

## 2025 - NBLL Softball Coach Pitch Operational Bylaws

Little League Softball 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 Softball Coach Pitch 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 in coach pitch is to have fun, learn sportsmanship, learn teamwork, and begin to develop good fundamental softball 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 softball 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 practices and games. Verbal encouragement of the players is permitted. Other verbal statements directed at players 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 softball skills, these things will occur in good time
  - 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 softball player and to prevent injuries later on in their softball playing life.
- 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 softball 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 strongly encouraged to hold a parent meeting before 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, Vice-President, 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 CP.
- The NBLL Player Agent assigns players to CP 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 5 to be eligible.
- Players who are league age 5 and have completed one season of T-Ball will be eligible to play in the Coach Pitch Division, or they may remain in the T-Ball Division for a second year.

### **Equipment**

- Coach Pitch will use Safe/Soft Softball.
- 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 four complete innings or 55 minutes, whichever comes first.
- Games must end, and players promptly 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 dugout that matches the scoreboard.
- 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 should have the entire team on the field with 6 infielders and remaining players in the outfield.
- Before the ball is hit, only the pitcher, shortstop, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd baseman are permitted in the infield, with the catcher standing by the backstop.
- The pitcher will position 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 she may not move until the ball is put into play.
- The coach responsible for pitching should be within the pitching circle and pitch underhanded.
- 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 one inning.
- All players must have more than one opportunity to play every position during the season.
- All players should also be allowed to bat in all three areas of the batting order, beginning, middle, and end.

### **Batting**

- No on-deck batters are allowed per Little League Rules.
- Each batter will be thrown 5 pitches. If, after 5 pitches, the batter does not put the ball in play, the coach will place a tee on the plate, and the player will be allowed to hit 1 ball.
- If the last pitch is fouled off, additional pitches are allowed until the ball is put in play.
- Each team must bat through the lineup regardless of the number of outs.
- After all batters in the lineup have batted, that team's turn at bat will end.
- Players will stay in the original batting order. The batting order is continual, and no changes in sequence are permitted.
- When the last offensive player in the order bats, the coach must let the defensive team know that the last batter is up.
- Coaches must not interfere with defensive play and 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 before EACH game.

### **Base Running**

- All infield hits are limited to singles.
- Runners should not advance any more than one more base at a time.
  - Stealing is not allowed.
- Runners must stay on the base until the ball is hit.
- A runner put out on a defensive play will stay on base to gain experience running the bases.
- On a play by the last batter, all runners advance to home, and the defensive team must stay on the field until the last batter crosses home plate.
- Little League rules prohibit base coaches from touching base runners with the intent of impeding or furthering their progress.