

## **2023 INDEPENDENCE COACH PITCH RULES**

Before discussing the rules of play, it's important to understand the goals of this program. The primary purpose of this effort is to teach the fundamentals of (baseball or softball) while stressing the intangible qualities of teamwork, self-determination, and fun.

### **GOVERNMENT**

The Girl's /Boys Coach Pitch softball program organized by the Independence Recreation Department shall be under the supervision and control of the Recreation Directors.

### **NO PROTESTS WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE COACH PITCH LEAGUE.**

### **RUN RULE: 8 RUNS PER INNING, EXCLUDING THE 5<sup>TH</sup> INNING.**

### **SAFETY BASES WILL BE USED AT FIRST BASE.**

### **RULES**

1. Each batter is given (3) three swings to hit the ball pitched by her/his coach or manager. **If the batter throws the bat, she/he is out.** Six (6) pitches only, after fifth pitch batter must make contact.
2. An arc (8) eight feet in front of home plate is lined, a ball must travel at least (8) eight feet to be called fair.
3. No hunting allowed. No stealing bases.
4. Once the batter hits the ball and occupies a base the ball must be returned to the pitcher. The umpire must keep the game going to ensure fun for the players.
5. Usual baseball rules govern base play and outs; infield fly rule is not in effect.
6. Five innings constitute a game unless other circumstances such as rain or field conditions require that a game be called off. A game that ends in a tie will continue for one more inning, if at that time it is still a tie game, the game is over and recorded as a tie. In case of inclement weather 3 completed innings constitute an official game.
7. **All players on the roster who are present at the start of a game MUST play at least three innings per game defensively. No player can sit 2 (two) consecutive innings, all players must sit one inning before any player sits 2 (two).**

8. Infield players: there will be a first, second, third, shortstop, pitcher, and catcher. All other players will be positioned in the outfield. Both teams should have all **outfielders in the grass**. There is NOT a short fielder.
9. An inning is complete when (3) three outs are made by the offense team.
10. A circle will be drawn around the pitcher's plate; at least one foot must be within the circle until the ball is hit.
11. The team at bat takes a position on the bench. The batting order is as they sit. There shall be only one player in the on-deck circle; all other players will **sit** on the bench.
12. The pitcher will stand next to the manager or coach whoever one is pitching; the coach or manager cannot field the hit ball. If the coach or manager catches the ball because of self-defense, the batter hits again.
13. Thirty (30) feet minimum pitching distance top of the circle, pitching rubber thirty-five (35) feet. Base distance will be sixty (60) feet.
14. A team can play with 8 players – without a catcher. Seven or less will be considered a forfeit.
15. Coaches are NOT allowed to touch the player while the ball is in play. If the umpire observes this violation, the player will be called out.
16. All outfielders must be positioned in the grass. An outfielder cannot tag a runner **for an out**.
17. Late players are to be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
18. If a team will not be able to field 8 players for a game, notify the recreation director who will arrange for the Loan of a girl's U-6 league player. No girl's/boy's U-6 league player can play more innings than a regular player on the team. Players from the girl's/boy's U-6 league must play at least 3 innings.
19. When a ball is hit into the outfield the runner may get as many bases as possible until the outfielder tries to throw the ball in.
20. No extra base on an overthrow at any time or at any other time except when the ball is hit into the outfield.