



*CITY OF ANDERSON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
COACH-PITCH BASEBALL RULES (8 & Under)*

Program Mission Statement:

To teach all participants to enjoy physical activities, promote a sense of achievement, help participants learn something about others, teach participants how to interact with friends

ORGANIZATION:

1. There will be a maximum of 12 players on each team.
2. Each team will be allowed a maximum of 12 returning ballplayers on a first come-first served basis. These players must have played with this team last season to be considered returning. Each team will be allowed only 1 head coach and 3 assistants. Teams may have the child(ren) of one head coach and three assistants and they are included in the 12 returning. No player may play with more than one team within the same league.
3. No player participating in coach-pitch shall turn 9 before April 30. Each player should turn 7 before April 30. However, a player that is 6 and has played at least two (2) years of Tee Ball could possibly play coach-pitch. Players not meeting these guidelines will not be allowed to participate in the coach pitch age group unless deemed necessary by the Recreation Department.
4. If teams from outside agencies are participating in the league then overall league place trophies will be given and City League place trophies will be given. If none are participating then just Overall trophies will be given. **LEAGUE PLAY:**
 1. A game consists of 5 innings or 1 hour and 15 minutes. The game will end no matter what inning the game is in after the time limit. In case of a tie, the game will end after 6 innings or time limit. Once an inning starts, it must be complete, unless of bad weather. No new inning will start with 10 minutes or less. If a game is called because of bad weather after 3 innings have been played then it is a complete game. If a game is called in the top half of an inning after 3 innings are complete then it will fall back to the last complete inning. Example: If the game reaches the top of the fourth and is called then it will fall back to the last complete inning, which is the 3rd. The final score will be recorded as it is at the end of 3 complete innings. The same would apply if the game were called in the 5th; then it would fall back to the 4th inning, which would have been the last complete inning. The score would be recorded as it was at the end of 4 complete innings. If the game were in extra innings then the same would apply.
 2. Umpires will prohibit unnecessary stalling actions by teams and eject offenders after one warning.

3. The 10 run lead rule will be in effect any time after 4 innings. A 20 run lead rule will be in effect after 3 innings. This rule is an exception to the guaranteed time limit of play.
4. Game time is forfeit time. However, when the preceding game runs longer, game time shall be when the umpire calls for action to begin. In case of a forfeit, a practice game may be played.
5. Any game following the first game of the evening should start no more than 5 minutes after that game.
6. Teams are to warm up on the side of the ball field prior to each game. There will be no infield warm-up before any game.
7. All teams will be required to use line-up cards. Each coach should furnish one to the scorekeeper of the opposing team prior to the beginning of the game. Full rosters with first and last names and uniform numbers should be listed at least 10 minutes before each game.
8. **If the batter slings the bat; a warning will be given, this is a judgment call by the umpire(s). After the first warning; then it will be an automatic out for the rest of the game. Each team will receive their own warning.**
9. All players present for the game will be included in the batting order regardless of who the defensive players are. For example: a team with 12 players present will bat all twelve before returning to the top of the line-up. Each team can play up to 10 players on the field (having four outfielders). However, a team may start the game with **8 players and if they choose they can play three outfielders and leave the catcher's spot open. A coach must catch in the catcher's position but cannot be involved in making a play.**
10. Coaches are required to play all players present at least 2 innings on defense. Violation will result in forfeiture of the game. A coach is allowed to rotate players in and out each inning. Exceptions: A child who misses too many practices without a valid reason does not have to be played. Opposing coaches and umpires must be notified of this prior to the start of the ballgame and a notation made in the scorebook. **If a player does not complete his required innings due to a shortened game he must start the next ballgame. Free substitution is allowed.**
11. Each player will get 6 pitches to hit the ball. Three misses will be a strikeout. A foul ball on the 6th pitch will be an out. NO WALKS.
12. Time out may only be called when the ball is in the possession of the pitcher in the circle. Runners will be awarded bases according to where they are, in reference to the halfway lines, when time is called. Halfway moves up, less than halfway goes back. Coaches are strongly encouraged to and teach their players to attempt a play rather than to automatically call time.
13. The side is retired after three outs or 10 batters whichever comes first.
14. **To retire the side during the last batter you must:**
 - (1) **Get the batter out by fly, force, or tag-out, or**
 - (2) **Force or tag-out a base runner, or**
 - (3) **Have home plate tagged by an infielder with the ball in hand or glove and under control.**
15. There will be no infield fly rule. However, runners are allowed to tag up on a fly ball.
16. The player occupying the pitcher's position must attempt to throw the ball to a base if he fields it within the area of the mound. He may not continually run the ball to the base to

- get the runner out. Warning for the first offense. For a second offense or more a dead ball will be called and each player will be awarded the base they would advance to.
17. A coach will be allowed in foul territory on each outfield line while the team is on defense. They should not interfere with play but will help position and guide players.
 18. When the team is on offense, a coach should be in each coaching box.
 19. If there is a question concerning a play on the field the coach may request a time-out to discuss the matter with the umpire. You must wait for the time-out before coming onto the field. The umpire is in control of the game and does not have to grant a time-out.
 20. A coach can be ejected at any time for behavior deemed inappropriate by an umpire or field supervisor.
 21. Youth approved bats will be legal for this league. The bat shall be no more than 33 inches in length, nor have a bat barrel in excess of 2 & 5/8 inches. Bats with barrel size of 2 ¼ may have either a BPF 1.15 or USA Baseball Stamp. Any bat larger than 2 ¼ inch barrel size must have a USA Baseball stamp, per new 2018 bat regulations. Any bats in question should be brought to the Recreation Department for approval. Umpires will inspect bats and equipment prior to start of game, if necessary.

CONDUCT:

The Field Supervisor or umpire(s) will warn anyone not following these rules. A second offense means the individual(s) will be asked to leave and should they not leave, the proper authorities will be contacted.

1. Players, coaches and parents must at all times display a manner that exhibits sportsmanship and good will.
2. No profanity or abusive language will be allowed at any time on city property.
3. Any discussion on the field will involve only one coach, and officials present.
4. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages will be allowed on the premises. Any person found to be under the influence will be asked to leave the area.
5. The use of all tobacco products will be prohibited during the game. One warning will be issued before ejection. Repeated offenses will result in suspension.
6. The umpire is in control of the game. In the event a team fails to respect the umpire's authority or decisions, the umpire is instructed to forfeit the game to the other team after one warning has been given that such action will be taken.
7. If a player, coach, or manager is put out of the game, he may be seated in the stands. If he continues to argue or show unsportsmanlike conduct, he will be asked to leave the field. If he does not leave, the game will be forfeited.
8. Any coach or player ejected from a game will automatically be suspended for the following game as well. A second offense will result in an immediate suspension. A hearing will be scheduled at the Recreation Department Office. The coach or player will not be allowed to play or coach until a hearing is held. The results of this hearing will determine eligibility for the remainder of the season.

PROTESTS: For Regular Season

1. No protest shall be considered unless it involved a question of eligibility or a misinterpretation of the rules.
2. Protests must be made at the time of the protest verbally to the umpire who will notify the opposing coach. The protest must be made after the infraction and before the next pitch. The protest must be brought in writing, along with a \$25 fee to the Recreation Department Office by 4:00pm of the first business day following the game.

RAIN-OUT POLICY:

In case of rain on a scheduled game day, the decision will not be made until after 3:00pm. To find out the status of a game, you may call 226-2489 from a touch-tone phone. This information may also be obtained from the Internet at www.cityofandersonsc.com. If rain comes; after 5:00pm, a decision will be made at the field, by the umpires or field supervisor. If your game is rained out on Monday or Tuesday you may play Wednesday of that same week. If you have a game both Monday and Tuesday you may play both Wednesday and Saturday. If you have a game rained out on Thursday or Friday you may play Saturday. If you have a game rained out on both Thursday and Friday you may play the Saturday of that same week and Wednesday of the following week. The rescheduling of ballgames sometimes deals with the number of games that are already scheduled during that week. All games are rescheduled if at all possible. On occasion some games are not due to the time of the season when the game is rained out. Please remember that our rain patterns are sketchy at times – if you are not sure, please go to the field to avoid forfeits. In case of rain on a scheduled practice day, you will need to call your team coach. With the number of teams and other activities that we have, it is impossible for us to keep up with individual team schedules. Find out from the coach what the contingency plans may be for bad weather.

TOURNAMENT:

There will be a single elimination tournament for any team in our league that chooses to participate. This tournament will follow regular season rules with one exception – a game cannot end in a tie. In the event of a protest, it must be declared and decided before the next pitch by the umpires and the field supervisor. Trophies will be awarded to the champion and runner-up teams.