



## **A Baseball Local Rules**

(2026 Revision)

1. A minimum of nine players must be at the game. Managers who know they will have less than nine players should call the other manager at least one day ahead of time to reschedule or make accommodations. Inform Player Agent of any changes.
2. The home team sets up the field including: garbage cans, field raking and prep, placing bases, chalk lines, etc.
3. The visiting team cleans the field following the game including: putting bases away, raking the fields, clean out the dugouts and stands, dump the trash and put can back in the shed.

### **DEFENSE**

4. Single A plays with ten players in the field. The infield positions are 1st, 2nd, SS, 3rd Catcher, and Pitcher. Outfield positions are RF, RC, LC, and LF. Outfielders should be spaced evenly. If only 9 players are available, it is recommended that only one Center Fielder be used.
5. All players must be rotated. Players must rotate between infield and outfield at least every two innings. Players will not be benched for more than one consecutive inning except for good reason (discipline, injury, etc.).
6. Each player plays at least three innings in the infield.
7. To assist fielders, one coach may be in the field on defense. No second base coaches on offense.

### **BASE RUNNING**

8. Base runners may advance once the ball is hit, and continue running until a defensive player gains control of the ball. At that point, the base runner can

continue running to the next base, but cannot begin running to another base beyond that.

9. Base runners will not advance on an overthrow.
10. There is no head-first sliding and no sliding into first base. Runners who do so shall be called out. Note, a dive back to any base is not considered an illegal head first slide.
11. Stealing bases is not allowed. Leading off the base before the ball is struck is not allowed.

### **BATTING**

12. A will be coach pitch for the first half of the season, for a maximum of 4 pitches from the coach. The coach will pitch from the front of the pitcher's mound area.
13. If the batter doesn't hit the ball into fair territory after four pitches, he or she will hit the ball off the tee. The batter will not be put out from strikes during this time.
14. The 2nd half of the season, which will begin the second Monday in May, will be machine pitch only. There will be no coach pitch unless no pitching machine is available, such as in case of equipment failure. A batter will receive a maximum of 5 pitches. The batter is out after three strikes or five pitches. However, the batter is not out on a foul ball prior to the 5th pitch.
15. In both halves of the season there are NO called strikes-only swinging strikes.
16. A batter who throws their bat dangerously will get one warning. The second thrown bat the batter is OUT. The player's manager is expected to support the umpire and make this call.
17. **ONLY USA labeled bats are approved for use in A.** T-ball bats are not allowed in Little League A (Minors). Bats that have the 1.15 BPF certification, or any other bat that does not have the USA Approved sticker on it are not allowed.

Use of an illegal bat shall result in the ejection of the Manager (or Acting Manager) and the player from the game, and from the team's next game played. (LL Rule 3.0 a).

**18.**Reminder of **Little League** rules, there is no on-deck batter in A ball, and no batter may be outside the playing field swinging a bat. Between innings, only the leadoff hitter may be outside the bench area. No player should handle a bat until it is his/her time at bat.

### **GENERAL GUIDANCE**

**19.**An **inning** is three outs or five runs for each team. Single A has a five run rule per inning for the team at bat. This applies to all innings.

**20.**A **game** will consist of four innings. By mutual agreement between managers, a fifth inning can be added. However, no new inning will begin after 75 minutes.

**21.**All players must wear long pants for practice and games. All boys must wear an athletic supporter. Catchers must wear a cup. All players are recommended to wear a cup.

**22.**Managers/Coaches must stay in the coach's boxes or dugouts during offensive plays. Only 1 manager and 2 coaches, all **BACKGROUND APPROVED** and having completed **ABUSE AWARENESS** and **CONCUSSION AWARENESS** training, may be in the dugout during the game in addition to team players, active or not (due to injury/illness).

Reminder of Little League requirements, ALL Managers, Coaches, Volunteer Umpires, Scorekeepers, and any other persons on the field or having player contact in games OR practices **MUST** have a completed Background Check and have completed Abuse Awareness and CDC Concussion Awareness training.

**23.Base Coaching.** You have the option of one coach and one player, or two coaches.

24. Managers must have first aid kit and medical release forms at all games and practices.
25. The home team supplies the plate umpire, with preference being a parent. Only one umpire is needed.
26. No players, managers, coaches, or fan shall question the call of the umpire. Please work closely with the umps in a cooperative way.
27. The plate umpire may overrule any call.
28. **Cancellation/Postponement of games due to Field Conditions:** Decisions to not play a scheduled game, primarily due to rainouts and the after-effects of rain, but also due to other weather and field conditions, are governed by Little League Rule 3.10 AND the Sprague Little League Rainout Policy.
29. **Scores:** To keep track of outs and batting order only, the home team shall keep the official scorebook for the game. No scores or player records are recorded or kept. HOWEVER, participation in each game must be tracked, and provided to the “A” Division Player Agent at the end of the season.
30. **Conduct:** NO parent, manager, coach, spectator or player shall cause, through actions or comments, anything that detracts from the game. Any problems should be resolved without confrontation and with concern for the kids. If Managers are unable to resolve a problem, inform an available Sprague Little League official to help eliminate the problem.
31. **Game time limit:** Games shall be limited to Ninety minutes. The top of a new inning shall not start after Seventy-five minutes. Once the top of an inning has started, the bottom of the inning should be played.
32. **Ten Run Rule:** There is no ten run rule. A game should continue for five innings or Ninety minutes, whichever comes first.