

## Merton Athletic Association – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Baseball Guidelines (Machine Pitch) (2023)



1. Three (3) outs or 5 runs per inning, whichever comes first
2. Coaches on defense or first and third base will act as umpires
3. The batter will receive seven (7) total pitches
  - a. 4 from machine
  - b. 3 from coach
  - c. Players will receive more than 7 pitches if they continue to foul pitches off
  - d. Coaches may pitch from any spot
  - e. "Bad" coach pitches count toward the seven pitches
4. At bats will be recorded as an out, if the batter does not put the ball into play after the seven (7) pitches or swings and misses following fouled off pitches beyond the initial seven pitches. The player will return to the bench. Play will continue with the next hitter.
5. All players present play defense – use typical nine positions and add extra outfielders
  - a. Use catcher in full gear, directly behind plate or off to side (based on ability)
  - b. Have a coach assist the catcher
6. Game Length
  - a. Games: 75 minutes (1 hour, 15 minutes) or 6 innings
  - b. No new inning may start after the 75<sup>th</sup> minute
  - c. If a home team cannot complete their at-bat, then the score reverts to last full inning score.
  - d. Tie games are acceptable.
7. Use conservative base running with coaches stopping runners if ball is under control
  - a. Teach kids to get ball under control and not to just throw it around
  - b. One base on overthrows
8. Metal spikes are not allowed for players, parents and spectators
9. Rotate players thru all positions during season
10. No lead-offs or stealing - baserunners may leave the base when batter puts ball in play
11. The team at bat will provide a coach to feed the balls into the pitching machine.
  - a. This coach must not interfere with play or touch a live ball.
  - b. Coach feeding the pitching machine may act as the umpire at 2<sup>nd</sup> base
  - c. If a batted ball hits the coach or pitching machine, then it will be ruled as a single with runners advancing one base.
12. Coaches in first game should arrive approximately 15 minutes early to set up pitching machine.
13. Coaches from the last game of the evening will put the pitching machine away in the field boxes, cleaning the field and dugout areas, and locking the field boxes.
14. DO NOT REMOVE THE BASES FROM FIELD
15. The coach is responsible for all MAA baseball equipment.
16. Base Distance = 50' Pitching distance = 35'
17. Score will be kept by both teams
18. Use pinch runners for catchers to keep game moving
19. There is no infield fly rule
20. Please do not use dogs or cats as substitute players
21. Relax.