

NEW MODIFIED PITCHING/BATTING RULE:

- In the spirit of fostering active participation and team accountability throughout the game, the league has decided to implement a NO WALK RULE. The purpose of the rule is to counter the common challenges associated with inconsistent pitching at the house level. These challenges include:
 - Batters choose not to swing at pitches around the strike zone in the hopes they will be walked to first, rather than hitting themselves on base.
 - Pitchers who are learning to pitch often find themselves walking in 5 runs an inning and dealing with discouragement and stress associated with this scenario. This can lead to kids not wanting to pitch in games and limits the coach in regards to pitching options throughout the season.
 - Given the large number of walks during the game, fielders often find themselves inactive and losing interest in the game itself. The hope is the fielders will be able to make plays and practice their skills on an ongoing basis making the game exciting for players and spectators.
 - Additionally, players at bat will experience more opportunities to make contact and increase their chances to get on base via hitting.

NOTE: Pitchers are still encouraged to throw strikes and work towards strikeouts. This should motivate pitchers to improve their pitching, as they would not want to have the ball turned over to the batting teams coach creating such opportunities for the batter to make contact.

- All pitching rules and distances remain the same and there will be no changes to the rules as stated in the Pitching rules section of the Golden West Mosquito rules manual.
- What has changed, is on ball four, the batter will not be freely given first base. Instead, the batting teams designated coach will underhand soft toss the strikes remaining in the count, from a designated location on the respective foul line 15 feet from home plate.
- THE COACH IS NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER THE FIELD OF PLAY TO MAKE THE 45 Degree angle toss. The coach is allowed to have one foot on the foul line and the other outside the field of play.

Please refer to the following scenario's to help understand the rule:

Scenario I:

John is pitching for Team X. John is struggling to find the strike zone and gets behind in the count with 3 balls and 1 strike. John's next pitch to Jill who is batting for Team Y is called ball 4. Traditionally, Jill would be walked to first base. In the modified scenario, Jill does not get a free pass to first. John must hand over the ball quickly to the designated Pitching Coach from Team Y (Jills team) who will stand on the respective foul line 15 ft from home plate and not in the field of play. The Pitching Coach will then underhand soft toss, from the 45-degree angle, the same number of pitches as strikes remaining in the count. Given Jill only had 1 strike, the Pitching Coach can ONLY throw two underhand soft toss pitches to Jill. The Pitching Coach throws the first underhand toss from the designated spot and Jill doesn't swing. Regardless of whether Jill swings or not, or the ball crosses/does not cross the plate, this pitch constitutes as strike 2. The Pitching Coach throws the second underhand toss and Jill swings fouling off the ball. Regardless of whether Jill fouls or misses making contact with the ball, this constitutes as strike 3. In this particular scenario Jill had two strikes remaining in the count and up to a maximum of two opportunities to hit the ball into the field of play.

Scenario II:

Sarah is pitching for Team Y. Sarah has been struggling to find the strike zone all game, and against the latest batter Sarah gets behind in the count with 3 balls and 2 strikes. Sarah's next pitch to Steven, who is batting for Team X, is fouled off. Sarah pitches again, and once again Steven fouls the ball off. Steven remains at the count of 3 balls and 2 strikes as he continues to make foul contact with Sarah's pitches. On the next pitch, Sarah throws ball 4. At that point, Sarah must hand over the ball quickly to the designated pitching Coach from Team X (Stevens team) who will stand on the respective foul line 15 ft from home plate. The Pitching Coach will then deliver a 45 degree underhand soft toss the same number of pitches as strikes remaining in the count. Given Steven had 2 strikes, the Pitching Coach can ONLY throw one underhand soft toss pitch to Steven. The Pitching Coach throws the only allowable soft toss and Steven swings and misses. Regardless of whether Steven swings or not, this constitutes strike 3. Had Steven fouled off the ball, he would have been called out regardless. Steven was given one chance to make contact from a coach pitch. If Steven had made contact and placed the ball into the field of play, then the ball would be live and the defensive team would then make the rightful attempt to throw Steven out on base.

- In any case, the coach of the batting team is only allowed to deliver a maximum 3 soft toss pitches from the 45 degree angle (assuming the count is 4-0) or a minimum of 1 soft toss pitch (assuming the count is 4-2).
- Coaches SHOULD NOT provide their batters with more than the legal number of soft toss pitches allowed and proper pitches to players is the responsibility of the pitching coach to manage.
- If a coach throws a poor pitch to their batter, they are not allowed to give a make up throw. In cases where the throw is recognized by BOTH coaches as completely unhittable, then with both coaches in agreement, an additional toss may be given. WE WOULD DISCOURAGE THIS PRACTICE as it slows down the game and works against the spirit of the game we are attempting to subjugate. Alternatively, we would encourage coaches to practice soft toss pitches during practice times and before games in an effort to ensure they are properly prepared.