

## Medicine Hat Minor Softball Association

### U7 Coach Pitch Division - Rules

#### Game Time and Days

- Time of Play --- 6:00pm - 7:15pm (30minute warmup practice to begin)  
Sunday additions are subject to alternate time of play.
  - Warm-up / Practice beginning at 6:00pm;
  - Games will start at 6:30pm; no new inning to begin after 7:15

#### Game Cancellations

- Cancellations due to poor weather will be made by the division director 1 hour prior to play;
- Stopping a game due to bad weather, ONCE in play at the diamond, is at the discretion of both coaches.
  - Always error on the side of caution in the case of lightening;

#### Equipment

- Batters must wear a helmet approved or they will not be permitted to bat;
- Batters must use bats and balls supplied by the Association;
- Runners must wear helmets
- A 11 - inch ball is to be used

#### Diamond Layout

- Distance between the bases is 45 feet;
- Pitcher is to be 20 feet from the home plate;

#### Offence

- When all defensive players are in position and ready, the coach of the offensive team will place the ball in the machine and pitch to the batter;
- If a hit ball is caught by the parent pitcher in self defense, the ball is dead;
- Strikeouts are not permitted;
- Batters should only have 3 strikes (actual swings); if a batter is reluctant to swing or after the 3 thrown pitches, the Tee will be utilized. There will be no walks and no called strike outs;
- A ball is foul identical to conventional softball rules with the exceptions: the batter hits the tee with the bat causing the ball to fall from the tee;
- No intentional bunting. The ball will be dead, no runner may advance and the batter will go back to bat. The bunt will be a called strike;
- It is recommended to have a rotating batting order, so all players get an equal amount of at bats during the season;
- The coach must advise the opposition when the last batter is up;
- No score is to be kept in U8

#### Defence

- All players on the roster will be given a defensive position;
- No player should play the same position for the consecutive games;
  - I.e. if John plays first this game, he should play a different position next game.

- The infield must switch with the outfield after 2 innings;
- No running of the ball from the outfield, no rolling or running the ball to the bases. Players are encouraged to throw;
- Players must throw the ball overhand where at all possible. Underhand will be allowed within 3- 5 feet of the bases;
- Adults assisting in field, must leave the ball to be played by the athletes;
- A hit ball remains in play until the ball touches the infield,
  - with the exception of the last batter;
- After the last batter has hit, stoppage of play occurs when the catcher touches home plate in possession of ball;
- If there is an overthrow on any attempted play at a base, the runners will be permitted to advance at their own risk, but not more than one base.
  - One base will be awarded if the ball goes into a dead ball area;
- No infield fly rule

#### Outs

- Outs are to be called from the beginning of the season.
- The team at bat will be finished when 3 outs or once through the batting order, whichever comes first
- Throwing of the bat is an automatic out;
  - Exceeding a radius of about 3 feet around home plate is considered a thrown bat.
- All called OUT players must hustle to bench;
- In case of a tie at the base, the runner is safe;

#### Misc.

- All players attending a game shall bat and field the whole game;
- A maximum of one coach or parent is allowed on the field while the team is in the defensive position