

2023 MBSL & SCBA Coach Pitch 8U Division Rules

All Games played under ASA rulebook with the following exceptions:

1. Field

- a. Pitchers rubber to back of home plate is 35'
- b. Distance between bases is 60'
- c. Pitchers Circle: 8' radius-circle around pitching rubber

2. Equipment

- a. Metal cleats are not permitted.
- b. All jewelry must be removed before a player is permitted to play. The only exception is for medical identification, which must be hidden.
- c. **Offense:**
 - i. No baseball bats.
 - ii. Face masks are required on ALL helmets. NO batter shall bat without a face mask.
 - iii. Chinstraps are recommended.
- d. **Defense:**
 - i. Catchers must wear a chest protector, shin guards, protective mask, and skull helmet during live action and while warming up pitchers.
 - ii. The player in the pitcher position must wear a face mask. This can be an infield mask or a batting helmet with a face mask.
 - iii. The SBCA encourages the use of face mask/guards (example RIP-IT brand name) or mouthpieces for infield players

3. Game

- a. Complete game is 6 innings
- b. Game is regulation if 4 or more complete innings are played (3 ½ if the home team is ahead) unless shortened due to run rule or time limit.
- c. Each team may score a maximum of 5 runs per inning.
- d. No new inning may start after 1hr 15 min
- e. Score is recorded 1-0 regardless of outcome
- f. Run rule is as follows: 15 after 3, 12 after 4, 10 after 5.

4. Participation

- a. No player shall play the same position more than two innings in a single game.
- b. All players must play at least one inning in the infield within the first 3 innings and two innings in the infield over the course of the game.
- c. No player will sit the bench for two consecutive innings; and no player may sit twice before all players have sat one inning.
- d. Coaches are required to exchange lineups, detailing all players positions for the game during the coaches meeting.

5. Pitching

- a. Player playing pitcher must have one foot inside the circle until the ball is hit located on either side of the Coach Pitcher.
- b. Pitching coach must have 1 foot on the pitching rubber. Exceptions can be made at the umpires discretion based on the batter's ability.

6. Batting

- a. Each batter will get 7 pitches per at bat or 3 swinging strikes.
- b. If the 7th pitch or any subsequent pitch is fouled, the player shall get an additional pitch
- c. NO Bunting is allowed
- d. Infield fly rule is not enforced

7. Base Running

- a. Batters and Base Runners shall run or advance no more than 2 bases on any batted ball fielded by an infielder.
- b. Base runners must stop running once the ball is in the control of an infielder. Base runners who are not halfway to the next base (by the umpire's judgment) will be returned to the previous base
- c. 8U can advance 1 base on an overthrown ball limited to 1 base total.
- d. Lead offs and stealing is not permitted. Runner must remain on the base until the ball is hit. Offending baserunners will receive a warning before being declared out.
- e. Courtesy runners are not used.

8. Defense

- a. Each team shall field 10 players with 4 in the outfield.
- b. All outfielders must be positioned in the outfield grass until the pitch crosses home plate. If playing on a field with a large infield (i.e. a baseball field), outfielders must be positioned twenty (20) feet behind the bases until the ball crosses home plate.
- c. Any batted ball fielded by any outfielder must be thrown to an infielder to produce an out in the infield. The intent of this rule is to teach outfielders to throw the ball to the infield.
- d. The pitcher and catcher position must be filled regardless of the number of players
- e. Catchers must be in full catchers gear, regardless of positioning. Catchers may choose to crouch behind the plate or stand at the backstop. If the catcher elects to stand at the backstop, the offensive team may provide a coach to return the ball to the pitcher after each non-batted pitch.
- f. The catcher shall be the only player permitted to make a put-out at home plate. This can be done by fielding a ball and stepping on the plate or by receiving a ball thrown by a teammate. This rule does not apply if the runner is attempting to advance on an overthrow.

9. Defensive Coach

- a. 1 coach permitted to stand in the outfield only and may not interfere with a batted ball

10. Offensive Coaches

- a. The offensive team shall have a maximum of three (3) coaches on the field - one in each coach's box (first and third base) and one pitching.
- b. No offensive coach shall physically assist a runner while the ball is in play.
- c. The coach pitching shall not coach the batter or any base runner when the ball is in play. This includes telling players to run or stay. Only base coaches should be directing base runners. Violation of this rule will result in a warning to the coach. A second violation will result in the coach being removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game.