

Wylie Youth Baseball Association 8U Rules

Wylie Baseball Association

COACH PITCH SPECIFIC RULES 8U

Update as of Spring 2019

These rules are guidelines for coaches and umpires to use during **Coach Pitch** games while playing for the Wylie Baseball Association. In most cases, normal baseball rules apply. There are some pre and post-game duties that need to be attended to that are added as well.

First and foremost, the regular season should be about teaching these young athletes the game of baseball, how to play with good sportsmanship, and should be fun for the players. Each Coach should do the best job possible to ensure these kids have safe and fun experience learning and playing the game of Baseball. The coaches and parents will have fun participating in the development of the players, watching them grow and learning to love the game of baseball. Please err on the side of safety and good sportsmanship when teaching the players and **how you conduct yourselves** during games.

There will be zero tolerance for two coaches to ever square off on the baseball diamond or use profanity at any time. As a coach, if you feel the need to speak with the umpire, please do so by asking for time, and approaching the umpire in a normal fashion.

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GAME:

- 1) **It is the home team's responsibility to get the bases from lock box, if they are not on the field, and to return them to the lock box if it's the last game of the day.**
- 2) The league will supply one or two umpires at each regular season game. In the event you arrive at the fields and no umpires are available at the scheduled start time, contact a board member or chief umpire.
- 3) The home team will keep the **official score book**. This involves keeping track of the number of runs and outs for both teams during each inning. The visiting team may also keep a scorebook as well, but the Home team scorebook is the official one for the game in progress.
- 4) If time allows prior to the game, the visiting team can use the infield for practice from twenty-five to fifteen minutes prior to game time. After that the home team has the field to warm-up the last 10 minutes prior to game start. Prior to twenty-five minutes before the game, any team may use the field for warm-ups, but must give it up if the previous condition applies. This gives each team ten minutes for infield warm-ups.
- 5) The coaches and umpires will meet at home plate **five (5) minutes prior to the start of the game** to go over any rule clarifications or any other questions or concerns that may come up. In the Spring, each Coach will provide the Umpires with a game ball.
- 6) Bats must be legal as per the USSSA website.
- 7) There will be a maximum of six innings to be played or an hour and fifteen-minute time limit. For the Fall season, the game **must stop at one hour and fifteen minutes** regardless of the point in the game and the teams must immediately clear the dugouts. For the Spring season, at time expiration, the inning will be completed if applicable.
- 8) For the Fall season, should time run out before the home team has completed its current inning, then the score will **revert back** to the last completed inning played. For the Spring season, scores do not revert back to the previous inning.
- 9) Games ending in a tie, count as a tie. The only exception to this rule is during the Spring end of the season tournament. During the tournament, a clear winner must be established therefore, games cannot end in a tie during tournament. Extra innings will be played to determine a winner.
- 10) **Protesting a Game:** The general guidelines for a protest are those conditions where a rule is not being followed or administered correctly. As such, protests can only be considered for the violation or interpretation of a playing rule.

JUDGMENT CALLS BY THE UMPIRE ARE NOT GROUNDS FOR A PROTEST.

- 11) A half-inning consists of either five runs being scored by the offense or three outs being recorded by the defense.

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- 12)** If a runner attempting to reach a base intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player, the base runner will be called out on the play. Defensive players are reminded that unless a play is being attempted, the batter/runner has the right to the base path and any attempt to impede the batter/runner or drawing unnecessary contact will be deemed obstruction. Repeated violations by the defense or offense will be deemed unsportsmanlike behavior and the player is subject to ejection. The objective of this rule is to keep players from crashing into another player. This is a judgment call by the umpire.
- 13)** League Championships for the Spring Season will be decided by the season ending tournament (There is no tournament play in Fall Leagues).
 - a.** The top 2-3 teams in each league will receive trophies (depending on number of teams)
 - b.** Seeding of the brackets will be determined by regular season final standings.

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Team:

- 1) Failure to field a team (minimum 8 players) within 10 minutes after the official start time will result in an automatic forfeiture of the game. To avoid a forfeited game, each team can use currently registered Wylie Baseball Association players from other teams (in the same league). These players are known as “pool” players. It is the coach’s responsibility to solicit these players prior to their game. Pool players must wear their own jerseys and can play any position. Pool players can **ONLY** be used to avoid a forfeiture or to avoid playing with 8 or 9 players. For example, if you have 10 players, you cannot play with a pool player to give you an extra sub player.
- 2) If forfeiture occurs, teams may use this time to scrimmage, but the umpires will not stay on the field. Teams that are scrimmaging must exit the dug out’s and playing field 25 minutes prior to the start of the next game.
- 3) Ten (10) players shall be used for defensive purposes (pitcher, catcher, 4 in-fielders, and 4 outfielders). All outfielders shall stay behind the baselines.
- 4) A continuous batting order will be used. The batting order shall constitute all present players on the team roster at the beginning of the game. Late arrivals shall be inserted at the bottom of the batting order. All players on the roster shall bat before returning to the top of the batting order.
- 5) Teams may start a game with eight (8) players; however, the position of catcher shall always be filled. If playing with 8 players, the ninth (9th) position in the batting order will be declared an out at each turn at bat. If a team only has nine (9) players to begin the game, no penalty shall be incurred for the 10th position in the batting order. A ninth (9th) & tenth (10th) player and all subsequent players may be added to the bottom of the batting line-up as soon as they become available.
- 6) Teams may use free substitution on defense, but the batting order shall remain the same.
- 7) Mandatory in-field/outfield play is required. Each coach should plan for each player to play 1 inning of in-field AND 1 inning of outfield within the first 3 innings. Prior to the game, coaches will provide the opponent’s coach or scorekeeper with a completed line-up card which shall include players name, jersey number, and position during each inning.
- 8) No player shall sit out more than one inning a game unless every other player has sat out at least one inning. The only exception to this rule would be for disciplinary reasons in which case the league director should be notified.

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- 9) An unreasonable number of absences from scheduled practices, scheduled games, or repeated demonstrations of inappropriate behavior by any player on the field may warrant disciplinary action (benching) to be administered by the Coach. Parents, League Director and the League Board must be notified in writing prior to administering discipline. With the League Director and Board's approval, the player may be benched in the next game. Player attendance is mandatory at the game in which the discipline is being administered. The player must be in full uniform and seated on the bench during the game. The opposing Manager and Head Umpire must be notified that disciplinary action is being exercised during this game. Every Manager is responsible for keeping parents well informed of any such actions.
- 10) The "Code of Conduct" will be strictly enforced.
- 11) The Head Umpire and opposing Coaches **must** be informed by the Manager prior to every game of any player having a known physical condition or limitation that might require additional safety measures. Examples are heart condition, epilepsy, hearing aids, etc.

Coaches (max of 4):

- 1) Offense:
 - a. 2 Adult Coaches are allowed on the field within the Coaches boxes to Coach first and third base.
 - b. 1 Coach is allowed on the field to pitch to his players.
 - c. 1 Coach must be in the dugout.
- 2) Defense:
 - a. 2 Defensive Coaches are allowed in foul territory; one positioned down the right field line past first base and the other positioned down the left field line past third base. Coaches should not call any player over to them or have contact with any player.
 - b. 1 Backstop Retriever from the Defensive team is allowed on the field to retrieve pitched balls to speed up play. This Coach should be wearing a baseball glove, but should NOT be providing instructions to the defensive players in the field or be a distraction to the batter in any way. Any time a coach wishes to review/question a call, they **MUST request time**, and have it granted before a new pitch or swing by a batter. If a ruling was made in error, it should be corrected before any further play. If the question is a judgment call and there is another umpire, that umpire can be consulted. It's the plate umpire or single umpire's final decision which cannot be protested.
 - c. Coaches will not be allowed on the field during tournament play (except for the backstop retriever Coach).

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Batter:

- 1) The batter shall receive a maximum of four (4) pitches or three (3) swinging strikes.

Rule Comment: A foul ball cannot be the last pitch for the at-bat.

- 2) The Infield Fly Rule shall not be in effect at any time.
- 3) The Coach-Pitcher must pitch overhand and should be wearing a baseball glove.
- 4) Once the ball is batted, the Coach-Pitcher must move to the nearest sideline away from the direction the ball is hit until all play is dead. (example: If the ball is hit to the 3rd base side of the mound, the Coach should exit the field behind the runner heading to first. Opposite for a ball hit on the 1st base side of the mound). The umpires will rule upon any delay, interference, or obstruction by a Coach.
- 5) Any foul balls and missed swings will count as strikes.
- 6) The Coach-Pitcher shall stay behind the designated pitching line throughout the pitch. If their foot (or knee) crosses the line, before the ball crosses the plate, the pitch will be declared a dead ball strike, and the pitcher will receive a warning. On the second occurrence, the pitcher will receive a final warning and on the third occurrence they will no longer be allowed to pitch in that game. Each occurrence will result in a dead ball strike (if the batter already has 2 strikes, it will result in a strike out).
- 7) No bunting will be allowed.
- 8) No intentional walks are allowed.
- 9) Metal cleats are not allowed.
- 10) Batters hit with a pitch will not result in the award of 1st base.
- 11) Run Limit: A team's time at bat will be limited to five runs per inning or three outs.
- 12) Any bat can be used in a game if it is legal per the USSSA website
- 13) The Coach-Pitcher is limited to instructing the batter only. The Coach-Pitcher may not instruct the base runners. The ball is dead until batted. No runner may advance until the batter hits the ball. **The Coach-Pitcher can only direct the batter until the ball is pitched, there should be no coaching of players by the pitching coach after the ball is in play.**
- 14) If a batted ball hits the Coach-Pitcher before the fielder can field the ball, the ball will become dead. **The batter will re-bat with that pitch not being counted.**
- 15) **Bat Throwing:** If a bat is thrown and hits the fence, player, coach or umpire, the Umpire will call time, and will warn the Head Coach that if a bat is thrown again during the game, even if it doesn't strike anything, the player will be called out. It is the umpire's discretion on whether a bat has been thrown, or simply slipped out of a player hands during their turn a bat.

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Base Runner:

- 1) Runners shall not lead-off or steal bases. Each team will receive one warning per game when a runner leaves the base before the ball is put into play. For each subsequent offense, the runner will be declared out.
- 2) Head first slides are not allowed and will result in an out.
- 3) A courtesy runner for catcher of record only the previous inning may be used. The courtesy runner shall be the player that made the previous out. If no outs have been recorded in the game, the courtesy runner shall be the previous batter not on base. If the team batting has not played defense yet and a courtesy runner is used for a player, the player that was run for must assume the catching position the next inning. This scenario only applies in the first inning for the visiting team.

Defensive Instructions:

- 1) **Pitcher:** The defensive player listed as pitcher may stand on either side of the Coach-Pitcher, but NOT on the mound, nor in front of the mound.
- 2) **Catcher:** All players that play the position of catcher are required to wear a protective cup and throat guard. **(A throat guard is required regardless of the style of mask being used, including goalie style mask.**
- 3) You must have 10 players in the field if available. Substitutions may occur at the coach's discretion.
- 4) The Offensive Pitching Coach will pitch to each batter. After each missed ball, the Catcher or Backstop Retriever Coach will retrieve the ball and return it to the Pitching Coach so that he can deliver the next pitch.
- 5) No play is dead until the Player Pitcher has control of the ball and has returned to the pitcher's mound (Does not have to be touching the pitching rubber), or the umpire calls time. If a runner has passed a base when the pitcher gains control of the ball and is on the mound and does not stop, the runner may advance to the next base at their own risk. See "Overthrows" below for exceptions to the rule.

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Other Specific Rules:

- 1) **Dead Ball:** The ball is considered dead once a player has returned the ball to the pitcher (pitcher stands on the mound or pitching rubber while holding the ball). It is at this time, the Umpire will call time to declare the ball dead. Once the ball is declared dead, no runner may advance farther than the last base reached. If the runner has left said base and is in motion prior to the pitcher receiving the ball and reaching the pitching mound/rubber, the runner shall be able to continue towards the next base at their own risk.
- 2) **Over Throws:** An over-thrown ball by a defensive player will result in base runners being able to advance one additional base (at their own risk) beyond the base they are currently advancing to at the time of the overthrow. **Example:** runner on first, batter hits the ball to short stop. Short Stop throws to 2nd to get the advancing runner, but the ball is over thrown. The runner advancing to 2nd can attempt to take 3rd base at his own risk. If the defense attempts to make the play on that runner at third, and another over throw occurs, the runner may not continue to advance. The umpires should point to the furthest base the runner may advance to. Any attempt to go beyond that base is at the player's risk of being put out. If the player reaches the next base, the umpire will send the runner back. For the purposes of this rule **the 1st overthrow** during a play is the **only overthrow** that will allow additional bases to be taken by the runners. The purpose of this rule is:
 - a) Preventing a player from getting a 4-base error on a somewhat routine ground ball.
 - b) Encourages the defense to make an attempt at the proper base without the worries of making that 4-base error.
- 3) The Umpire may call time at their own discretion when the natural flow of the play has ended, regardless of whether the pitcher has control of the ball. In this instance, runners may not advance.
- 4) **The umpire may declare 'Game Over' according to Mercy Rules set below, however, Fall games may play on for maximum instruction time.**
 - a. 4th inning home team up by 11
 - b. 5th inning either team up by 11
 - c. 5th inning home team up by 6
 - d. 6th inning either team up by 6

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After the Game Information:

- 1) After the game the teams should line up to shake hands\high five and greet with something to the effect of “Good Game”. This is normally done by the home team starting on the 1st base side and the visiting team on the 3rd base side and the teams meeting in a line at the pitcher’s rubber. The coaches can either lead or follow the line although it is preferred to lead the line so that the players would have an example to follow. If possible, please listen for any derogatory comments by players that show poor sportsmanship. If it is your player, please have a conversation with them to explain the importance of good sportsmanship. If it is the opposing team’s player, please let the coach of that team know as well.
- 2) After the greeting, please clear the dugout as soon as possible.
- 3) Throw away any trash left in the dugout.
- 4) If your game is the last game, the home team is responsible for taking the bases to the Lock Box. Please place base plugs into holes when removing bases.
- 5) **Enter your score on the Wylie Baseball website.** Either coach can enter the score on the website, but it is the home team’s responsibility since they are the team keeping the official books. Once a score is entered neither coach can edit the score. If an error is made, contact your league director to correct the score.
- 6) Please communicate any game or player issues to the league director, President or VP of WYBA. Their contact info can be found at www.wyliesports.org under the Contact Us tab.