and Recreation Draft Policy

1. Returning team is only considered a group of 4 or more from the same age group as the previous season with the same head coach or assistant coach willing to take over the team.
2. Head coach has two automatic picks, unless you have a returning team. The first automatic pick is ALWAYS the coach's child. If the head coach does not have a child they are allowed to still have two automatic picks if they so choose.
3. The only exception for more than two frozen players is if the head coach or the frozen assistant has more than one child in the same age group.
4. If you have a returning team you will still have a pick in the first round of the draft.
5. One sponsor is eligible to have their child on the team that they sponsor if they so desire. This does not count as one of the two automatic picks.
6. The automatic picks must be submitted on the coach's information sheets before assessments otherwise they will be drafted.
7. First round picks in the draft will be based off of how many players a team has. If you are a returning team, you will have a first-round pick and then not be eligible to pick until team numbers are equal.
8. Positioning for round two through the end of the draft will be based on how many players are returning to a team. Once all teams are even then the snake draft will be used throughout the remainder.
9. **Soccer Only**. Each team must have a minimum number of females on their team and this number will be announced the night of the draft.
10. Only siblings, relatives, and people living in the same household can be drafted as a set, but must be listed on special requests to be eligible.
11. All players (**including frozen & returning team players**) ***must*** attend skills assessments to be eligible to be drafted by the coaches. Players that do not attend skills assessment will be placed on teams at random by computer assignment. NO EXCEPTIONS
12. Any player registering after the draft can be added by the Athletic Office.
13. There will be no trades.
14. The Athletic Staff reserves the right to add players to any roster at any time.