



RULES OF PLAY: 9U DIVISION RIDGEFIELD LITTLE LEAGUE - 2019

GAME RULES:

- Regular season games have no bearing on playoff seedings
- Games should begin within 5 minutes of the scheduled game time
- BEFORE play may begins, Managers must exchange:
 - batting orders
 - players numbers
- Game length is six innings. You should not start an inning if you are 1 hour and 50 minutes into the game.
- Kids to start pitching each inning
- 3 strikes called by ump during kid pitch and coach pitch – no walking in either kid or coach pitch. Count resets to zero strikes when coach comes into pitch.
- Three outs or five runs – whichever comes first – ends the inning
- Time permitting; the sixth inning must be completed if the home team is ahead (i.e., the home team gets their final at bat even if they are in the lead...unless both teams agree enough is enough)
- The HOME TEAM maintains the official score book and pitch counts for any game. Running score should be compared by both teams at the end of each inning.
- There is one umpire provided by Ridgefield Little League. HOME TEAM to pay umpires before each game. Each manager will be reimbursed at the end of the season.

BATTING:

- NO BATS IN PLAYERS HANDS, ANYWHERE, EXCEPT WHEN THEY ARE AT THE PLATE
- ALL players must be included in the batting order.

DURING KID PITCH:

- There will be called strikes and balls. 3 strikes is a strikeout if there is no contact on the 3rd strike or if the catcher catches a foul tip on the 3rd strike.

- There is NO WALKING. Excepted if hit by pitch. If a batter is hit by a pitch then he or she will take first base or can remain in and face a coach.
 - Kid pitches 4 called balls.
 - Batter stays at home, coach comes in to pitch. ○ Pitch count stays with kid pitcher ○ Strikes go back to zero ○ Strikes called on batter by coach pitch

DURING COACH PITCH:

- Coaches pitch to their own team.
Note – During the Post Season, coaches will be expected to pitch from directly in front of the mound.
- There are called strikes until strike 3. The third strike must be swinging.
- 3 strikes is a strikeout if no contact on the 3rd strike or if the catcher catches a foul tip on the 3rd strike.

FIELDING:

- Outfielders must be positioned on the grass, at least 4 feet in back of the dirt infield
- Maximum of TEN players on the field
- Maximum of six players, including pitcher, catcher, in the infield
- During coach pitch, a kid will be in the pitcher position as a fielder adjacent to the mound, fielding the pitcher position. Coaches cannot make defensive plays. A ball that inadvertently hit a coach is a live ball. If a line drive is inadvertently caught by a coach, the coach should drop the ball and it is to be played as a live ball.
- Maximum of four players in the outfield
- Each player shall play a minimum of 2 innings infield per game, rotating positions each game and/or within the game to learn all positions throughout the season.
- If a player cannot adequately protect themselves playing catcher or first base, that player should not play those positions until ready and willing to do so.
- Each player must play at least 5 innings in the field in any game
- There is no infield fly rule.

BASE RUNNING:

- There is NO:
 - bunting
 - leading
- Stealing is allowed from 2nd to 3rd base only and only if catcher makes clean catch of ball. A runner may steal if a kid or a coach is pitching.
 - **Each team will receive one warning per violation – after that players will be called out
- Runners may only advance one base unless the ball is hit into the outfield
- When a ball is hit into the outfield runners may advance until the ball returns to the infield. Once the ball crosses the plane that divides the grass outfield and the dirt infield, fielded or not fielded, all base runners not clearly halfway to the next base will be sent back.
- If a base runner is halfway or more to the forward base the ball is live until the runner is either safe or out at the forward base. No extra bases can be taken.
- As with all plays the umpire will make the halfway call...however -
- Base coaches will provide visual assistance. Coaches will raise their hand to signify when ball crosses infield outfield plane.

OVERTHROW:

- Runners can advance one base on an overthrow to first base.
- For example, if runners are at 1st and 2nd and there is an overthrow to first base, the runner heading to 3rd can attempt to run home, the runner heading to 2nd can attempt to take 3rd and the batter can attempt to take 2nd.
- No advancing on overthrows to bases other than throws to 1st base.

PITCHING:

- 46' mound to home plate (no closer)
- Batters hit by a pitched ball will be awarded first base at the batters option. Batter may choose to stay in and face coach pitching.

- If a pitching team walks or hits 3 batters or has a combination of 3 walks and HBP, coaches pitch remainder of the inning.
- Pitchers who hit 3 batters cannot pitch remainder of the game.
- Pitchers who walk three batters in an inning are still eligible to pitch the following inning, but must adhere to the below pitch count rules.

PITCH COUNT & REST: Green book rules apply for both regular and post season:

- Pitchers must adhere to the following rest requirements:
 - 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 days of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.
- The effective pitch count total is determined at the beginning of a new batter. For example: if a pitcher is at 19 pitches and a new batter comes to the plate, that pitchers pitch count becomes 20 no matter how many pitches he throws to that batter.
- NOTE: Max pitch count in any one game is 50.
- Refer to the LL green book for any additional details pertaining to pitch counts.

PLAYOFFS:

- No seeding by virtue of regular season record...random draw.
- Elimination format. (TBD Double or Single after close of regular season)
- Kids to pitch 6 innings in playoffs.

GENERAL:

- Move the games along. Have a coach near the backstop to assist with wild pitches. Teach infielders to back up the pitcher on throws from the catcher.
- Coaches should be ready to coach pitch when needed. Have a bucket near catchers during coach pitch and another coach helping with wild pitches.

- Help kids on both teams. This is an instructional league and we are collectively trying to make the kids from Ridgefield better baseball players.
- Help coaches. If a coach is shorthanded or is struggling with coach pitch during a game and help is requested, it is okay for a coach to pitch to the opposing team.
- A maximum of 2 coaches are allowed to be in the outfield when their team is in the field.
- Protective cups are STRONGLY encouraged. Kids not wearing a protective cup cannot catch.
- Helmets with face guards are required.
- Sliding allowed – NO HEAD SLIDES.
- THERE IS TO BE NO ONE STANDING BEHIND THE BACKSTOP – THIS INCLUDES PLAYERS, KIDS, SPECTATORS, PARENTS, COACHES, ETC.

COACHING:

- Coaches will act in a collegial manner and as representatives of RLL. Disagreements between coaches should be discussed after the game in a calm manner.
- Coaches are expected to abide by the rules listed above and the spirit in which they are written. If it becomes apparent that amendments are needed to these procedures, the 9U director will implement changes at his discretion.
- Managers, coaches and players will abide by all calls and decisions made by the umpire! ABSOLUTELY NO ARGUING. A manager and/or coach who argues safe/out, fair/foul, and/or balls and strikes risks ejection and suspension.
- Managers or Coaches who participate in an incident between an umpire, another manager/coach, a player(s), and/or Parent will be suspended for one game. After the second incident, the Manager or Coach will be dismissed from the Team. (An incident is anything deemed inappropriate by the Ridgefield Little League Board)

If an incident occurs during the game that involves inappropriate behavior, the umpire, opposing manager and coaches, same team manager and coaches, and/or parents should report that situation to the director of umpires, player agent, and/or 9U Director as soon as possible.