

Newton East Little League (NELL)
Fall AAA Minor League Rules: 2011 (September 6, 2011)

NELL wishes to remind everyone of how important good sportsmanship is to a successful season and league. Maintaining good sportsmanship is the responsibility of everyone – coaches, players, parents, and spectators. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Fall Baseball is an open league in which we are seeking competitive balance. With this in mind, we expect that participating organizations will adhere to the following guidelines. Subject to eligibility criteria, all interested players must be allowed to participate in Fall Baseball at an appropriate level. This is not an “All Star Travel League”. Organizations registering multiple teams must make every effort to balance their teams and not register “A” and “B” teams.

Rules in the Williamsport Rule Book shall apply to play in Newton Little League except where there is a conflict with the specific rules set forth below. In case of such a conflict, the following Newton rules shall govern (regardless of where the game is played). The commissioner’s interpretation of these Rules shall be final. Intentional violation of one or more Rules may result in game forfeiture and/or ineligibility to participate in subsequent seasons.

1. **Any player who arrives before the first pitch of the game must play at least three (3) innings in the field,** and any player who arrives before the final out of the third inning must play at least one inning in the field, except in those cases where a full six inning game cannot be played because of darkness or rain, or where a player on the visiting team cannot play his final inning because the home team wins without having to bat in the bottom of the sixth, or where a player is unable or unwilling to continue playing because of injury or other reasonable cause.
2. The 3 innings in the field referenced above do not need to be consecutive. **Players will bat in rotation whether playing in the field or not.** There are free substitutions in the field, with the exception of the pitcher.
3. **No pitcher may pitch more than 3 innings in a game.** Once recorded as a pitcher, the player may not return as a pitcher in that game.
4. **If a pitcher pitches, one full calendar day of rest is mandatory. No pitcher may pitch more than 6 innings in a Sunday to Saturday pitching week.** The pitching week resets on Sunday although the calendar day of rest referenced above still applies (i.e. one cannot pitch on Saturday and again with a new week on Sunday).
5. One pitch constitutes an inning for rules 3 & 4.
6. **The distance from home plate to the pitching rubber shall be 46 feet,** the same distance as is used with Majors.
7. Managers are allowed 2 trips to the mound per pitcher, per inning. A pitcher is automatically removed on the second visit, injuries not inclusive.
8. Home teams will use the 3rd base bench and visitors will use the 1st base bench.
9. Managers must give opposing managers line-ups prior to each game.

Newton East Little League – Fall Baseball '11 AAA Minor League Rules – pg. 2

10. Nine players are allowed in the field. A game can be played with as few as 8 players. Games should be delayed for up to 15 minutes to allow each team to field 8 players. After that time, if a team still cannot field 8 players the opposing team will win by forfeiture provided that team has at least 8 players. If a team plays with 8 players, it **does not** automatically take an out in the 9th spot.
11. The infield fly rule applies.
12. The manager of the home team has the authority to cancel a game because of inclement weather. To do so, he must call the opposing manager and the head umpire. After the start of the game, only the umpire may call the game.
13. **Cancelled games must be rescheduled for the first available open slot during the week in which they were originally scheduled if at all possible.** Make-ups must be rescheduled with the home team responsible for field access and umpires.
14. To protest a game, the manager must inform the umpire and the opposing manager of the protest before the next pitch is thrown. The protesting manager must also call or send a letter to the commissioner within 24 hours. Protests can only be filed if a rule is broken. Protests do not apply in cases of judgment calls, weather, or behavior.
15. If no umpire shows up for a game, the managers should agree to play an official game with a substitute umpire(s) acceptable to both.
16. **In the event that a game must be suspended because of darkness or inclement weather, the game will be considered official and completed if the team with fewer runs has completed its at-bat in the fourth inning.** For example, a game going into the 5th or 6th inning that is not able to have that full inning completed due to darkness or inclement weather will still be considered official and valid. **In such situations, the score will revert back to the prior fully completed inning as outlined above. With this in mind, innings should not be started unless there is a reasonable chance they can be completed.**
17. **A game that has not reached the point at which the team with fewer runs has completed its at bat in the fourth inning is not considered completed or official. Those games will be continued on another date from the point at which it left off (i.e. from the exact pitch where it left off, not started anew).**
18. Full uniforms (including hats) should be worn at all games, if available. Shirts should be tucked in. No spikes are allowed. Baseball pants are strongly recommended. Shorts are not allowed.
19. Batting helmets must be worn by all batters, base runners, and children coaching bases.
20. There is no on deck batters

Newton East Little League – Fall Baseball '11 AAA Minor League Rules – pg. 3

21. Catchers must wear full protective equipment including a cup (provided by the player) and use a catcher's mitt (use of a fielder's glove gives the catcher an unfair advantage). Any player warming up a pitcher must wear a mask. This rule also applies to practices. Left-handed catchers must supply their own catcher's mitt.
22. All equipment should be kept behind the screen at all times.
23. Each manager will supply the umpire with a minimum of one new ball per game. If additional balls are required, the home team is responsible to provide. Baseballs should not be given to players until after the completion of the game.
24. Wood or metal bats may be used. Bats must be Little League approved. Bunting is allowed.
25. There is no leading from bases in Little League. Players may leave the bag after the ball crosses the plate. Umpires will warn a player once; a second warning can result in the base runner being called out. A pitcher cannot fake a pitch. Since the batter cannot lead there are no pick off plays at the bases. A "balk" or fake pitch results in a call of a "ball." As a sidebar to the no leading rule, a batter cannot steal second base off of a walk. They shall return the ball to the pitcher and the play will stop there.
26. Runners can advance as base stealers whether the ball is put into play (i.e. thrown to a base or a fielder other than the pitcher) or not. **A runner at third can only advance to home or score when a play has been started with a hit ball.** If the catcher returns the ball to the pitcher, and he/she is on the rubber, the runner(s) cannot advance.
27. On a passed ball or wild pitch, while the catcher is fielding the ball, base runners may advance. **All advancement on a passed ball or wild pitch terminates at third base.**
28. A base runner breaking for a base in a steal attempt may not stop dead in between bases in an attempt to draw a throw. The base runner must continue advancing or return to the base. A throwback to the pitcher on the rubber with a runner standing between bases shall result in the runner returning to his original base (i.e. there is no delayed steal in AAA Minors).
29. Adults may serve as coaches at both bases.
 - a. Coaches or players responding to the umpire – umpire must ask you for your opinion.
 - b. Coaches making substitutions.
 - c. Coaches, players or spectators pointing out emergencies or safety issues.

In between innings or after a game, a manager may ask an umpire to explain a rule (balls and strikes and other judgment calls can never be questioned) in a polite and constructive way. Polite and friendly feedback can be given to the umpire after the game. Absolutely no demonstrative behavior, sarcasm, harassment or intimidation by coaches, players or parents will be tolerated. Umpires will report such behavior to the League Commissioners.
 - d. 1st infraction: Umpire will ignore
 - e. 2nd infraction: Warning
 - f. 3rd infraction: Offender will be ejected and asked to leave the area
30. Disputes over rules (balls, strikes, and judgment calls cannot be disputed) shall be discussed by both managers and the umpire without input from players unless the players are called upon. Umpires do have the authority to eject managers and coaches for conduct that he/she deems to be irresponsible.

Newton East Little League – Fall Baseball '11 AAA Minor League Rules – pg. 4

31. Players must be on their bench at all times. Exceptions are players coaching the base path and pitchers warming up. All pitchers must warm up away from the playing field and the bench area. Players not adhering to these rules will be warned once by an umpire and then possibly ejected from the game.
32. **Five (5) run cap per inning.** Five (5) run cap per inning. If a team scores 5 runs in one inning, that inning will end immediately regardless of the number of outs. In the event of a homerun (or other hit) clearing the bases, only the first 5 runs count for that inning. If the home team is ahead by more than 5 runs going into the top of the 6th inning, the game can end after five innings as the visitors cannot win under this rule. Time permitting, play can continue so that players get in a full six inning game.
33. **Playoff Format:** the top 4 teams from each division participating. The seeding will be determined by the number of points for the regular season. 2 points for a WIN, 1 point for TIE. In the event of a TIE, head to head-to-head competition will be used the first tie breaker, second tie breaker will be record vs. team that have clinched a playoff spot, then the least amount of runs allowed in head to head games, then finally a coin toss. The Home team will be determined by seed and is also responsible for paying & providing the umpires. (2 umpires must be used in the playoffs) All Fall regular season rules and pitching rules apply. It will be **single elimination**

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