Welcome to MYAA Coach-Pitch Baseball. The objective of this league is to provide the player with a smooth transition from T-Ball to baseball. The following provides a general overview on how the MYAA Coach-Pitch program is run. Please note that this is not inclusive of all the rules that are provided to your Head Coach.

General Information

* The season will start in mid-April along with the rest of the MYAA baseball programs and typically run for 8-9 weeks.
* Teams will have a minimum of two baseball events per week with the goal of three baseball events per week depending on weather and field availability. Each team will be scheduled to have two games per week with additional practices at the discretion of the coaches and field availability. (Games are typically every Saturday and either Monday or Wednesday evening during the week – NEED TO CONFIRM WITH MYAA and Medford Lakes)
* Game times during the week and on Saturday will vary throughout the season.
* Should we have inclement weather please check [www.myaabaseball.com](http://www.myaabaseball.com/) to see if the fields will be closed. Rainouts may be rescheduled depending on field availability.

Playing the game – The key is to keep the game moving to keep kids interested

* All games will be played on the all-purpose Fields 4 & 5. NEEDS TO BE UPDATED BASED ON LATEST INFO FROM MYAA AND MEDFORD LAKES
* All players on a team will bat each inning. However, outs will be recorded and bases will be cleared in the event that three outs are made in any given inning.
* Teams should not “clear the bases” when the last batter hits. When the last player has hit and after the runners stop moving, the inning will be over.
* Games will be 4 innings and should not exceed one hour and 30 minutes.
* Teams should NOT keep score.

Hitting

* Coaches will pitch to their team and should position themselves mid-way between the pitchers rubber and home plate. It is usually best to pitch from one knee or sitting on a seat/stool. This way, pitches will come from the batters point-of-view.
* For at least the first half of the season, each player will be given a maximum of five “good” pitches to hit. At the coaches’ discretion a hitting tee may be used when/if it’s appropriate.
* There are no walks.
* On a hit, players can advance as many bases as possible at the coaches’ discretion. Doubles, triples and homeruns are encouraged but no extra bases should be given for fielding errors.
* Players can NOT advance on overthrows. For example, on a ball that’s hit into play if fielder overthrows the first baseman, the runner stays on first base. We want to encourage proper fundamentals but do not want to penalize players for poor throws or missed catches.
* If the defense records an out, the batter/runner will return to the dugout. Coaches assisting in the field will make safe/out calls.
* Additional coaches from the hitting team should be stationed in the first base and third base coaching boxes whenever possible
* Players must wear helmets with earflap protection while at bat, on base and in the batter box. If a player is not on base, at bat, or on deck, they must be in the dugout.

Defense

* Teams will field a maximum of nine players at any given time which may include a fourth outfielder.
* Teams will NOT use a catcher.
* The fielders should attempt to record outs on batted balls.
* Coaches should consider having the first basemen wear a helmet.
* Where possible, coaches from the defensive team are encouraged to be stationed in the infield and in the outfield to instruct players on which base to throw the ball.
* It is important to teach the players in the field not to “swarm” to the ball as it is hit. Rather, teaching the player to field his/her position is more important.
* Players will not sit on the bench more than one consecutive inning while their team is playing defense and everyone should play at least 2 innings in the field.

Goals of the Program

* Players should come out of this program with instruction and continued development on at least the following offensive skills:
	+ The use of the batter’s box, proper stance, and fundamentals of the swing
	+ Improved concept of hitting
	+ Proper base running
* Players should come out of this program with instruction and continued development on the following defensive skills:
	+ The proper fielder’s stance
	+ The proper catching technique
	+ The proper throwing technique
	+ Better understanding of defensive situations
* HAVE FUN and encourage continued interest in the game of baseball