



LITTLE LEAGUE AA LOCAL RULES (2022)

Basics

- Home team supplies game balls. Regular baseballs are to be used.
- Home team prepares field prior to game and will occupy third base side bench. Visitors will occupy first base side.
- Game length is 6 innings. If there is a game following your game, you must end after 2 hours of play. You may not start a new inning after 1 hour and 45 minutes of play.
- Score is to be kept for each game. Season standings (wins and losses) will also be tracked. Score is to be tracked by the visiting team and will be sent to the AA Coordinator after each game.
- If the home team is ahead in the last inning after the visitors bat, the game is over.
- There will be no forfeits. Teams will play with as many players as they have.
- 10 players max in the field for defense. 4 max in the outfield, meaning a couple of steps off of the dirt and onto the grass.
- Coach at the pitching mound serves as the umpire.
- No parents allowed on the field. Parents okay to act as 1st and 3rd base coaches. One bat boy/girl may be used but they must wear a helmet at ALL times.
- Unlike A ball, there is no rule that each player has to get equal time playing the field. However, this is youth baseball and nobody should be riding the pine inordinately. Please use good judgment in using defensive playing time as a reward.

Batting and Baserunning

- 5 run limit per inning or 3 outs. If agreed to before the game, you may designate an inning as an "unlimited run inning" for both the visitors and the home team to where you play until there are 3 outs.
- Strikeouts count as outs.
- Bat the lineup (all players bat regardless of whether or not they are currently playing in the field).
- Bunting is not allowed. Players should intend to contact ball with a full swing. See final paragraph of this document.
- No base stealing or leading off and no advancing runners on passed balls at the plate or wild pitches.

- One base per overthrow at the runner's peril. The runner may be thrown out on the attempt. If on the attempt, an additional overthrow occurs, the runner may try for another base.
- Play continues until the ball is under “reasonable” control by a player who is in the infield or until the ball is either thrown back to the pitcher or until there is a purposeful attempt to get the ball to the pitcher (even if dropped or overthrown). No runner may advance beyond that. A runner in the act of advancing bases before the ball is under control in the infield may proceed to targeted base but may not keep advancing bases unless, like mentioned above, there is an overthrow in an attempt to get the runner out.
- Interference rules are in effect. Mainly, if a runner is hindered by the defense and is judged to have been safe had they not been interfered with then the runner will be awarded the base the umpire feels they would have attained had they not been interfered with. Also, a runner that intentionally or accidentally makes contact with a hit ball in play is out.
- Coaches should encourage that all throws into the pitcher at the completion of each play should be to the kid playing the pitcher position and not to the coach that may be pitching.

Pitching

- The first 2 weeks (through April 16th), coaches pitch the entire game to their own team. Defensive player plays the pitcher position near the mound.
 - No called strikes or called strikeouts (batter must swing to strike out) during these first 2 weeks. Use this time to teach kids about the strike zone so they'll be prepared for subsequent weeks.
 - Assign a coach who can throw consistent strikes. The goal here is for kids to hit the ball and not strike out. Coaches should attempt to throw from kneeling position or from as low of a posture as possible to give the correct pitch angle for young hitters. Coaches should not kneel any closer than 36 ft away from home plate (12 paces). A coach may pitch further back than that and ideally will be one pace in front of where kids will pitch from. Reasoning behind being one pace in front is so coaches release point will match where kids release point is when pitching.
- Weeks 3-4 (April 18th through April 30th), games will be hybrid of coach and kid pitch. Coaches will pitch the first 3 innings. Then, kids will pitch the remaining innings with coach back-up.
 - When kids are pitching during these two weeks, if the batter reaches 2 balls, coach (from the batting team who is also the umpire) finishes the at-bat, with the batter retaining same number of strikes.
 - Pitchers to pitch from distance no closer than 42 feet from home plate. They may pitch from pitcher's mound if desired (46 feet) but they are not required to. A kid that cannot pitch from 42 feet should not play the pitcher position until he achieves that capability.

- There are called strikes and called strikeouts from week 4 on regardless of whether kid or coach is pitching. A called strike is defined as a pitch between the armpits and knees, over the plate.
- Weeks 5-10 (beginning May 1st), games will be entirely kid pitch with coach back-up.
 - When kids are pitching during these two weeks, if the batter reaches 3 balls, coach (from the batting team who is also the umpire) finishes the at-bat, with the batter retaining same number of strikes.
- Pitching distances for both player (no closer than 42 feet) and coach (no closer than 36 feet) need to be strictly maintained.
- Pitch count per player per WEEK is 50 pitches MAX. Also, no pitcher should ever exceed 3 innings in a game. Violation of either rule will forfeit that players eligibility to pitch thereafter.
- A batter cannot reach first base by a base on balls. See concluding paragraph below.
- Catcher catches; no back up parent. Goal is for catcher to learn the position.
- Player hit by pitch has option to either take first base or continue batting. If he chooses to continue batting, the count is reset to 0 balls, 0 strikes.
- If a pitcher hits two players in a game, he must stop pitching. He can still play, just not pitch.

Coaches should use their collective judgment to solve problems that arise during any given game. Talk to each other before each game to discuss these rules. Generally, we are trying to keep the games moving and let as many kids as possible bat and play the field. Managers may discuss before the game to play with certain exceptions to the rule, such as: allowing bunting, allowing pitchers in the final weeks to pitch the entire count without coach back-up and to incorporate base on balls (walks) into the game, modify the strikeout rules during the early season for first-time struggling players, etc. As long as both managers agree before the game, any modification within reason is acceptable. If managers do not agree to an exception, the default will be to play by the rules spelled out in this document.