



Local Rules – Effective Spring 2018

Minor League Single-A Division

Introduction to Player Pitching

The 2018 Little League Baseball rulebook 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 at least two (2) innings in the infield and one (1) inning in the outfield. If a player does not have an opportunity to fulfill these requirements due to a shortened game, it must be fulfilled in the 1st inning of the subsequent game.
- Infield positions are defined as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd bases, as well as shortstop, and pitcher. For mandatory play purposes, catcher is neither an infield nor an outfield position.

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.
- 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 outfielder must throw the ball to an infielder for an out.
- During coach-pitched innings, the pitcher shall be positioned even with and within three (3) feet on either side of the pitching plate.
- 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.
- No coaches are permitted to be positioned in the field of play.

The Pitcher

- Player pitch will be done throughout the entire season.
- The 1st and 2nd innings are designated as player-pitch innings. For the 3rd and subsequent innings, the coach will pitch to the batters on their own offensive team.
- Players are limited to one (1) inning as a pitcher for each calendar week. This is defined as Sunday through Saturday. This does not supersede the days of rest requirements set out in the Little League Baseball Rules and Regulations. On or after May 1, 2018 (to include post season playoffs), the LSL Board of Directors may, at its discretion, modify this rule to increase the number of player-pitched innings. If the number of player-pitched innings is increased, standard pitch count rules set out in the Little League Baseball Rules and Regulations shall govern all participation and activity as a pitcher.
- The coach that is pitching shall stand within five (5) feet of the pitcher's plate in a straight line between home plate and second base. (A good reference for positioning of the coach pitcher is for the coach pitcher to begin the throwing motion at the base of the mound).
- The coach that is pitching may instruct the batter in between pitches but may not coach/instruct after delivery of the pitch.
- If the batted ball makes contact with the coach, the ball is considered live and in play.



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The Batter

- During coach-pitched innings, the batter shall be given a maximum of six (6) pitches. If the batter does not swing at the 6th or subsequent pitch, the batter shall be called out. A foul ball on the 6th or subsequent pitch cannot be counted as the last pitch.
- Strikes shall be called during coach-pitched innings. There are no walks or bases awarded due to the batter being hit by a coach-pitched ball. However, the batter will be called out upon three (3) strikes.
- Bunting is not permitted during coach-pitched innings. Bunting is permitted during player-pitched innings.

The Runner

- Runners may advance one (1) base on an overthrow at their own risk with only one advance on an overthrow on the same play per runner. If the defensive team chooses to try and make a play on the runner taking the additional base which results in ANOTHER overthrow, one additional base may be taken for each subsequent attempt made against a runner.
- Runners cannot advance to another base once the ball reaches the kid pitcher and is under his control while positioned on the pitching plate (even during coach pitch). Runner may continue to the next base in this situation, but must return to the previous base if they were no more than half the distance to the advancing base at the time of the ball entering the infield.
- Runners may not advance on an overthrow while attempting to steal.
- Runners are not permitted to steal during coach-pitched innings.
- Runners are not permitted to steal home.

Starting and Ending the Game

- In the sixth (6th) inning, each half inning shall end after three offensive players are legally put out, called out by an umpire or when all players on the roster have batted one time in the half inning. (No five run limit)
- For innings other than the sixth inning, each half of a coach-pitched inning is limited to five (5) runs or three (3) outs, whichever comes first. Each team may continue rotating through their batting order until either three (3) outs or five (5) runs are scored – in other words, a batter may make more than one plate appearance in each half inning.
- Each half of a player-pitched inning is limited to three (3) runs or three (3) outs, whichever comes first.
- 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.
- There will be no time limit in playoff games.