

Warrendale Little League

Minor League Rules, as of 2017 season

Hitting

- Minor League Teams will bat their full roster the entire game.
- Bunting is allowed. Either bunt, strike or ball. Slashing is not allowed.
- Catcher's Interference will be called.
- No attempt to run to first on a dropped third strike.
- Helmets (with mandatory cages) are required on all batters, base runners, on deck hitters and base coaches (if a player).
- A batted ball that passes through or hits the cones, whether touched by a fielder or not, is ruled a ground rule double. Any cone contact after hitting the ground is a ground rule double.
- A batted ball that goes over the cones line on the fly is a homerun. A batted ball that hits the cone in the air is a home run. A catch made past the cones is a home run.
- Any bat marked as Little League Approved with 2 ¼" diameter is acceptable for use.

Pitching

- No one can pitch more than 6 innings in a calendar week (Monday through Sunday). One pitch thrown in an inning constitutes a full inning pitched. Violation = forfeit.
- No one can pitch more than 3 innings in a game.
- A pitcher must have at least a day of rest between pitching assignments if they pitch more than two innings in a game. Example: If a pitcher were to pitch more than 2 innings on Monday, they would not be able to pitch again until Wednesday.
- Pitching eligibility in effect for re-scheduled and make up games goes in accordance to the calendar week in which games are played.
- Innings thrown in games that are not completed due to weather count against a pitcher's innings for that week. Example: game cancelled due to weather after 2 innings. If a pitcher

threw 2 innings in that game, they count against the total of 6 per week even though the game is not complete.

- Balks are not called.
- Pitchers must have contact with the pitching rubber as he/she releases the pitch. They can come off the rubber in their follow through. A pitch that is thrown while the pitcher does not have contact with the rubber will be ruled “no pitch”.
- A team may only walk in two batters during an inning. After two runners have been walked home, no one else can be walked home. Players may be walked as long as the walk does not force home another run. If a batter is hit by a pitch, they do take first base and a run may come home.
- No player older than League age 10 is allowed to pitch in the Minor League unless they tried out for Majors and did not make it.
- A pitcher that has been removed from the game may not re-enter the game as a pitcher.

Fielding

- All players must play at least three innings in the field.
- All overthrows that remain within the boundaries of the playing field are live balls. A play does not end until the pitcher has the ball on the mound and all runners are on bases.
- All catchers are to wear a catcher’s helmet, with throat protector, whether in the game or warming up the pitcher between innings. Protective cup is advised.
- The Infield Fly rule is not used at the Minor League age level.

Base Running

- No leading or leaving the base before the ball crosses the plate.
- Stealing of second and third base is allowed. Runner may not advance past second or third on the play. If there is a runner on third, they must stay on third during teammates attempted steal of second base. Catchers are encouraged to make a throw to second or third during steal attempt. All players must slide when a throw is made by the catcher to either second or third and a play is made. Player will be called out if they do not slide.

- No stealing of home. No advancing to home on any attempted steal of second or third base.
- A player must slide at home plate if a play is being made.
- If a player does not slide on a close play at any base except first, he/she will be called out, as determined by the umpire's discretion.
- No head first slides are allowed.
- Tagging up is allowed.
- If a player who will be catching is on base with 2 outs, a pinch runner may be used so the catcher can be ready when the inning is over.
- On all return throws from the catcher (when the ball leaves the catcher's hand) runners not in contact with their bases must immediately attempt to advance to the next base or return to their base. The intent of this rule is to prevent runners from dancing around and trying to draw a throw and consequently delay the game. It is not to take an offensive play away.
- Coaches and players should not touch an active base runner or any player in play until they cross home plate. Example: coach contacting players while rounding 1st or 3rd bases. Kid's high fiving players before they cross home plate.

Call Ups from AA League

- The Minor League coaches will be provided with a list of kids who are options to call up to play individual games in the event your team does not have 9 players. No AA kid can be called up to a team permanently. Coaches are highly encouraged to use all kids on the call up list.
- The AA call up shall be placed at the end of the batting lineup at the time the game starts. If a regular Minor player arrives after the game has started, he/she is added to the bottom of the lineup. No lineups are rearranged after the game has started.
- In the regular season, an AA call up may pitch a maximum of 2 innings if deemed appropriate. In the playoffs, an AA call up may not pitch under any circumstances.
- An AA call up should not play in the field more innings than a regular Minor league team member.

Game Management

- Rainouts will be decided by either the Minor League Representative or the President. Coaches are not allowed to postpone games on their own. When in doubt, assume the game is on. Games will be rescheduled by the Minor League Representative.

- Coaches are not to reschedule games without the Minor League Representative's prior approval.
- Players may be called up from the AA league when a team is shorthanded. If the team is still shorthanded at game time, the team must borrow a defensive player from the other team. The other team's coach will choose the player. With 8 players = borrow a defensive player. With 7 players = forfeit.
- Coaches should exchange lineups and substitutions with the opposing team each game prior to game time.
- Prior to weekday games, the visiting team will use the field from 5:00-5:15 and the home team from 5:15-5:30.
- On weekday games starting at 5:30, no inning shall start after 7:30. After May 1, no inning shall start after 7:45.
- On days where 2 or more games will be played, no new inning shall start 20 minutes prior to the next scheduled game.
- Smoking is not allowed on the field, around the bench area or in the stands.
- The Home team is responsible for putting out and returning the cones and bases.
- It is requested that if a practice is held on the field, the team rake and clean the batter's box, catcher's area, pitching mound, infield and base paths after the practice is complete.
- A game which is suspended by the umpire for any reason before it has become an official game (3 ½ innings if the home team leads, 4 innings if the visiting team leads) shall be continued at period of stoppage, not replayed. All Minor pitching rules shall be enforced for the continuing game. Players take the same defensive positions as when the game was stopped. Once a game is official and if a subsequent half inning is stopped during play, the game reverts back to the last complete inning.
- There is no run limit or slaughter rule at the Minor League level.
- Coaches are allowed 2 visits to the pitching mound per inning. At the second visit, the pitcher must be changed.

- The league standings are tabulated based on the point system shown on the league website, 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss. Final standings and other standings such as for the City Tournament will be calculated based on a uniform number of games.
- Only head coach and assistant coaches are allowed in the dugouts. Parents/siblings/friends should not be in the dugout before or during a game. In addition, the same applies to standing inside the fences during games. We should minimize the number of people inside the fence area, as they can be a distraction, can get in the way of play, etc.
- Only the team manager or acting manager is permitted to discuss a play, question a rule interpretation, etc. with an umpire at any time. Additionally, any such discussion must be done in the presence of the manager/acting manager of the opposing team. Care must be taken by both managers to keep such discussions extremely low key, non-confrontational and non-intimidating to the umpire. No actions, verbal or otherwise shall be taken to intimidate or otherwise influence the umpire's calls. The umpire has the right to remove any unruly player/coach/fan. Any person removed will be subject to a one game ban from the park. Repeated violations will result in that person meeting with the WLL Board of Directors and potentially being removed and banned from the league. Remember this is WLL Minor League baseball. Please reference the WLL League Mission and Code of Conduct for further explanation.
- Please reference the Cal Ripken Rules of baseball at the appropriate age level as a default to rules not listed above.