

2025 - NBLL Coach Pitch 7 Baseball Division Operational Bylaws

Little League Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules apply to all NBLL activities. In addition to the above, the Local NBLL Bylaws and Ground Rules detailed below pertain to the NBLL Coach Pitch 7 Baseball division. At the discretion of a quorum of the executive board, the by-laws can be changed at any time. Any questions, concerns, or clarifications regarding these bylaws should be directed to the Division VP and the Executive Board of Directors.

Objective

- The overriding objective is to have fun, learn sportsmanship, learn teamwork, and begin to develop good fundamental baseball skills.
- Young players will continue to play sports and obtain the positive attributes of playing sports only if they are having fun.
- Learning good sportsmanship and teamwork will help children become good citizens.
- Teaching fundamental baseball skills (e.g., throwing, running, hitting) will give children the basic skills necessary to enjoy the game.

Manager and Parent Attitude

- All parents, managers, coaches, and attending adults are responsible for maintaining a positive environment at all practices and games. Verbal encouragement of the players is permitted. Other verbal statements directed at players and/or coaches are not.
- Coach Pitch is not the level at which one uses valuable practice time to stress "double plays," "catching runners in the hot box," or worrying about what position a player plays. If these youngsters have fun and learn fundamental baseball skills, these things will occur in good time. Coach Pitch should focus on:
 - A proper grip on the ball, how to receive a ground ball, and how to properly catch and throw should all be stressed.
 - The children should also be learning the mechanics of a good swing.
 - This is the best time to break any bad habits that may start to show up in throwing and batting mechanics.
 - By stressing good mechanics, you are helping to create a solid baseball player and to prevent injuries later on in their baseball playing life.
 - The main goal of Coach Pitch 7 is to have fun, continue building all players skills, and prepare them for the next level at Pee Wee 8.
- Even though it is necessary to channel players' energies to maintain a practice environment that allows all players to develop their skills, it is not the level where one assigns punishment for failing to perform or pay attention.
- It is strongly advised that practices are kept moving and exciting (i.e., don't have 11 kids standing around waiting for one baseball to be hit to them during batting practice).
- NBLL is an all-volunteer organization; the fields and the organization exist only through the efforts of past and current parent involvement.
- All parents are invited to attend NBLL board meetings and become involved in league operations. It's a great chance to show your kids a real example of the value of community service!

- Managers are **required** to hold a parent meeting before or at the beginning of the first practice to inform the parents of the objectives and rules of the league.

Manager Selection

- The Manager Selection Committee will comprise the President, the Vice-President, the division VP, Coaching Coordinator, and anyone else the President deems helpful in selecting the slate of managers.
- The Manager Selection Committee shall interview and investigate prospective managers and coaches and recommend acceptable candidates to the President for appointment and subsequent approval by the Board of Directors.
- Candidates must submit a volunteer application before the Manager Selection Meeting to be considered for a managerial position.
- Little League International requires all potential Managers to have a background check performed on them before taking a team.
- All Managers and Coaches are required to complete the Little League Diamond Leader Training.

Teams

- Each team will consist of 1 Manager and 3 Coaches.
- There are no "try-out" sessions for CP7.
- The NBLL Player Agent assigns players to CP7 teams.
 - Attempts will be made to honor parental requests for particular Managers and/or teammates; However, it is not always possible to honor all requests and keep teams with the required numbers of players.
- Players must be league age of 7 to be eligible (See Little League Age Charts)
- Once rosters are set, the manager of any team losing a player for any reason during the season must immediately notify the Division VP and the player agent.

Equipment

- Coach Pitch will use Safety Baseball level 5.
- A catcher's mask with a throat guard is required if utilizing the position.

Rules of Play

- Scores will not be kept.
- There will be no league standings.
- Games will begin promptly at the scheduled time and last five complete innings or 55 minutes, whichever comes first.
- Games must end, and players exit the field 55 minutes after the scheduled start time, regardless of where the offensive team is in the order.
- The home team is the second team listed on the game schedule and will occupy the 3rd base dugout.

- In the event of threatening lightning or inclement weather, the Officer on Duty will be responsible for calling the game.
 - If the Lightning Prediction System's warning horn blows, teams are to clear the playing field immediately and not resume play until after the "all-clear" sound has been given and the Officer on Duty has declared the field safe for play.
- At the end of each game, teams are required to clean up the dugouts they occupied and the stands and surrounding areas of all trash.
- Please exit the dugout as soon as possible to allow the teams waiting to begin the next game& their warm-up routines.

Defensive Play Coach Pitch (7-year-old)

- Coach Pitch should have the entire team on the field with up to 6 infielders (if including catcher) and remaining players in the outfield.
- Only the pitcher, shortstop, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd baseman are permitted in the infield, with the catcher if in full gear behind the plate or standing by the backstop.
- The pitcher will position himself/herself to the Coach's right or left at an even depth with the pitcher's rubber with at least one foot within the pitcher's circle, and he/she may not move until the ball is put into play.
- The catcher will be positioned at the backstop instead of under the batter.
 - If placed under the batter, he/she will be required to wear a catcher's mask with a throat protector, chest protector, and shin guards.
 - If placed at the backstop, he/she will be required to wear a catcher's mask with a throat protector.
- Infielders may play no closer than the base paths and outfielders no closer than 15 feet behind those infielders.
- Two coaches are allowed in the outfield for the purpose of defensive alignment.
- No interference of any kind is allowed.
- All players play every defensive half of an inning.
 - The infielders and the catcher play at their designated positions.
 - All remaining players play in the outfield.
 - No player will play in the same position for more than two consecutive innings. Managers and Coaches are encouraged to ensure players experience multiple positions throughout the season.
- All players must have at least one opportunity to play every position during the season.
- All players should be allowed to bat in all three areas of the batting order, beginning, middle, and end. (Specifically leadoff and last)

7-Year-old Coach Pitch – Batting

- No on-deck batters are allowed per Little League Rules. This is strictly enforced for safety reasons!
- Each batter will be thrown 5 pitches. If, after 5 pitches, the batter does not put the ball in play, the batter is out.
- If the last pitch is fouled off, additional pitches are allowed until the ball is put in play.

- The coach responsible for pitching should be inside the pitching circle **at least 40 feet from the plate** or up to 46 feet on the rubber and pitch overhand standing or lunging.
- Players will stay in the original batting order. The batting order is continual, and no changes in sequence are permitted during a game.
- Coaches must not interfere with defensive play and must leave the play to the children once the ball is hit.
- The batter and all base runners must wear helmets.
- Managers should instruct their players about "slinging" or "throwing" the bat prior to EACH game.
- There will be a maximum of 5 runs scored in one offensive half-inning.
 - If 5 runs are scored, the inning will be over regardless of the number of outs.
 - Otherwise, after 3 outs, the defense and offense teams will switch places.

Base Running

- Play stops when:
 - The lead runner is stopped.
 - A player has possession of the ball **inside the pitcher's circle**.
- Players may advance at their own peril, no more than one base, on any overthrown ball that is in play.
- Runners are awarded one base if the ball goes into a dead ball area.
- A runner is out if he/she runs into a fielder holding or fielding the ball, regardless of whether the ball is dropped (i.e., the runner must avoid contact).
- No infield fly rule. (A caught fly ball ends the play, and all base runners return to their base.) Tagging up is allowed to advance one base.
- Halfway rule - If the runner is halfway or more to the next base when play is stopped, the runner is awarded the next base.
- Little League rules prohibit base coaches from touching base runners with the intent of impeding or furthering their progress.
- When a runner is put out, he/she will return to the dugout.