



FMMBA – Coach Pitch Rules

Start time for Coach Pitch will be **6:15pm** and will finish at **7:30pm**. Coaches will be responsible to run a 30 minute practice **BEFORE** starting a game. Each team will get 15 minutes on the diamond to practice and will practice the remaining 15 minutes off the diamond. Practices should include basic techniques with throwing; fielding, running, catching, hitting and can involve fun games for the kids to help keep them engaged. The equipment bins will have extra Tee's, bases, balls and bats so both teams will have what they need to run practice. **RUNNING PRACTICES ARE ABSOUTELY NECESSARY AND WILL HELP DEVELOP THE CHILDRENS SKILLS AND UNDERSTANING OF THE GAME.**

1. Bases are to be 60 feet apart. Coaches from both teams can assist each other to ensure the games starts on time.
2. All games start exactly on time and as per the schedule. Please try to have your team arrive 30 minutes prior to start times to all for warm up and set up etc,
3. Home team is responsible bases, tee and supplying the home plate umpire who shall stand behind or near home plate. The umpire is the only one who determines if runners are safe or out at the base and the tie always goes to the runner. The home plate umpire must call strikes, balls and the number of pitches (**5 maximum**) and then use the Tee.
4. The 1st and 3rd base coaches will serves as the base umpires (calling your own outs).
5. The coach of the hitting team (or somebody selected by the coach) will pitch to his or her players while they are at bat. Coaches are asked to kneel on one knee a comfortable and safe distance away from the batter so that they can **SOFTLY THROW AN OVERHAND PITCH TO THE BATTER**. It is recommended that the coach who is pitching has a bucket of balls beside him so he can quickly get another ball to throw instead of waiting for each ball to be thrown back after each pitch.
6. All players are to be listed on the game sheet and take their turn at bat regardless of whether are not they are playing defensively at the time.
7. Maximum of 10 players on the field defensively, the extra fielder must be a 4th outfielder.
8. All players must rotate their position on regular bases, and cannot play the same position 2 innings in a row or more than 2 times during the game. FMMBA recommends coaches use the player rotation sheet at this level http://www.qcbaseball.com/tools/baseball_lineup7.htm.



9. Each batter is entitled to 5 pitches and then can use the Tee. A maximum of **6 batters or 3 outs** whichever occurs first shall complete one half an inning. **When using a Tee, the batter and any base runners can only advance one base, even when in a last batter situation.**
10. A batter who throws a bat must bat again with a warning and no out will result. The second offense is an automatic out.
11. The ball is called dead and play stops if the ball hits the coach/adult on the field. The batter will get to first base and all base runners will advance one base only.
12. No lead offs! No stealing of bases! Infield fly rule does not apply!
13. If the defensive team creates an out, the play shall be deemed as stopped and called so by the umpire. ; They may only advance on a fair hit ball.
14. **If the defensive team creates an 'over throw', the offensive team can ONLY advance ONE base. We do not want to encourage multiple overthrows, and ask all coaches to direct the post overthrow back to the pitchers area.**
15. Helmets with the chin strap under the chin and fastened is mandatory for all batters, base runners, and on deck batters, Metal cleats are prohibited.
16. The offensive team may have 2 adult base coaches a 1st base coach and a 3rd base coach. The defensive team may have 2 coaches in the field to assist with the positioning and reinforcing fundamentals. Both team coaches are responsible for making sure that players are paying attention to the game to avoid injury. An additional coach/parent needs to oversee the dugout/bench area (batter safety as well as catcher).
17. All diamonds are to be left clean after each game.

If the temperature is not +5 or above according to the weather channel an hour before the game the game will be postponed.

#1 Rule play safe and have FUN!



Coach Pitch Coaches Initiatives

Hi and welcome to T-ball my name is Andrew Swagers and I am going to provide you with a guideline to teaching basic fundamentals for T-ball players. First of all before we get going I just want to say thank you for committing to helping out the players, our association and the wonderful sport of baseball. It is because of people like you that this sport will continue to thrive in the wood buffalo region. You are a very important factor as to how much a child is going to enjoy his/her first baseball experience. The goal is to provide every participant with a positive baseball experience with the hope that they will want to continue to play on a yearly basis. How do we achieve that goal? By making the experience a fun, positive one and teaching basic proper fundamentals so the players can see improvement. Anyone who is in this type of atmosphere usually enjoys themselves. If you have never coached before we have practice plans in place and will do everything we can to help make your own experience a positive one.

Basic Fundamentals

Throwing:

It is very important to try and teach proper throwing fundamentals at a young age so that the players develop the right habits. Some players will be able to play together but for the most part you will probably have to work with small groups 1 adult for 3 to 4 players as most will have trouble catching each other.

1. Get the players to start off on 1 knee the same knee as the hand they throw with. All they are going to do is simply flip the ball to their partner who will only be 3 to 4 feet away. The focus is to create good backspin on the ball and keep their throwing elbow even or above their shoulder. Try and throw the ball to their partners' chest. This will be done without gloves. (2-3 minutes)
2. Staying on the same knee get them to put their gloves on. Now have them start with the hands together, take the ball out of the glove pushing the ball away from the body,

point the glove towards the target and throwing the ball to their partners' chest. Try and make sure that the hand and ball are making somewhat of a circular motion from original start point to release point. Once again make sure they are keeping the throwing elbow even or above the shoulder and not pushing the ball or working underneath it. (2-3 minutes)

3. Stand the players up and back up to where they can still play controlled catch. The one throwing the ball will start off sideways with his/her feet wide enough so that he/she can deliberately transfer his/her bodyweight from leg to leg. Start with the hand and ball in the glove, rock the weight back while taking the hand and ball out away from the body and pointing the glove to the target, shift weight as you come around and throw. Same fundamentals as on the one knee with the arm action only now we have our hips and lower half involved. (3-4 minutes)
4. Back the up a little, start off with feet shoulder width apart facing partner sideways. Lift the front leg separate the hands and step towards the target and throw. Emphasis on the same fundamentals as the previous 3 steps but now we are putting the entire package together. (3-4 minutes)

Catching:

As well as throwing we want to teach the proper fundamentals in the catching department to create good habits that will stick with the players. The best way to enforce these habits is to have small groups giving the players a lot of repetitions and attention. Make sure the players always start with the knees slightly bent and hands are thumb to thumb. The general rule is that when the ball is above the waist we want to catch it with the fingers up and below the waist fingers down.

1. Using the soft stitch ball or even tennis balls begin with using bare hands. Try to teach the players to catch the baseball with their fingers up and having the glove hand as the backstop and the throwing hand as the trapper. A lot of young players want to try and catch everything with the palm up instead of palm towards their partner. Start off nice and close and throw simple underhand tosses towards their chest. Make sure they keep their eyes on the ball and use the hand to stop the ball. If the throw is around waist high get them to bend their knees and catch with fingers up, if it is lower then we catch with fingers down. Once they have done a good job with their bare hands then we can move on to using gloves.

2. We will now use the gloves and do the exact same thing making sure they focus on keeping the palm out and fingers up, remembering that the glove is the back stop and the hand is the trapper.

Groundballs:

Fielding groundballs at this age group is a lot easier than catching fly balls but also needs to be taught correctly instilling proper fundamentals. This can be done with partners as the coach walks around or in small groups. Strong emphasis on triangle position between feet and point of contact, bending the knees, using 2 hands (alligator) and being aggressive towards the target once ball is fielded.

1. No gloves, have them roll the ball back and forth using 2 hands and focusing on the alligator position with the hands eating the ball. The hand that the glove usually goes on will be the hand closest to the body with palm facing out (bottom of alligator mouth). The other hand will be the top of the alligator mouth. If the ball is a little to the side have them shuffle and field the ball in the middle of their body with their chins down. (3-4 minutes)
2. Gloves on same hand as without gloves except now they are a little farther apart and will focus on having an eye in their glove from start point and not taking the eye off the ball. Have them imagine that the eye is in the middle of their palm and that they can't take the eye off the ball. This will eliminate flipping the glove down which is a bad habit for a lot of players. (2-3 minutes)
3. Have them in small groups and roll each one a ball, they will field the ball down out in front and come up making a throw back to you. Give them each a lot of reps stressing the importance of doing it with the proper technique. (4-5 minutes)

Flyballs:

This is probably the biggest challenge for young players as the fear of getting hit in the face is in their minds. Most young players want to catch the ball away from their heads with their palm facing up. Just as we talked about at the beginning the important thing to stress here is palm out and fingers up. Back stop (glove) and trapper (hand).

1. Form small groups and start them off with their gloves on nice and close. Underhand flip balls to them emphasizing the fundamentals that we have talked about. As they get better and more confident you can start throwing the balls higher up. Make sure they use 2 hands and get their body underneath the ball. (5-10 minutes)

Hitting:

Hitting for the majority of new baseball players is their favourite part of the game. Instilling proper fundamentals at a young age usually leads to success which keeps the player interested in the game. This is T-ball but I want to provide you with some insight on the proper swing:

Every hitter's swing must have a coil (gather and load), a stride (ready to transfer weight), hip rotation while pulling the hands through, and finish all while trying to maintain balance and being efficient and in control. This obviously takes a lot of practice and some good guidance which is where we come in to play as coaches. Not only do we have to try and provide knowledge of proper hitting mechanics but we also need to help each individual develop a mindset that works for them. Some hitters are at their best when there is absolutely no pressure and some thrive off of it. We need to make the hitter understand that the only pressure that exists is the one that he/she puts on him/herself. He/she needs to find which state he/she is most successful in and create that every time he/she is at the plate. Hitting like every other part of this game is about confidence and that is something as coaches that we can all play a big role in developing into our players.

1. Spread your players out each with a bat and helmet. Show them how to properly grip the bat by lining up their knocking knuckles. Grip the bat loose and be relaxed, face the "T" with feet shoulder width apart and bat head facing up. In order to hit the ball hard they will need to get extension with the arms, bat and transfer their weight. Get them to take swings and take them through the correct path to the ball. We want them to lead with the knob of the bat keeping the hands close to the body and taking the shortest path to the ball. Have them swing down towards the ball and not upwards. They should focus on hitting the ball as hard as possible on a line and not upwards. Once they have worked on this we can lead them to the T's. (3-4 minutes)
2. Have 2 to 3 players per T and work on swinging down to the ball trying to make contact with the arms extended and keeping their eyes on the ball at point of contact. Make sure they are getting their entire body involved in the process, rotating their hips as they transfer weight to hit the ball. Work on everything that we have discussed and stay positive with the players. (Have the players hit 3 to 4 balls in a row and rotate within their group for up to 8 minutes.)

Baserunning:

Teaching baserunning is probably the easiest out of the fundamentals that we have gone over but equally important. We need to make sure that the players understand the rules and what it takes to properly run the bases.

1. Take the players through the proper route to every base. Once they have hit the ball they need to run as fast as they can to 1st base and touch the middle front part of the bag. Show them that they are allowed to run through the bag and break it down after. Explain to them why this is allowed and that if there is an over throw they can proceed to the next base at their or the coaches discretion.
2. Running the bases at the beginning of practice and going over the importance of this is a good way to get your team warmed up and is also fun for the players. Make sure you teach the importance of this every time you take them through it.

Conclusion

By following these basic fundamentals you will be providing your players with the proper techniques to becoming a better ball player. However the most important part of this experience is for the players to have fun and enjoy a positive experience. If at any time you have questions please feel free to contact me at inquiries@fmmba.ca . Thanks for taking the time. Good luck and PLAY BALL!



Coach Pitch Practice Plan # 1

0:00-0:10 Stretch and active warm up

Start down the right or left field line have the kids run to the centerfield fence and back as a group. Take them through the stretch and active warm up routine.

0:10-0:23 Throwing

Go through the 4 different components of throwing in the coaches initiatives handout.

0:23-0:25 Water break

0:25-0:35 Infielding/Outfielding

If possible separate your team into 2-4 small groups and rotate them through these two stations.

Take your team through steps 1-3 of fielding groundballs. (5 mins)

Work on the basic fundamentals of catching flyballs. (5 mins)

0:35-0:50 Hitting

Divide the team into 3 groups; group # 1 fielding the batted balls, group # 2 hitting off the T towards the field, group # 3 hitting off T's against the fence. (5 mins per group and working on proper hitting fundamentals).

0:50-1:00 Simulated game of outs

Divide your team into two teams and play a game. Everyone on the hitting team hits once and then switches with the defensive team. The team which makes the most amount of outs is the winner. Keep rotating until time is up.

1:00-1:05 Practice wrap up

Clean up balls, jog around bases twice making sure to touch every base. Discuss and go over fundamentals learned and end with positive comments.



Coach Pitch Practice Plan # 2

0:00-0:10 Stretch and active warm up

Have the kids meet at home plate and jog around the bases twice. Take them through the stretch and active warm up routine.

0:10-0:20 Swing and run through 1B

One player at a time will simulate a swing, drop the bat and run through 1B. Make sure they touch the base and break it down afterwards. If you have a stopwatch and time them from home to first they will really like it. Emphasis on dropping and not throwing the bat and make sure they keep their eyes on the base.

0:20-0:32 Throwing

Go through the 4 different components of throwing in the coaches initiatives handout.

0:32-0:35 Water break

0:35-0:45 Groundballs

Have your players partner up and with no gloves roll the ball back and forth working on fielding the ball down and out front with two hands making sure they use the alligator mouth technique. (5 mins)

Divide the group into 2 teams; half will be between 1st and 2nd and the other half between 2nd and 3rd. The players will have their gloves on and will all get in the ready position. 1 coach per side will roll the ball to their respective team. The players will get a point for fielding the ball properly and making a good throw to their coach. The team with the most points after 5 mins is the winner.

0:45-0:55 Hitting

Divide your team into 4 groups; 2 groups will be hitting off 2 different T's and the other 2 will be fielding the balls hit and throwing it into coach. Each hitter will hit 3 balls and rotate within their group until 5 mins is up. They will then switch with the defensive players.

0:55-1:00 Practice wrap up

Clean up balls, jog around the entire diamond once as a group. Discuss and go over fundamentals learned and end with positive comments.



Coach Pitch Practice Plan # 3

0:00-0:10 Stretch and active warm up

Start down the right or left field line have the kids run to the centerfield fence and back as a group. Take them through the stretch and active warm up routine.

0:10-0:25 Throwing

Go through the 4 different components of throwing in the coaches initiatives handout.

0:25-0:30 Water break

0:30-0:45 Infielding/Outfielding

If possible separate your team into 2-4 small groups and rotate them through these two stations.

Take your team through steps 1-3 of fielding groundballs. (7-8 mins)

Work on the basic fundamentals of catching flyballs. (7-8 mins)

0:45-1:00 Hitting

Divide the team into 3 groups; group # 1 fielding the batted balls, group # 2 hitting coach towards the field, group # 3 hitting off T's against the fence. (5 mins per group and working on proper hitting fundamentals).

1:00-1:02 Water break

1:02-1:18 Simulated game of outs

Divide your team into two teams and play a game. Everyone on the hitting team hits once and then switches with the defensive team. The team which makes the most amount of outs is the winner. Keep rotating until time is up.

1:18-1:25

Have the players cleanup and comb the park for any baseballs and put them in the bucket should only take a couple minutes. Have them line up at home plate and all run through 1st base 3 times, from home to second twice and home to home twice.

1:25-1:30 Practice wrap up

Discuss and go over fundamentals learned and end with positive comments.



Coach Pitch Practice Plan # 4

0:00-0:10 Stretch and active warm up

Start down the right or left field line have the kids run to the centerfield fence and back as a group. Take them through the stretch and active warm up routine.

0:10-0:25 Baserunning

Take the team through basic baserunning fundamentals beginning with home to 1st. Then home to 2nd, 1st to 3rd and finish with 2nd to home. Talk about the rules and take them through some different scenarios for example flyballs in the infield, when to tag up and when to go halfway.

0:25-0:28 Water break

0:28-0:40 Throwing

Take them through the proper fundamentals of throwing: steps 1-4. Finish with some competition if the ball drops both partners will have a seat. The team that doesn't drop the ball will be the winner. This will make them focus on trying to play clean catch.

0:40-1:00 Fielding Stations

(if possible divide team into 2 and have one coach run each station for more reps)

Station # 1 (10 mins) Groundballs

First of all start by rolling ground balls to the players with no gloves stressing the importance of using both hands with the alligator technique. Once they have this down we can use gloves and

you can start rolling side to side having the field the ball in the middle of their body whenever possible. Incorporate a competition by splitting the group in two and receiving a point for every ball that is properly fielded and thrown.

Station #2 (10 mins) Flyballs

Go over proper fundamentals of catching flyballs. Start off by using barehands making sure they are using the catching hand as the backstop and throwing hand as the trapper. Have them put their gloves on and continue to use the proper catching fundamentals. Have a competition within their group with a point only be awarded if the ball is caught properly.

1:00-1:02

Water break

1:02-1:26

Hitting Stations

(if possible separate your team into 3 groups and rotate them through these stations, you will need help from parents or another coach)

Station # 1 (8 mins) T's and form work

Work on the correct swing path down to the ball. Have your hitters hit wiffle balls off a T focusing on swinging down and hitting the bottom half of the ball making sure their lower half is involved and creating a good hip turn.

Station # 2 (8 mins) Front toss

Underhand flip from behind a screen trying to get your players to hit line drives off the screen. Make sure that your hitters get a consistent toss so that they can develop the habit of getting a good load for every pitch. Rotate your players through taking no more than 6 sings per turn.

Station # 3 (8 mins) BP

Batting practice on the field. Throw to your players as you would in a game having them hit on the field as they would be in a game. Once again stressing the importance of the different components of the swing. Rotate your players through with no more than 6 swings per turn.

1:26-1:30 Practice wrap up

Clean up discuss and go over fundamentals learned and end with positive comments.