

**Dublin Youth Athletics**  
**Recreational Softball: Coach Pitch/Tee-Ball League Game Day Guidelines**

**Batting & Base Running**

**1. All players in attendance will bat every inning.**

- a. Defensive outs should be observed by coaches to educate the players, but the half inning will **not end with three outs**. The half inning will only end after all offensive players have had their turn at bat.
- b. Coaches discretion - Batting order can change each inning or can remain the same for the entire game. Coaches should adjust the batting order during the season if the order does not change each inning.
- c. Last batter each half-inning should be announced to the defensive team just so that everyone is aware.
- d. REMIND EVERY BATTER TO DROP THEIR BAT STRAIGHT DOWN AND NOT THROW IT AFTER HITTING THE BALL

**2. Coaches should pitch 5 or 6 balls to each hitter before bringing out the tee.**

- a. Make sure to give tips and coaching during the at bat – don't just let the players struggle through at bats. It is better to limit the number of pitches thrown while giving more instruction than to throw 20 pitches to a struggling batter that isn't getting coached.

**3. If a batter hits a ball through the infield and into the outfield, they should be encouraged to treat it as a double and take second base.**

- a. All other hits should be regarded as a single, and all base runners should advance one base a time. Base distance is 60 ft.

**Fielding**

**1. Defensive players should be placed in traditional softball positions and should be rotated each half inning.**

- a. One player by the coach-pitcher (behind the coach-pitcher for safety)
  - i. Encourage the player to wear a fielder's mask (not a requirement) and remind them to pay attention as they get a lot of fielding work.
- b. Four infielders
  - i. Encourage the first baseman to wear a fielder's mask (not a requirement).
- c. One catcher [when numbers allow]
  - i. Catcher must wear protective gear. The primary reason for gear is for thrown bats, not foul balls. Catchers may wear a batting helmet with a face shield if the catchers helmet doesn't fit.
- d. Outfielders lined up behind the infielders [when numbers allow]
  - i. The point of outfielders in coach pitch isn't to catch fly balls (there aren't many, if any at all); it's to educate players on what they'll see as they progress and to make batting more fun. It's no fun to bat into an 11-player infield.
  - ii. Outfielders don't need to be positioned in the outfield grass at this age level; just keep them somewhere behind the infielders.

**2. Coaches should be constantly talking to infielders about where the correct throw is each play.**

- a. Defensive team coaches are encouraged to spread out in the field to coach and educate. Encourage fielders to make the best throw, tag the easiest base or tag a runner on each play even if the runner has already reached the base. It all helps players form good defensive habits from an early age. Players pick up on this quickly and will know where the correct play is by the end of the season.