

# COACH PITCH --- 6 YEAR OLD

Updated March 2004

The 6-year-old league division of Shades Mountain Park is organized as a baseball program for youth age 6. Rules set forth on this sheet shall govern all play. These rules are provided by Metro Sports Baseball, Inc. with modifications made for play at Shades Mountain Park.

## PLAYER'S AGE

Shades Mountain Park "Coach's Pitch" age 6 shall be open to any approved youth whose playing age is his or her actual age on July 31 of the current year.

## 100. EQUIPMENT

101. The officially adopted ball for the 6-year old age group shall be a safety ball approved by Shades Mountain Baseball Board of Directors.
102. NO METAL CLEATS SHALL BE ALLOWED.
103. Approved (unaltered) baseball bats, wood or aluminum, any size may be used.
104. All batters and runners must wear batting helmets with full ear flaps. Any player running the bases and deliberately removing his headgear in the coach's judgment should be given a warning and on any subsequent offense the player will be called out.
105. Equipment must be kept in the dugout when not in use.
106. An approved batting tee will be provided by the park.
107. A first baseman's mitt may be used by the first baseman only.

## 200. REGULATION GAME/TIME LIMITS

201. A regulation game should consist of four (4) full innings. Fewer innings may be played based on the time limits set in rule 202.

202. No inning may start later than one (1) hour and fifteen (15) minutes from the start time. The starting time will be scheduled start time of the game whether or not the game actually starts at that time. Stoppage of play on the last batter or the third out of the Home team will constitute the start of the next inning. The commissioner must approve any alterations to the game duration.
203. Game score will be kept during the regular season. There will be one umpire calling each game.

### **300. THE PLAYING FIELD**

301. The coaches' box is a minimum of three (3) feet wide and six (6) feet long and no closer than six (6) feet to the base path.
302. There will be a fifteen (15) foot chalked arc from the first base line to the third base line drawn from the back point of home plate. The ball must be on or past this line to be fair, if not, it will be a foul ball. The ball is fair if it hits inside the arc and travels beyond the arc line. HITTING OF THE TEE WILL IN NO WAY BE A DETERMINING FACTOR AS TO WHETHER THE BALL IS FAIR OR FOUL (ONLY THE 15 FOOT ARC) IF THE BALL IS STRUCK. If the ball is missed completely, but still comes past the arc because of the striking of the tee, it will be a strike.
303. Forty (40) ft. lines will be drawn on the foul lines between home and first (1<sup>st</sup>) and between home and third (3<sup>rd</sup>). Infielders must stay behind these lines until the ball is hit. PENALTY: offensive team gets choice of the play or re-bat.
304. Batters' boxes will be 3 ft. wide and 6 ft. long and positioned 4 inches from the outside edge (White) portion of the plate (not the center). There should be 3 feet in front and 3 feet in back of the middle of home plate. Batters boxes will not always be drawn.
305. There will be a circle (15) feet in diameter, the center of which will be (30) feet from the rear of home plate and on a line from home to second base.
306. The base paths will be fifty (50) feet.
307. The Head Coaches are responsible for the field condition and equipment. This includes raking the infield, marking the field, and/or checking the tee and bases.

## 400. OFFENSE

401. The batting order shall consist of all batters on each team. All players will bat in continuous order. Each team will bat an equal number of players each inning. If one team has fewer players, they will start over at the beginning of the order and bat players until they have batted the same number as the opposing team. For the next inning, this team will pick up with where they left off the previous inning (i.e. the first batter will be the player who follows the last batter from the previous inning). The batting order may not be changed once the game has started. Late arrivals must be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
402. If one team is unable to field the appropriate number of players for the scheduled game, that team will not be forced to forfeit a game solely because it cannot provide the appropriate number of players for a game. However, the following action will be taken: The game shall be played with the deficient team fielding all players possible.
403. Base coaches shall remain in their coaching boxes at all times, unless play dictates otherwise. There may be a batting coach behind home plate in the designated area. Batting coaches may position the batter and adjust the tee for each batter. Coaches may position batters as they wish, as long as the batter stays in the confines of the batter's box. Coaches are strongly cautioned against "turning" their batters at an angle to hit the ball down one of the baselines. This practice teaches poor skills and is not in the best interest of the player.
404. The tee will be removed by the batting coach after each fair batted ball.
405. Prior to hitting off the tee, each batter will get four (4) pitches from the machine to attempt to hit the ball. Only four (4) pitches will be offered regardless of the quality of the pitches and regardless of whether or not any of the pitches are struck foul. No pitch will count as a strike. After four (4) pitches (missed or fouled), the batter is required to hit from the tee. If the pitching coach is struck by a hit ball, time is called and the pitch is replayed.
  - a. Once hitting from the tee, the player will receive three (3) attempts to put the ball in play before being called out. .
406. Bumping the ball off the tee during warm-up is not a strike and will be called a no-pitch.

407. Any ball struck and traveling on or past the 15 ft. arc shall be a fair ball, if the ball is touched in fair territory or passes first or third before going foul, even though part of the tee may have been struck. Note: Any ball that carries past the 15 ft. arc, but was not touched by the batter's bat will be called a strike.
408. NO BUNTING will be allowed, half-swings will be called a bunt. PENALTY: A strike will be called on the batter. If on the third strike, the batter will be called out.
409. A batter cannot be out of the batter's box when the ball is hit. This includes stepping on home plate. PENALTY: The batter is out.
410. After one (1) warning per game per player for slinging his bat, the batter will be called out for each additional time that he slings his bat.
411. If a base runner leaves his base before the batter hits the ball, the base coach shall indicate the violation at the time it occurs. PENALTY: The defensive team shall have the choice of the play or re-bat.
412. Any offensive coach physically assisting a base runner while the ball is in play will result in that runner being called out.
413. Coaches should not elevate the tee in order to aid the player in swinging up on the ball and producing a fly ball hit. This practice teaches poor baseball skills and WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Coaches who insist on teaching players to swing up at the ball may be warned and even sanctioned or suspended.
414. There will be automatically two (2) outs when the last batter comes to the plate, any out made, including touching home plate will be considered the end of the inning and all scoring will cease at that point. NOTE: The offensive team coach must notify the defensive team when the last batter comes to bat. PENALTY: The defensive team gets the choice of the play or re-bat.

## **500. DEFENSE**

501. All players on each team will play defense simultaneously in each inning. There will be five (5) set infielders . Outfielders must remain twenty feet behind the base lines until the ball is hit. PENALTY: The offensive team gets a choice of play or re-bat.

502. The pitcher must have one (1) foot inside the pitcher's circle, when the ball is hit. Penalty: The offensive team gets a choice of the play or re-bat.
503. See section 600 for rules on stopping play.
504. NO ROLLING of the ball underhanded on the ground will be allowed. No outs will be allowed by rolling the ball. Runners will automatically be safe if defensive team rolls the ball.
505. Appeals will be made by the Head Coach after time has been called and before the ball is returned to the tee by the opposing coach. The coach will notify the opposing coach involved of his appeal of what runner and what base. NOTE: For the purpose of the appeal play, returning the ball to the tee by the home plate coach will be the same result as the next pitch being thrown. Appeals will be discussed and resolved by the head coaches only (and the commissioner if present).
506. Overthrows inside the fence will be a live ball and allow the base runner as many bases as possible. Overthrows outside the field of play will be declared a dead ball and bases awarded under the rules of regular baseball.
507. Catchers will not be used.
508. A caught fly ball will be played the same as regular baseball and play is not dead unless the ball is hit by the last batter of the inning.
509. Two defensive coaches will be allowed in the field. Both must remain in the outfield, twenty (20) feet from the basepath, during play.
510. The infield fly rule will not be in effect.
511. If a player is injured by being hit in the face, throat, or head and cannot continue play, time will be called immediately and all players awarded one base. Any other injury deemed serious enough in the judgement of the coaches present will be handled in the same manner.
512. Coaches may not touch or physically assist a player during play under any circumstance. If a player becomes distressed or injured during a play, the Coaches can attend to the player only after a player stops play. (Coach's discretion should always be used).

## **600. STOPPING-PLAY**

601. Holding the baseball above the head to indicate intent to call a timeout is recommended method for stopping play. Play will stop whether or not timeout is indicated by the player if the lead runner is faced off. A verbal "time-out" is not required.
602. Any defensive player that has control of the ball, in front of a runner, in the baseline, and holds the ball can stop play. If there are advancing runners, play is not stopped until the runner being faced off is or becomes the lead runner. If runner(s) are in front of the infielder attempting to stop play, they can continue to advance up to and including home plate. Play stops as soon as the runner the player has faced off becomes the lead runner. If a player attempts to "make an out" on the advancing runners, then the faced off runner is released and play continues until the lead runner is faced off.
603. When time is called, any other advancing runners behind the lead runner must return to the base if they are not half way to the base in which they are advancing.

## **800. Miscellaneous**

801. During Offensive Play, a team is allowed one first base coach, one third base coach, one pitching coach and one catching coach. The third coach must occupy first base and the fourth coach must occupy third base. The pitching and catching coaches must move out of the way once the ball is batted into play. They are not to interfere with the normal course of play. It is up to the first and third base coaches to advance play. If there are only two coaches, the pitching coach can assist at first base from the circle, and the catching coach can assist at third base by moving down the third base line.
802. Defense cannot have more than three coaches on the field at any time. All other coaches must be in the dugout or outside the fence during the inning. During Defensive Play, a team is allowed two outfield coaches as specified in rule 509. One additional coach for the infield may coach from just outside the dugout.
803. Each team may have a Team Mom or Dugout Dad maintain order, equipment preparation, and batting order to speed play.
804. The Offensive Coaches, Team Mom, and/or Dugout Dad are required to announce last batter. The defensive coaches should acknowledge the "Last Batter" announcement.
805. The Coaches will be responsible for the disposition of their fans and will be required to enforce any disciplinary action.

806. The visiting team is REQUIRED to have one PARENT in the press box to assist in running the scoreboard to track time, innings, and outs. Score will be kept. Children are not allowed in the press box during the game.
807. The home team head coach shall be responsible for having the field in shape to play and at the conclusion of the last game of the day, the home team head coach shall be responsible for turning off the lights and returning the equipment to the storage area.