

## 2014 Roanoke Youth Sports Coaches Pitch Rules

1. The league is open to boys and girls ages 6-8. Unless approved by a Roanoke Youth Sports (RYS) representative, players must reach six (6) years old on or before May 1<sup>st</sup>. A player cannot participate if their ninth birthday occurs before May 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. Before the start of each game, coaches must submit a line-up to the opposing coach.
3. Although RYS strongly discourages rescheduling games for personal reasons, we understand that occasionally it is necessary. It is the responsibility of the coaches to address an upcoming scheduling conflict with RYS personnel early enough so that all parties can be notified of the rescheduled game. It is the coach's responsibility to notify their team of the re-scheduled game date and time.
4. A regulation game is comprised of at least four (4) complete innings or 75 minutes, whichever comes first. No inning may start after the 75-minute window has passed. In the event of inclement weather, the game shall be considered a regulation game if three (3) complete innings have been played. If three (3) complete innings have not been played, the game shall be replayed in its entirety as if the game had not been started.
  - a. In the event that a game is suspended, postponed, or cancelled due to weather or unsafe playing conditions, RYS will reschedule the games and notify the coaches. It is the coach's responsibility to notify their team of the re-scheduled game date and time.
  - b. A delay of no more than twenty (20) minutes can occur while waiting on weather conditions to improve. If after twenty (20) minutes the conditions do not improve, the game shall either be considered complete or rescheduled as outlined above.
  - c. Unsafe weather conditions can be determined by either coach or any RYS representative. Examples include high winds, lightning, thunder, rain, etc.
  - d. Without exception, games will not be played if a severe weather warning has been issued for either Huntington County or Roanoke.
  - e. A game will be halted immediately if lightning is witnessed by any coach, player, or RYS representative. A weather delay will then ensue with steps identified above followed to determine if the game is complete or needs to be rescheduled.
  - f. If a player is removed from a game by their parent due to weather conditions, that player shall not be penalized in any way by the coach or their staff.
5. An inning shall be considered complete if both halves of the inning have been played and three outs or the maximum number of players have batted for each team.
6. Each team shall have at least eight (8) players on the field. If a team has fewer than eight players, the game must be forfeited unless both coaches agree to play as such. Teams can play with a maximum of ten (10) players on the field. A maximum of six

(6) players can be located on the infield as the ball is pitched. All outfielders must be in the grass when the ball is pitched.

7. All players' defensive positioning shall be liberally rotated throughout the game, including the tournament. Every child should be given the opportunity to play all of the positions. During the tournament, a player may only play a specific position for two innings at a maximum. Coaches should make every effort to rotate players between infield and outfield positions throughout the season, including the playoffs. Good sportsmanship shall be maintained.
8. The entire roster is eligible to bat in an inning. A player may only bat once per inning. A player need not play in the field in order to bat. The team at bat must notify the opposing coach when their last batter comes to the plate. Regardless of ability, all batters shall receive pitches.
9. During the regular season, each team's entire roster is eligible to bat, regardless of the number of players on the opposing team. During the tournament, the number of batters eligible to bat each inning will be limited to the fewest number of players present on either team. Example: In the tournament, team A has nine (9) players present. Team B has eleven (11) players present. Each inning, only nine (9) players may bat for each team unless more players show up during the game for team A.
10. All players shall bat. All players must bat in a pre-determined rotation. If a player is removed from the game due to substitution, they shall retain their location in the batting order. In the event of discipline issues, if a player is removed from the batting order, they cannot return to the batting order or the field of play for the duration of the game. If a player is unavailable to bat in their spot in the order, they shall be counted as an out. An official at-bat begins when the player receives the first pitch. If a player bats out of order, they shall be counted as an out once the at-bat becomes official.
11. If the defensive team registers three outs prior to the offensive team going through their entire batting order, the batting order should be resumed in the next inning at the point where the last out was registered. This rule applies to the tournament scenario where the number of batters is limited to team with the fewest number of players.
12. Each batter shall receive a maximum of six (6) pitches. If after six pitches the batter has not put the ball in play, the batter is out. Fouled balls and bad pitches count as pitched balls and will not be replayed. No allowances should be made for "unhittable" pitches.
13. Coaches have the choice whether to use the pitching machine or not for each batter. For instance, if a batter would rather have the coach pitch as opposed to using the machine, the coach may pitch the balls. The same rules govern the number of pitches that each player shall receive.

14. All batters and runners must wear protective headgear (helmets). Every player, regardless of sex or length of hair, who is positioned at the pitcher's mound shall wear a batting helmet and have their hair tucked into their helmet.
15. If any batter throws the bat, the batter's coach shall warn the batter. If that same batter throws the bat again during the game in which they received a warning, they shall be removed from the batting order for the remainder of the game with their spot in the order considered an out.
16. During the regular and post-season, coaches shall make all calls on the field. A coach from both teams must agree on the call. If there is a discrepancy, a conference must be held between the coaches until a final determination can be made. If a final determination can't be made, the play shall be replayed with all base runners returning to their original positions.
17. Coaches are allowed on the field.
  - a. A coach for the team at bat shall either pitch or load ball(s) into the pitching machine.
  - b. If the batted ball hits the machine, the bucket holding the balls or the coach loading the machine, the batter shall be awarded first base. The ball will immediately be ruled a "dead ball" with no plays at any base. Any runners on base shall move ahead one base only, regardless of the likelihood that they would have been able to advance more than that one base. Coaches loading the machine shall make every effort to avoid getting hit by a batted ball.
  - c. Base coaches can be stationed at first and third bases to help the baserunners.
  - d. The defensive team may have a coach on the field. The coach shall remain out of the base paths.
  - e. If an offensive (pitching or base) coach interferes with the ball in play other than described above, it shall be considered an out.
  - f. If a defensive coach interferes with the ball when it is play, all players shall be allowed to advance one base. No players will be considered out after the interference occurred. If a player was out before the interference, they shall remain out.
  - g. A coach cannot physically interfere with a runner in an effort to advance their position. In such cases, the runner shall be considered out.
18. Tournament schedules shall be distributed to the coaches and made available on the website.
19. If a thrown ball goes over the fence, a player may advance one base. Good sportsmanship shall be maintained.

20. If a ball is hit into the outfield (meaning the grass) and the ball has been picked up, the batter and base runners may only proceed to the base to which they were advancing.
21. It is the offensive coach's responsibility to notify the defensive coach when the last batter in their order approaches the plate. When the last batter places the ball in play, the defensive team can end the inning by controlling the ball and touching any base regardless of the number of outs. Normal base advancing rules apply. If a runner is advancing towards home from 3rd base and the ball becomes controlled behind the runner, that runner's run will count unless the third out is registered prior to them crossing the plate.
22. Outs will be counted. A half-inning ends when either three outs have been recorded or the entire roster has batted.
23. During the regular season, scores shall not be kept. A post-season tournament will be played with scores being kept.
24. No leading off or stealing is allowed.
25. No bunting is allowed.
26. A batter/base runner who intentionally runs into a fielder is considered out and a warning shall be made. In the event of a second infraction during the same game, the offending player shall be ejected.
27. The home team is responsible for promptly starting the game at the designated time.
28. No players can wear shorts. Long pants must be worn. Coaches should encourage male players to wear protective cups.
29. The catcher shall wear the supplied equipment consisting of a helmet, facemask, chest protector, and shinguards. A protective cup is recommended (if applicable and if supplied by parent of said child).
30. The home teams of the early games are responsible for setting up the pitching machines. The home team (for the first game) on the back diamond is responsible for putting the pitching machine away. The home team (for the second game) on the front diamond is responsible for putting the pitching machine away.
31. The visiting team for the second game (on the front diamond) shall be responsible for cleaning, raking the base lines, putting away the bases, and turning off the lights.
32. Team treats and drinks can be offered after the game at the discretion and the responsibility of the coaches.

33. Coaches shall have at least one organized practice each week with the exception of weeks in which they have two games.
34. Coaches and team personnel shall refrain from smoking, using foul language, and displaying negative behavior in the presence of any players, parents, or RYS personnel. RYS reserves the right to review any incidents and enforce disciplinary actions up to and including ejection from the league.
35. RYS reserves the right to modify the rules as deemed necessary. The rule changes will not take place until all coaches have been notified.
36. During the tournament, if a batter bats out of order, the offensive team will be charged with a “penalty out” (if the mistake is caught prior to the next batter’s at-bat is complete) unless the out-of-order batter made an actual out. If the mistake is not caught during the next batter’s at-bat, the order shall continue. Please note that the results of the play in which the out-of-order batter batted will stand (this is important – if the child hits safely, they are not out, their team is charged with an out). If the mistake is caught as described above, the order shall be restored with the correct batter batting and the out-of-order batter being skipped until their next scheduled at-bat. The “penalty out” CAN result in the 3<sup>rd</sup> out of an inning.

**If you have any questions, please contact RYS at 437-8210.**

