

**SPRINGFIELD SOUTHWEST BASEBALL ASSOCIATION  
COACH-PITCH RULES**

Revised and Adopted: March 27, 2007

1. The manager, coach, or designated person shall be responsible for pitching to his/her respective team.
2. There will be a maximum of 9 pitches per batter.
3. After **9 pitches** the batter shall be declared out.
4. There are no walks.
5. An inning shall consist of 3 outs or a maximum of **5** runs.
6. Managers, coaches, etc., are encouraged to first pitch overhand but may be allowed to pitch underhand if he/she feels the batter is not capable of hitting overhand pitching. The pitcher may also move closer to the batter.
7. All rostered players bat in a continuous order throughout the game. Complete line-ups shall be exchanged before the game (optional).
8. All rostered players must play the field at least two innings unless ill, injured, or being disciplined by the manager, who must inform the opposing manager before the game begins.
9. There is free defensive substitution at the end of each complete half inning.  
Teams will be allowed to play with 10 players on the playing field when playing defense. The 10<sup>th</sup> player will not play an infield position. Players in the outfield can NOT tag 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base for a forceout. However, they may throw the ball in to an infielder for a forceout.
10. Field dimensions should be as follows:
  - A) Base paths – 60 feet (hash marks drawn one-half way between all bases)
  - B) Pitching distance – Maximum 40 feet (discretion of coaches)
  - C) The restraining line will be placed at the same distance as the hash marks.
11. No leading off bases or base stealing.
12. The infield fly rule does **not** apply.
13. All batters and base runners are required to wear protective headgear.

14. Players throwing his/her bat or batting helmet will be called out. Coaches are allowed to issue one warning per team per game before calling the player out.
15. Regulation games are six (6) innings in length. Five (5) innings constitute a complete game in case of rain or darkness or 4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead.
16. Each game shall start at 6:00 p.m. and no new inning shall begin after ~~8:00~~ 7:45 p.m. For games played on Saturday or Sunday, games will start at the appointed time with no inning beginning after 1:45 ~~2~~ hours from the start of the game.
17. The “pitcher” will be positioned just to the right or left of the manager/coach who is pitching to his/her team.
18. On a hit ball that stays within the infield, the base runners and batter may advance one base. On a hit ball that goes into the outfield, the base runners and batter may advance as far as possible, until the ball is returned to inside the infield or its imaginary extensions in foul territory. The infield is defined here as the space inside the base paths between first and second, and second and third; the outfield is any area beyond those base paths. Except as noted below, play is stopped once the ball crosses the plane inside the infield. Base runners are allowed to proceed to the base they were running to if they were at least half way, and may proceed no further. This action does not prohibit the defensive team from trying to throw out a runner at any base to which they were proceeding.
19. In the case of an overthrow in the infield, the runners may NOT advance.
20. Base path hash marks will be drawn on the field.
21. A team can play a scheduled game with eight players. If a team plays with eight players, an out shall be assessed each time the ninth batter is due to bat. If a team has less than eight players, the game shall be forfeited to the opposing team provided the opposing team has the minimum eight players at the game.
22. Only two adults may coach from the base lines. Two adult coaches may “coach” the defense from foul territory in the outfield only. (Fair territory if agreed upon by both coaches.)
23. The use of tobacco and/or alcoholic beverages in any form is prohibited on the playing field, benches, or dugout. Furthermore, no adult manager, coach, or sponsor shall use profane language or smoke on or near the playing field during a game. Unleashed or unattended pets are prohibited on or near the playing field.
24. Parents are not allowed to drive on the grass areas around the fields for any reason.