

GCAA Baseball

Major Division Rules

Spring 2026 edition



LL Rulebook
Download

Little League® Major Division:

- **National** League (5th and 6th Grades)

GCAA has run baseball in Garden City since 1955 and is a chartered Local League under Little League International. We follow the rules and regulations of Little League which are available on its mobile app via the above QR code or this link:

<https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/little-league-rulebook-app/>

GCAA Major Leagues Objectives

The objectives at this level are to teach competitive baseball, reinforce sportsmanship, and have fun (not necessarily in that order). While some players will be playing year-round travel baseball, coaches should make every effort to develop and encourage EVERY player, so they might all “catch the baseball bug.”

GCAA Ground Rules

- The visiting team has use of the infield, if available, 30 minutes before game time to 15 minutes before game time. From 15 minutes until game time, the home team can use it.
- Only the Garden City Maintenance Department can maintain the fields. No one else should try to make repairs, fill holes, or remove water by adding dirt, sand, sawdust or any other material to the playing fields. Please alert GCAA of any repairs needed.
- In the event of inclement weather, GCAA will endeavor to cancel games ahead of time by alerting the league coordinator, who will notify the managers. If no cancellation is made ahead of time, managers will make a gametime decision per rule 3.10(a).
- Once the game has been completed, both teams should immediately pack up their gear and clear out the dugout area and field of play so the next game can start on time. Any post-game discussions should be held away from the dugout or field.
- Managers are responsible for ensuring that all garbage and items are cleaned up.
- Both managers should keep their own scorebook and report final scores to GCAA immediately following the game.
- All batting helmets must be equipped with either a full-face mask, or a jaw guard.
- Managers are responsible for ensuring that players know not to throw their bats, and for coaching kids after a bat is thrown to prevent recurrence.
- Managers are responsible for ensuring that only positive cheering occurs, and only while the pitcher is NOT on the pitcher’s plate.

FAQs for Little League Rules
plus GCAA Local League Options

Ref #	Question	Answer	LL Rule Reference
1	Do we really need to follow every rule?	<p>Kids, parents and coaches often don't fully understand the rules of baseball, and this can lead to conflict between teams and with umpires at this level. Now is the time to make sure the players know the rules and how to play under them with good sportsmanship.</p> <p>Notable 2026 Little League Rule Changes Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pine tar is now allowed • GCAA made edits to this document for clarity 	LL Rulebook App
2	Should we keep score?	Yes, we are playing full competitive baseball with scores, standings, playoffs, and a championship.	Reg VII(h)
3	Do we play real games?	Yes, we play full six-inning games. There is a 1hr 45min time limit, after which no new inning will be started (current inning should be completed). A game is considered a "regulation game" (complete) if at least four innings have been completed or if the game has been played for at least 1hr 45min (regardless of how many innings).	Rule 4.10(a) Rule 4.10(c)(1) Rule 4.10(c)(2) Rule 4.11(d) Local Options
4	Do we play extra innings?	Yes, if the time limit hasn't been reached, the teams can continue to play if tied after six innings. Extra innings are played as normal (no tiebreaker for regular season) until one team wins or time expires.	Rule 4.10(b)
5	How do we keep the games from getting lopsided?	While managers, coaches, players, and fans should follow good sportsmanship, teams are trying to win and there are no per-inning rules to keep the score from becoming lopsided.	Rule 2.00 "Inning"
6	Is there a run/mercy rule?	Yes. If one team is ahead by 15 runs after 3 <u>full</u> innings (both teams have completed their at-bats), or 10 runs after 4 innings, or 8 runs after 3 innings, the game is over and is a regulation game.	Rule 4.10(e)
7	What is my kid's "League Age"?	Little League's "League Age" for baseball is based on what a child's age will be on August 31 in the year of the current season. Major League ball is restricted to League Ages 9 to 12 (GCAA limits to 5 th and 6 th graders).	Reg I(a)(3)
8	Does everyone need to play?	<p>Yes, Little League uses a continuous batting order to make sure everyone gets their turns at bat. GCAA encourages teams to use a different batting order each game, so everyone gets a chance to leadoff, bat cleanup, and have around the same number of at bats over the course of the season.</p> <p>GCAA also requires all players in the lineup to participate defensively in each game. No player may sit on the bench for more than one consecutive inning.</p>	Rule 2.00 "Batting Order" Local Options

Ref #	Question	Answer	LL Rule Reference
9	What if players arrive late or leave early?	Players who arrive late may be added to the bottom of the batting order without penalty. Players who leave early (or are sick or injured) can be removed from the batting order and may return later and take their original spot in the order, all without penalty.	Rule 4.01 Rule 4.04
10	What should we do if we have more or less than 9 players on defense?	Little League rules allow teams to play with 8 or 9 players in the field. No outs will be called on the offensive team for any slots "missing" in the lineup if playing with fewer than 9. GCAA allows teams to play with only 7 players and up to 10 in the field. Only six players may be in the infield (P, C, 1B, 2B, 3B, SS) and there may not be a short fielder in the outfield. If a team plays with 10 fielders, then no out shall be made at first base from the outfield.	Rule 4.16(a) Rule 6.05(n) Local Options
11	If the other team doesn't have enough to play, do they forfeit?	If a team has fewer than 7 players at the field ready to play within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time, then the umpire will declare the game to be forfeited by a score of 6-0. Regardless, both teams should cooperate and attempt to play a practice game with umpires during the time allotted (including by loaning players).	Rule 2.00 "Forfeit" Rule 4.16 Local Options
12	What should players wear?	All players should wear the team uniform shirt, baseball pants, and hat while playing. Managers are encouraged to keep spare uniforms and hats in case players forget theirs. Metal cleats/spikes are not allowed. Catchers must wear a catcher's mask and full-ear helmet with a throat guard whenever catching (even if only warming up). The catcher must also use a catcher's mitt (not a regular glove) and metal, fibre, or plastic style cup.	Rule 1.11(a)(1) Rule 1.11(h) Rule 1.12
13	What bats can we use?	All non-wood (or laminated wood) bats must be marked with the "USA Baseball" logo and have a diameter not exceeded 2-5/8" nor a length exceeding 33". All BPF - 1.15 bats are prohibited. BBCOR, USSSA, or any other non-USA certification bats are prohibited. Solid one-piece wooden bats do not require a "USA Baseball" logo.	Rule 1.10
14	Can we use batting donuts or pine tar?	Batting donuts specifically prohibited and can render a bat "illegal." Pine tar is allowed.	Rule 1.10 Notes 1 & 2
15	Can kids take practice swings?	For safety reasons, PRACTICE SWINGS ARE NOT ALLOWED unless at bat. Little League prohibits an on-deck circle (at all levels up to 12U Majors) even if there is an enclosed fenced-in area. Players must not even pick up a bat until they are at bat.	Appendix B - Safety Code

Ref #	Question	Answer	LL Rule Reference
16	What batting helmets can we use?	All batters and baserunners must wear a protective NOCSAE helmet during practice and games. GCAA requires that batting helmets at the Minor League and Major League levels have a full face mask or jaw guard.	Appendix B – Safety Code Local Options
21	Is there a dropped 3rd strike rule?	No, not during the GCAA season or playoffs. (Note: this rule will apply in the District Tournament)	Rule 6.05(b)(2) Local Options
22	How long can a pitcher pitch?	<p>Little League restricts pitches per day based on League Age (see LL Pitching table) and sets a minimum “rest days” based on how many pitches were thrown in a day.</p> <p>In addition, to encourage all players to try pitching and further limit arm strain, GCAA limits pitchers as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitchers can pitch no more than six total innings in a calendar week (Sunday to Saturday) • Each team must pitch a minimum of 3 innings per week with a non-“League Age 12” pitcher (when two games per week are played) • A player shall not pitch in more than one game per day 	Reg VI Local Options
23	How many players can a pitcher hit?	GCAA requires managers to remove a pitcher who hits two batters in one inning or three batters in one game. (Note: this local rule doesn’t apply to District Tournament Play.)	Local Options
24	Do we call balks or illegal pitches?	Since there is no leading in Little League (12U Majors and below) there are no balks in the traditional sense. That said, the umpire may call an illegal pitch and award the batter a ball if the pitcher DELIBERATELY and repeatedly (after a warning) attempts a quick pitch, delivers a pitch while not touching the rubber, pretends to have the ball while on/stride the rubber (with runners on base), or any of the other illegal pitches defined in the rules. The penalty for an illegal pitch is a called ball.	Rule 8.05 Local Options
25	Can we use pinch runners or courtesy runners?	<p>With the continuous batting order, there are no traditional pinch runners.</p> <p>Courtesy runners may be used to replace the pitcher and catcher of record with the player(s) in the batting order who made the last out (not necessarily the last “batted out”). If both the pitcher and catcher are on base, they can both be replaced, one by the player who made the second out and one by the player who made the first out. The player who made the first out should be placed ahead (on the base path) of the player who made the second out.</p>	Rule 7.14 (b) Local Options
26	Is bunting allowed?	Yes.	Rule 2.00 “Bunt”

Ref #	Question	Answer	LL Rule Reference
27	Does the infield fly rule apply?	Yes.	Rule 2.00 "Infield Fly"
28	Can runners tag up after a caught fly ball?	Yes.	7.10(a)
29	Can runners advance on a passed ball?	Yes.	Rule 7.05
30	Do runners need to slide?	Sliding is a skill that should be mastered at this level, but injuries can still result if not done properly. Baserunners should avoid collisions by sliding, running clear of fielders after a force play, or simply giving up to be tagged. Runners shall never slide headfirst .	Rule 7.08(a)(3) Rule 7.08(a)(4)
31	Is stealing allowed?	Yes. Runners must stay on the base until the pitch reaches the batter (no leading).	Rule 7.13
32	How many coaches can we have?	Each team can have one adult manager and up to 3 adult coaches. At least one adult coach MUST always be in the dugout. Only authorized managers, coaches, and players are allowed in the dugout (e.g. a non-coach scorekeeper is not allowed in the dugout). Batboys and/or batgirls are not permitted.	Rule 1.01 Rule 3.17 Reg XIV(d) Reg III(b)
33	Can players sit in the stands?	No. Players must remain on the bench while not playing defense, batting, coaching, warming up in the bullpen or running the bases.	Reg XIV(b)
34	Are players eligible for a District Team?	Yes. Majors players are eligible for "All Star" Tournament (District) Teams, provided they meet the league age requirements and participate in at least 8 regular season games .	Tournament Organization "Player Eligibility"
35	What if I disagree with the umpire on a rule?	Protests are discouraged if they can be avoided and resolved during the game. If a protest is to be lodged, Managers must follow the proper procedures in the rules to play under protest, and then submitted to the GCAA League President the same day. Hired plate umpires are used for the Majors.	Rule 4.19(g) Rule 9.04(a)

GCAA Code of Conduct (all sports):

GCAA has adopted a Code of Conduct for coaches and parents of all sports based on work by the Garden City Sports Cooperative (GCSC). You can find the full Code of Conduct here:

<https://www.leaguelineup.com/topnews.asp?url=gcaabasketball&itemid=2114825>

Little League also publishes a recommended Parent Code of Conduct that we include here:

Little League Parent Code of Conduct

As a parent/family member, **I WILL:**

- Remember that children participate to have fun
- Be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship
- Teach my child to play by the rules and resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence
- Demand that my child treats coaches, officials, and other players with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability
- Teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning
- Praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard
- Promote the emotional and physical well being of athletes ahead of my personal desire to win
- Respect the officials and their authority during games

As a parent/family member, **I WILL NOT:**

- Force my child to participate
- Engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent
- Boo, taunt, refuse to shake hands, or use profane language
- Encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of athletes
- Ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a game
- Use drugs, tobacco, or alcohol at any league event
- Coach my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am a coach.

Little League Pitching Rule Summary (see Regulation VI for full rules)

(a) Any player on a regular season team may pitch. (Exception: Any player who has played the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.)

(b) A pitcher once removed from the mound cannot return as a pitcher.

(c) 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

AGE PITCHES PER DAY

6-8 50 Pitches

9-10 75 Pitches

11-12 85 Pitches

13-16 95 Pitches

Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Regulation VI(c) for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may finish pitching to that batter that inning.

(d) Pitchers league age 14 and under must adhere to the following **rest requirements**:

If a player pitches **66 or more** pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches **51-65** pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches **36-50** pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches **21-35** pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches **1-20** pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.

NOTE 1: Under no circumstance shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days.

NOTE 2: A pitcher's pitch count for the purposes of day(s) rest threshold is determined by the first pitch thrown to a batter. The pitcher may not start a new batter once the limit imposed in Regulation VI(c) has been met.

(e) Each league must designate the scorekeeper or another game official as the official pitch count recorder (**GCAA requires the manager to appoint a scorekeeper for each game**).

(f) The pitch count recorder must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager is responsible for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed.

(g) The official pitch count recorder should inform the Umpire-in-Chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted in Regulation VI(c).

(j) Minor League: A player who has attained the league age of twelve (12) is not eligible to pitch. (See Regulation V – Selection of Players)

(k) Minor League pitchers may not pitch in more than one game in a day:

Safety Code For Little League (from Appendix B of the Rulebook)

- Responsibility for safety procedures should be that of an adult member of the local league.
- Arrangements should be made in advance of all games and practices for emergency medical services.
- Managers, coaches, and umpires should have some training in first-aid. First-Aid Kit should be available at the field.
- No games or practice should be held when weather or field conditions are not good, particularly when lighting is inadequate.
- Play area should be inspected frequently for holes, damage, glass, and other foreign objects.
- Dugouts and bat racks should be positioned behind screens.
- Only players, managers, coaches, and umpires are permitted on the playing field during play and practice sessions.
- Responsibility for keeping bats and loose equipment off the field of play should be that of a regular player assigned for this purpose.
- Procedure should be established for retrieving foul balls batted out of the playing area.
- During practice sessions and games, all players should be alert and watching the batter on each pitch.
- During warm up drills, players should be spaced so that no one is endangered by errant balls.
- Equipment should be inspected regularly. Make sure it fits properly.
- Pitching machines, if used, must be in good working order (including extension cords, outlets, etc.) and must be operated only by adult managers and coaches.
- Batters must wear protective NOCSAE helmets during practice, as well as during games.
- Catchers must wear catcher's helmet (with face mask and throat guard), chest protector, and shin guards. Male catchers must wear a protective supporter and cup at all times.
- Except when runner is returning to a base, head first slides are not permitted. This applies only to Little League (Majors), Minor League, and Tee Ball.
- During sliding practice bases should not be strapped down.
- At no time should "horse play" be permitted on the playing field.
- Parents of players who wear glasses should be encouraged to provide "Safety Glasses."
- Any jewelry worn that poses harm to injury will be subject to removal.
- Catchers must wear catcher's helmet, face mask, and throat guard in warming up pitchers. This applies between innings and in bullpen practice. Skull caps are not permitted.
- Batting/catcher's helmets should not be painted unless approved by the manufacturer.
- Regulations prohibit on-deck batters. This means no player should handle a bat, even while in an enclosure, until it is his/her time at bat. This applies only to Little League (Majors), Minor League, and Tee Ball.
- Players who are ejected, ill, or injured should remain under supervision until released to the parent or guardian.