

## Union Baseball Association

### 2016 LLB Speedup Rules and Delays

Due to the recent issues concerning pitching delays and also the ensuing delays by batters we feel it necessary to address the problem.

The goal of the league is to provide a positive experience for all the players, to do this we are attempting to speed up the game so the kids get as many at bats as possible and as many innings of defense because experience is the best teaching tool we have. This will take a concerted effort of all the adults involved including managers, coaches, parents and umpires. First of all everyone needs to understand the rules.

According to the rule book 2016 Little League Baseball:

#### **Batting:**

Rule 6.00 page 89 explains the requirements of the Batter.

Rule 6.02

- (a) The batter shall take a position in the batter's box promptly when it is said batters time at bat.
- (b) The batter shall not leave that position in the batter's box after the pitcher comes to a Set Position, or starts a wind up.

**PENALTY:** If the pitcher pitches, the umpire shall call "Ball" or "Strike" as the case may be.

- (c) If the batter refuses to take a position in the batter's box during a time at bat the umpire shall call a strike on the batter without the need for a pitch to be delivered. The ball is dead, no runners may advance. After the penalty the batter may take a proper position and the regular ball strike count shall continue, but if the batter does not take the proper position before three strikes are called, that batter shall be declared out.

#### **Pitching:**

Rule 8.00 page 106 explains a legal delivery and pitching positions.

Rule 8.03 page 108 states that at the beginning of an inning a pitcher is allowed 8 warm up pitches, it is the managers responsibility to get pitchers warmed up outside of the field prior to pitching in a game this includes substitutes. In case of emergency a relief pitcher can throw as many pitches as deemed necessary to get warmed up but this is only used if the existing pitcher is injured during play.

**Rule 8.04 page 108 states:**

**When the bases are unoccupied, the pitcher shall deliver the ball to the batter within 20 seconds after the pitcher receives the ball. Each time the pitcher delays the game by violating this rule, the umpire shall call "Ball."**

**Note: The intent of this rule is to avoid unnecessary delays. The umpire shall insist that the catcher return the ball promptly to the pitcher, and that the pitcher take a position on the pitcher's plate promptly.**

Rule 8.05 explains pitching with runners on base, it is an illegal pitch when: (no balks, called ball)

Section (h) the pitcher unnecessarily delays the game. This is a discretionary call by the umpire and we recommend 8 seconds from the time the pitcher sets at the rubber he needs to go to the plate, make a play to retire a runner on a base or step off the rubber and reset.