

2024 Pee Wee Baseball & Softball Rules (1st & 2nd grades)

PHILOSOPHY: Remember Athletes 1st. Every decision you make as a coach should be in the best interest of your players and not the desire to win. We hope that helping young people to develop physically, psychologically, and socially will always be more important to you than beating the other team. This does not mean winning isn't important, you should instill in your players the desire to win, to strive to do their best, to pursue excellence. However, the outcome of the game – winning or losing – is not the most important objective. If the players do their best, they will have succeeded, regardless of the outcome of the game. Help us say yes to better sports for kids!!!

- 1) In this league, only 10 players will be allowed on the field. (Positions: Pitcher, Catcher, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Shortstop and 4 outfielders). Outfield is behind the base path. **Pitcher must have at least one foot in the circle and wear pitching mask.**
- 2) Players must play each position throughout the season – exception - pitcher/catcher. Players may play the same position for 2 consecutive innings in a game.
- 3) Only rubber cleats or tennis (gym) shoes will be allowed. Shirt/uniform must be worn and visible.
- 4) Games will be 75 minutes long, not playing out the inning. Time will start when the first batter is called. NO infield practice will be allowed for either team before the game, once the umpire is present.
- 5) Courtesy Runner: A courtesy runner MUST be used for the catcher/runner when there are two outs. The catcher must return to the dugout and dress. The replacement runner will be the player that made the last out.
- 6) All catchers are required to wear a catcher's helmet with mask, chest protector and shin guards – batting helmet may be substituted for catcher's helmet.
- 7) The umpire will keep a running count of the runs (no scoreboard). His/Her tally is final. No standings kept.
- 8) A half inning will consist of 3 outs or 4 runs.
- 9) **PITCHING:**
 - a) ****The first 2 games coaches will pitch to their own players. Each batter will be given 3 pitches... if the ball is not put into play, the tee will be used, and the batter will get 3 swings to put the ball into play before being called out. (If the batter hits a foul on the last pitch they get another pitch).**
 - b) ****Starting the 3rd game Coaches will pitch the first 2 innings – as stated above ... Starting the third inning players will pitch. A count will be kept – if the batter gets 3 strikes batter is out - if the batter gets 3 balls, the coach will step in and pitch 3 pitches ... if the ball is not put into play, the tee will be used, and the batter will get 3 swings to put the ball into play before being called out. (Foul rule in play).**
 - c) The coach will not be allowed to field the ball or interfere in any way. If the coach interferes batter is out – runners frozen (umpire's discretion).
 - d) Player pitchers can only pitch 1 inning per game – one pitch constitutes one inning.
 - e) Pitching distance is 30 feet.
 - f) Baseball overhand with 9" ball ... SB windmill/slingshot with 11" ball
 - g) No balks will be called
 - h) The defensive team must supply an adult behind the catcher to help shag balls. No negative remarks!**
 - i) Pitcher must wear pitching mask – even when coach pitches and tee is used!
 - j) **Softball mechanics: see back sheet.**
 - k) **Baseball mechanics: pitch from the stretch -one foot on rubber to start -feet shoulder length apart -present ball together in front of you with ball in glove -bring front leg/knee up & back then step forward -land with toe pointing to home & throw ball. Glove hand point at target once step forward -throwing arm up and over.**
- 10) Strike zone: Space over plate - between the batter's shoulders and knees, when assuming a natural batting stance.
- 11) **BATTING:** All players will be in the batting order.
 - a) The ball must travel beyond the 10-foot line to be playable.
 - b) A batter **hit by a pitch** will remain at bat and the pitch will be considered a ball.
 - c) All batters must wear a **batting helmet with a face mask and chin strap** when batting and running the bases.
 - d) Batters may not **throw their bat**: first offense – team warning, second offense – batter will be called out (runners frozen).
 - e) No on deck batter will be allowed – all players must be in the dugout. Batter may not approach the plate until umpire instructs them to do so.
- 12) The infield fly rule will not be in effect.
- 13) Base paths will be 50 feet.
- 14) Runners will be allowed only one base (1) on an infield hit – two (2) bases on hits that go beyond the bases - umpire's call. Runners may not advance on any overthrow!
- 15) Any batter/runner that is out at a base will need to go to the dugout.**
- 16) There is no stealing or leading off. Base runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit.
- 17) Safety Base – First Base: On a batted ball the batter should use the yellow part of the base. Fielders should use the white part of the base. Once the batter/runner has passed the base they should then use the white part of the base.
- 18) **COACHES:** DEFENSE: Two coaches are allowed on the playing field to help the players. Position is umpire's discretion. **One Adult must be behind the catcher to help shag balls.**
OFFENSE: Coaches may be in the coach's boxes on the 1st & 3rd baseline. One coach must help the batter, if needed.