

**Pinehurst Parks and Recreation Department
Coach Pitch Baseball League Rules 2024**

**Sponsored by:
Kiwanis Club of the Sandhills**



I. PHILOSOPHY

- A. The Pinehurst Coach Pitch Baseball League has been designed to give each child the opportunity to participate in a non-pressured, equal participation and **FUN** environment. Our goals are to teach youth the fundamentals of baseball and a basic knowledge of the rules of baseball. We also strive to teach youth to do their best at all times, while **developing good sportsmanship**, self-confidence, and teamwork. The Coach Pitch Baseball League is a recreational program, and it will always be treated as such. We ask all parents and coaches involved with this program to support this philosophy.
- B. In keeping with the above philosophy, at no time during the game will the score be announced or kept. The Coach Pitch Baseball League is strictly for fun and instructional purposes.

II. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. Players **must not** turn 8 years of age on or before August 31 of the current year and **must** turn 5 years of age on or before August 31 of the current year.
- B. All players must live in Moore County or attend school in Moore County to be eligible to participate. **No player will be allowed to participate without written parental consent.**

III. TEAM RULES

- A. Teams will consist of a maximum of 15 players. All players will be placed on teams by the Parks and Recreation Department.
- B. We do not guarantee requests. Every coach has something different to offer the players and all of our coaches have access to the same training and assistance. While one coach may stress technique, another coach may teach strategies of the game. This is why we believe all children need the chance to be with different coaches and players. Also, it is our belief that the participants will always make new friends on a new team and learn new skills and ideas from a new coach.
- C. All players should wear their game shirts and hats which will be provided by the Parks and Recreation Department.
- D. The batting order will consist of all players in attendance that day and any player who arrives after the game has started will be placed at the bottom of the order. **All players will get to bat in each inning.**
- E. When teams are in the field, please spread out all players with designated “positions” and areas. You will have more players than official positions,

however these players cover less area, and could use more backup at each position. **Players should rotate positions so they will be able to develop the skills necessary for a variety of positions.**

- F. Coaches are responsible for the conduct and attitude of their players. All players not in the field or at bat must stay in the dugout to insure their safety at all times.
- G. While a team is at bat, three (3) coaches will be allowed on the field (Pitcher, First Base Coach, and Third Base Coach). While a team is in the field, two (2) coaches may position themselves anywhere on the field to help direct the defense.
- H. At no time during the game may a coach make contact with a player in order to get him/her to run or throw to a base, etc. Please use only **positive verbal encouragement when giving instructions.**

IV. LEAGUE RULES - Little League Rules shall apply in addition to the following:

- A. The Field Supervisor will serve as the umpire for all games.
- B. Please have a coach in the dugout to keep track of the batting order.
- C. Metal spikes are **not allowed** under any circumstances. All players **must** wear shoes, and only rubber molded cleats or sneakers will be allowed.
- D. There will be no on-deck circle for safety purposes. The player who is up to bat next should **remain in the dugout until he/she is called to the plate** by the Field Supervisor.
- E. **No bats are allowed in the dugout and they must be kept outside the dugout.**
- F. A batter will be allowed four (4) swings to hit a pitched ball. If the batter is unable to hit the ball by the fourth swing, he/she will be allowed three (3) swings to hit off the T-ball stand. If the batter is unable to hit the ball from the stand after three swings, he/she will be called out. It is the Field Supervisor's discretion to allow extra pitches or swings to a batter.
- G. Any player who throws or slings a bat while hitting will first be given a warning, and then be called out if the action is repeated. No bunting will be allowed.
- H. Coaches who are pitching are not allowed to field a batted ball. If this happens, a dead ball will be called and the play will be played over with the batter given an additional strike. If a batted ball hits the coach pitching, it is a live ball and is playable.
- I. The coach who is pitching may stand where they wish to deliver the pitch, and the player who is fielding the pitching position must be in the pitching circle with an unobstructed view.
- J. If a batter/runner is called out, the batter/runner is to be removed from the bases.

- K. Helmets are required at all times for each batter and base runner for practices and games. **No Exceptions.**
- L. Base stealing will not be allowed. The ball must be hit by the batter before the runner can leave the base.
- M. No infield fly rule will be used.
- N. Only one base will be allowed on overthrows, even if two overthrows occur on the same play. If a base-runner attempts to advance more than one base, the Field Supervisor will call “time” and send the runner back to the base. Please remember that at this age, players can run bases better than they can throw the ball to a base.
- O. There will be unlimited substitutions allowed during the game.
- P. In order for the Field Supervisor to call “time,” the ball must be held by the player pitcher or be thrown in a manner so that the player pitcher had a reasonable opportunity to catch the ball within the pitching circle. If base-runners are trying to advance when “time” is called, they will either be given the next base or returned to the previous base depending on whether they have crossed the hash mark on the base paths. This will be determined by the Field Supervisor and their judgment as to where the runner was positioned when “time” was called.
- Q. At the end of each game ball(s) will be given out by each. It is the coach’s responsibility to make sure every player on their team receives **one ball** by seasons end. Coaches will receive all game balls before the season.

V. GAMES AND PRACTICES

- A. All games and practices will be held at Cannon Park in Pinehurst on Fields 1 and 2. Practices and games will be held at 5:45 p.m. or 6:45 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. See schedule for exact dates and times.
- B. Games will consist of two (2) innings (approximately one hour). Any game postponed or interrupted due to inclement weather, or any unforeseen circumstance may or may not be rescheduled, depending on field availability.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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