



# MACHINE PITCH

## **RULE BOOK**

*Revised May 2016*

Council Bluffs Parks, Recreation & Public Property  
209 Pearl Street  
Council Bluffs, IA 51503  
(712) 328-4650  
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Rainout Line (after 3:00 p.m.): (712) 328-4680

Email: [g Hubbard@councilbluffs-ia.gov](mailto:g Hubbard@councilbluffs-ia.gov)  
[www.cbparksandrec.org](http://www.cbparksandrec.org)



**\*\*\*RULES OF CONDUCT – For Players, Parents, Spectators, Coaches, and Umpires:**

All participants in Parks and Recreation programs, including players, parents, spectators, coaches, and umpires, will treat each other with courtesy and respect at all times.

Unsportsmanlike behavior, including (but not limited to) vulgar language, derogatory comments, threatening words or actions, or physical violence of any kind will not be tolerated.

Disciplinary action can and will be taken, if warranted.

Supervisors have the right to eject players, parents, spectators or coaches from the game or game area. If more severe sanctions are recommended, the Parks and Recreation's policies will be followed (copies of this policy are available upon request).

- I. Pre-Season Meeting
  - A. \*\*\*At least one representative from each team MUST attend the pre-season coaches' meeting. Failure to attend this meeting will result in the team's being ineligible to play. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- II. Coaching Expectations
  - A. Each coach must sign and return the attached "Pledge of Ethics."
    1. All coaches will be held to all Pledge standards for the duration of the season.
- III. Eligibility
  - A. Age Limit Recommendations
    1. *Co-Ed*: Players should be at least 7 years of age by June 1 and not 9 years before August 1.
    2. *Girls Infield*: Players should be at least 9 years of age by June 1 and not 11 years of age before August 1.
  - B. Birth Certificates and Contracts
    1. Birth certificates are not required for this division.
    2. A signed waiver form or player's contract is required for each child in order for them to be eligible to play.
    3. Contracts must be signed each season.
  - C. Maximum Players per Team
    1. *Co-Ed*: A recommended maximum of fifteen (15) players per team is allowed. All players must be listed on the official roster.
    2. *Girls 9-10 Machine Pitch*: A recommended maximum of fifteen (15) players per team is allowed. All players must be listed on the official roster.
  - D. Roster and Payment
    1. A team's complete payment and roster with players' names, birth dates, addresses, ages, coaches' names and phone numbers must be turned in WITH all signed contracts prior to the start of the season.
  - E. If enough teams are available in each gender category then all girl's teams will only play other all girl's teams, all boy's teams will only play all boy's teams, and all co-

ed teams will only play co-ed teams. Some cross over may occur to ensure each team gets an equal number of games.

#### IV. Field Measurements and Equipment

- A. *Girls, Boys & Co-Ed*: 50' bases, 44' pitching, dimpled 9" baseball, standard baseball bat.
- B. *Girls' 9-10 Machine Pitch*: 50' bases, 30' pitching, dimpled 11" ball, standard softball bat. *These are the same dimensions at U10 girl's fast pitch.*
- C. *Both Leagues*: A "Jugs Jr." model pitching machine will be used for all games.
  1. Machines are not available for practices.
  2. A field supervisor will bring the machines to the field and set the pitching speed. Average speed will be 30-35 mph, (25 mph for 9-10 Girls).
  3. The dimpled balls will be provided for the machines. Teams should practice with regular balls.
  4. **Teams should provide all other equipment (helmets, gloves, bats, full catchers' gear, etc.) If that isn't possible a bag of equipment will be available to check out at the concession stand.**

#### V. Scoring and Make-ups

- A. This is an INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE.
  1. No official scores are kept by the Parks and Recreation office for either Machine Pitch league.
  2. Rainouts will only be rescheduled if there is field availability. Teams should call the office at 328-4650 to request a makeup.

#### VI. Length of Games

- A. Time Limit: 1 hour, 10 minutes
  1. Coaches need to monitor and stay within the allotted time.
  2. The game must end in the allotted time even if there is a tie or there have been an uneven number of at-bats.
- B. Each team will bat all players on their team. An inning will end when the defense gets 3 outs in the field (strike outs not included), or the offensive team bats 10 players.
- C. Each player will receive five pitches to hit.
  1. If the pitches were good and the batter did not hit the ball, the batter is out.
  2. If the batter fouls a couple of the first 5 pitches and you are confident your batter should get a hit it is ok to give them up to 3 more pitches as long as they are making contact. As soon as they miss one they are out.
  3. If the pitch is in the dirt or high, the batter can get an extra pitch (if needed).

#### VII. Player Participation

- A. *Co-Ed*: Teams will use ten players on defense, including a catcher.
  1. *If a catcher is not going to be used like a real catcher (directly behind home plate and attempting to catch or knock down each pitch), the catcher can stand back near the backstop and just collect the balls that are pitched and does not need to wear shin guards and chest protector but does need to wear a helmet.*
- B. *Girls' 9-10 Machine Pitch*: Teams will use ten players for defense, including a catcher.
- C. *Both Leagues*

1. Batting order consists of the entire lineup.
2. Each player must play half the game in the field (consecutive outs).
3. Coaches “pitch” to the batter by holding the ball in the air to show it to the batter and then placing it in the machine.
4. Coaches will umpire the games.

VIII. General Rules—Both Leagues

- A. There is no stealing.
- B. There is no bunting.
- C. Each offensive player is out if tagged or caught out, and must return to the bench.
- D. Base runners should not advance to an extra base once an infielder or pitcher has the ball in their control. On over throws base runners can advance one base only.

IX. Uniforms and Sponsorship

- A. Uniforms are not required but matching T-shirts and caps are recommended. Parks & Recreation t-shirts that are used for tee ball, and K-3<sup>rd</sup> flag football, basketball, and indoor soccer leagues may be purchased for your team if you so desire. They will be sold only at the Parks & Recreation office for \$5/shirt.
- B. Sponsorships are allowed BUT no “adult business” sponsorships (i.e. bars).

X. Awards

- A. All players will receive a participation award from the Parks and Recreation Department at the end of the season.



# Council Bluffs Youth Sports

## COACH'S PLEDGE

1. I will, at all times, make the physical, mental and emotional health of my players my top priority.
2. I will emphasize helping my players grow and develop as people more than winning.
3. I will recognize the individual needs and talents of each of my players.
4. I will be respectful at all times in my dealings with players, parents, spectators, and officials.
5. I will strive to make fun and learning the primary goals for my team.
6. I will abide by all safety considerations, including equipment, facilities, and weather conditions.
7. I will abstain from using profane language in front of my players.
8. I will abstain from using alcohol, tobacco products, or any kind of controlled substances around my players.
9. I will communicate all information about the team to my parents in a timely fashion, including my coaching philosophy, practice times and locations, game times and locations, rainout information, and any other relevant details.
10. I will be a positive role model for all aspects of the game.
11. I will follow all local, state, and association rules for my sport.

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

League: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

