

Legacy Park Coach Pitch Baseball Guidelines

1. There are 8-12 players per team. Players are ages 6-8 (at start of season), but experienced older 5's are OK.
2. All games are played at the Legacy Park ball field. The first team listed on the schedule is the visiting team and bats first.
3. Every player bats and plays in the field. Fielders must take normal Baseball positions (1 player only at pitchers mound).
4. Every player on a team bats at least once per inning, but outs can occur. Each team shall bat the same number of players each inning (equal to number of players on the larger team if unequal number of players). An inning is over after every player bats, regardless of number of outs recorded.
5. There are three to five innings per game with 75 minutes maximum game time. Games scheduled 90 minutes apart.
6. Each player tries to hit balls pitched by their own coach. Coaches must pitch overhand, and stand at least 10 ft from batter. If, after swinging and missing, and no fair hit after 10 "good" pitches (coach's discretion), they return to the dugout [coaches must consistently enforce]. They will be encouraged to look for a good pitch but are not required to swing every time. However, after 10 good pitches without a hit (or contact) a player returns to the dugout. Pitching can continue after 10 pitches if batter makes contact (foul ball). If "Last Batter" fails to put the ball in play, inning is over.
7. There are no walks and no bunting.
8. Any ball hit into fair territory is in play. There is no minimum travel distance.
9. The foul lines extend from home plate past first and third bases. Fair territory is within and including the foul lines.
10. No fielder may stand closer than 35 feet from home plate (arc equal to the pitcher's mound distance) until the ball is hit.
11. Fielders are expected to stay out of the path of runners between bases. If a fielder interferes with a runner the runner is awarded the base (coaches' decision).
12. After a ball is hit into the field of play, a play is made by the defense. In all cases except "Last Batter" the play ends when:
 - a. A fly ball is caught, or
 - b. A base runner or batter is tagged or forced at any base, and "Dead Ball" is called (see below). Double and Triple plays are allowed, including runners who attempt to advance on a caught fly ball, or
 - c. A defensive player maintains control of the ball inside the four base paths (on the clay area of the infield), holds the ball above his/her head, and the Umpire (Pitcher/Coach) calls "Dead Ball". When "Dead Ball" is called runners may not advance any further.Runners can advance until defense records an out, or "Dead Ball" is called. If a base runner is more than halfway to the next base at the instant of the "Dead Ball" call, he/she may advance to the next base. If a runner was less than half way to the next base at the instant of the "Dead Ball" call, he/she shall return to the last base tagged. **The "Dead Ball" call is not automatically made when the ball is fielded**, or returned to the infield, but rather when the defensive player is no longer attempting to retire runners, and holds the ball up to stop play.
13. The coach should set a fixed batting order with the first player to bat in an inning rotating in the next inning to be the last batter. When the number of batters is unequal across the teams, the smaller team will have additional players bat so that both teams have the same number of batters each inning. The coach does not select the players who bat twice in an inning. Rather, these players are determined by the fixed batting order.
14. "Last Batter" Play: When the Last Batter bats the ball past a 10-foot arc, if the ball is not caught on a fly, but the ball remains within the infield, the defense must tag home plate. Runners not retired in the field may continue to advance around the bases and score until the defense tags home plate. There is no "Dead Ball" call for Last Batter.
15. If the ball is overthrown at any time on a play to first base the runner must stay at first base and other runners do not advance additional bases [encourage fielders to attempt to get the batter out]. For plays at 2nd and 3rd base, if a ball is overthrown (in bounds or out), after the runner has already passed the base the runner(s) may advance to the next base when they clearly indicate intention to advance. Only runners in motion will be awarded the next base.
16. No stealing bases. Players stay on the bases until the ball is hit.
17. Sliding into bases is not encouraged.
18. Runs are tallied for all runners who safely reach home during the inning, or until the defense tags home plate in accordance with the above rules for "Last Batter". If defense does not properly execute "Last Batter" rules, all base runners can score.
19. No trash talking of any kind will be tolerated. Smile, learn, and have fun!!

COMMUNICATION

Please check your email regularly. This is the most efficient method for us to update everyone on changes to schedules and to make new announcements. If you do not have access to email, please alert your team's coach so they can arrange an alternative mode of communication.

GAME SCHEDULE

In general, there will be one practice session and one game per week. A schedule of games will be given to all participating families. Dates, times, and location of practice sessions will be determined by the coaches of each team in conjunction with the parents.

RAIN DATES

In the event of rain or wet conditions, **it will be up to the coaches of the two teams to decide whether a game will be held or not.** The coaches will be responsible for calling the members of their team to announce the game cancellation. The same holds true for cancellation of practice sessions.

PARENTAL CONTROL

Parents are ultimately responsible for the safety of their children. Parents are expected to be present during all practices and games to watch their children. This is especially true when their children are not on the playing field (i.e., in the dugout, playing outside the dugout, etc.) because coaches must devote their entire attention to what is happening on the field.