

North Region: D-Jr Rules Interpretation

Revised: April 4, 2016

D-Jr is still a developmental league. Please understand that developing young kids to play and love the game of baseball is Knothole Baseball's main goal.

In D-Jr, pitching and batting is setup differently. The focus is on getting the players to start to understand and recognize the strike zone. We also want players to start to get used to seeing and hitting a pitched baseball.

The game is divided into two periods: "**Coach Pitch**" and "**Player Pitch**".

Coach Pitch: the emphasis is on getting the player to make contact with the ball and gain understanding of the strike zone.

- **Pitch count:** The batter can get up to 7 pitches (or continue the at-bat if they keep fouling off).
- **Pitch disposition:** Strikes and balls are called. If batter strikes out swinging, the batter is out. Otherwise, the player is free to use all pitches. If 4 balls are thrown, pitches continue until 7 pitches reached or strikeout occurs.
- **Pitch position:** The coach pitching may have his rear foot no less than 40' feet from the plate and may pitch from a kneeling position in order to get the ball thrown at a level for the boys.

Player Pitch: the emphasis is on getting boys to develop into pitchers and batters to experience a player pitching.

- **Pitch disposition:** The umpire* will call strikes and balls. If 4 balls are called, players cannot walk. Instead, the Coach comes on and assumes the remainder of the count to get to 7 pitches maximum or continue the at-bat if they keep fouling off. If a player reaches a total of 3 called or swinging strikes, the batter is out.
- **Pitch position:** The player pitching should attempt to pitch with his rear foot situated 45' from home plate, however this will not be enforced. The player **cannot** be closer than 40' from home plate.
- **Pitch determination:** It is advised that coaches review the requirement for a liberal strike zone with the umpire* prior to game start.

***Umpires:** the game umpire can be a coach or parent. An official umpire is not required and is the option of the individual districts. Please keep in mind that this is still a developmental league.

Pre-Game Meeting: A meeting between head coaches is required by all Knothole Baseball teams at all levels. The meeting take place at home plate 5 minutes prior to the first pitch. At the D-Jr levels, the meeting is to review the North Region D-Jr rules and to make sure everyone understands you will be playing by the same set of rules.