**2015 SYBA Coaches Pitch League Rules**

* For a player to compete in a game, the player must be registered with the Shawnee Youth Baseball Association Pitching Machine League. The player should be on the team roster.
* Team batting provides coach to pitch to his team.
* Batting team provides team balls.
* **Only approved little league bats will be used with a maximum of 30” and 2¼” barrel. No wooden bats may be used.**
* **If a batter throws a bat there will be a warning. After the warning any thrown bat will result in an out.**
* **When a runner is approaching a base where a fielder either has the ball or is about to catch the ball, it is the runner’s responsibility to avoid contact with the fielder by either sliding or attempting to avoid the fielder. A runner who fails to slide or attempt to avoid the fielder must be called out even if they are not tagged out.**
* A defense player is placed near the pitching coach assuming the defensive position of the pitcher.
* **During school, games consists of 3 innings and an inning cannot start after 60 minutes. In summer, games consist of 4 innings and an inning cannot start after 75 minutes.**  Rain outs will be made up at coaches’ decision. Let the commissioner know of all make-ups for field purposes.
* **Shawnee Schools** decide when games are cancelled due to field conditions and inclement weather. Coaches can decide to cancel games for field conditions and inclement weather **if the game is not already cancelled by the schools.** **If lightening is spotted the game should be cancelled immediately.**
* All players should be placed in the batting order. This is a continuous batting order unless the defense makes the required three outs to end the inning. Players can only bat once per inning. After a third out is made, the batter that was on deck the previous inning will bat first the next inning.
* Each player gets five overhand pitches to put the ball in play. If a batter has not succeeded after 5 pitches the batter gets two swings off the tee. No balls and strikes are called.
* Coaches or team mother is to have the batter on deck and ready with bat and helmet. All players are to remain on the bench area unless playing in the field or on deck.
* Rubber cleats may be worn. No metal spikes.
* Helmets are mandatory when hitting and by all base runners. Helmets with face masks are provided by SYBA. Players have the option to wear their own supplied helmets, but should not share with teammates.
* A caught fly ball is an out and dead ball situation. There is no infield fly rule.
* No lead offs or base stealing.
* Runners may not take a base on an overthrow from the field. However, runners may advance on overthrows from the outfield until the ball is in the defensive team’s control inside the infield. If an infielder does not control the ball and it goes out of play (crosses out of play after entering the infield) the runner is awarded one base only. A player may receive the ball outside the infield and run it to the infield to stop play. If a ball is walked across the baseline and the player makes no play, play stops, and the runner can return safely to the base left. If a ball is moved in continuation of play to a base and a runner is off base, the runner can be tagged out.
* Eleven players can play in the field. **Position must only be: Pitcher (in the circle), Catcher, 1st Base, 2nd Base, 3rd Base, Short Stop and up to Five outfielders. The infield should not be stacked with out of position players.** A coach or parent from the batting team must be used behind the catcher. The catcher should attempt to play the position behind home plate. The catcher’s responsibilities include gathering baseballs and covering home. The catcher can retrieve passed balls in-between batter’s at bats. The catcher must wear a protective cup, catcher’s helmet and the appropriate gear.
* There is no umpire. Coaches make out calls. Remember, ties at the base always go to the runner. All coaches and players shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. Conflict should be resolved through mediation between the two head coaches (only). We are here for the kids not to argue.
* There may be as many as three coaches in the field to help position players and coach defense. Play will not be delayed for positioning of players for an inordinate amount of time.
* Infielders should be positioned out of the baselines when a runner is on base. If an infielder intentionally interferes with the runner, the runner can safely advance to the base he was trying to reach.