

## **COACH PITCH (Single-A) DIVISION – Expectations and Skill Development**

Board approved 02-01-2017

Coach Pitch (Single-A) is a developmental Division and is comprised of children ages **6 - 7** years old. This is a no-draft Division. Team formation is based first on proximity to elementary school attended by players, other considerations may apply to fulfill roster for full team. This Division is for those who played T-ball or skipped T-ball but know how to hit, catch, throw, and run bases. Coach Pitch is not a competitive Division, and coaching emphasis is upon player instruction and development. Children hit from a pitcher who is a Coach so they can begin to learn to hit off of live pitching. Each child should anticipate to play a minimum of three innings in a game. Division rules are in-place to encourage player rotation in a variety of positions. Ten players are assigned to field positions each inning, and all rostered players bat whether assigned to a field position or not. There is no post-season tournament for Coach Pitch Division and regular season results are not maintained. Teams are dissolved at the end of the regular season.

### Skill Goals:

- Learn the fundamentals of batting with emphasis on proper stance, grip and swing.
- Learn the fundamentals of how to hold, aim and throw a ball.
- Learn the fundamentals of fielding ground balls with emphasis on proper stance, glove and hand position.
- Learn the fundamentals of catching fly balls with emphasis on moving to the ball location and proper glove and hand position.
- Learn the fundamentals of base running.
- Learn basic baseball rules and strategy and how to apply the aforementioned in offensive and defensive situations.
- Learn the importance of respecting the Umpires (as representatives of the rules, order and fair play necessary for fun and sportsmanship).
- Learn to love the game of baseball and come back next year!

## **KID PITCH DIVISION (AA) – Expectations and Skill Development**

Kid Pitch (AA) is considered a developmental Division with an increased level of competitive play, compared to the Coach Pitch Division, to aid player development. This is a no-draft Division. Team formation is based first on proximity to elementary school attended by players, other considerations may apply to fulfill roster for full team. Similar to Coach Pitch Division, coaches are again encouraged to emphasize player instruction and development. Players' ages range from **8 – 10** years old. Live kid pitching is introduced with amended Little League rules to encourage development and participation of each player. Each player must play a minimum of four innings in a six-inning game. Nine players are assigned to field positions each inning, and all rostered players bat whether assigned to the field or not. Game scores, pitch counts and standings are recorded. Upon completion of the regular season, a post-season playoff tournament is held. The post-season playoff bracket is seeded at the end of the regular season based on regular season standings.

Upon completion of the regular season, players may be eligible to be selected to the Little League All-Star Tournament team.

### Skill Goals:

- Develop batting skills through proper stance and determination of pitches to swing at.
- Develop fielding skills (infield and outfield positions, making the play at the correct base, backing up plays at the plate and in the field).
- Develop base running savvy (when to run and listening to the 1st and 3rd base coaches).
- Develop proper sliding technique.
- Develop tracking skills for catching fly balls.
- Develop Pitchers teaching proper throwing mechanics.
- Develop good sportsmanship and respect for umpires.
- Develop the catching skills at the catcher position.
- Introduce and teach stealing bases.

## **MINORS DIVISION – Expectations and Skill Development**

Minors (AAA) is the highest level of competition in the Minors Division and follows all rules in the Official Little League Rule book. Players range from **9 - 11** years old. Managers draft players based upon tryout ratings. All players on the team bat. Each player must play a minimum of three innings in a six-inning game. Coaches focus on developing individual and team skills to field a competitive team and prepare them for the Majors Division. Game scores, pitch counts and standings are recorded. Teams are dissolved at the end of the regular season.

This is a draft only Division and players are selected to teams based on evaluations at assessments. Attending a scheduled draft tryout is mandatory for this Division. Team requests are not granted and players are selected to teams based on draft results (special considerations for siblings may apply if requested in advance of draft).

Upon completion of the regular season, players may be eligible to be selected to the Little League All-Star Tournament team.

### Skill Goals:

- Continued focus on good sportsmanship and team play!
- Batting skills development including bunting, pitch selection, and reading signals from Manager/Coach.
- Increased development of catchers (signals, blocking, pass balls, making the throw from home to second, good throwing back to pitcher on the mound and when pitcher is covering home plate) as the importance of position increases at this level.
- Pitching emphasis on good mechanics, injury prevention (ice), and development of pitching variety (fastball, change-up, location).
- Develop base running skills for situational play.
- Fielding emphasis on getting behind the ball and setting up the throw, getting ball to the correct position for the out or to keep the runners from advancing.
- Arm strengthening through practice (long toss).

## **MAJORS DIVISION – Expectations and Skill Development**

Majors is considered the most competitive Division and represents the most advanced players in BLS Little League that are age eligible. Majors follows all rules in the Official Little League Rule book. Players typically range in age from **11 to 12** years old. With very few exceptions, all 12 year olds must be drafted to a Majors team.

Manager's focus is on developing individual and overall team skills to field the most competitive team. Each player must play a minimum of six consecutive defensive outs. Game scores, pitch counts and standings are recorded. Upon completion of the regular season, a post-season playoff tournament is held and seeding is based on regular season results. The tournament winner will represent BLSLL Majors Division at the District's Tournament of Champions (TOC's). All Majors players are eligible to be selected to the Little League All-Star Tournament.

This is a draft only Division and players new to Majors are selected to teams based on evaluations at tryout assessments. Attending a scheduled draft tryout is mandatory to be eligible to play in this Division. In general, returning Majors players return to the same Majors team of the prior season. Team requests are not granted and players are selected to teams based on draft results (special considerations for siblings may apply if requested in advance of draft).

Upon completion of the regular season, players may be eligible to be selected to the Little League All-Star Tournament team.

### Skill Goals:

- Develop batting mechanics (bunting, driving, making adjustments to speed etc.) and pitch selection.
- Develop accurate throws from outfielders to proper cutoff person.
- After fielding the ball knowing where to make the throw and getting it there. Develop fielding strategies based on skills.
- Reading signals from Coach/Manager and implementing directives.
- Arm strengthening and accuracy thru practices (long toss).
- Working as a team to get outs.
- Pitching emphasis is to continue developing pitch variety with good mechanics (fastball 2 seam/4 seam, change-up, cutter, slider etc.) and injury prevention/arm care.
- Catcher skills include developing pitch calling skills, accurate throws to all bases, minimize pass balls, etc.
- Good Sportsmanship!

## **JUNIORS DIVISION – Expectations and Skill Development**

### Juniors – Competitive Little League Baseball

This division is an extension of the BLSLL Little League to accommodate players League ages 13 and 14 (based on the player's age as of May 1, 2013) that still would like to play in Little League sanctioned baseball. The Juniors Division will host a separate tryout for players who think they would like to step up into a more challenging division of baseball. This division can be viewed as additional team in addition to their select club, a way to prepare for Middle School or Junior High School ball teams, or those players that just want to keep playing baseball, after the Little League Majors Division.

Upon completion of the regular season, players may be eligible to be selected to the Little League All-Star Tournament team.

- 1) All official Little League rules are applicable except where exception by local rules are outlined, as follows.

None identified.

**For any consideration of subjectivity or application of rules, please see Manager or Player Agent for any questions.**