



# 2018 Central Ohio Youth Baseball 8U Coach Pitch Rules

**\*\*Note:** The following rules are for COYBL play only (including division and non-division games). Any non tournament game that you may have with another team from the COYBL, please default to these rules.

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**\*\*Please** make your age group director the first point of contact with any discrepancy, complaint or inquiry.

## **General Notes and Updates**

**COYBL HAS A ZERO TOLERANCE – NO ALCOHOL POLICY** ALCOHOL IS NOT PERMITTED AT ANY COYBL EVENTS (INCLUDING PRACTICES, GAMES, FUNCTIONS, ETC.) ANY VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY WILL RESULT IN AN IMMEDIATE AND PERMANENT BAN FROM COYBL.

- There will be no tobacco use in or around the dugout area or on the field of play at any time. Violation of this rule could result in suspension of the violating coach or player.
- Taunting of any kind against the other team will not be tolerated. Coaches, players, parents or fans that take part in this will be removed from the game and park by the umpires immediately. *Each incident will be handled on case by case basis by league.*
  
- The following are due or need to be completed before your teams first game
  - Concussion Training – Good for 3 years per Ohio Law
  - <http://www.healthy.ohio.gov/en/vipp/child/returntoplay/Coaches-and-Referees>
  - Rosters added at [www.coybl.org](http://www.coybl.org)
  - If there are questions about any of these things, please contact your age group director.
- It is mandatory to post your roster online at [www.nations-baseball.com](http://www.nations-baseball.com) before your 1st game.
  - Nate Whisner- [nate.whisner@nations-baseball.com](mailto:nate.whisner@nations-baseball.com) for assistance with any Nations Baseball questions or inquiries.
  - Ken Wilson at [wilsonstrikeforcebaseball@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonstrikeforcebaseball@gmail.com) 330-592-1931 for any USSSA questions or issues

## **Sportsmanship Statement**

***Head coaches are responsible for the actions of all coaches, players and parents of their team.***

- All players, coaches, parents and fans are expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner at all times.
- Any player, coach, parent or fan, whose conduct is unbecoming or abusive will, at minimum be warned and may be removed from the playing field and/or complex at the discretion of the umpires.
- Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated at any time.
- Cursing or throwing of equipment will be an automatic ejection.
- If a coach or team will not restrain and control its players, coaches, parents and fans, the players, coaches or team involved may be banned from league play for the season and possibly for the following year if deemed severe.
- Taunting of any kind against the other team will not be tolerated. Players and or coaches that take part in this will be removed from the game and park by the umpires immediately and will also serve another game suspension or if severe, may be banned from league play for a time to be determined by the league.

Participation in competitive events can often lead to regretful behavior, so it is essential that we all must exercise restraint and remember to be good examples and role models for the kids and the game of baseball. Coaches should keep a copy of this rulebook with them at all games

## League standings and score reporting

- Final scores of all COYBL games are to be posted on the website within 24 hours of game completion. Sanctions could be imposed for not posting scores timely.
- League ending date is July 31, 2017.
- Standings are determined by wins and losses as well as winning percentage within your own division.
  - Division champions will be determined by using this method.
  - Games that are played outside of the division will not be considered when determining division standings. These games can still be kept in the overall win and loss column however.
- It is the responsibility of the head coach to assure proper posting of scores before the league ending date.
  - No changes or exceptions will be made beyond this date.
- Any ties in the divisional standings on the final day will be decided by a one game playoff.
- Please remember it is league policy that divisional games take priority over non-divisional games.
- Division games must be made up on the first open date each team has or first date of a non-division game.
- While we have extended the league ending date to July 31, please know not all teams will play that late into the summer.
- When scheduling division games, you must take into consideration when the other team will end their season.

*NOTE: All teams must have a person of contact with an email address so that league announcements can be easily relayed to all teams and their families. This individual is typically the head coach, but any trusted individual will suffice.*

## Forfeiture Policy

Forfeits are permitted only under the following circumstances:

1. Roster or game rules violations
2. Both parties contact the League Director for final determination.
3. Coaches may not post forfeits at any time.

## Team Eligibility

- The league fee includes your National Registration fees for all Sanctioning bodies that the COYBL is affiliated with.
- Team rosters must be online at [www.nations-baseball.com](http://www.nations-baseball.com) before your 1<sup>st</sup> game.
  - Specific rules will be further addressed in the "Individual Player Eligibility" section.
- All teams must submit the above before they will be permitted to start league play. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of any games played.
- Use of an illegal player or a non-roster player will result in forfeiture of any games in which the player participated. At any time during the season, if a league director discovers that an illegal player was used, he can apply a forfeit to the team using the illegal player.

Coaches must have a copy of their team roster and birth certificates with them at all times. If you cannot provide your roster and birth certificates when requested, you will forfeit the game. If the birth certificate is posted online at [www.nations-baseball.com](http://www.nations-baseball.com), then this rule is waived.

### Individual Player Eligibility

- Any player can play "UP" in an older age group COYBL play only if there are not any other available players on that team's roster that are eligible to play.  
Note: This rule only applies for COYBL play and not in any tournaments; please refer to specific tournament rules.
- Players may not play for another COYBL team at the same age level.  
Note: The team that has the player in question on their Nations Baseball roster is the eligible team for the player.
- If a player leaves a team for any reason during the current season, he must receive a letter of release from the original team that is to be signed from the head coach and the parent of the player and this is to be mailed to the age group director.
- The original team must also officially drop the player from their roster on the Nations Baseball website before any team is eligible to pick that player up.
- If a player is released from a team, he may not return to that team for the remainder of the current season.
- If a player leaves a team by their choice for any reason, all fees due to the team must be paid in full before the player can play for another COYBL team. No Exceptions.  
*A player must be dropped by 5/31/2017 to be picked up by another team for the 2016 season.*

**NOTE: ANY PLAYER DROPPED AFTER THE DATE GIVEN FOR THEIR AGE GROUP IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY COYBL GAME.**

### Umpires

- All division games must have at least one certified COYBL approved umpire.
- All fees for umpires are set based on the agreement from the paying team(s) and the umpire, the COYBL does not make those arrangements. Also, for non-division games if you are not going to follow division rules, please give the opposing team the courtesy of making them aware of the game arrangements as early as possible.
- If you playing a divisional double header, the umpire fees are to be split by both teams. All non-division double headers, the umpire fees are to be determined by the participating teams.

### Pregame Agreements

- Any pregame agreements regarding time limits must be agreed upon by both head coaches and in witness of the umpire in charge. Once agreed upon, no exceptions can be made.
  - NOTE: Some parks have specific restrictions that need to be discussed during pregame conferences.

## Suspended games

If weather or darkness interferes with play so that the game is called (ended) by the umpire, it is a regulation game 4 full innings have been played, or if the home team has the lead after the visiting team has recorded 3 offensive outs in the 4<sup>th</sup> inning.

- NOTE: If the game is tied when the umpire decides to end the game after 4 full innings or if the visiting team has recorded 3 offensive outs in the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, then the game is to be resumed as it stands with all offensive and defensive stats kept and recorded.
- This is specifically mandatory for division games, this is not mandatory for non-division games. (An agreement between head coaches can be made in a safe place after the game has ended as to whether or not and how the game will be finished for non-division games.)
  - If play has gone beyond 5 full innings:
    - Go back to the last complete inning of play after the 5<sup>th</sup> full inning for official record of game.
  - If play has stopped before 5 full innings:
    - An agreement must be made by the two head coaches in witness of the umpire in charge to resume the game with offensive and defensive stats kept and recorded or to start game over from beginning.
    - If an agreement cannot be reached then the game is to be resumed from where it was stopped.

## Playing Rules

- There are 10 players on defense. One player plays the pitching position; one player plays the catching position. Four players play the outfield positions.
- There is a pitching plate 40-foot from the tip of home plate from which the coach must pitch.
- The bases are placed at 60 feet from home plate
- The game shall consist of 6 innings
- The pitcher must be within 2 feet of either side of the pitchers plate and cannot be in front of the pitchers plate prior to the pitch being made. Make a 4 foot diameter circle from the middle of the rubber and the pitcher must have at least one foot inside the circle and must remain behind the pitching rubber until the pitch is thrown
- Each batter is allowed six pitches or three strikes. If a batter hits a foul ball on the sixth pitch, he or she is allowed to continue batting until he or she either does not make contact with the ball or puts the ball in play.
- In innings 1-5 there will be a 7 run limit and in the 6th inning, it is limitless on the number of runs allowed.
- There will be a mercy rule of 15 runs after 4.5 innings.
- Slug bunting is not permitted- Slug bunt is squaring to bunt and then pulling the bat back and swinging away
- A fair-batted ball hitting a coach pitcher is declared no pitch / do over if the umpire rules that the coach pitcher's contact with the ball was unintentional. If, in the umpire's judgment, a coach pitcher intentionally makes contact with a batted ball, the batter is out, and no runner can advance.
- Umpires call time after every play and declare the ball dead. Time should be called as soon as all three of the following occur:
  - a. The lead runner stops attempting to advance.
  - b. The ball is in the possession of a fielder in the infield.
  - c. No defensive play is imminent.
- Time does not have to be called by the defense for the purpose of this rule.
- The game is to be played in a manner that is realistic and baseball like. These players are 8 years old, and it does them no good to have the game played like a track meet. Try to play

as realistic as possible. It does everyone no good to just run all over the place.

- All teams must roster bat for all games.
- Teams can use either nine or 10 defensive players. One player must be a pitcher, and one player must be a catcher.
- Teams must have a minimum of eight players to start and finish a game but must take an out for the ninth player. With number less than eight the game is declared a suspended game and is not rescheduled. The suspended game is then ruled a forfeit by the league director. Umpires have no authority to forfeit a game.
- Because teams are roster batting, there is free substitution on defense. The batting order must remain the same.
  - If a player arrives late, he/she can be entered at the end of the lineup if their name appears on the lineup card prior to the start of the game.
  - If a player is ejected when roster batting, the vacated spot in the lineup will be considered and out
- If a player bunts or takes a half-swing, it is a foul ball.
- The catcher must be located in the catcher's box.
- No bases awarded for batter hit by pitcher
- No Infield fly rule
- No base stealing
- No bunting
- No intentional walks
- Runners cannot leave their bases until the pitched ball crosses the front edge of home plate. A runner who leaves early is declared out, and the pitch is declared a no pitch.
- Courtesy runners must be the last batted out and can be for the catcher of the previous inning only.
- Barrel of the bat cannot be any larger than 2 ¾".
- Each team will play everyone within their division twice (2)  
You may play teams from the other division as non-league games. These non-league games will not count in the division standings.

### Umpires, lighting and inclement weather policy

COYBL requires that OHSAA licensed umpires be used so that our games are played in accordance to those rules for the safety of the players of COYBL. Umpires need to register with COYBL on the Umpire page on our web site if they want to umpire COYBL games. We must have the ability to contact and inform Umpires that work COYBL games of the rules and address issues that arise during COYBL events for the safety and well being of all COYBL Members.

**Recognition** - Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials shall be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightning flashes is approximately two to three miles, ANYTIME that lightning can be seen or heard, the risk is already present. Weather can be monitored using the following methods:

**Monitor Weather Patterns** – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity

**National Weather Service** – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings. A watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any

thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent chance), event organizers shall be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

**Evacuation** – If lightning is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators shall evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.

**Thirty-minute rule** – Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is required to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes. **Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and another count shall begin.**

***Safety of the players, coaches, parents and spectators are of the utmost importance and there is absolutely no leeway in these rules. No deviations from this rule are permitted and violations will result in suspension from COYBL for the remainder of the year.***

### **COYBL full disclosure policy**

Any and all complaints against a coach or team must be sent to the league office and your age group league director and you must copy the coach of the team you are complaining about. If this step is not followed, your complaint will not be addressed until you comply.

We will compile a list of teams / coaches that receive complaints and if it is deemed excessive or the issue(s) are severe, you could be banned from play for the next year or longer.

### **Coaches or player ejections**

Coaches ejected from a game must sit out that game and the next game also. Players ejected from a game will sit out the remainder of that game only.

Coach and Player ejection must be reported to the league office by the head coach within 24 hours.

A one week suspension will be levied if the game penalty is not served at the next scheduled game.

If the suspended coach ignores the game suspension and coaches in the next game, your team will also be issued a forfeit for that game.

If the ejection is deemed to be severe in nature, further suspensions from the League could result.

### **Protests**

Protests must be given to the Umpire in charge before the game is completed. The protesting team must get the Umpire's name and phone number and be submitted along with your protest to the league office.

Protests must be made to the league office by email within 24 hours.

A \$100.00 protest fee must be submitted with a written protest within 72 hours to the league office to make the protest official. The \$100.00 protest fee is refunded if the protest is allowed.

**Judgment calls of Umpires are not eligible for protest.**  
**Only rule interpretations, age and pitching violations can be under protest.**

