



Local Rules – Effective Spring 2019

Minor League Rookie Division

Coach Pitch

The 2019 Little League Baseball Rules and Regulations will govern all play not specified below.

Mandatory Play

- No player shall sit out two (2) consecutive innings, nor shall any player sit out a second inning prior to all eligible players having sat out one (1) inning. No player shall sit out a third inning prior to all eligible players having sat out two (2) innings.
- All players must play two (2) innings in the infield and two (2) innings in the outfield or catcher.
- Infield positions are defined as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd bases, as well as shortstop and pitcher.

The Defense

- The defense shall field a maximum of ten (10) players. The extra player must be positioned in the outfield. All outfield players shall be positioned at least 20 feet beyond the outfield grass cut. The third baseman and shortstop must be positioned at the time of the pitch no closer than one step in from a straight line running from second to third base. The second baseman and first baseman must be positioned at the time of the pitch no closer than one step in from a straight line running from first to second base.
- A player in the outfield may not make a put out in the infield unless acting as a back-up on a run down. The outfield player must throw to an infielder for a put out.
- Two (2) defensive coaches may be positioned on the outfield grass in order to reposition and coach players after the completion of a play.
- One (1) coach may be positioned near the catcher in such a manner as to prevent injury in order to reposition the catcher and retrieve balls after the completion of a play.
- The pitcher shall be positioned within 3 feet of either side of the pitching mound, even with the pitching plate.
- First baseman and pitcher have the option to wear batting helmets when playing this position (not required).
- The catcher shall wear all regulation protective gear to include a catcher's mitt, and be positioned properly behind the plate in the catcher's box.

The Pitcher

- A coach from the offensive team will pitch to their team's respective batters.
- Pitches shall be made using an overhand throwing motion; underhand or soft-toss pitches are not permitted. The coach shall be positioned no further than 10 feet from the pitcher's plate in a direct line from home plate to second base.
- The coach pitcher is allowed to instruct the batter in between delivered balls but may not coach/instruct after delivery of the pitch or while the ball is in play.
- If a batted ball comes into contact with the coach pitching, the ball is considered live and in play.

The Offense

- Each of the first five innings shall end after three outs or five (5) runs, whichever comes first.
- The top and bottom of the 6th inning will end when either three (3) outs are made or when everyone in the line-up bats once, whichever comes first. It does not matter if the teams have a different number of batters.



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The Batter

- Strikes will be recorded. A batter will be called out with three (3) swinging strikes or seven (7) total pitches from the coach. The out is recorded towards the “3 outs an inning”. A foul ball will not be counted as the last pitch of an at bat.
- Bunting is not allowed.

The Runner

- Stealing is not allowed.
- There is no advance on an overthrow.
- For balls hit to the outfield, base runners may advance until the ball is "under control" (in possession) in fair territory in the infield by one of the infielders (**in this instance the catcher is considered an infielder**). If a base runner is more than half way to the next base, then the runner is entitled to try to reach that base. Otherwise, the base runner must return to the last base legally occupied. A fielder still has an option of making a play on the runner and if tagged, the runner is out; otherwise the above rules apply as to whether the runner was half way or not when the ball was originally "under control".

Starting and Ending the Game

- No new inning may start after two (2) hours.
- The game will end and there will be no pitch after 2 hours 15 minutes.
- An inning begins immediately upon the end of the preceding inning.