

# GRAND RIVER AREA FAMILY YMCA

## Machine Pitch Rules – Summer 2024



### 1. PLAYERS

- A. To be eligible to play in tournaments all players on rosters must have played 50 percent of the games, with exceptions for medical issues.
- B. When an illegal or ineligible player is caught playing in a game, the penalty is ejection of coach and player, and the coach is suspended for two games. If this happens in a tournament, the team must forfeit their games.
- C. If a player's name, age or eligibility is in question, the opposing coach must bring this to the attention of the home plate umpire immediately. Rosters are to be in the scorebook.
- D. If a child with a disability wishes to play, reasonable accommodations must be made for the child. Safety of the players must be considered at all times.

### 2. LENGTH OF GAMES

- A. 1 hour or 6 innings. Finish the inning.
- B. No extra innings, can end in a tie.
- C. If time has expired and home team is unable to win or tie the game, the game is over.
- D. Run spreads: 10 runs after 5 innings and 15 runs after 3 innings.
- E. The maximum number of runs a team can score in one inning is six.
- F. No game shall start after 9pm.

### 3. PLAYING RULES

- A. Batters, on deck hitters, base runners and players coaching bases must wear batting helmets. Helmets must not to be intentionally removed by players until they have reached the dugout. After one warning, an out will be called. If the third out has already been made the team will start the next inning with an out.
- B. Catchers are required to wear a cup-type supporter, catchers gear, mask and helmet with throat guard.
- C. Uniforms include a numbered shirt and a cap. **NO SHORTS ALLOWED.** Colors will be uniform for all players (no mix of colors).

- D. No jewelry, except medical identification.
- E. Each team must have 7 players to play. There will be no out for lack of a full roster. Failure to field a team within ten minutes of scheduled time will be a forfeit.
- F. All players must be in the batting order and by the end of the third inning of play at least one inning on defense. If four or more innings, must have played at least two innings on defense.
- G. Substitutions are not required to be reported to the umpire.
- H. After one warning for a thrown bat, an out will be declared for the next occurrence by any player on the team.
- I. A courtesy runner may be used for an injured player or the catcher. No out is recorded if the injured player cannot return. The courtesy runner is the last out made.

**4. There is no infield fly rule and there is no must slide rule!**

- A. When there is contact between a runner and a fielder who is clearly in possession of the ball, the umpire shall judge if it was mild or incidental contact: play continues.
- B. If there is a collision: fielder is knocked down or backwards, the ball is dead, runner is out, and all other runners return to last base touched at the time of the collision.
- C. Flagrant collision- runner remains upright, lowers his shoulder and intentionally crashes into or with force pushes a defensive player: runner is out and is ejected and each time he comes up to bat an out is called.
- D. Obstruction: if a defensive player blocks the base or plate clearly without the ball, or is not in the act of catching the ball. Runner is safe and delayed dead ball is called.
- E. If a runner collides flagrantly, he shall be declared safe on the obstruction, but will be ejected.

**5.** After a batted ball has been fielded, and thrown back inside the 30-foot line or to the pitching umpire, play is dead. Runners, if half way to the next base, may advance. If the runner going into third base has rounded, he may advance at his own risk as the catcher may still try to tag him out going to home.

**6.** If a batted ball does not pass the 30' arc, the batter can attempt to make it safely to first base only. All runners on bases may only take one base a well. (Even if there is an over throw.)

- 7.** Time outs can only last three minutes and each coach is allowed two per game. Time is not halted if a coach stops the game to ask about a rule.
- 8.** Any coach, umpire, player, parent or spectator using obscene or profane language or aggressive gestures will be ejected and suspended for two games. This includes arguing and harassment. Anyone involved in fighting will be ejected from the league and cannot attend games.
- 9.** Jeering, chanting, or noise making in a negative manner with the intent to distract is not permitted. Coaches will be warned and subject to ejection for repeated offenses.
- 10.** Home plate umpire has final say on all disputes, no protests are allowed.
- 11.** Batters are not permitted to bunt and must follow through all the way. Penalty-called a strike. Each batter will get up to five hittable pitches, decided by the umpires. If the fifth pitch is hit foul, the batter will continue to get pitches until the batter hits the ball fair or swings and misses.
- 12.** No stealing bases, or lead offs. Runner shall remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit. Penalty-runner is out and ball is dead.
- 13.** If a batted ball hit the pitching machine, the ball is dead. Batter is awarded first base and all other runners advance one base.
- 14.** All pitchers or players next to the pitching machine must wear a batting helmet with a facemask or a fielder's mask to be legal.
- 15.** No more than one huddle of players per inning.
- 16.** Ten players can be on the field on defense, but four must be behind the bases in the outfield.
- 17.** Bases are 60'.

## 18. PITCHING RULES

- A. Coaches and umpires shall check and agree on the speed before the game. Pitching machine distance is 38 feet. Home plate ump calls home and third, field ump calls first and second base. Using one ump for regular league games is permissible.
- B. The umpire will place the ball into the pitching machine.
- C. There is no pitcher's plate.

## 19. COACHES

- A. Players and coaches shall remain in the dugouts throughout the game. No coaching on the field.
- B. No more than one offensive time out in each inning.
- C. Excessive huddling between innings is prohibited. Umpire will issue a warning. Additional violations will award a ball or strike for the batter
- D. Coaches cannot go out on the field to give player directions during the game.
- E. Coaches cannot touch players during a live ball, or an out is called.
- F. No protests are allowed, or will be discussed.
- G. Coaches or fans thrown out of a game must leave the area, out of sight and sound. First offense: automatic suspension for the next game. Second offense: two game suspension immediately following the offense. Third offense: banned from the league. When this occurs at a tournament they are banned from the rest of the tournament.

These rules are adopted from the Tri-County League. YMCA Machine Pitch teams are not part of this league and will not participate in their games or tournaments. All games will be played at Danner Park against other YMCA teams. Please contact Will Gunther at (660) 646-6677 with any questions or concerns.