

## U9 (Learn To Pitch) Game Rules



Focus is on FUN and player development

1. Ball is to be regulation size of 11" or 10" training ball.
2. Diamond Dimensions: 45' between bases, 63'8" between Home Plate and 2<sup>nd</sup> Base
3. Pitch at approximately 30' from home plate
4. Each game will consist of 3-4 innings, no outs will be made, and no score kept
5. Defensive Positions (player positions should rotate each inning):
  - 1 - Pitcher (Coach) and Fielder (player)
  - 2 – Catcher
  - 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Base
  - 4 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Base
  - 5 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Base
  - 6 – Shortstop
  - 7 – Left Field
  - 8 – Centre Field
  - 9 – Right Field
  - Extra players wait on the teams' bench and cheer (no player to sit for more than 1 inning)
6. Offensive Players: All players on one team will bat during their half inning. Once all players have batted, they will switch with the defensive team
7. 5 pitches will be thrown by the Coach Pitcher to each batter during their at bat.
8. A hit ball must be fair for the batter to run to 1<sup>st</sup> base and baserunners to progress.
9. After 5 pitches have been thrown, if the batter doesn't hit any of them fair, then a batting tee will be placed in front of home plate for them to use (no walks).
10. Baserunners may lead off with the pitch but can't steal or progress on a foul ball. Base path is 3' to either side of a line from base to base.
11. Batting helmets must be worn while on deck, in the batter's area, or while running bases.
12. Catcher's mask, chest protector, and shin guards must be worn by the catcher while playing that defensive position.
13. A player playing the pitching defensive position, 1B, or 3B must wear a fielding facemask, and it is recommended for all other infield positions.
14. After a hit each baserunner may run the bases in order until the defensive team gets the ball back to the infield (inside the bases).
15. For the last few weeks of the season, OUTS will be called to prepare older players moving up to U11 and players will pitch until 4 balls have been issued to the batter with the coach pitching up to 3 after if needed. Strikeouts will be called but no walks. On a 4-0 count the coach pitches up to 3 pitches, on a 4-2 count the coach gets one pitch. All coach pitches will be considered strikes.

Please contact [U9coordinator@camrosetsoftball.ca](mailto:U9coordinator@camrosetsoftball.ca) with any questions or concerns.