

BERWYN-PAOLI COACH PITCH SOFTBALL RULES

1. The Coach Pitch Softball Division is an instructional league. 1 defensive coach may be in the outfield/infield during the 1st half of the season to give instruction, without stopping play too frequently. During the 2nd half of the season, no defensive coaches should be in the field of play. A coach or designated parent should be with the bench at all times.
2. A regulation game is 4 innings or 90 minutes, whichever comes first. If an inning is in progress at the 90 minute mark, it should be completed and no new inning is to start.
3. A 1/2 inning ends when the offensive team has scored 5 runs or 3 defensive outs are made, whichever comes first. The most runs a team may score in a 1/2 inning are 5, including the final inning.
4. **NO JEWELRY MAY BE WORN**, and the girls must wear their uniform shirt and visor throughout the game.
5. Home team supplies one new game ball. The Home team will be on the 1st base side and the Away team on the 3rd base side.
6. **Offensive Team:** Each player attending the game will be listed on the team batting order and will bat when her turn comes. All late players will be added to the end of the batting order. The first batter in order does not bat again until all the players have batted. The on-deck batter should always be ready, with helmet on, but is not to swing their bat until in the batting box. A batter is entitled to 5 swinging strikes or 6 total pitches. Coaches can use their discretion if more pitches should be allowed, balancing the needs of the player and keeping the game moving along. During the first half of the season, after 6 total pitches, and/or 5 swinging strikes, the player may use the batting tee (foul balls with two strikes do not count, and the batter will get another pitch for each foul ball, regardless of the count at the time). There are no walks. Starting in May (or half way through the season), batters must be called OUT after 5 swinging strikes. **NO BAT THROWING!**
7. **Defensive Team:** The entire team will be used in the field (no player sits out)- a pitcher's helper (stands just behind pitching coach on the 1st base side for lefty batter, and 3rd base side for righty batter), a catcher (should be dressed and ready before each defensive inning), 4 infielders in normal positions, and the rest of the team as outfielders who must be stationed on the outfield grass. Each player must play at least 2 innings in the outfield and 2 innings in the infield. No player may play more than 2 innings in the same position or at 1st base or pitcher's helper. **WE LIKE TO ENCOURAGE OUTFIELDERS TO THROW THE BALL, FROM THE GRASS, TO THE INFIELD OR TO MAKE A PLAY AT A BASE**, so an outfielder must get the ball to an infielder to make an out. Time is out once the ball is in the infield or the pitcher has the ball.

8. Base-Running: If the ball is hit to the outfield grass in the air or by a hard grounder, without being touched by an infielder, the runners may advance to the next base until the ball is returned to the infield. A ball is returned to the infield when (a) an outfielder carries the ball to the infield diamond, or (b) a fielder throws the ball and it lands on the ground or is touched by any defensive player in the infield. A runner may not advance on an overthrow to any base or if the ball goes out of play. NO STEALING (runner must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit)! NO INFIELD FLY RULE!

9. On plays to home from the pitcher's helper: The pitcher's helper may use their own judgement on whether to throw the ball to the catcher for a force out, run the ball on their own to home for the force out, or tag the runner coming to home for either a force out or non-force out. Pitcher's helper should always be standing just behind and to either side of the adult pitcher and not in front of the adult pitcher, before each pitch.

10. Umpiring: The 1st base coach will make the calls at 1st including foul balls. The 3rd base coach makes the calls at 3rd including foul balls. The adult pitcher will make the calls at 2nd and home (or if there is an adult standing behind the catcher).

11. The home team is responsible for e-mailing scores to Jen Mayock (j.mayock@verizon.net) within 24 hours of the completed game.

12. All-Star Game, for all 2nd graders, will take place on Sunday, June 9th at 2 p.m. on Toscani.

13 ** PRACTICES DURING THE WEEK AND ON THE WEEKEND WILL OCCUR UNTIL AFTER 2ND WEEK IN APRIL AND THE SEASON WILL CONTINUE UNTIL 2ND WEEK IN JUNE. Once the season starts we will have 1 practice a week and 1 game on Saturdays (rain date Sunday) until second half of season, when we will have 2 games during the week. Saturday games will take place at 9 a.m. (Roggio Field), 11 a.m. (Roggio Field) and 1 p.m. (Toscani Field). During the week all games will take place on Roggio Field. Rain outs from Saturday will be played on Sunday and will also take place on Roggio Field (times to be determined). When you play at Toscani, the teams must provide at least 2 parents each to run the snack bar (only the 1 p.m. Saturday game). I would suggest having a parent organize this once we get the schedule. The snack bar is a huge fund raiser for the league and it should never be left un-open when we are playing there. Keys will be provided for the entire season and must be returned at the end of the season.