

MinnDak Coach Pitch Rules

The Coach Pitch division is intended for players who are ages 5 and 6 and who do not turn 8-years-old prior to January 1st of the current year. Players should also have at least one year of t-ball played prior to playing Coach Pitch.

1. Coach Pitch is designed to be fun for the kids. It is a way for the kids to learn the fundamentals of the game and gain experience in baseball.
2. It should be fun for everyone: kids, coaches, and parents.
3. Because this is a learning tool and not a competitive tool of baseball, there will be no score.
4. Game length will be 1 hour. Typically this will be about 3 innings. If you can get one more inning complete before the hour is complete, play another one!
5. Every player will be every inning:
 - a. Players should be rotated in the batting order every inning so that they get a different chance to bat in different situations.
 - b. Players will get five chances to hit the ball pitched to them from their coach. If the player fails to hit the ball in those five pitches, a tee will be brought out so the player can hit off the tee. These guidelines need to be followed so that every player will get more than one opportunity to bat in a game.
 - c. **Coaches need to pitch from a knee please!** This helps with the players seeing the ball at their height.
6. Because every player will hit every inning, outs will not be counted. The half inning ends when all the players hit. However, if a player is out on the bases, they need to come back to the dugout. Players need to learn that once they are out, they no longer get to continue running. The last batter in the half inning continues to run all around the bases until they are out. Other than that situation, players should run the bases depending on their hit.
7. Players should get the opportunity to play the outfield and infield every game and to be the catcher at least once in the season. Please rotate your players between infield and outfield when possible. The recommendation is to have only 9 players on the field on defense at a time, HOWEVER, if a team only has 10 players for the game, please play that player in the outfield as a fourth outfielder to avoid only having one player on the bench.
8. When your team is playing defense, please have 2 coaches (or parents) on the field with them. When batting, one coach should be pitching to their team, and one coach behind the catcher to help with the batter and to help stop balls from getting away from the catcher.
9. **HAVE FUN!!!**