



2018

GIYRA 8U-Coach Pitch Rules

Rules will be guided by MHSAA rules and regulations.

Umpires

1. The games will be officiated by the coaches on the field.
 - a. The base-coaches will officiate the plays at 1st and 3rd base and will call fair or foul balls.
 - b. The pitching coach will officiate the plays at Home plate and 2nd base
2. Disputed calls should be resolved by the head coaches involved using MHSAA rules and the rules listed below.
3. In the event that an issue cannot be resolved, the final say will go the coach of the home team and can be protested through the league to be decided at a later date.

Pitching/Batting

1. Pitching will be done by a coach of the batting team.
2. Each Batter will face **8 pitches**
 - a. The batter may face more pitches if the last (8th) or subsequent pitch is fouled off.
 - b. The batter will be counted as “Out” after the 8th pitch or subsequent pitch is not hit or put in play.
3. Coaches may pitch from a distance of 15 to 35 feet. This flexibility is provided to make it easier to pitch to players with smaller strike zones.
4. All players present on each team will be in their respective team’s line-up and continue to bat in order regardless of substitutions.

Game Play

1. Games will be 5 innings with a time limit of 1.5hrs. The trailing team will have the opportunity for their final at bat following the time limit.
2. 3 outs per team per inning
3. Swinging and Foul-ball strikes will be called. **STRIKEOUTS** are counted as outs.
4. Balls will NOT be called and there are no walks.
5. There is a maximum of 5 runs per inning by a team that is leading in score.

- a. A team that is behind in score may score more than 5 runs but may not exceed a 5 run lead for that inning. (i.e. Because Team A is losing 3-0 they may score 8 runs that inning). Essentially, you can only go ahead 5 runs in an inning if you were trailing or add 5 more runs if you were already ahead.
6. All Balls hit in the field of play will be considered LIVE balls until the ball is controlled by a defensive player in the infield and timeout is called by the player.
7. The field of play is considered anything within the imaginary line running from the end of the fence lines.
 - a. Any ball outside the fence line will be considered out of play. Play will stop and all runners will move to the next available base.
8. A maximum of 10 players will be allowed to play the field at once (4 outfield, 6 infield including a catcher).
9. Outfielders will be defined as those players that are offset at least 15 to 20 feet off the back of the 1st 2nd and 3rd Bases and Shall start each play on the grass area of the outfield. Shifts in the positioning of the outfielders may be made toward left field or right field for the sake of defensive strategy. The goal here is to avoid stacking the infield so that players can begin to develop their understanding of how to react to balls that are hit to outfield.
10. The coach shall make a conscious effort to balance playing time during each game and throughout the season.
11. No available player shall sit on the bench longer than two consecutive innings or two separate innings in a game. Unless caused by injury, discipline, or an extraordinary circumstance making it impossible to safely play in the game.
12. Each available player will be included in the batting lineup throughout the game.
13. If a player has to be withdrawn from the lineup because of injury, discipline, or other issues, there will be no penalty or risk of forfeit to that team.
14. Score will be kept by both coaches to determine the winning team.
15. No Leading off- A secondary lead is acceptable after the ball crosses the plate
16. No base stealing
17. If the baseball strikes the Pitching Coach, it will still be considered a live ball.
 - a. If the pitching coach intentional touches a ball in play, the hit will be considered a foul ball (1st offense) and an Out for any additional contacts.
18. All other MHSAA rules will apply to game play.
19. A reasonable change to any rule can be made for any particular game as long the head coach from each team agrees upon the change and it does not affect the integrity of the game.

Safety Advisory Note

It is highly recommended that players who are assigned to play and field the pitching area behind the coach who is pitching; be offset a minimum of 46ft from home plate (measured from the point out toward fair territory). The player shall be offset toward the first or third base line but never directly behind the coach who is pitching. This player shall be provided a clear line of site to react to a ball that is put into play. The coach pitching the ball shall verify that this player is engaged before proceeding with the pitch. In addition, a player may wear a helmet when playing this position.