



Local Rules – Fall 2017

Minor League **Rookie** Division

Introduction to Coach Pitch

The 2017 Little League Baseball Rules and Regulations 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 an inning. No player shall sit out a third inning prior to all eligible players having sat out two (2) innings.
- All players must play two (2) innings in the infield and two (2) innings in the outfield or catcher.
- Infield positions are defined as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, bases as well as shortstop and pitcher.
- The catcher is not considered an infield position for this division.
- If circumstances arise whereby a team cannot field at least the required nine (9) players before or during a game, replacement player(s) shall be used:
 - Replacement player(s) may be from a different team in the same division, or from the opposing team.
 - If a replacement player is from within the same division –
 - When a Manager knows in advance that his team will have fewer than nine (9) players present at the start of a game, or will have fewer than nine (9) players after the game starts, then a Player Agent shall assign replacement player(s) per Green Book Regulation V(c); such replacement players provided **shall play at least nine (9) consecutive defensive outs and bat once**, per Regulation V(c) (1).
 - If a replacement player is from the opposing team –
 - When a team has fewer than nine (9) players present, that team shall use a replacement player from the other team.
 - The replacement player shall only play defensively.
 - The replacement player shall not pitch.
 - The replacement player shall be the player from the opposing team with the last complete at-bat in the previous half-inning; if the team requiring a replacement player is the home team, then the replacement player used in the top of the 1st inning shall be the last batter listed in the opposing team's lineup. If the player that made the last out has already been assigned as a replacement player earlier in the game, then the player that made the previous out will be so assigned.
 - If a replacement player on defense is required to come to bat during his own team's at-bat, then that player shall be replaced for the remainder of the half inning with the player recording the last out for the team currently batting.

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. The third baseman and shortstop must be positioned at the time of the pitch no closer than one step in from a straight line running from second to third base. The second baseman and first baseman must be positioned at the time of the pitch no closer than one step in from a straight line running from first to second base.
- A player in the outfield may not make a put out in the infield unless acting as a backup on a rundown. The outfield player must throw to an infielder for a put out.
- Two (2) defensive coaches may be positioned on the outfield grass in order to reposition and coach players after the completion of a play.



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- One (1) coach may be positioned near the catcher in such a manner as to prevent injury in order to reposition the catcher and retrieve balls after the completion of a play.
- The pitcher shall be positioned within 3 feet of either side of the pitching mound, even with the pitching plate.
- The first baseman and pitcher shall wear batting helmets when playing those positions.
- The catcher shall wear all regulation protective gear including a catcher's mitt, and be positioned properly behind the plate in the catcher's box.

The Pitcher:

- A coach from the offensive team will pitch to their team's respective batters.
- The coach pitcher shall deliver pitches from a spot no more than 20 feet in front of the pitcher's plate in a straight line between home plate and second base. (The pitcher's plate is 46 feet from Home Plate, therefore the coach pitcher will be closer to the mound than home plate when delivering pitches). Pitches shall be made using an overhand throwing motion; **underhand or soft-toss pitches are not permitted.**
- The coach pitching is allowed to coach the batter in between delivered balls but may not coach after delivery of the pitch or while the ball is in play.
- If a batted ball makes contact with a coach, the ball is considered live and in play.
- A bucket to hold baseballs may be used but it must be placed behind the coach that is actually pitching. If a ball comes into contact with the bucket after the ball is hit the ball is considered live and in play.

The Offense:

- Each of the first five (5) innings shall end after three (3) outs or five (5) runs, whichever occurs first.
- The top and bottom of the 6th inning will end when either three (3) outs are made or when everyone in the line-up bats once, whichever comes first. It does not matter if the teams have a different number of batters.

The Batter:

- Strikes will be recorded.
- A batter will be called out with three (3) swinging strikes or seven (7) total pitches from the coach. The out is recorded against the "3 outs in an inning". A foul ball will not be counted as the last pitch of an at bat.
- Bunting is not allowed.

The Runner:

- Stealing is not allowed.
- There is no advance on an overthrow. For balls hit to the outfield, base runners may advance until the ball is "under control" (in possession) in fair territory in the infield by one of the infielders (**in this instance the catcher IS considered an infielder**). If a base runner is more than half way to the next base, then the runner is entitled to try to reach that base. Otherwise, the base runner must return to the last base legally occupied. A fielder still has an option of making a play on the runner and if tagged, the runner is out; otherwise the above rules apply as to whether the runner was half way or not when the ball was originally "under control".

Starting and Ending the Game:

- No new inning may start after two (2) hours.
- An inning begins immediately upon the end of the preceding inning.
- The game will end and there will be no pitch after 2 ½ hours.