

Rookie Coach-Pitch Rules and General Information Solon Parks & Recreation - (Game Weather line 624-0400)

If due to inclement weather, the games will be decided around 3:00pm each day. Please call 624-0400 for the weather line. Weather updates will also be posted on the Solon parks and rec facebook page around 3pm.

1. The purpose of this league is to continue to teach the fundamentals of baseball and softball to children and begin teaching them about how the game is played. Various levels of skills are involved with this age group. The main goal is to HAVE FUN!! Encourage good sportsmanship at all times. No scores will be kept.
2. Parents, Coaches, Helpers using profane language or unsportsmanlike conduct will be asked to leave the playing area and surrounding school/city facilities. If they refuse to leave, team must forfeit.
3. Safety is important. Players need to be reminded to pay attention to what is going on in the game at all times. Soft core balls are used to make the game less threatening. Helmets MUST be worn by ALL batters and base runners.
4. Games should consist of as many innings as possible in the 60 minute time slot. Games need to start on time and end on time. This is necessary so everyone can plan accordingly.
5. Each team is allowed to have up to 7 infielders with the remaining players in the outfield. The infield should consist of the following: Catcher, First, Second, Third, Shortstop, and two pitcher positions (one on each side of coach pitching).
6. **Batting Procedure**- Each batter is allowed to swing at 6 pitches from the coach. No bunting is allowed, but a "swinging" bunt that puts the ball in play is a legitimate hit. If the player has swung at some of the four pitches, but has not put the ball into play, then the player is allowed to hit off a batting tee. The coach will place the tee on home plate, place the ball on the tee and announce so that the defense can hear that the ball is in play, get out of the way and let the batter swing. After the hit, the coach should hurry to move the batting tee away from home plate. There shall be no strike-outs or walks. All players will bat.
7. Coaches must pitch overhand (baseball) and underhand (softball) from at least a distance of 20' from home plate.
8. **Ending a play** - Play is NOT ended by getting the ball to the coach who is pitching. Play is ended by defensive efforts that stop base runners from advancing. When base runners are stopped. The ball can then be given to the coach at the pitching mound so that the next batter may hit.
9. Rotation of players is necessary to allow all players to try out various positions so they learn how to play different positions in the field. Have the defensive rotation planned out so time is not spent figuring out who is playing what position between innings. Everyone must get equal playing time. Players not batting MUST be behind the fence for safety reasons.
10. Defensively, first, second and third base players cannot stand on the bases. Defensive positions should be at least 2-3 feet away from the bases and not in the baseline.
11. Completion of the team batting order ends the inning. Depending on the advancement of players, a progressive play may occur. To continue to teach the game of softball/baseball, the last three weeks of the season, coaches from each team can consider to move to 5-out or 5-run innings. Has to be agreed upon by coaches from both teams before the game starts.
12. No leading off, stealing, or sliding into bases. Batter must make contact with ball before runners leave base
13. One base only is allowed on an overthrow.
14. If the batter throws the bat after swinging or in the process of advancing to 1st base, the team will be warned once. If it occurs again, the batter will be declared out and all base runners must return to the original base they occupied before the at-bat.