

# Maricopa Little League House Rules

Revised January 18, 2017

All playing rules for the normal season games and end of season playoffs will be in accordance with the **Official Little League Rule Book** provided by Maricopa Little League with the following exceptions, additions and clarifications that have been approved by the Maricopa Little League Board of Directors.

## Division Definitions

- 1) All Ages listed are League Ages as defined by Little League, International.
- 2) Tee Ball and Coach Pitch divisions are defined by age.
- 3) Tee ball is for 4 and 5 year olds.
- 4) Coach Pitch Baseball and Coach Pitch Softball divisions are for 6, 7 and 8 year olds.
- 5) Children that are 8 years old will have the opportunity to move up to Minors Baseball or Softball from the Coach Pitch Baseball or Coach Pitch Softball divisions.
- 6) Children that are 8 years old will not be evaluated, but instead they will be placed on teams by an anonymous draw. (Regulation 3 (c))
- 7) Children that are 9, 10, 11 and 12 years old will be evaluated.
- 8) The Major's Managers for Baseball and Softball will draft first. All 11 and 12 year olds will be drafted into the Major's Divisions. Children who are 10 years old can be drafted into Majors if there are additional spots available on the teams. The Minor's Managers will draft remaining children who have been evaluated.
  - a. 11 year olds may participate in Minors divisions based on Board Approval. Children and Parents must follow the process needed to ensure proper placement.

If there are exceptions, they will be considered by the Executive Board on a case-by-case basis. Exceptions to these definitions are discouraged and will be rare.

## Umpire Interaction

- 1) Only Managers shall interact with Adult Umpires per Little League Regulations.
- 2) No person, including a Manager, shall interact with Junior Umpires without an Adult Umpire or Board Member Present. It is not the role of Managers to coach Junior Umpires.
- 3) Each game must have at least 1 ADULT Umpire. If no Adult Umpire is available, and neither team can produce an umpire, the game shall be canceled, and will not be rescheduled.

## Pre Game

- 4) Managers shall turn in one copy of their line up to the official score table or score keeper, no later than ten minutes prior to the scheduled game time.
- 5) Managers will bring the remaining three copies of their line up to the plate meeting.
- 6) The Manager or coach that is at the plate meeting shall be considered the Manager for that game and will be the only member of the coaching staff allowed to appeal to the umpires and make changes.
- 7) Each team must physically identify their CPR-trained adult before the start of each game.

## Time limits

- 1) There is a 1-hour limit on all games in the T-ball division.
- 2) There is a 1 hour and 15 minute time limit for Coach Pitch Baseball and Coach Pitch Softball.
- 3) The Minors Baseball and Minors Softball shall start no new inning after 1 hour and 45 minutes of play.
- 4) An inning starts the moment the third out is made. (See 2.0 INNING in the Rule book). See Rule 4.11(d) for reverting back to the last complete inning.
- 5) City Ordinance requires Lights Off at 10:30 pm. Curfew is at 10:00pm.
- 6) Exceptions:
  - a. Majors Softball and Majors Baseball games may have a time limit if the game is followed by another regularly scheduled game. The Schedule shall make a best effort to allow these games to complete under normal terms.
  - b. In the Majors Baseball, Majors Softball, Junior and Senior Leagues regular season and tournament games there is no time limit. Exception: A game that is terminated by weather, lack of light or curfew

# Maricopa Little League House Rules

Revised January 18, 2017

(see Curfew below) will not be continued if it has become a regulation game per Rule 4.10(c) unless the game is tied. See Rule 4.11(d) for reverting to previous inning.

- 7) Rainout games may be rescheduled for the Minor divisions and above if time permits and fields are available. Whether or not to reschedule will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Board of Directors based on the recommendation of the Protest committee and Scheduling Coordinator. Rainout games for Coach Pitch Baseball, Coach Pitch Softball, and Tee Ball will not be rescheduled.

## **All Divisions, Hardball and Softball**

(See each division for division specific rules.)

- 1) The 10 run rule will be in effect for all divisions. (See Rule 4.10 (e))
- 2) There can be two adult base coaches on the field in all divisions providing that there is at least one other adult coach in the dugout. Rule 4.05 Also see All Divisions Rule #5
- 3) All protests must be in accordance with Rule 4.19 in the Official Regulations and Playing rules handbook. (See Rule 4.19(g)) Complaints should be communicated to the UIC and will be addressed by the Board of Directors if necessary. Protests should be avoided as much as possible. There are no protests in Tee Ball. 4.19 (h), Coach Pitch Baseball, Coach Pitch Softball, or the Minors divisions; the umpire's decision will stand. The focus should be more on player skills development than rules at the Minors division.
- 4) The use of tobacco of any kind and alcoholic beverages in any form is prohibited on the playing field, benches or dugouts. Anyone in violation will be asked to adhere to this rule or will need to leave the field. Regulation XIV(e) at any time during games and practices.
- 5) Only Managers and assistant coaches with approved volunteer form that have been approved by the Board of Directors can be on the field during practices and games, including the dugout during games. (Rule 3.15)
- 6) Exception: Coach Pitch Baseball, Coach Pitch Softball, and Tee Ball Managers must inform the Player Agent if any player misses more than two consecutive games for any reason (See Regulation III (d)). Any player who is out of the lineup for more than six games in total is subject to being removed from his/her team by action of the Board of Directors. However, the Board of Directors reserves the right to allow such player to remain on the roster.
- 7) Maricopa Little League will not use the Major Division rule for dropped third strike in the Minors Division baseball and softball.

## **Sportsmanship:**

- 1) All Players, managers and coaches will shake hands with the opposing team after each game. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action from the Board of Directors.
- 2) Foul language (including the word suck) or any negative remarks at any time may result in a disciplinary action from the Board of Directors.
- 3) Negative cheering is not allowed in Maricopa Little League. Cheer for your team, not against or about your opponents. Negative cheers or chants referring to the other team will not be permitted. Once the pitcher takes a position on the rubber all chanting must stop. Exception of softball, where chants may continue throughout the pitcher's pitch as long as the volume remains constant. The use of the word swing is prohibited after the release of the pitch. Reference to opposing player's name or number in an attempt to distract or disrupt that player is prohibited. Offenders will be warned and/or removed by an Umpire on the field or any board member. (See Rule 4.06(2 and 3) & Rule 9.01(d))
- 4) Any act of non-sportsmanship may result in a disciplinary action from the Board of Directors, up to expulsion from the league for the remainder of the year.

# Maricopa Little League House Rules

Revised January 18, 2017

## **Tee Ball**

- 1) There will be no umpires officiating Tee Ball Games.
- 2) The offensive team may have two adult base coaches in the coach's boxes, one adult in the dugout and one behind the tee in Tee Ball.
- 3) The defensive teams are permitted 2 coaches on the field and must be beyond the baseline.
- 4) The batting order will be the entire roster at the game.
- 5) Each half inning will end when the offensive team bats through its entire roster in its half-inning.
- 6) All players may play on defense. (See Note on Rule 401d Note 1)
- 7) There is no minimum number of players required to start the game. Borrowing players from the opposing team or any registered Tee Ball Player is acceptable if one team is short on players.
- 8) All players shall hit off the tee for the first 6 games of the season. All batters will be given four swings to hit the ball. If the batter does not hit the ball after four swings they will be awarded first base, same as a base on balls.
  - a. The League shall provide a date to Tee Ball Managers when coach pitching is acceptable.
- 9) For all games after the first 6 games, Players may have a coach pitch, at the manager's discretion. Managers are strongly encouraged to reserve coach pitching for those players developmentally ready. Players utilizing coach pitch will get three pitches irrespective of the quality of pitches. If the batter does not put the ball into play, the batter reverts to the tee and will be given three more swings. If the batter does not put the ball into play the batter shall awarded first base same as a base on balls. There are no strikes in Tee Ball.
- 10) After the first 6 games, OUTS will be called at each base. The First Base Runner's Coach shall call the plays at 1<sup>st</sup> Base. The Field Coaches shall call the plays at 2<sup>nd</sup> Base. The Third Base Runner's Coach shall call the plays at 3<sup>rd</sup> Base. The Tee Coach shall call the plays at Home Plate.
  - a. A runner called OUT shall return to the dugout.
  - b. There is not Tracking of Outs.
- 11) All Players must change defensive positions every inning.
- 12) There are no game results recorded to determine a winner/loser of scheduled games.

## **Coach Pitch Baseball**

- 1) The defensive team is permitted up to 2 coaches on the field; coaches must remain beyond the outfield grass line once the play has started. See Rule 4.05(1)
- 2) The offensive pitching coach may coach the batter for positioning but may not coach runners on base at any time.

Exception: If there is a possible safety issue.
- 3) The Manager shall be allowed to choose the method of pitch delivery. The Coach shall either use a pitching machine OR shall pitch the ball themselves. The manager is not required to choose a single method of pitch delivery. For example, a manager may choose to pitch to any or all players at their own discretion to encourage the development of the player.
  - a. The Pitching Machine will be set at 35 feet. Standard settings will be determined and maintained for the pitching machine used for games.
  - b. Coaches shall sit (i.e. on a bucket) or kneel to ensure a proper ball trajectory (flat through the strike zone).
- 4) Any batted or thrown ball that hits the pitching machine, bucket, or pitching coach shall be a dead ball and the runners may not advance beyond the next base. The batter shall be awarded first base.
- 5) The batting order will be the entire roster.



# Maricopa Little League House Rules

Revised January 18, 2017

- 6) Each half inning will end after 3 outs or the roster has batted. There is no 5 run rule.
- 7) Managers are required to change their player's defensive positions every other inning.
- 8) Managers are encouraged to make every effort to play each player in all the defensive positions during the season, with exception of the catcher.
- 9) All players may play on defense. All extra players must play in the outfield.
- 10) Advancing on a passed ball is NOT permitted. Once a pitch passes the catcher or is caught by the catcher, any runner on base must remain; unless a defensive play is made against a runner.
- 11) If a play is made against the runner and an overthrow results, the runner may attempt to reach the following base.
- 12) Teams may play with a minimum of six players. The team that is short on players may borrow player(s) from the opposing team or any Machine Pitch player(s) who is available and on a roster. . Double Headers are not permitted for players in this division.
- 13) The infield fly rule will not be called.
- 14) Once the ball crosses the base path from the outfield the play shall be dead and the umpires will award bases accordingly.
- 15) A plate umpire will only call swinging strikes. A batter may strike out.
- 16) A plate umpire shall issue a base on balls when the batter is clearly not attempting to swing at 5 "strike-zone" pitches. If a batter is attempting to swing at "good pitches", they may continue to hit until they strike out or put a ball in play. A "Good Pitch" defined by the perspective of the plate umpire.
- 17) A batter hit by pitch shall not be awarded a base. The pitch will not count against the batter as a strike if the batter swung.
- 18) Score and game results will not be recorded for any scheduled games.
- 19) The player at the pitching position must play behind the pitching machine and pitching coach.
- 20) Outfield players shall play within 20 feet of the grass line.

## Coach Pitch Softball

- 1) There can be 2 adult base coaches on the field. See Rule 4.05(1)
- 2) The offensive pitching coach may coach the batter for positioning but may not coach runners on base at any time.  
Exception: If there is a possible safety issue.
- 3) There is no pitching circle nor required pitching rubber.
- 4) Any batted or thrown ball that hits the pitching coach shall be a dead ball and the runners may not advance beyond the next base. The batter shall be awarded first base.
- 5) The defensive team is permitted up to 2 coaches on the field; coaches must remain beyond the outfield grass line once the play has started.
- 6) The batting order will be the entire roster.
- 7) Each half inning will end after 3 outs or the roster has batted. There is no 5 run rule.
- 8) Managers are required to change their player's defensive positions every other inning.
- 9) Managers are encouraged to make every effort to play each player in all the defensive positions during the season, with exception of the catcher.
- 10) All players may play on defense. All extra players must play in the outfield.

# Maricopa Little League House Rules

Revised January 18, 2017

- 11) Advancing on a passed ball is NOT permitted. Once a pitch passes the catcher or is caught by the catcher, any runner on base must remain; unless a defensive play is made against a runner.
- 12) If a play is made against the runner and an overthrow results, the runner may attempt to reach the following base.
- 13) Teams may play with a minimum of six players. The team that is short on players may borrow player(s) from the opposing team or any Machine Pitch player(s) who is available and on a roster. . Double Headers are not permitted for players in this division.
- 14) The infield fly rule will not be called.
- 15) Once the ball crosses the base path from the outfield the play shall be dead and the umpires will award bases accordingly.
- 16) A plate umpire will only call swinging strikes. A batter may strike out.
- 17) A plate umpire shall issue a base on balls when the batter is clearly not attempting to swing at 5 “strike-zone” pitches. If a batter is attempting to swing at “good pitches”, they may continue to hit until they strike out or put a ball in play. A “Good Pitch” defined by the perspective of the plate umpire.
- 18) A batter hit by pitch shall not be awarded a base. The pitch will not count against the batter as a strike if the batter swung.
- 19) Score and game results will not be recorded for any scheduled games.
- 20) The player at the pitching position must play behind the pitching machine and pitching coach.
- 21) Outfield players shall play beyond the grass line.
- 22) Circle violation will not be called. Player must return immediately to the base once the ball is held by the pitching coach.
- 23) The rule for leaving early will follow the baseball rule, which will result in the player being returned to the base left from.

## Minor Division

- 1) Mandatory playing time: Every player must have at least one complete at bat and play two innings on the field. Any player not receiving their mandatory playing time will play the entire next played game and will be put on top of the batting order.
- 2) Each half inning will end after the roster has batted, the side is retired when three (3) offensive players are legally put out or when the offensive team scores five (5) runs.
- 3) Standings will be kept for Minor League.
- 4) If a pitcher hits three batters in a game, they must be removed from the game as a pitcher.
- 5) Pitchers may not throw breaking balls (umpires judgment) Penalty: First time warning second time removal from the game as a pitcher. A breaking ball will be treated as an illegal pitch. A “Change Up” is not considered a breaking ball.
- 6) To minimize forfeitures, a park pool may be utilized as outlined in these House Rules. Any Registered player eligible to play in the Minor division at the park may be put in a pool of players if needed to fill a team’s roster for a game. As many players that are needed to fill a team, will be drawn from a lottery and placed on that team for the game. Managers are encouraged to utilize the player pool to minimize forfeitures. If all minor’s teams are playing on a given day, then the park pool player’s must come from the opposing team. If there are no players available from the opposing team, then the game will be rescheduled or forfeited at Executive Board’s discretion. (Per 4.16.1)
- 7) No player may perform the duties as a base coach.

## Major Division

# Maricopa Little League House Rules

Revised January 18, 2017

- 1) Any player not receiving their mandatory playing time will play the entire next played game and be put on top of the batting order.
- 2) The batting lineup shall be the 9 players on the field. Proper rotation per Little League Rulebook is required.
- 3) To minimize forfeitures, a park pool may be utilized as outlined in these House Rules. Any Registered player eligible to play in the Major division at the park may be put in a pool of players if needed to fill a team's roster for a game. As many players that are needed to fill a team, will be drawn from a lottery and placed on that team for the game. Managers are encouraged to utilize the player pool to minimize forfeitures.

## Junior/Senior Division

- 1) To minimize forfeitures, a player pool may be utilized for Junior and Senior Leagues as outlined in V(c) of the Playing Rules manual. List Rotation: When the next player on the list is not available to play, the player will be skipped and the next player on the list will be called until an available player is found. The next time a pool player is needed, the player on the list after the last player utilized will be the next player called. Managers are encouraged to utilize the player pool to minimize forfeitures.
- 2) Scorecards will be kept for every game and returned to the snack bar after each game. They will include line-ups, any substitutions, and all pitchers with innings noted. The Home team is responsible for the official game scorecard.

## Amending the House Rules

- 1) The Maricopa House rules may be amended at any time during the regular season.
- 2) Any member of Maricopa Little League can ask for an amendment.
- 3) An amendment can be, but not limited to, a rule addition, a rule subtraction, and modification of a rule. Corrections of typos and or spelling mistakes do not require board approval.
- 4) To request an amendment.
  - a. Ask the Rules Committee in writing to review or consider a rule amendment. Must give justification for amendment.
  - b. If accepted by the Rules Committee the amendment must be recommended to the board of directors by the Rules Committee
  - c. The board of directors must then approve the amendment.