

COBA ROOKIES (8U) SEASON GAME RULES

GENERAL RULES

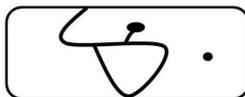
- Games will be six innings. No new innings after 1 hour 45 minutes. Two hour drop dead.
- If drop dead is called and the visiting team has the lead, the score will revert back to the last completed inning of play.
- No mercy rule – Five run cap per inning.
- All coaches and players shall be in the dugout 10 minutes prior to game starting time.
- Minimum 9 players to start a game but no more than 10 players on the field (4 outfielders)

PLAYING TIME

- Teams will use a continuous batting order, all players will always be in the batting lineup.
- Players may not sit out longer than one consecutive inning.
- A coach may reduce playing time for injuries, unexcused absences, or unacceptable behavior
- Coaches will inform the umpire and opposing coach if a player will not be playing.

BATTING

- The entire roster of players present for the game shall bat in rotation.
- Batters are not permitted to bunt or soft-swing at the ball.
- Any half swing, soft swing or bunt shall be ruled a foul ball and minus 1 pitch in the pitch count. If this occurs on the batters 6th pitch, batter will be allowed the 7th “Bonus” pitch. If occurrence happens on the “Bonus” 7th pitch batter will be ruled as an out.
- A **15-foot arc** from the point of home plate shall be marked in chalk from the first base foul line to the third base foul line, any batted ball which does not travel beyond that line will be considered a foul-strike.
- A batter shall declared out after failing to hit a fair ball after **six pitches** are delivered by the coach pitcher. If the batter hits a foul ball on the 6th pitch, they will be allowed 1 additional pitch from the coach pitcher. No additional pitches will be allowed after the 7th “bonus” pitch.
- If a ball hits the coach pitcher the ball is dead. The pitch is a foul strike and no runners may advance. If a live ball hits the coach pitcher, or in the umpire’s judgment the coach interferes in the fielder’s attempt to make a play, the ball is dead and the lead runner is out.
- There is no infield fly rule.



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BASERUNNING

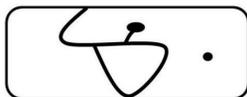
- Base runners are not permitted to steal bases and shall remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit or crosses home plate. PENALTY: If a runner is off the base and the ball is hit, the runner is out and the ball is in play. If the ball is not hit, the runner must return to the base and the ball is dead.
- If a base runner crosses the % line (15 feet prior to the base) prior to the defensive pitcher having possession of the ball within the 10 foot pitching circle, they will be awarded the base. If the base runner does not cross the % line before the defensive pitcher has possession of the ball within the 10 foot circle, the base runner will return to the previous base.

DEFENSIVE RULES

- No player shall play in the same defensive position for more than 2 consecutive defensive innings in a row.
- Players shall not sit out on defense for more the one full consecutive defensive inning of play.
- Players shall play a defensive position every other inning at a minimum.
- 10 maximum and 9 minimum players can be used defensively on the field at a time.
- If 9 players are used, 3 outfielders must be positioned 15 feet behind the baselines when the pitching motion is made.
- If 10 players are used, 4 outfielders must be positioned 15 feet behind the baselines when the pitching motion is made.
- The play ends when a defensive infield player has possession of the ball within the 10 foot pitching circle.

PITCHING

- Player fielding the Pitcher position shall take a position to the rear of the pitching plate, and on the left or right side of the coach pitcher with one foot in the designated pitching area marked with chalk. (for safety reasons an agreement between coaches can be made to move a player outside of the chalked area)
- Coaches shall pitch from a pitching plate **38 feet** from the point of the home plate
- Coach pitchers must remain in contact with the pitching rubber while pitching. He/she must throw the ball overhand. No kneeling or pitching from the knee is allowed.
- The coach pitcher shall not direct or coach their team in any way on offense *Penalty: The coach will receive one warning and the second time the coach pitcher must be removed.



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EQUIPMENT

All players on the field are required to wear the COBA league provided cap, shirt, and pant.

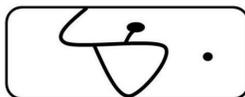
- Outside league teams are not provided a uniform by COBA, therefore they shall wear **MATCHING UNIFORMS** which they will be responsible for providing for their players. Uniforms **SHALL** have a name or number printed on either the front or back of shirt.
- Pants are not provided every season by COBA, therefore Team Manager shall designate a **SINGLE COLOR** pant to be worn by entire playing team.
- Players are allowed to substitute the same color pant provided by the league in seasons that pants are provided by COBA.
- Protective headgear/face mask maybe worn in lieu of league provided hat. No metal cleats are to be used on the field (including coaches).
- The batter, players in the on-deck batting area, and baserunners shall be required to wear protective headgear.
- Catchers are required to wear proper protective equipment including a helmet with a mask, chest protection, shin guards, and athletic supporter with cup.
- Players in the pitching position shall wear a protective product to protect the heart and a helmet or face mask to protect the head and face area.
- Male participants are required to wear an athletic supporter w/cup to protect the genital area.

BATS

- Only USA bats are allowed for play
- Bats that are not certified by USA bat are not allowed for play. Bat shall have USA certification affixed to the bat. Umpires will check bats prior and during play.

TEAM EXPECTATIONS

- Home (3rd base) and visitor (1st base) designations are on the league schedule.
- Each team provides at least one new and one slightly used baseball for each game. Umpires return the baseballs after the game.
- Both teams will be responsible for retrieving and returning balls to plate umpire.
- Both teams are responsible for cleaning their dugout, under the bleachers and around the field. Please dispose of all garbage in proper receptacles.
- The home team is the official score keeper. Umpires may refer to them for confirmation or correction.
- The home team for the first game of the day installs the bases and lines the field; the visitor team drags the field and puts the bases away.



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LINING PROCEDURES

Note: All measurements can be estimated.

- 1st and 3rd base foul lines (extend lines all the way to grass area)
- Batters box (4 feet by 6 feet)
- Pitchers circle (approx. 10 feet in diameter)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ lines (15 feet before 2nd and 3rd base, home plate use 15 foot arc line.)
- 15 foot arc line measured from the back of home plate, which starts and ends on the 1st and 3rd base foul lines.

GENERAL CONDUCT

- Understand that umpires will make mistakes just as the players and coaches will. Many umpires are young and/or new to umpiring, and this is where they get their start.
- Only the head coach of the team should raise questions with the umpire. The conversation should be held in a respectful manner. If there is an issue a team would like addressed, the coach should contact the league after the game to discuss the issue.
- Coaches, parents, and players are expected to abide by the COBA code of conduct; COBA has a no tolerance policy for code of conduct violations that result in a game ejection.
- All ejections will result in COBA disciplinary actions including a mandatory two game suspension up to expulsion from future league participation.

REPORTING

- Notify the division coordinator and the opposing team within 48 hours for game cancellation.
- Notify the league or division coordinator for all incidents involving player safety.