

2017 Rocky Hill Little League Minors A & Minors AA (Farm) League Rules

This is an instructional and recreational league. Ages range from 6 to 9, and skills vary widely. All of the children should benefit from this league regardless of skill level. Good sportsmanship, team spirit, fair play, safety and having fun should be stressed. The program is designed to have one practice during the week and a game on the weekend.

- 1) Coaches should communicate with their parents that their players should be at the park approximately 30 minutes before the game for warm-ups before the game.
- 2) The home team shall occupy the dugout on the first base side of the field. The home team will be listed as the second team on the schedule. For example, B1 vs. B2 (B2 is the home team).
- 3) In the event of an injury, the coach should contact the relevant Farm Director (Dave Carlstrom/Denis Hamann for Minors AA or Jason Myers for Minors A), Safety Officer (Ron Orsini) and the Baseball Director (Frank Turner) as soon as possible. The proper paperwork must be completed and submitted to the Baseball Director.
- 4) In the event of inclement weather, the cancellation notification procedure must be followed. Please do not call the field coordinator. Makeup games should be coordinated with the Farm Directors for the relevant divisions (Jason Myers – Minors A and Dave Carlstrom/Denis Hamann – Minors AA).
- 5) Games will be 5 innings, time permitting with a game considered played if three or more innings are completed.
- 6) As Moser School is a public school, town ordinance prohibits smoking on the grounds. The code of conduct you signed during registration also applies.
- 7) Players should be encouraged to wear baseball pants and cleats. Please check our website for suggested bat and glove sizes.
- 8) The official league ball for game use is the Sof-Tee level 5 as provided by the league
- 9) Runs are not counted. Game scores are not kept, nor are standings maintained. Outs should be explained in practices and introduced in games as the season progresses at the AA level. Clearing the bases after 3 outs at the AA level.
- 10) All players will play the field in both Minors A and AA with any extra players being used in the outfield.

- 11) Infield: One player plays the “pitcher position” on one side of the pitcher’s mound while the coach pitches (see additional details in “Pitching” section below; the pitcher must keep one foot on the mound (dirt) parallel to the rubber; one catcher; four infielders in normal positions.
- 12) All remaining players should be in the grass of the outfield.
- 13) Coaches must alternate the players into different fielding positions each inning with no players playing the outfield in consecutive innings. **No player should play the same infield position during one game.**
- 14) Base running:
 - A) Defensive players are not allowed to obstruct the base or base path. During such occurrence the runner will be awarded the base and no out will be recorded.
 - B) No extra bases on overthrows. In Minors AA, the base runner stops when the ball is returned to the infield, regardless of whether the infielder has control of the ball.
 - C) The base runners are allowed to take extra bases until the ball is back into the infield. At that time the players can continue to the base they were running to with the chance of being put out.
 - D) There is no leading at any level of Little League.
 - E) **Minors A** – there are no steals.
 - F) **Minors AA** – **ONE** steal will be allowed by each team per inning. The stolen base attempt can only occur on a pitched ball by a player (not a coach), and the pitch must be playable by the catcher (caught or kept in front of him). The base runner shall adhere to official Little League baseball rules for stealing.
 - G) A player is allowed to slide; however, sliding should not be encouraged. Improper sliding can be dangerous, please use discretion.
- 15) Batting:
 - A) There should be both a first base and third base coach.
 - B) Coaches should teach the children the fundamentals of base running, but should also keep the base running to a reasonable level.
 - C) The base coaches should be teaching the children the proper time to run or stay during different hitting situations. An adult may coach and umpire the base at the same time.

- D) **To start the season (first three games), the entire roster will bat;** for the remainder of the season, there will be a maximum of once thru the roster or three (3) outs per inning.
- E) Throwing the bat is dangerous; and coaches should warn players that if the bat is thrown, they will be called out. Repeated instances resulting in a called “out” will not count against the team’s three outs per inning.
- F) There is no “on deck” batter. There is to be no swinging of the bat by any player. This is a Little League Rule.
- G) Each coach will pitch to his own team. Pitching from the knee is required.
- H) **Minors A** – During an extended at-bat, 7 swings (misses), the batter gets an automatic walk.
- I) **Minors AA** – There are no walks. Players should be encouraged to swing at strikes. While we are developing our young first-year pitchers, we are not going to count balls. Batters will be encouraged to swing at strikes to develop an understanding of the strike zone, selective swinging and patience. After three swinging strikes (including normal foul rules), the batter is out. A batter may strike out against either a player or coach.
- J) **Minors AA** – A batter hit by a pitch thrown by another player will be awarded first base.
- K) A batter will not be awarded first base if hit by a pitch thrown by a coach.

16) Fielding:

- A) All catchers and pitchers are REQUIRED to wear a protective cup during the game. There should be a coach behind the catcher to retrieve balls that get past him.
- B) The catcher should only throw back balls that he catches and not chase down every ball that is thrown. We encourage the catchers to throw the ball back to the pitcher if they catch it or if it is within reach of the catcher.
- C) The coach (behind the catcher), will then throw the balls back to the pitching coach only when the pitching coach has run out of balls and/or a new hitter comes up.
- D) We encourage all outfielders throw the ball to the infield and not run the ball all the way in.
- E) Outfielders must stay on the outfield grass until the ball is hit. Outfielders are allowed to backup throws and charge balls to make plays.
- F) Outfielders should never cover bases or run to the base with the ball to get an out.

- G) **Minors AA** – The coach of the team at bat should stand behind the pitcher, prepared to pitch in relief. This coach should have 4-5 baseballs and will provide additional baseballs to the pitcher when the catcher misses.
- H) Additionally, two coaches from the defensive team may roam the field during play to instruct the children.
- I) All coaches should rotate their players between the infield and outfield every inning and have a defensive rotation plan prepared prior to the game. No player should play the outfield in two consecutive innings.

17) Pitching

A) **Minors AA:**

- 1) **The coaches will start pitching at the beginning of the season (first three games) and then transition to the kids starting pitching (League Director's discretion).**
- 2) The coach will relieve the pitcher after **3** balls (not pitches). Our goal is to have the players hit off the kid pitcher if possible.
- 3) If the batter has one or two strikes at the time the coach takes over, the count will be reset to "one-strike." If the batter did not have any strikes at the time the coach takes over, the count will be "no-strikes".
- 4) Only swinging strikes will be counted. There are no called strikes and there are no walks.

B) **Minors A** – all pitching will be done by coaches.

18) At the end of each game, both teams will line up to shake hands and congratulate each other.

19) The most important rule of all is to HAVE FUN!!

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