

2026 AGALL Majors Division Guidelines

The primary function of this division is encouraging the players to have fun while learning proper baseball fundamentals. Team records and individual player statistics are to be maintained in the GameChanger App. Statistics, though, must not be the overriding goals.

We will be following the current-year Little League Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules book. It is an app that you download one time and will automatically update.

Team Rosters

Each team will consist of 11-13 players who have a League Age of 10 or 11. Eligible players who are league age 9 may be used if needed.

Regular Season Play

Playoff seeding is based on total Win / Loss record over the course of the season. Tiebreakers will be (head-to-head record, runs allowed, run differential (Scored – Allowed))

Safety Rules

All safety/disciplinary related issues will be reviewed by the AGALL Competition Committee and further penalties may be assessed at the discretion of the Committee. Offenders must appear before the Board of Directors to appeal any decision.

Catcher's Equipment:

- Catchers must use a **catcher's mitt**.
- Catcher's helmet must have ear covers and the mask must have a dangling throat guard.
- Catchers must wear protective cups and approved chest protectors.
- Catchers warming up pitchers must wear a protective cup and catcher's helmet/mask.

Manager/Coach Expectations:

- A maximum of 4 coaches are allowed to be on the field or in the dugout at any time.
- Aligning with Little League rules, coaches **are not allowed** to stand, sit on buckets, or sit stools outside the dugout during a game. The rules emphasize that all team personnel, including coaches, should remain within the designated dugout area unless coaching bases or in other authorized roles. This a safety and conduct rule to assure coaches are not interfering with live play, distracting players, or the bucket/stool interfere with live play.
 - o **Live play** is defined as a batted ball, thrown ball or fielder trying to make a play.
- The umpire will have authority to address the issue of a Coach/Manager standing or sitting outside the dugout by enforcing the following penalties:
 - o **First Offense** – Respectfully issue a warning to the Coach/Manager to return to the restricted dugout area.
 - o **Second Offense**- Coach/Manager will be restricted to the dugout and **not be allowed** to coach first or third base.
- **NOTE:** A coach may leave the dugout for an injured or ill player once time is granted by an umpire

Player/Batter Expectations:

- Players are not permitted in the doorway of the dugout or on the deck area.
- There is no such thing as an on-deck batting area or on-deck batter.
- Little League regulations prohibit any player from handling a bat or swing a bat, even while in an enclosure until it's his/her turn to bat.
- While on-deck batters are not allowed, players can still prepare mentally by observing pitcher and practicing dry swings without a bat in hand.

- At the beginning of an inning or during a pitching change:
 - **ONLY** the leadoff batter or batter at the plate can come out onto the field with a bat to practice swing.
 - **NO OTHER PLAYERS** are allowed on the field with a bat to practice swing.

Equipment Infractions (Bats, Gloves, Baseballs, Hats, and Helmet)

- Throwing or Slamming Equipment out of frustration will result in the following penalties:
 - **First Offense** - Verbal Warning and **Mandatory** benching for next defensive inning.
 - **Second Offense** - Automatic Ejection
- A batter inadvertently throwing a bat after hitting towards the catcher or umpire (whether it hits them or not) will result in the following penalties:
 - **First Offense** – Team Warning
 - **Subsequent Offenses** - Batter is **automatically out** and runners will return to previous base before the pitch occurred.
- Batting donuts, choke-knobs, and choke-up assists are not permitted per LL rules. Usage of these items will result in the following penalties:
 - **First Offense** - Verbal Warning, and the item must be removed from the bat immediately.
 - **Second Offense** - Automatic Ejection for the player and manager, and all results from the use of the bat are declared illegal with the batter being out.
- The use of pine tar or any other similar adhesive substances may be applied to the handle or grip of the bat at all levels of Little League Baseball and Softball. Pine tar or any other foreign substances shall not be added to the surface of the barrel or taper of the bat and shall not cover the USA Baseball Logo, BBCOR Logo, or other key identifying information or logos on the bat. Failure to follow this guidance will result in the following penalties:
 - **First Offense** - Verbal Warning, and the bat must be removed from the game.
 - **Second Offense** - Automatic Ejection for the player and manager.

Spectator Expectations:

- Spectators are to cheer for their team, not against their opponent.
- Spectators are not to engage with or confront an umpire regarding calls made (or lack of calls made) during the course of gameplay for any reason.
- Spectators are not permitted onto the field of play during the course of a game (barring injury at the discretion of the umpire and head coach).
- Spectators are not permitted inside the dugout during the course of a game.
- Spectators are never permitted to enter the dugout of an opposing team.
- Spectators deemed unruly, aggressive, or otherwise facilitating a negative baseball experience will face the following penalties:
 - **First Offense** – the umpire will call a meeting at home plate with both head coaches. It will be confirmed which team the spectator is affiliated with. That coach will receive a final warning and be asked to address the spectator directly to correct the behavior.
 - **Second Offense** – the spectator will be removed from the AGALL complex and will face further disciplinary action at the discretion of the AGALL Competition Committee. At the umpire's discretion, the game may proceed or the affiliated team may be forced to forfeit the game.

Pitching Rules

Maximum Pitches:

- League Age 13 – 95 Pitches
- League Age 11 & 12 – 85 Pitches
- League Age 9 & 10 – 75 Pitches
- League Age 7 & 8 – 50 Pitches

Rest

- If a player pitches **66+ pitches** in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches **51-65 pitches** in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- 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 day of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches **1-20 pitches** in a day, no (0) calendar days of rest must be observed.

Mound Visits:

- A head coach or assistant coach must request time from the umpire in order to facilitate a mound visit. All players must be advanced to the appropriate base and time must be granted before the coach enters the field of play.
 - **NOTE:** It is at the umpire's discretion to **refuse** a mound visit from a manager, coach, catcher, or fielder if it is the umpire's judgment that the team is trying to intentionally delay the game.
- A mound visit from the catcher or fielder that stops the flow of play will be considered a formal mound visit.
- Three mound visits in the same inning for the same pitcher requires the pitcher to be replaced.
- Four mound visits in a game for the same pitcher requires that pitcher to be replaced.

Additional details:

- Little League Rules apply here. If a pitcher reaches and exceeds a pitch count threshold while finishing a batter, the pitcher will be deemed to have pitched to the lower threshold. Example: Pitcher A starts pitching to a new batter while having already thrown 33 pitches. Pitcher A then throws 6 pitches to the new batter for a total of 39 pitches that day. For the purposes of rest, Pitcher A will need to comply with the 1 day rest policy, having started the last batter in the 21-35 pitch range. **Managers are responsible for noting the days of rest distinction while reporting those games' pitch counts to the Division Director.**
- A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher.
- If a catcher catches four (4) or more innings, they cannot pitch in that game.
- Catching one pitch in an inning constitutes a full inning at the catcher position.
- Coaches are permitted to warm up pitchers between innings and in the bullpen during the regular season.

Game Length

Per Little League rules an official game is defined as 3.5 inning if home team is winning and 4 innings if the visiting team is winning. If a **regular season/playoff game** is called due to darkness or weather and is not an official game it will be suspended. The game will resume at the exact point of the game where the game was suspended at a later date.

Regular Season

- Games will last six (6) inning or Two (2) Hour Drop Dead Time Limit, whichever comes first.
- No new inning may start after one hour and 45 minutes. If an inning starts before one hour and 45 minutes, the game will continue until the inning is completed. If the conclusion of the game would extend beyond the 2 hour hard cap, the game must conclude if there is a game immediately following on that field.
 - If there is no game following and no darkness or weather considerations, the game should be played to the conclusion of that inning.
 - Regular season games can end in a tie
- **Official time** will be kept by the umpire or League Assigned Game Director
- **ONLY** the Umpire or League Assigned Game Director have the authority to end or stop a game for following reasons
 - Mercy Rule (Team Mathematically Eliminated)
 - No New Inning after 1:45 (one hour and 45 minutes)
 - Darkness (Especially beginning of the season in March and April)
 - Weather

Playoffs

- Games will last six (6) inning or Two (2) Hour Drop Dead Time Limit, whichever comes first.
- No new inning may start after one hour and 45 minutes. If an inning starts before one hour and 45 minutes, the game will continue until the inning is completed
 - There is no 2 hour hard cap in the playoffs. The game will conclude when the top and bottom of the inning is complete and a clear winner is determined.
 - If the game must be stopped due to darkness or weather considerations, the game will be resumed from the exact point at the time the umpire suspends the game.
 - Score, batter/pitcher, pitch counts, batter count, and runners on base must be recorded and shared with the VP of Baseball.
 - These will be reconfirmed by the umpire with both coaches prior to play resuming.
- **Official time** will be kept by the umpire or League Assigned Game Director
- **ONLY** the Umpire or League Assigned Game Director have the authority to end or stop a game for following reasons
 1. Mercy Rule
 2. 1:45 (1hr 45 minutes) Time Limit reached during an inning
 3. Darkness
 4. Weather
- Playoff games cannot end in a tie. If a game is tied after six (6) innings or once time limit reached after a full completed inning, the game will continue and the following applies:
 1. International Tie Breaker Rule - Runner placed on second base (last batter of previous inning) and no outs
 2. Gameplay will continue until a clear winner is determined

Championship Game

- There will be no time limit established for the Championship game. It will be played to the completion of 6 innings or if the mercy rule is applied.

Game Play

- Infield Fly rule is in effect all season.
- No slash bunting.
- No delayed steals.
- No advancement by hitter on dropped 3rd strikes
- An inning is either three (3) outs or five (5) runs, whichever comes first.
- Player substitution is open; starters and substitutes are not linked in any way, except that a pitcher may not re-enter a game as a pitcher.
- Unlimited steals on the bases. Two (2) successful steals of home. A baserunner moving to the next base without a successful hit or walk is considered a steal (i.e. advancing on a passed ball = steal).
- Balks are not in effect but managers and umpires should provide feedback to a pitcher.
- The ball is considered live until the pitcher has it securely and is on the pitcher's mound
- Outfielders must play at least 20 feet behind the base paths.
- Ties in the regular season are permitted.
- There is no unlimited last inning in either the regular season or playoffs
- Teams may begin a game with eight (8) players. Should additional players arrive, they may be inserted into the lineup as the final batter . If the game proceeds with just eight players, the following shall apply:
 - **Regular Season:** Ninth (9th) position in the batting order will not be an out and that position in the batting lineup will be skipped for the remainder of the game
 - **Playoffs:** Ninth (9th) position in the batting order **will be recorded as an out for remainder of the game**

- If a player gets ejected from the game, an out will be recorded every time that batter's batting position comes up in the lineup for the remainder of the game.

Mercy Rule

The following mercy rules should be implemented once a team is mathematically eliminated from winning the game

- Nine (9) or more runs after 3.5 innings if home team is winning or 4 innings if visiting team is winning
- Five (5) or more runs after 4.5 innings if home team is winning or 5 innings if visiting team is winning

Courtesy Runners

In order to speed up the game, with two outs, the catcher/pitcher may be removed from the bases for a courtesy runner.

- The player who made the last out at the plate should be inserted as the pinch runner.
- If last out was the **catcher/pitcher**, the courtesy runner would be the first batted out of the inning
- If both the pitcher and catcher are on base with two outs, the last out of the inning would run for either the catcher/pitcher and the first batted out would run for the other.

NOTE: Per Little League rules, the same runner cannot run for the pitcher and catcher in the same inning. If the last batted out runs for the pitcher in an inning with two outs and then the catcher reaches base later in the inning, the first batted out would run for the catcher since the second batted out already ran for the pitcher.

If a player is injured while running the bases, a courtesy runner may be used to replace the injured player. The courtesy runner is typically the player who made the last out for the team batting. The injured player **can return** to game if they recover, but if they **are injured again** they are removed from the lineup for **remainder of the game**.

Mandatory Play Rule

All Majors players are required to play a minimum of Four **(4) innings** per game in the field (per defined by AGALL above) unless the game is shortened by

- Weather
- Darkness
- Mercy Rule

An inning is defined as 3 defensive outs or four (4) runs, which ever comes first.

Per League Little Rules, if a half inning ends because of the imposition of Four (4) run limit and a player on defensive has played for the entire half inning, that player will be considered to have participated in playing three (3) consecutive outs defensively

Continuous Batting Order

Continuous Batting Order (CBO) means every player on a team's roster bats in predetermined sequence which is determined before the game starts, regardless of whether they are currently playing in the field defensively. All players must be included in the batting order, and if a player arrives late, they will be added to end of the order no matter where the team is in their batting order when that player arrives.

Flexibility of Defense means players can be substituted in and out of defensive positions without affecting the batting order

There is **no Penalty** for missing a turn at bat which means if a player is injured, becomes ill, or must leave game early. Their spot in the batting order is skipped without penalty. If they return, they are inserted back in their original spot in batting order.

If a batter is injured during their at-bat, the next batter in the lineup takes over, assuming the injured batter's count. If the injured cannot continue, their spot in the lineup will be skipped for the remainder of the game.

If a player arrives late to a game site, if the manager chooses to enter him/her in the lineup, he/she would be added to the end of the current lineup.

If a batter becomes a runner by reaching base safely and is unable to run due to injury, illness or ejection, he/she should be replaced by the player who recorded last out as a courtesy runner.

An injured player who leaves the game **cannot re-enter the game** even if the injury is not severe.

Sliding Rules

Little League **does not have a mandatory “must slide”** rule for any base. While runners are not **required** to slide, they must attempt to avoid a collision with a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make a tag. If a runner doesn't slide or attempt to avoid a collision, and fielder with the ball is present, the runner can be called out at the umpire's discretion.

On a close play, runners are expected to either slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball.

Head-first slides are **NOT ALLOWED** while advancing to base. A runner **is allowed** to slide head-first when **returning** to the base. Intentional versus inadvertent head-first slides (i.e. tripping) will be left to the discretion of the umpire.

Fielders **CANNOT** block a base without the ball. If they do, it's considered interference and the runner will be awarded the base.

Umpire Discussions

If a team would like to discuss a call made on the field, the head coach (**ONLY the head coach**) should call a time-out. When the plate umpire grants the time-out, the head coach should approach the plate umpire and have a polite conversation regarding the call that was made or the rule they believe may not have been properly applied.

- If a manager has a rule book question, the manager must show the plate umpire the rule in the rule book that he/she is questioning
- If a call made by the base umpire comes into question, the base umpire must request help from the home plate umpire for there to be a discussion regarding a call.

Any decision made by the umpire after review is final. If a head coach still disagrees, they must communicate with the VP of Baseball (vpbaseball.agall@gmail.com), who will coordinate a review with the AGALL Competition Committee and the Umpire-in-Chief (UIC).

Assigning Umpires

The league will assign umpires for all Regular Season and Playoff games. In the event at least one umpire does not show, contact the Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) or VP of Baseball (vpbaseball.agall@gmail.com) at least 5 minutes prior to the start time of the game. If it is determined that the league assigned umpire will not be present, both managers must agree on a method of umpiring the game with the best interest playing the game in mind.

- If agreed upon by both managers, a parent umpire handling all the umpiring responsibilities from behind the mound for both teams or one parent from each team handling a half inning at time
- A Manager/Coach if agreed upon by both Managers can umpire from behind the mound while their team is batting per each half inning
- If agreed upon by both Managers, two parents. One parent from each team. One parent behind the plate in full gear assuming home plate umpiring duties and other parent umpiring bases and assuming the responsibilities of the base umpire for the whole game

Home / Away Dugouts

Home Team will occupy 1st Base Dugout. Away Team will occupy 3rd Base Dugout.

Rain Out Games

When the fields are deemed unplayable by the league, when fields are unplayable due to weather, we will try to notify everyone by 4pm on weekdays and 8am on Saturdays that the complex is closed. Absent a full league and complex

closure, both managers at the field decide rainouts. Every effort should be made to get the game in. Decisions are made at the field unless a downpour is occurring. The rescheduling of the make-up games (when possible) is the responsibility of the team managers, working in partnership with the VP of Baseball to coordinate field availability for the rescheduled game.

Official Games Suspended by Darkness or Weather

Little League rules state that a game shortened by darkness or weather will revert to previous completed inning. If the game is not official (enough innings played) we will need to schedule a time to continue the game. If the game has hit its official length it will be considered final.

Game Results

The Home team will send the final score of the game as well as all pitch counts to **VP of Baseball** (vpbaseball.agall@gmail.com) after each game. It is a good practice to touch base with the opposing manager during the game (between innings) to make sure both teams are on the same page in terms of pitch counts for both teams. After the game, the Home team manager or scorekeeper should confirm the Away team final pitch counts in order to send the email to the Division Director later that night. The Away team manager should be copied on that email.

Pool Players

In the event that a team needs a replacement player for a particular game, the manager must use the league's Player Agent, for a pool player. The PA will keep a list of players and assign the players according to the compiled list. The PA contacts players on the list on a first come first served basis. Managers cannot contact pool players directly. This process must be coordinated by the player agent or the team that adds an unauthorized pool player will risk a forfeit.

Please let your players know that if they want to be a pool player, they should submit their names to the PA. All Majors players are eligible to be Pool players.

In a case where the pool player is the 10th player in the lineup, that pool player shall play at least 9 consecutive outs and have 1 at bat during the game.

Field Usage Rules

- The Home team is on the First Base side of the field; the Visiting team is on the Third Base side of the field.
- The Home team is responsible for prepping the field (chalk lines, batter's box and installation of bases). The Visiting team will drag the field after the game, rake and repair the mound and remove the bases.
- The home team will lead the Pledge of Allegiance; the Visiting team will lead the Little League Pledge.
- Each team is responsible for cleaning their dugout after the game.
- Each team will supply one game ball for the game.
- Protests or arguments with the umpires are prohibited.
- The equipment used by all players must be Little League approved.
- Players should refrain from throwing or mishandling equipment.

Player Transactions / Replacement Players

- All transactions and permanent replacement players must be approved by the President and Player Agent.
- The Major's manager will notify the Player Agent of the need for a permanent replacement player.
- The VP of Baseball will provide a list of available players to the requesting team manager and Player Agent from the original draft list.
- The manager may request a specific player from the Minor's pool of available players to fill his immediate position needs (i.e. Pitcher, catcher etc). He may ask assistance from other managers in both Majors and Minor's.
- The team Manager, VP of Baseball and Player Agent will work together to agree on a player being pulled up from Minor's.
- Once a player is identified, the player agent will contact the parent of the player to confirm that player will move up. Once a player is moved up, he or she will become a permanent player for that major's team

Tournament Player Nomination and Voting Process

Refer to link on website under **Tournament Team Selection Process** <http://www.avongrovelittleleague.com/>

Playoffs

Playoffs will begin on or about **May 31st**, **depending on weather cancellations during the season**. All teams will make the playoffs. A playoff format and schedule will be distributed later.

1. The rules for playoff games are the same as the regular season rules with exception to the below:
2. Playoff Ties at the end of regulation –
 - a. The seventh (7th) inning will be played as normal.
 - b. Starting in the top of the eighth (8th) inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in the respective half inning being placed on second (2nd) base. EXAMPLE: If the number five (5) batter is the lead-off batter, the number four (4) batter in the batting order will be placed on second (2nd) base.
 - c. Play will continue until there is a clear winner.
 - d. If a game is tied and in extra innings and is called due to daylight or weather the game will continue at the next date available.

Protests

All coaches, players and umpires are urged to take all possible precautions to prevent protests. When a protest situation is imminent, the potential offending manager should be notified immediately. For example, should a manager or umpire discover that a pitcher is ineligible at the beginning of the game, or will become ineligible during the game or at the start of the next inning of play or the next at-bat, the fact should be brought to the attention of the manager of the team involved and the head umpire. Such action shall not be delayed until the infraction has occurred. However, failure to notify the opposing manager does not affect the validity of the protest.

All protests and rules violations shall also be brought to the attention of the League President within 12 hours of their occurrence. The League President shall convene a meeting of the President, the Player Agent, and the Rules Board Member (Infractions Committee) to review the infraction and to determine if further League action is warranted. A first infraction shall result in a warning to the offending manager. However, if the Committee determines that a manager or coach has taken any action that results in making a travesty of the game, the Committee may immediately suspend the offending manager or coach. A second violation shall result in immediate suspension. All suspensions shall be for a duration determined by the Committee in its discretion.