

## Co-Ed Instructional Coaches Pitch / Teeball

### Policies and Rules For 2018

#### Purpose

The purpose of the Coaches Pitch / Teeball program is instruction rather than competition. Within a non-competitive environment, players are given the support and encouragement they need to develop their skills to the best of their ability. The goal of the program is that managers and coaches will teach the basic skills of throwing and catching the ball, hitting, fielding, base running, and sportsmanship. Greater Cincinnati Knothole and the National League rules apply, with the exceptions described with this document.

#### Policies & Rules

No one, including spectators, is permitted to stand or sit immediately behind the backstop. Throwing bats, helmets, equipment and other unsafe acts is to be corrected by managers and coaches immediately. The safety of the players takes precedence over all other rules, and the rules are to be applied to keep the game fun and to aid in the teaching of basic baseball skills.

Negative remarks that are directed toward anyone associated with the opposing team will not be tolerated. The managers are responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, and fans.

Any parent who has a concern regarding the administration of their child's team should first discuss the matter with the coach / manager. If the issue cannot be resolved with the coach, the parent may contact the respective organization Baseball Director.

#### A. Season Organization

- 1) **There will not be a designated "Teeball" section and "Coaches Pitch" section. From the first day, players will hit at balls thrown by their coaches. If a player does not hit a fair ball within three swinging strikes (foul balls will count for strike one and strike two), the ball is to be placed on the tee. The three swinging strikes are not negotiable. IF the batter SEES 5 Pitches without 3 swinging strikes, then the ball is to be placed on the tee UNLESS he/she continues to foul every pitch.**
- 2) Ten games are expected to be the minimum played. If a game cannot be played due to bad weather, or a team is unable to field enough players on the scheduled game day, **you are highly encouraged to try to make the game up.** This can be done on either team's practice night, or an open night for both teams. However, you need to contact the baseball director to check on field availability **before** finalizing the date of a makeup game.

#### B. Conduct of Games

- 1) A primary responsibility of the managers is to insure that the game is kept moving by preparing lineups before the game, having the next batter on deck, and quick positioning of the players in the field.
- 2) Every player on a team is to be listed in the batting order at the start of the game and is to bat in that position for the entire game. Any player arriving late to the game should be added at the end of the batting order.

- 3) After the first inning, players are to be substituted into the field each inning so that they play approximately the same amount over the course of the season. **No player is to sit out two consecutive innings, nor should a player play the same position more than one inning in a given game.** Unlimited substitutions are permitted.
- 4) Teams consist of nine to ten players in the playing field (pitcher, four to five infielders, and three outfielders are recommended, but it is up to the coach's discretion on where to place their players). Catchers are recommended. Pitcher should be positioned on the non-pull side of the coach who is pitching.
- 5) No scores or standings will be kept. Players are encouraged to do their best and have fun rather than win.
- 6) RIF balls (Reduced Injury Factor) must be used.

### C. Length of Games

- 1) A **maximum of 1 hour and 45 mins** is permitted per game, with no inning beginning after 1 hour and 30 minutes has elapsed. Coaches must plan ahead to insure that the maximum game length is not exceeded.
- 2) Games consist of up to four (4) innings, but can be shortened during the week when school is in session, or other time constraints.
- 3) During the first three innings of play, nine batters (unless the coaches can reach an agreement prior to the game) on each team bat during each inning regardless of the number of outs. When the ninth batter runs the bases, the nine players in the field are to **remain at their positions** until all of the remaining base runners have crossed home plate.
- 4) In the fourth inning, the game is concluded once everyone on each roster has batted once, without regard to the number of outs. When the last batter runs the bases, the nine players in the field are to **remain at their positions** until all of the remaining base runners have crossed home plate.

### D. Play

- 1) There will be **no** leading off, stealing bases, sliding, bunting, or stretching hits and / or errors into extra bases. Coaches should **immediately correct** players who engage in these actions.
- 2) Players may advance only when a ball is hit in fair territory. The ball must travel at least 10 feet when hit off the Tee (10 foot arc), there is no minimal distance for a hit pitched ball IN FAIR Territory.
- 3) The infield fly rule does not apply.
- 4) Outs are recorded when a player catches a fly ball or pop up, or fields a ground ball (in fair territory) and throws it to a player who steps on the appropriate base ahead of the runner, or tags the runner before he reaches the base. **Double plays are permitted.** An out is recorded for the final batter of each inning.
- 5) **During the first two games of the season only**, coaches may allow their players to stay on the base even if tagged as an out. This can be used to assist young players with their confidence and keep them from getting too discouraged early in their baseball experience. When a player is technically tagged out coaches need to make sure they communicate with the player why they are being allowed to stay on base. For example, "Today we will let you stay on base so you get an idea how to run fast around the bases but after next/this game if you are out you will have to go sit on the bench like the major leaguers do."—or something.

- 6) The ball shall be declared “dead” once the pitcher receives or the ball is within the pitcher’s circle from another player (not in an attempt to record an out). The pitcher’s circle is eight feet in diameter. The pitcher does not have to maintain full control of the ball as long as the ball reaches the general area of the pitcher’s circle.
- 7) No extra bases are allowed on overthrows or when the ball otherwise goes out of play. In those cases, the player(s) does not to advance.
- 8) Extra base advancement is allowed for hits OUT of the infield area only (including ground balls). Once the ball is thrown into the infield area from the outfield, no further base advancement is allowed.
- 9) The pitcher’s position is played for defensive purposes only. The “pitcher” must remain behind the pitcher’s line (near the rubber) and within the pitchers circle.

#### E. Coaches Pitch

- 1) A coach from each team will pitch to his / her own team of a distance of 30’, **no closer**. **THE PITCH MUST BE OVERHAND.** The coach may not field (unless a kid is in danger) a batted ball and should move slightly to either side to allow the “pitcher” to field the ball. The ten-foot arc rule is not in effect on a ball pitched by a coach.
- 2) If after three swinging strikes (foul balls will count as swinging strikes unless they occur with two strikes) the player has failed to put a ball in fair territory, the ball will be placed on a batting tee that is placed on home plate. A ten-foot imaginary arc from home plate into fair territory is in force. If the ball does not travel beyond the arc, it will be considered a foul ball.

#### F. Coaches

- 1) First and third base coaches participate from their respective coaching boxes.
- 2) The batting coach who assists the batter and makes the “fair ball” / “foul ball” calls must make the call loud enough for all participants to hear.
- 3) Two coaches need to be stationed in the outfield when their team takes the field on defense.
- 4) An additional coach should be enlisted to serve as the bench coach to monitor behavior on the bench and make sure the players are ready for their next at bat.

#### G. Other

- 1) Base distances are 55 ft. Pitchers mound is 30’.
- 2) Bat and dirt throwing, name-calling, and other dangerous / provocative actions must be corrected immediately by the player’s coach. Due to the nature of these actions, repeated violations will result in the removal of the player for the remainder of the game. Continued violations will result in harsher actions being taken.
- 3) Only one player at a time is allowed to swing a bat in the area designated as the “on-deck circle” which is inside of the fenced field area. **NO BAT SWINING OUTSIDE OF THE FENCED FIELD AREA, PERIOD!!!**
- 4) All players must remain on the bench with the bench coach when not participating in the game.
- 5) Batters and base runners will wear protective helmets at all times.