



SCR AA Coach Pitch Rules 2018

The purpose of the AA Coach Pitch division is to serve as a developmental step for baseball players transitioning from Tball. The age range of players in AA Coach Pitch is five to six years old in kindergarten or first grade.

Important Information

- Games will be played mainly at Cheyenne School fields.
- The bases will be at 60 feet.
- Batters hit from pitches thrown by their own coach from approx 25 feet from home plate.
- All bats must be Cal Ripken / Babe Ruth certified and follow the new 2018 USA Bat requirements. To see if your bat is qualified, visit usabat.com; These bats can be no longer than 33" in length and 2 5/8 in barrel diameter. Most importantly, the USA Stamp will be permanently shown on the bat to avoid confusion. If your bat is older than November 2017, it's likely illegal and cannot be used. Wooden bats are permissible providing they adhere to the aforementioned requirements. All bats that do not conform are not permitted at any time during a Cal Ripken practice or game.
- Game balls will be level 5 baseballs (which are softer than regular baseballs).
- Each defensive player must wear a baseball glove.
- Catchers are not allowed in AA.
- All players must wear approved headgear (batting helmet) while batting, on-deck, on the base path or by the coaches box. Approved headgear shall be considered to cover both ears.
- All male players must wear an athletic cup.
- Players may wear only non-metal cleats.
- **This is a non-umpired division.** The head coach (aka Managers) will ensure the game flows properly.

Game Preliminaries

- No game balls are provided. The home team should provide a bucket of 6 balls to be used during the game.
- The home team takes the 3rd base dugout
- Manager is responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, and parents.
- Only SCR registered coaches and players are permitted in the dugout and on the field during the game.
- Nine defensive players are expected on the field NO catchers are allowed. Positions include Pitcher, 1b, 2b, SS, 3b, LF, LCF, RCF and RF. If you have more than 9 players,

you may field up to 6 outfielders at your discretion. For instance, you can have a LF, LCF, 2 x CF's next to each other, RCF and RF along with your standard infielders.

- another option that is allowable is to sit players out defensively as needed. Remember, no player can sit out twice before everyone sits out once. No player can sit out three times before everyone sits out twice etc.
- You should not have a wall of infielders at any point during the game. All outfielders must be placed on the outfield grass.
- Sitting out players never affects the batting lineup.
- The manager must rotate all players allowing the players to rotate between infield and outfield positions. Every player must play a minimum of two (2) innings in an infield position.
- Teams with more than 9 players shall follow the SCR Fair Play Rule whereby no player sits out twice before every player sits out once.
- Players may substitute positions at any time during the game.
- All players bat regardless if they are playing a defensive position or sitting out.

Game Rules

- Game consists of 6 innings
- The game shall be limited to 1 hour and 30 minutes max. No new inning shall start after 1 hour and 15 minutes.
- Each team will bat half of their lineup or 6 batters.
- First batter should be at bat at the scheduled starting time from the calendar. Coaches should have their teams at the field at least 15-30 minutes prior to the game start time.
- An inning ends when that innings scheduled batters bat through their order (typically 6 or 7 batters). The final batter is permitted to run all the bases and everyone on the base at that time scores.
- There is no official score reported for this division.
- The offensive team is permitted to have coaches at pitcher, first base, 3rd base and one retrieving the pitched balls (10-15 feet behind home plate is typical).
- The defensive team is permitted to have coaches in the infield and outfield to help with positioning and guidance to players.

Putting the ball in play

- Each scheduled batter will hit once per inning.
- Each batter will get a maximum of 6 pitches to hit. If they do not put a fair ball into play by the 6th pitch, they will hit the 7th pitch from a Tball tee. No more than 3 swings from a tee. If batter does not hit the ball after 3 swings from a tee, roll the ball to an infield position and have the batter run to first. Do not pitch more than 6 pitches to the batters.
- Each player will advance one base after a ball is hit.
- Once the last batter of the inning has hit and scores their "home run" teams will switch sides.

- There are no outs in AA, but encourage fielders to make appropriate baseball plays. If a player is tagged out (or forced out), the runner stays on the base and continues as if there was no out.

Batting

- The batting order can be changed each half inning allowing for more players to experience a “home run.”
- If a player shows up after the game has started, that player is added to the bottom of the order.
- Bunting is not permitted.
- If a batter swings and misses or hits the tee and the ball drops, the ball will be placed on a the tee and the batter will take another swing. Again only 3 swings from tee.
- There are no strikeouts.
- Base runners do not advance on an overthrown ball.
- If a player throws a helmet or bat in an unsportsmanlike manner, the offensive coach should provide a warning to the player for the first infraction and discipline the player for a 2nd or repeated infraction.

The Runner

- Lead-offs and steals are not permitted.
- Base runners must wait until the ball is hit to leave the base.
- No lead-offs or steals. Base runner must wait until the ball crosses the plate to leave base.
- Feet first sliding is acceptable, head first sliding is not.
- Substitute runners are permitted only in the event of an injury. The substitute runner will be the player who made the last batted out. Substitute runners for catchers is allowable at any time as long as the catcher is playing that position the next time defensively (to save time dressing).

Postgame Handshakes

- Youth sports should be as much about teaching sportsmanship as teaching athletic skills. Shaking hands after the game is a valuable lesson. “The point is, the handshake is a simple, traditional show of goodwill and respect, and respect for your opponent is an integral part of any definition of sportsmanship.” (Swift 1994)
- At the end of each game, before your team meeting and before you vacate your dugout, both teams should line up single file down the foul line in front of their dugout. The teams will meet approximately at home plate and will shake hands or give a hi-five, and say good game. This includes all Managers and Coaches for both teams.
- It is imperative that all players and coaches handle this ritual with class and a calm attitude and set an example for the kids.
- Anyone showing poor sportsmanship at any point before, during or after the game could be suspended and/or asked not to be a part of this league.

- See this Sports Illustrated Article:
<http://www.si.com/vault/1994/05/02/130987/give-young-athletes-a-fair-shake-when-we-eliminate-postgame-handshakes-we-fail-to-teach-the-main-lesson-of-sports>

Field Prep

- Coaches use the field drag to smooth the field prior to each game if possible.
- First game of the day teams should chalk the field and put out the bases.
- All equipment is stored in the cage by the 3b dugout on the West field.
- If your game is the last of the day, please put away all the equipment and lock the cage.

Field Cleanup

Each manager should assist to ensure there is no trash/garbage left in the dugout after the game and that your team vacates the dugout quickly.

Game Day General Reminders/Best Practices

1. Anyone on the field of play or in the dugout should have completed a background check, concussion training and registered as a coach with league before being allowed on the field. If you think you will need extra parents on the field or in the dugout, please have them complete the appropriate steps to be approved as an Assistant Coach.
2. The league does allow parents to briefly step on the field in foul territory to take pictures. However, this should be brief and not be allowed the entire game
3. Keep the game moving as quickly as possible. Having kids “standing around” creates boredom and frustration for both the players and parents.
4. The objective of AA is to teach basic baseball skills and knowledge. Teaching batters to run the bases, fielders to make basic plays etc. is best practice. Most important objective at this age is having fun!
5. Inspect dugout and stands for any trash and dispose of it properly. Do not leave a dugout full of trash and make sure trash is removed from the stands after each game
6. Please be mindful of the next game on your field. Please promptly leave the dugout after your game is completed. Have you snack and/or team meeting outside the dugout. We want to keep the games on time and the biggest factor delaying the start of the next game is team snacks in the dugout.