FLORIDA USSSA 8U COACH PITCH

RULE 8.00 | SPECIFIC PLAYING RULES | PRINTABLE REFERENCE

Florida USSSA Coach Pitch Specific Rules — Rule 8.00

QUICK REFERENCE

The rules below apply specifically to Florida USSSA 8U Coach Pitch play. Each rule is separated into its own section for easier reference.

8.01 — FAIR BALL ARC

There shall be a twenty (20) foot arc drawn from first (1st) baseline to third (3rd) baseline in front of home plate. A batted ball must go past this line to be a fair ball. If available, otherwise the grass in front of home plate shall be the fair ball line.

8.02 — SAFETY ARC

There shall be a thirty (30) foot arc drawn from first (1st) baseline to third (3rd) baseline in front of home plate. Infielders must stay behind this line until the ball is hit. If available, otherwise it is the umpires judgement.

8.03 — PITCHING CIRCLE

There shall be a ten (10) foot diameter circle with the front edge at forty-two (42) feet from the rear point of home plate. If available, otherwise the pitchers circle shall be umpire judgement.

8.04 — PITCHER'S LINE

There shall be a line drawn from the pitcher's circle to the safety arc. If available, otherwise it is the umpires judgement if the pitching coach is in a straight line to the plate.

8.04.A — PITCHING COACH POSITION

The pitching coach shall keep one foot on or straddle the pitcher's line. The Coach can pitch anywhere in-between the 30' Safety Arc and the 42' Pitching Circle. (Umpires judgement)

8.04.B — COACHING FROM THE PITCHING POSITION

The pitching coach shall not verbally or physically coach while in the pitching position.

8.04.C — PITCHING COACH OBSTRUCTION

The pitching coach shall position himself as not to be an obstruction to the defensive team on any possible play once the ball has been hit.

Penalty: If a coach violates this rule after the ball is pitched, obstruction shall be called.

Additional Penalty: If a coach violates this rule before the ball is pitched, First Offense: Warning; Second Offense: Removal of coach as the pitcher for the remainder of the game.

8.05 — PITCHING COACH

The Pitching Coach shall be an adult at least eighteen (18) years of age.

8.06 — CATCHER

The catcher shall receive the pitch in the catcher's box in a normal baseball manner. If in the Umpire's judgment, the catcher is not receiving the ball in a normal baseball manner, there shall be a warning issued. If the act continues after the warning, the offending teams' manager shall be ejected.

8.07 — DEFENSIVE PLAYERS

Ten (10) defensive players shall play in the field with four (4) outfielders. The fourth (4th) outfielder shall not assume an infield position. All outfielders shall stay behind the baseline.

8.08 — DEFENSIVE PITCHER

The defensive player listed as pitcher shall not leave the pitching circle until the ball is hit.

Penalty: The play continues. After the play has ended, the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or no-pitch.

Additional Penalty: First Offense: Warning; Second Offense: Removal of player from the pitching position for the remainder of the game.

8.09 — DEFENSIVE COACHES

Defensive coaches shall not be allowed on the field of play and shall coach from the dugout.

8.10 — INFIELD FLY RULE

The Infield Fly Rule shall not be in effect at any time.

8.11 — BATTING ORDER

The batting order shall constitute all present players on the team roster at the beginning of the game. Late arrivals shall be inserted at the bottom of the batting order. All players on the roster shall bat before returning to the top of the batting order.

8.11.A: Teams may start a game with eight (8) players. The ninth (9th) & tenth (10th) positions in the batting order shall be declared an out each turn at bat.

Approved Ruling: A ninth (9th) & tenth (10th) player and all subsequent players may be added to the bottom of the batting line-up as soon as they become available.

8.12 — FREE SUBSTITUTION

Teams may use free substitution on defense, but the batting order shall remain the same.

8.13 — BUNTING

Bunting shall not be allowed.

8.14 — PITCH LIMIT TO BATTER

The batter shall receive a maximum of six (6) pitches or three (3) swinging strikes. (The bat is extended if the last pitch is hit foul)

8.15 — INTENTIONAL WALK

A player may only be Intentionally Walked once per game by announcement from the defensive team.

8.16 — LEAD-OFFS & STEALING

Runners shall not lead-off or steal bases. A runner is out for leaving the base before the ball is hit or reaches home plate.

8.17 — COURTESY RUNNER

A courtesy runner for catcher of record only the previous inning may be used. The courtesy runner shall be the player that made the previous out. If no outs have been recorded in the game, the courtesy runner shall be the previous batter not on base. If the team batting has not played defense yet and a courtesy runner is used for a player, the player that was run for must assume the catching position the next inning. This scenario only applies in the first inning for the visiting team.

8.18 — MAXIMUM RUNS PER INNING

A team may score a maximum of seven (7) runs per inning.

8.19 — MATHEMATICAL ELIMINATION

The game is over, when the opposing team is mathematically eliminated from scoring enough runs to win or tie the game. (Run Rules still apply)

8.20 — TIME / DEAD BALL

Umpires shall call "Time" after every play and declare the ball dead. "Time" shall be called as soon as all the runners are not attempting to advance. "Time" does not have to be called by the defense for the purpose of this rule.

> **Rule 8.20 Comment:** When a runner stands off a base and "jukes" or "feints" back and forth, this is to be interpreted as "not attempting to advance" and "Time" shall be called.

8.21 — BATTED BALL HITS PITCHING COACH

When a batted ball hits the Pitching Coach, the following shall apply:

> **8.21.A:** If in the Umpire's judgment, the coach did not make a legitimate attempt to avoid contact, the batter is declared out and no runners shall advance.

> **8.21.B:** If in the Umpire's judgment, the coach did make a legitimate attempt to avoid contact, the ball becomes dead and a no-pitch is declared.

ADDITIONAL RULES & RESOURCES

Official USSSA Rules Book | Florida State Rules | Bat Rules