

SUMMIT-PARKLAND YOUTH ASSOCIATION

COACH-PITCH (7-8)

Rules and Regulations (Revised 2018)

1. TEAMS

- Shall consist of no more than 15
- Age, for league purposes, is that age attained by a player prior to May 1.

2. EQUIPMENT

- The ball shall be a 9 inch "safety or reduced injury" (Safety 5) type ball.
- Wooden, metal, graphite or ceramic bats which are round and not more than two and three-fourths inches (7.0cm) in diameter at the thickest part, nor more than 42 inches (106.7cm) in length, are acceptable. Smaller bats manufactured for use by T-Ball or beginning players are recommended. Bats must be taped or wrapped at the handle.
- The batter, players in the on-deck batting area and base runners must wear protective headgear, which gives protection to the top of the head, temples, ears and base of the skull.
- Catchers are required to wear a facemask with protective headgear.
- Illegal equipment shall be removed from the game.

3. PLAYING FIELDS

- Distance between bases 55 feet
- Pitching distance 20 - 38 feet

4. PLAYING RULES

- **No score or standings will be kept.**
- Teams may occupy either "dug-out" area. First-come, first serve.
- All players will bat in line up order. A team will receive one (1) team warning, after which batters will be called out.
- A player may not play the same position for more than two innings in the same game.
- Coaches must rotate players through infield & outfield positions each game.
- Outfielders must stand at least 20 feet behind the baselines (behind OF arc) before each batter attempts to hit the ball.
- Infielders must play within five feet of the baseline in what is considered a "normal" position.
- Coaches may pitch overhand or underhand, whatever is best for the individual player.
- Coaches may pitch no closer or further than 20-38 feet.

- A team failing to field at least eight legal players within 15 minutes scheduled starting time of a game (applies to early game only), or at any time during the game shall forfeit the game.
- Ten players will be used defensively (4 outfielders).
- Three outs or 9 batters per inning (If there are less than 3 outs after the ninth batter has batted, the teams shall change sides).
- All batters will be allowed 5 pitches per at-bat to successfully put a ball in play.
*If on the 5th pitch the ball is fouled off then the batter will receive another pitch, doing so until they take the pitch, swing and miss or put the ball in play.
- There is no infield fly rule.
- Runners may advance on overthrows to 1st and 3rd bases.
- Base runners are not permitted to steal or leadoff base and shall remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit. Penalty - the runner is called out.
- No head first sliding is allowed in this league.
- Base coaches may not make contact with runners at any time or the runner will be called out.
- The catcher will stand away from the batter until after the batter swings, then field the position defensively.
- Each team will receive one verbal warning from the umpire for thrown bats, after which the batter will be called out.
- Any player who is injured or leaves the game will not be considered an out in the batting line up.
- Players who intentionally - in the judgment of the umpire - discard their protective headgear while batting or running the bases, will be given a team warning upon the first violation. Thereafter the player shall be called out.
- The player fielding the pitcher's position shall take position always to the rear of the pitching plate, and on the left or right side of the coach-pitcher in the dirt pitching area.
- If a batted ball strikes the coach-pitcher, the ball is dead, the pitch will be repeated and no runners shall advance.
- Play is dead when the ball is controlled by a defensive player in the infield (umpire judgment).
- Runners, who are 1/2 way to next base when the play is called dead, may advance to next base (umpire judgment).

5. LENGTH OF GAMES

- Six innings in duration. Innings started before one hour and five minutes may be completed. No inning shall begin after one hour and five minutes.
- Games called for any reason shall be considered complete games if four innings have been completed. If games are called in less than four innings and are to be continued, they shall be continued from point of curtailment.

6. SCHEDULE

- Scheduling and rescheduling of league games shall be the responsibility of the League Director or appointed representative, and should provide each team not less than 10 games.
- Games may be postponed only by the action of the Director or representative. If weather makes playing conditions unsatisfactory, the Director may postpone games before 4:30 PM, but it shall be the duty of each coach to call the Info Line 253-298-3019 or check the league website to make certain of the postponement. If games have not been postponed by 4:30 PM both teams must appear at the game site in full strength or the non-appearing team shall forfeit the game regardless of playing conditions due to weather or otherwise. The umpire shall be the sole judge as to the fitness of the field of play after 4:30PM -Games must be played as scheduled or be forfeited.

7. UMPIRES

- There should be at least one staff umpire working each game.
- Umpires other than staff, when staff umpires fail to report on time, or are otherwise unavailable, shall be agreed upon, preferably in writing, by opposing coaches.

8. SCOREKEEPERS

- Score is not kept.

9. COACHES

- Adult coaches must be used on both first and third base coaching boxes.

10. SPONSORS

- Specifically, no firm or company whose advertising reflects the sale of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products shall be permitted to sponsor the program or to be permitted to display any form of such advertising in connection with the program.

11. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- Any coach or player ejected from a game will receive an automatic two game suspension at a minimum.
- Persons, youth or adult, who refuse to comply with the above rules and ethics of the Summit Parkland Youth Association, may be considered for the following disciplinary action:
 - 1) **WARNING** - The offending person is to be advised, in writing of the offense, and further advised that repetition of the offense will result in a more severe penalty.

- 2) **SUSPENSION** - The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been suspended from all league activity for a specific number of games or days.
- 3) **DISMISSAL** - The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current year.
- 4) **BARRED** - The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been barred from present and future participation in the league, permanently, or for a specific number of years.
- Persons subject to such discipline shall have the right to a hearing before the League Board before such discipline is imposed. **Exception: Coaches or players ejected from a game receive automatic suspension (ineligible to participate) from the next two scheduled games.**

12. MISCELLANEOUS

- SPYA operates with a no profanity policy. Players, coaches and fans found to be using inappropriate language will be asked to leave the playing area.
- Each coach must obtain a copy of these rules and regulations and he/she shall acquaint his/her players with their contents. Ignorance of the rules and regulations shall not be accepted as an excuse for violations.
- The coach of a team is responsible for the conduct of spectators following his/her team.
- The umpire has the authority to forfeit a game because of the conduct of the spectators.
- It is against the law to drink alcoholic beverages on county park and public school property. It is possible for a team to be suspended from the league if any of those supporting it are found to be drinking. A suspension of that supporter is also a possibility.