

MOORESTOWN YOUTH BASEBALL FEDERATION

Pre-K Tee Ball League Rules (4-5 Year-Olds) Kindergarten Coach Pitch League Rules (5-6 Year-Olds)

I. Introduction

The Pre-K **and** Kindergarten **Leagues are** meant to be instructional. The emphasis of play will be to introduce the players to the game and teach them the fundamentals of baseball. No umpires will be used and no scores will be kept. While de-emphasizing winning/losing, we hope to gain the greater objective, that is, for all participants to learn the proper mechanics of hitting, throwing, **base running**, and catching. To help facilitate this learning atmosphere, team size should be limited to 12 or fewer players, each team playing a maximum **10**-game schedule.

The major objective of the Moorestown Youth Baseball Federation is to increase participation in the game of baseball. Our priorities are, in order of importance, to:

1. Have fun.
2. Learn the game of baseball.

In addition, it is incumbent upon the volunteer coordinators to:

1. Be alert to and correct dangerous situation.
2. Keep order among players and take appropriate disciplinary action.
3. Request spectators to desist from such practices as yelling at players and umpires in a derogatory manner.
4. Prohibit the use of foul language or inappropriate behavior by everyone involved in the game. Such language or inappropriate behavior will lead to disciplinary action.
5. Teach and allow only fair play, respect, and sportsmanship at all times.
6. Set an example for the players by your own actions.

II. Rules

1. The batting tee will be placed on home plate by the coach for the Pre-K League games. **In the Kindergarten Coach Pitch League, coach will pitch 7 overhand tosses to the batter from approximately 15 feet away. The coach will be seated on a bucket while tossing the ball to the batter. This will reduce the arc of the tossed balls. If the batter does not put the ball in play after the 7th pitch, place the ball on the tee.** No batter shall receive more than 7 pitches because this slows the game for the rest of the players.
2. The coach has sole responsibility for placing the ball on or adjusting the tee. No player is permitted to do this.
3. All players must wear appropriate helmets while batting and running the bases.
4. All equipment must remain off the playing field and players must remain on the bench when not in the game
5. All players must wear sneakers or rubber spiked baseball shoes, sweat pants or baseball pants, team sponsored tee shirts, team hat. **NO SHORTS** will be allowed.
6. Home team will occupy first base bench.
7. Coaches of both teams must agree that the field is or is not in acceptable playing condition and if the game is or is not to be played because of inclement weather. Once the game starts, the decision to delay or terminate play will rest solely with the coaches. Please contact the league commissioner to reschedule games which could not be played due to weather or field conditions.
8. Bunting is not permitted.
9. If, in the opinion of the coach, a batter throws the bat while swinging, the ball is dead and not a strike. The coach will warn the batter. On the second and any subsequently thrown bat, the batter is out and the runners return to their base of origin.
10. No base stealing is permitted. Runner will remain on base until the ball is hit.
11. A runner leaving the base before the ball is hit will result in a warning by the coach. Each team will be permitted one warning per game. Any further base violation will be declared an out by the coach.

12. There will be no sliding into 1st base. Any runner doing so will be declared out.
13. The out-of-play lines extend on a straight line from the backstop poles. Managers are responsible for putting in these lines when they line the field.
14. In the event of an overthrow, the base runners may not advance; play is dead.
15. While on defense, the pitcher will remain within the pitcher's circle, and all other players will remain at their normal playing positions until the ball is hit. Players must play within reasonable proximity to their normal playing positions as determined by the coaches. For example, the infielders should play no closer to the batter than 10 feet inside the baselines between first and second bases and second and third bases.
16. A player may not play two consecutive innings in the outfield. Players should be given the opportunity to play both infield and outfield positions.
17. **In the Pre-K Tee Ball League**, runners should advance only one (1) base on each hit. **In the Kindergarten Coach Pitch League**, base runners must hold at the base they are heading toward when a hit ball is returned to the infield dirt. Possession of the ball in the infield is not required to stop the runner. Runners can take more than 1 base if the ball remains in the outfield.
18. The front of the pitcher's circle is located **30** feet from the plate (Kindergarten Coach Pitch League – coach pitch is from 15 feet), and is 12 feet in diameter.
19. Distance between bases will be 60 feet **for both leagues**.
20. Teams must bat the full roster in rotation. **For Kindergarten Coach Pitch League games, outs will be recorded and enforced, and five (5) runs or three (3) outs will determine the end of an at-bat for each team per inning. In the Pre-K League, each team member will bat which will constitute a half inning. These rules must be followed to make sure the game is played at the proper pace.**
21. The Infield Fly rule does not apply in this league.
22. No one is permitted to stand behind the backstop. Coaches are responsible for enforcement of this rule. All players will remain seated on the bench during the game.

23. **All home team coaches are responsible for having the field lined prior to the game. The home team coaches are also responsible for the return of all equipment, and locking the equipment box.**
24. Once an inning has started, a player's defensive position cannot be changed with the exception of injury or restroom emergency.
25. Extra outfielders are to be added so that all players are in the defensive lineup.
26. The extra players must be positioned in the outfield no closer to the infield than 15 feet beyond the baseline between first and second bases and second and third bases.
27. No outfielder is permitted to cover a base after a ball is hit into play.
28. Two defensive coaches may position themselves in the outfield (behind 1st base and 3rd base) in order to lend coaching advice to the players.
29. Every game **in the Kindergarten Coach Pitch League** will terminate at the end of six (6) innings or when the player's interest begins to wane, or after 90 minutes from the start of the game, whichever comes first. **For Pre-K League, the time limit for practices and games will be 75 minutes.**
30. Courtesy rule. If a team has a player that hits the ball consistently hard, coaches should announce it at the time he/she comes to bat by yelling "hard hitter" or some other such warning to avoid accidents.
31. The offensive coach should announce "batter up" before each player starts his/her turn at bat. After that, the defensive coaches have the responsibility of keeping their team's attention on the game.
32. With the exception of these rules, the official regulations and playing rules of Bambino Baseball and Major League Baseball will apply.