



2023 Machine Pitch Rules

General Rules

1. Regular baseballs will be used for all games.
2. All players must play a minimum of 2 innings in the infield before any player plays a 3rd inning in the infield.
3. Game will be 1 hour 45 minutes in length or 6 Innings. No new innings will start after 1 hour 30 minutes of play unless there is a tie. If the game is tied after 1.5 hours or 6 innings, it is up to the discretion of the 2 head coaches as to whether the game continues.
4. 3 outs or 5 runs scored ends an inning.
5. Home team is responsible for bringing the bases on/off the field (if removable) and making sure they are secured before leaving.

Pitching Rules

1. Home team is responsible for bringing the machine.
2. An adult (coach) will run the pitching machine for their team.
3. Machine should be set up 46' from the front of home plate. Do not move the machine closer to or further from the plate to zero in on the strike zone, adjust the screw on the throwing arm to move pitches up or down.
4. Coach pitcher starts each at bat with 5 balls and the catcher does not return the balls until after the at bat is complete.
5. If the batter does not put the ball in play after 5 pitches, batter will hit off a tee.
6. There are no strikeouts off the machine. A ball must be put in play and an out must be made by the defense.

Hitting and Base Running Rules

1. No walks, bunting, or stealing.
2. Consecutive batting – all players will bat.
3. Players cannot advance on an overthrow to any base.
4. Players may advance on a hit to the outfield until the ball gets back to the infield.
5. Players can advance to the next base if they are at least 1/2 way to the next base when an infielder gains control of the ball.
6. Batters are not allowed to hold a bat until they are up to bat. No one should have a bat until walking up to the plate. There are no “on deck” practice swings!
7. Runners must stay in the baseline or they will be called out. Fielders cannot be in the baseline unless they have the ball. Runners should not have to run around fielders without the ball, the fielder is interfering, and the runner gets the base.

Fielding Rules

1. All outfielders must line up about 10’ into the outfield grass.
2. Outfielders and pitchers must throw to a base to make an out. Outfielders cannot field ground balls in the infield unless the ball is hit beyond all infielders.
3. Player fielding pitcher position must play within 3’ of the pitching machine.
4. Catchers must be positioned in the proper location behind the plate. Catchers must be in a squat position, so non-protected areas are not exposed to the pitch.
5. No player may play catcher for more than 2 innings in any game.
6. Players are to play no more than 2 innings at any single position during the game.

MOST IMPORTANT RULE: Every player should have fun!