



## Lakeside 8-year-old Invitational Tournament Rules

**SPRING-LOADED PORTABLE PITCHING MACHINE:** Speed: 43 mph. The speed is established when the ball crosses the plate. The front two legs (or front base plate) of the pitching machine are placed in front of the pitching rubber. Coaches are not allowed to check the machine before their team bats. Only umpires may decide if adjustments to the machine should be made.

The player who assumes the pitcher's position must remain within the 5-foot-radius circle, behind the machine, and on one side or the other, until the ball is hit. If the pitcher violates any of these requirements, then (1) the play will stand, even if the pitcher is involved in the play, and (2) the umpire(s) will warn the violating pitcher's manager that if the same pitcher violates one or both requirements again, he or she will have to be removed from the pitcher's position. The player can assume another position but cannot re-enter as a pitcher in that game. The player may not be ejected from the game for this infraction.

**NOTE:** The pitcher's position is only a REFERENCE TO A "fielder's" position (does not deliver a pitch). Therefore, there is NO "Number of Pitches Delivered" rule for the player in the position. A "Courtesy Runner" is NOT Allowed for the pitcher.

**BASEBALLS:** Must be approved Cal Ripken baseballs.

**PLAYERS:** 10 players in the batting order [11 if the Extra Player (EP) option is used].

**GAME LENGTH:** 6 innings. Each batter receives a maximum of four (4) pitches. If the batter strikes out, or if the ball has not been hit into play after four (4) pitches, the batter is out. If in the umpire's judgment, the machine delivers a ball out of the strike zone, a "no pitch" will be called unless the batter swings and misses, in which case it will be ruled a swinging strike.

There are NO INTENTIONAL WALKS. If the batter fouls the fourth pitch, the batter will receive pitches as long as the batter continues to foul pitches. (Note: Any fouled bunt after two strikes is an out.)

**HIT BY PITCH:** If the batter is hit by a pitch from the pitching machine, the batter will be awarded first base.

**INFIELD FLY RULE:** There is NO INFIELD FLY RULE.

**15-RUN RULE:** Any Cal Ripken tournament game must be terminated immediately if one team is ahead by fifteen (15) or more runs after two and one half (2 ½) or three (3) innings and has had equal times at bat.



**10-RUN RULE:** Any Cal Ripken tournament game must be terminated immediately once becoming regulation (3 ½ or 4 innings) if one team is ahead by 10 or more runs and the teams have had equal times at bat, or the home team is leading by 10 or more runs.

An **EXTRA PLAYER (EP)** can be used to increase the batting order to 11 batters. If a team elects this option, it must start with the EP and end with the EP or forfeit the game. (Both teams in a game are not required to use this option.) There will be four outfielders. **ALL** outfielders must remain in the grass area of the outfield (cannot be positioned in the infield at any time).

**FIELD DIMENSIONS:** Standard Cal Ripken Division base length of 60 feet.

**UMPIRES:** Two umpires will be on the field at all times (one on the field and one at home plate behind the batter). One umpire will feed the machine. The machine should be checked prior to batting. Only the umpire may make adjustments to the machine during play. The catcher takes the catcher's normal position in full gear. The umpire(s) is(are) allowed to declare "no pitch" if the umpire judges that it is not reasonably hittable. This is a "judgment call" and thus not subject to protest.

**DEAD BALL:** The ball will be declared dead when the defensive team stops the lead runner, or the runner abandons the effort to advance. Once play has been stopped, no other runners may advance beyond the last base tagged. The ball will be declared dead when a player is injured and in the umpire's judgment is unable to continue the play. If a batted fair ball hits any part of the pitching machine without touching any defensive player, the ball is immediately dead. The batter is awarded first base. The other runners return to the base that they last occupied before the ball was hit, unless forced to advance as a result of the batter being awarded first base. If a batted fair ball is first touched by a defensive player and then hits any part of the pitching machine, it is a live ball. If a batted fair ball touches an umpire on fair territory before it touches an infielder including the pitcher or touches an umpire before it has passed an infielder other than the pitcher, the ball is dead, and the batter is awarded first base. All other runners return to the base that they occupied before the ball was hit unless forced to advance as a result of the batter being awarded first base. If a thrown ball hits any part of the pitching machine, it is a live ball. 3

**BUNTING:** Bunting is allowed. However, **NO FAKE BUNTING IS ALLOWED.** If the batter offers to bunt, then the batter must bunt the ball or pull the bat back to take the pitch. If the batter offers to bunt, pulls back the bat, and then swings at the pitch, the batter will automatically be declared out by the umpire.

**DIAMOND KINETICS:** The Diamond Kinetics "Swing Tracker" sensor that is attached to the bottom of a baseball bat can be used during live, in-game at bats.



**COURTESY RUNNER:** The catcher may have a courtesy runner for them every time that they are up to bat. Each courtesy runner used must be a player who is not in the game at the time. Each courtesy runner may only be a courtesy runner once per inning.

**BASE STEALING:** Base stealing is not permitted. Runner(s) leaving their base(s) before the batter hits the ball or before the ball reaches home plate shall be regulated by the Special Base Running Rule found in the current edition of Babe Ruth League Baseball rule book according to comment #3 under the Cal Ripken Baseball – Rookie and T-Ball League Rules and Regulations found in the same rule book. The runner(s) will NOT be called out.

**APPEALS:** Appeals on a base runner that misses a base in accordance with rule 7.10 includes the following exception: An appeal can be made when the ball is a dead ball.