

PINTO
(Ages 7 & 8)

Dearborn Baseball has designed Coaches Pitch to be an instructional and positive experience for the children. Everyone wins and no one loses. There are no “place standings” and everyone receives a trophy. Each child will bat in every inning and the field position time will be split evenly. There will be no score kept. Our belief is the time for competitive play is at the age of nine and above.

The following are guidelines, not rules, to be taken advantage of:

1. The primary objective of the game is to teach good sportsmanship as well as baseball. Manager control of the players at all times is mandatory. Encourage players to attend practice and games.
2. Bases are 50 feet apart. Use a tape or rope. Use a hammer for the base spikes, not a bat!
3. All catchers will wear complete protective equipment, which includes: helmet and mask, chest protector, shin guards and cup.
4. Each player shall stand in the area of what would be a batter’s box.
5. A normal batting stance, square with the plate, is the only one permitted. The back foot and front foot are to be kept stationary prior to swinging. The front foot may be moved toward the pitcher while swinging. Let the players hit the ball.
6. Coaches will pitch to their own players. Pitching style will vary from player to player. The distance the coach stands from home plate may also vary. Allow the batter to hit even if it requires more than three (3) strikes. Strikeouts, where necessary to save embarrassment, should be few and far between.
7. The base runner(s) must remain on the base until the ball is hit. There will be no stealing.
8. Infielders shall keep the base paths clear when there is no play on the runner to avoid unnecessary contact. Any blocking of the runner (defensive interference) will result in the awarding of the base to the runner.
9. If the ball goes out of the field of play on an overthrow to first base, the runner may not advance. If the ball remains in the field of play, runners may advance at their own risk. When a ball is thrown or carried from the outfield to the infield (which is determined by the ball crossing the baseline), and no play is made on the runners, and the ball is controlled by a player in the infield, the play is dead. This shall stop the runners advance if the runner is less than half the distance to the next base. Runners are not allowed to “run the bases” on an inappropriate hit.
10. There is no “Infield Fly Rule.”
11. The game shall be five (5) innings or one and one-half (1-1/2) hours in length, whichever occurs first. Every player bats every 1/2 inning in a set order. The 1/2 inning ends when each player has batted once or three (3) outs have been recorded. Batting positions should be rotated each game (e.g., the same child should not always bat last). There will be ten (10) players in the field at one time. Each player gets equal time in the field each game. All defensive positions will be rotated each inning so that every players gets equal time at each position over the course of the season.
12. Players, parents and coaches in no stances will yell at or argue with the umpire. Managers can discuss rule interpretations with the umpire.
13. There must be at least seven (7) players to constitute a team. If less than seven (7) players are present, try to play the game by borrowing players from the other team. When sufficient players are present, a roving player will be used in the outfield.