



# Del Mar Little League Coach Pitch Rules of Play

## **OVERVIEW of DIVISION**

Coach Pitch is an instructional league guided by the philosophy of creating a fun and positive baseball learning experience for both players and parents. It should be the goal of all volunteers and others who come into contact with the game, to promote an encouraging learning environment free of criticism and pressure. Participants should remember to never criticize, but to encourage players on both teams.

Baseball fundamentals should be introduced with an understanding of the various skill levels of all players and expectations should be minimal in effort to create a positive baseball experience.

## **GAME PRELIMINARIES**

- **Players and Positions:**  
All players in attendance will play every defensive inning. Infield positions will consist of a pitcher, first base, second base, third base and shortstop (The catcher position is not being fielded in 2010). All remaining players are to be evenly spaced in the outfield. Cones may be used to delineate where outfield players are positioned so as not to encroach on the infield positions. There is to be no Rover or any other player positioned behind/around second base.
- **Game Length -** Game consists of four innings or 90-minute time limit. All games must start on time.
- **Base Distance:** Base Paths are 50 feet. "Drop down" bases are to be used.
- **Baseballs:** Only soft-core safety baseballs are used.

## **FIELD SETUP**

Prior to each game both Managers are responsible for "walking the field" to ensure it is free of debris and that there are no unsafe areas. Managers must be sure that bases are secured on pegs.

### ***Home Team:***

- The home team is responsible for prepping the field prior to the game.
- The home team will occupy the first base dugout.
- The home team supplies the game balls.

### ***Visiting Team:***

- The visiting team will be responsible for the field breakdown and ensuring all equipment is properly stored and secured.
- The visiting team will occupy the third base dugout.

## **RULES of PLAY**

### ***Rotation of Players:***



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- Managers will rotate players in a manner that allows that each player play different positions in each inning.
- All players will rotate between infield and outfield each inning.
- The Division Coordinator and/or League officers will address managers that do not adhere to player rotations.

### ***Batting:***

- The Manager or Coach of the hitting team will pitch to his/her team. A coach from the offensive team will assist in returning balls to the pitcher. The use of buckets will make this an easier process and will facilitate the flow of the game.
- Each team will bat through its' entire lineup. When the entire lineup has hit, the teams will switch batting and fielding positions.
- Each hitter will receive six pitches. If a hitter has not hit any of their allotted pitches, a tee will be used to allow for a successful completion of the "at bat". The Manager/Coach, at their discretion may make minor exceptions to this rule as long as the flow of the game is not compromised keeping in mind that there are 20+ kids doing their best to stay in tune with the game.
- Bunting is not allowed.
- A quarter circle will be established with marking paint approximately 15 feet in front of the plate. Balls that do not travel outside the circle will be considered foul.
- Bat throwing will not be tolerated. Players that cannot properly drop their bat after hitting create a safety hazard to other players on the field and will need to demonstrate the ability to safely drop the bat before being allowed to hit again. They may also be required to miss their next at bat. This will be left to the discretion of the Managers/Coaches.

### ***Base Running:***

- Base runners must be in contact with the base when the ball is pitched/hit. There are no lead offs or base stealing.
- ANY attempt by an outfielder to throw the ball into the infield will freeze the runner. If a runner is halfway to the next base, they will be allowed to advance. If not, they will be returned to the previous base.
- Runners will only be allowed to advance one base on balls hit to the infield.
- Runners will only be allowed to advance one base on overthrows ANYWHERE on the field regardless of whether the ball is in play or not.
- Head first sliding is not allowed.
- The last at bat of the inning is treated the same as all other at bats. The final runner is not allowed to run around the bases for a "home run" unless the ball is legitimately hit beyond all outfielders and the runner makes it around the bases before any attempt by an outfielder is made to throw the ball into the infield.

### ***Defensive Field Makeup:***

- The outfielders are to be positioned in a manner that does not allow them to interfere with infield positions and plays.
- Outfielders are not to make plays in the infield for any reason other than backing up an overthrow.



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- In 2010, there will be no player in the catcher position.
- A coach from the offensive team will retrieve pitches and move the bat after a player has hit.

### **Scoring:**

Scorebooks are not to be maintained and league standings are not to be kept. Informal scores are not encouraged. There are no playoffs or "league championships."

### **GENERAL and ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

#### **Equipment:**

- The league will provide batting helmets, bats and balls for each game. Report damaged or missing equipment to the division coordinator as soon as possible.
- Each player should be in team jersey, cap and long pants (no shorts) for games. Cleats are recommended, no metal cleats are allowed. Jerseys must be tucked in and caps are required in the field.
- All players are encouraged to wear an athletic cup. Cups are mandatory for those playing catcher.

#### **Safety:**

- Prior to start of a game, the home team Manager must confirm the DMLL First Aid Kit provided by the DMLL is present and accessible.
- Each manager will be supplied with a first aid kit and ice packs. There should be extra items available on site at each field location. These items must be with the team at every practice and game. If additional kits or ice packs are needed, contact the Safety Coordinator/Equipment Manager.
- Only LL approved bats, 2 ¼" inch in diameter and having a Bat Performance Factor (BPF) of 1.15 or less are allowed per LL International 2010 Rules. Big Barrel Bats are NOT allowed.
- No player is allowed to pick up a bat without wearing a helmet.
- There is no "on-deck batter" position. Players should come from the bench to the plate, after the play has stopped. If desired, they may practice swing the bat on the way to the plate.
- All equipment (bats, helmets, bags, etc.) must be confined within the dugout and may not be stored along the fences within the field of play.
- Players must be taught to throw to another player only if that player is paying attention and looking for the throw.
- Managers are required to maintain a current Medical Release form for all players. These forms need to be in the possession of the Manager/Coach at all times during league activities. Managers should review each player's medical release for special conditions that may affect first aid or other injury treatment.
- An adult needs to be in the dugout at all times. His/her function is to keep players in batting order and maintain order, but mainly to ensure safety.
- Managers/Coaches are responsible for understanding and enforcing both LL and DMLL safety protocol. A copy of the DMLL Safety Plan will be distributed to all Managers.



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- Safety violations should be reported to the Division Coordinator and/or the DMLL Safety Officer. That contact information will be provided in the DMLL Safety Awareness Plan.
- If any injury occurs to a player during practice or a game, a safety incident report must be filed with the DMLL Safety Officer and the Division Coordinator must be notified.
- Parents or visitors are not allowed in the dugout.

### ***Rules Enforcement:***

Managers/coaches will be responsible for all on field rule enforcement as well as dugout rule enforcement. Register all formal complaints and problems to the Division Coordinator in writing and copy to Del Mar Little League Board.

### ***Umpires:***

Umpires are not used. Rulings on the field are made by the managers/coaches. Managers should discuss any discrepancies between innings, not during the course of an active inning.

### ***Behavior:***

The league will not tolerate any unsportsmanlike behavior by managers, coaches, players, or parents. This includes hitting, grabbing, pushing, swearing or any other behavior that disrupts the games. Disciplinary actions will be taken at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

- Managers should be constantly aware of field decorum and insist that their fans demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.
- Under no circumstances shall managers, coaches, or other adults criticize any calls made during the game, or do anything that would be considered counter to the philosophical principles and objectives of Little League.
- Adults shall act as positive role models for players.
- The Division Coordinator should be informed of any egregious behavior in relation to sportsmanship.

### ***Volunteers:***

- Any parent having regular and consistent contact with team players must submit a Little League Volunteer Application and a copy of a current Drivers License or other state issued identification for the purpose of undergoing a background check.
- No parents or other adults will be allowed to participate in field practices or games if they do not have a Volunteer Application on file.