

2024 Minors & Majors Ground Rules & Notes



1. Batting Line-Up & Substitutions

- a. Coaches shall bat the entire roster in order as required in the Little League Rule book
- b. All players during the regular season shall play a minimum of two (2) innings in the field
 - i. During the regular season, shall a coach fail to provide each player the designated playing time of two innings in the field, the affected player(s) shall play a minimum of four (4) innings in the field for the next scheduled game
- c. It is recommended that the home team designates an official scorekeeper each game
- d. Defensive positions, other than re-entering a pitcher, are interchangeable.

2. Interchanging Pitcher and Catcher

- a. If a pitcher reaches 40 pitches while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day, until any one of the following conditions occurs: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game. The pitcher would be allowed to play the catcher position provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter. If a player delivers 41 or more pitches, and is not covered under the threshold exception, the player may not play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day
- b. A player who played the position of catcher for three (3) innings or less, moves to the pitcher position, and delivers 21 pitches or more in the same day, may not return to the catcher position on that calendar day. **EXCEPTION: If the pitcher reaches the 20-pitch limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to return to the catcher position, until any one of the following conditions occur: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game**

3. Pitch Counts

- a. The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position: League Age:
 - 9-10: 75 pitches per day (Minors)
 - 11-12: 85 pitches per day (Majors)**Days of rest required (a calendar day begins on the next day after the game is complete):**
 - 66+: 4 calendar days
 - 51-65: 3 calendar days
 - 36-50: 2 calendar days
 - 21-35: 1 calendar day
 - 1-20: 0 calendar days

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EXCEPTION: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Regulation VI(c) for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs:

1. That batter reaches base;
2. That batter is put out;
3. The third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game

4. Game Length

- a. For both the minors and majors divisions, games shall last 6 inning OR 1:50 (1 hour, 50 minutes), whichever comes first
 - i. If the bottom of an inning is completed prior to the time limit of 1:50, a new inning must be played
 - ii. If weather conditions, lighting, or safety is a concern the coaches and umpire may discuss prior to the beginning of the top of an inning to designate that inning as the final inning to be played
 1. If this is NOT discussed prior to the top of a new inning, the next inning MUST be played. The only person(s) who may end a game without an agreement in place is the umpire or a board member on duty in the park
 - iii. **Mercy Rules**
 1. 15 run lead after 3 complete innings
 2. 10 run lead after 4 complete innings
 3. 8 run lead after 5 complete innings

5. Extra Innings

- a. When the completion of six innings and the score is tied, the following tie-breaker will be played to determine a winning team:
 - i. The seventh will be played as normal
 - ii. Starting in the top of the eighth inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base. EXAMPLE: If the number five batter is the lead-off batter, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base. An eligible substitute or special pinch runner may be inserted for the runner
- b. Extra innings shall ONLY be played if the time limit of 1 hour 50 minutes has not been reached. Regular season games may end in a tie
- c. Any game called by an umpire due to weather conditions or light prior to the end of a complete inning will revert to the score at the end of the last complete inning and shall be considered the final score if at least 3 full innings have been completed

6. Mound Visits & Pitching Changes

- a. Coaches are permitted three (3) mound visits in total per game
 - i. When a manager requests timeout to make a pitching change, it shall not be considered a visit to the pitcher provided the manager makes the pitching substitution prior to speaking to any defensive player

7. The Batter

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- a. The batter **MUST** maintain at least one foot in the batter's box at all times (including between pitches). **EXCEPTION:**
 - i. A live ball with baserunners
 - ii. A play at home plate

8. Ground Rules

- a. There shall be a maximum run limit of five (5) runs per half inning
 - i. The run limit per inning shall be in place for the final inning (no open runs inning for the final inning)
- b. Winning team is responsible for reporting the final score after each game to sepllscores@gmail.com or hbyers0502@gmail.com or entering it into Sports Connect
- c. Each team must provide one game ball at the start of the game
- d. Teams may begin a game with only 8 players and shall NOT be charged an automatic out for the 9th batter in the line-up
- e. A team with only 7 players or less may not play an official game
 - i. The game shall be considered a forfeit with a final score recorded of 6-0
 - ii. Teams may agree to play a scrimmage game and pitches will not be counted against pitchers for that calendar day
- f. No "dogging" from third base and the runner must return to the third base bag once the pitcher has the ball on the mound
- g. Baserunners may use a delayed steal when on first or second base (since the runner may not leave the base until the pitch crosses the plate, all steals are considered delayed)
- h. Infield fly rule shall be in effect
- i. The dropped 3rd strike rule is in effect for Majors only
- j. Baserunning
 - i. Baserunners may advance on overthrows, wild pitches and passed balls
 - ii. Baserunners may attempt to steal a base only after the pitched ball has crossed home plate
 - iii. A team may only advance a baserunner from third base to home on a passed balls or wild pitches three (3) times per each half inning
 - 1. Any player advancing from third to home after the 3 maximum shall be returned to the base and no run recorded.

9. Significant Rule Changes for 2023

- a. Coaches shall bat the entire roster in order as required in the Little League Rule book
- b. Mercy rules have been updated to include an 8 run lead after 5 complete innings
- c. Intentional Walk Rule – may only announce to the umpire an intentional walk without throwing 4 pitches once per game. They may do an intentional walk with 4 pitches after that.
- d. All All-star coaches are required to complete the Diamond Leader Little League training
- e. For regular season only, coaches may warm up pitchers in the bull pen or in between innings
- f. Teams may use a courtesy runner for a catcher or a pitcher when there are two outs. This is applicable for tournament play as well.