

Athens Dixie Youth Baseball By-Laws

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LOCAL Coach Pitch / T-BALL RULES

The following rules apply only to the Coach Pitch / T-Ball League.

Items in bold only apply to post-season play only. During post-season play (the Athens T-Ball Tournament), at least one official umpire will be on the field to call the plays.

1. A regulation game will be five (5) innings. Games will have a one (1) hour time limit. No new inning shall start after the one (1) hour time limit. **No new inning shall start after one (1) hour, 15 minutes in post season play, except for final championship game, where there is no time limit.**
2. Three (3) innings constitute a complete game in case of rain, or two-and-a-half (2 1/2) innings if the home team is ahead. A team leading by ten (10) or more runs after four (4) full innings (3 1/2 innings if the home team is leading) shall be declared the winner.
3. No game shall continue more than five (5) innings. If the score is tied at the end of five (5) innings, the game shall be declared a tie game. **Except during post-season play.**
4. After three (3) outs, all players have batted, or when five (5) runs are scored (only during the first two innings), the teams must change sides. No child shall bat more than once in the same inning.
5. The maximum allowed coaches on the field shall be as follows:
OFFENSE DEFENSE
On offense, A team may use two (2) adults as base coaches, one (1) adult to pitch to the players, one (1) to help batters position themselves before the pitch, assist with the tee and catch the pitch balls, one (1) adult in the dugout. On defense, one (1) adult stays in the dugout (1) adult in the infield position at the back of the circle, three (3) adults may coach in the outfield grass inside the foul lines behind their players.
~~1— For First Base 1 in infield~~
~~1— For Third Base 1 in right field~~
~~1— Assisting Batter at Home 1 in left field~~
6. The home team of the first game will be responsible for obtaining one of the league batting tees from storage, and the home team from the last game will be responsible for putting the batting tee back in storage after the last game.
7. ~~The ball shall not be pitched, but hit off a tee located directly on top of and in line with home plate.~~ **A coach of the batting team will pitch to his/her players. The pitching coach must pitch from 15 feet from back point of home plate.**

(7.1) A batter will receive 3 pitches. The batter will either hit the ball, swing and miss or let the ball go by without swinging. Any pitch not swung at by a batter shall be considered a strike. If a fair ball is not hit during the three pitches, the ball is placed on the tee for one swing. The batter will be considered out if the ball is hit foul, the tee is hit (and ball is foul), or the ball is missed.

(7.2) A batter MUST make an attempt to swing at the ball. A batter cannot hold out the bat and the coach hit the bat with the ball. This will be an ILLEGAL hit and count as a strike. The ILLEGAL hit can only be determined by the UMPIRE.

(7.3) A batter that turns five (5) years old after March 30th of the current year is allowed to bypass the three (3) pitches from the coach and go directly to the tee. This batter may take all three swings with the ball being placed on the tee. A batter that turns five (5) years old after March 30th MUST be identified before the game and denoted on each team's score book.

(7.3) When a fair ball is hit off the tee, only one base is rewarded for all base runners.

(7.4) When a fair ball is hit off the tee, base runners are not allowed to advance on a pass ball thrown to first base. (This is to encourage batters to hit coach pitches instead of using the tee.)

(7.5) After the ball is put in play, the pitching coach becomes "neutral" and may not instruct the base runners. Base runners should be looking at the 1st and 3rd base coaches for base running instruction. First violation of this rule a warning will be given by the UMPIRE. The second violation within the same game will result in replacement of the pitching coach for the remainder of the game.

(7.6) When a batted ball in play hits a coach directly or indirectly, the batter is awarded one base and all runners will advance one base.

8. A league furnished T-ball baseball or equivalent shall be used in all local and tournament play.

9. It is the responsibility of the assisting coach to move the Tee and Bat out of play when a runner is coming home without interfering with the catcher or runner.

10. Each batter will be out after ~~three (3) strikes~~ three (3) pitches and one (1) strike from the tee. Strikes include any attempt to hit a fair ball, in which the ball is hit foul, the tee is hit (and ball is foul), or the ball is missed.

(10.1) Each batter who will turn five (5) years old after March 30 of the current year will be out after three (3) strikes from the tee. Strikes include any attempt to hit a fair ball, in which the ball is hit foul, the tee is hit (and ball is foul), or the ball is missed.

11. Any ball that is hit from the tee must advance to a point on or beyond the restraining line. This restraining line will be clearly marked with white dust from a location ten (10) feet from the

point of home plate down the first base foul line, across the playing field (in an arc) to a location ten (10) feet from the point of home plate down the third base foul line. Any ball stopping within the restraining area will be played as if it were a foul ball. Any ball stopping on the restraining area will be played as if it were a fair ball.

12. Runners will be allowed to advance a maximum of one (1) base at their own risk on a ball thrown outside the foul lines **except for balls hit from the tee.**

13. Players are not allowed to steal or lead off bases.

14. Any runner who deliberately attempts to cause a collision, which endangers either party, shall be called out. For a second infraction in the same game, the runner shall be called out and ejected from the game.

15. The runner is out when the base coach at first base, or third base, touches or holds the runner, physically assisting that runner in returning to or leaving base.

16. Each team will field all players, with the six (6) standard infielders. All others (outfielders) must remain beyond the run lanes (in the grass) when the ball is not in play. The catcher must wear protective head gear, and the assisting coach at home must remain between the batting Tee and the catcher when the batter is attempting to hit. If a team has less than 9 players the catcher is optional.

17. The pitcher must maintain at least one foot in the circle **and behind the pitching coach** until the ball is in play.

~~18. When the baseball is in the infield, in the possession of a fielder and the lead runner has stopped running, the ball becomes dead. The ball will also become dead when any player in the circle has control of the ball and purposely halts play. Any advancing runners, when the ball becomes dead, will advance to, or return to, the closest base, using the halfway marks as guide.~~ When the ball is in the controlled possession of a defensive player in the circle, the ball is dead and runners cannot advance unless they are over the halfway to the next base. Also the umpire may rule a "dead ball" if play has been stopped by preventing the lead runner from advancing by a defensive player with the ball. If the ball is dead and the runner is over halfway to the next base, but cannot advance because that base is occupied, he may return to the last base he previously occupied without risk of put out.

(18.1) Halfway marks will be placed between 1st and 2nd, 2nd and 3rd, 3rd and home plate.

(18.2) Defensive players must stop in the circle to the play. Running through the circle to a play will not stop play.

19. For any interference call against a fielder, which is deliberate and endangers either party, the fielder shall receive a warning. For a second infraction in the same game by the same player, the fielder shall be ejected from the game.

20. Players cannot intentionally roll the ball (underhand) to get the runner out. The runner will be declared safe in this case.

21. All infielders must remain behind the edge of the infield grass while the batter is batting (i.e. in the dirt between 1st and 2nd bases or 2nd and 3rd bases).

22. There is no minimum number of players required to play a game.

23. There is no infield fly rule.

24. The first baseman is the only player that can make an out on a runner advancing to 1st base (by either tagging the runner or the base).

25. Once a player is placed in a position during an inning that player cannot change positions with another player. The umpires can allow a player to be replaced by another player due to an injury or illness.

26. Coaches may NOT physically adjust the batter while in the batter's box. Coaches may ONLY give verbal instructions to the batter.

The Athens Dixie Youth **Coach Pitch** / T-Ball Director, the Athens Dixie Youth President, and the Athens Dixie Youth Chief Umpire will handle all disputes.