

2026 TCLL LOCAL RULES - MINOR 7-8 DIVISION COACH PITCH OBJECTIVE - COURTESIES

✓ Instructional League: Minor 7-8 Division is intended to be an instructional league. Managers and Coaches should keep this in mind as they develop the skills of all players on their team. Coach pitch is played with regular baseball rules.

✓ Coaches should have their line-ups and field positions made out prior to start of the game for easier assembly of players inning to inning.

MANDATORY PLAY

✓ Defensive substitutions will be made every inning to keep the attention of the players.

✓ No player shall be out of the game for more than (2) consecutive defensive innings.

✓ Managers are encouraged to develop players at different positions by rotating each game or each inning.

SAFETY

✓ 1.08 - No on deck batter except for the lead-off batter each inning. No player, other than the batter, is to handle a bat. EXCEPTION – Unless manager or Coach is providing instruction to player a safe distance away from the other players.

✓ 1.10 - Little League Bat Rule USA standard.

✓ 1.16 – Helmets are mandatory on Batters, Base Runners, and Player Base Coaches.

✓ Throwing the bat is not allowed. This is a safety concern, and this rule must be enforced. Any player who throws the bat after receiving a warning is out. One warning will be issued by the coach to the players, once per game, with any subsequent throwing of any bat resulting in an out for either team. Opposing teams should assist and remind coaches of this important rule.

✓ Fielders should be coached proper positioning, and proper straddling of bases during a tag play to avoid collisions during a slide.

✓ No headfirst slides.

COACHES/UMPIRES/FIELD

✓ 3.01 – Coaches are the Umpires. Discuss before the game. The first and third base Coaches shall make the safe/out calls at those bases. A defensive fielding Coach shall make the call at second base. The Coach/Pitcher shall make the call at home plate.

✓ 3.01 - Home team provides good used ball, drags, and chalks the field, helps clean the field area after the game. Put away the bases and clean the dugout.

✓ 3.01 - Visiting team provides a good used ball, helps clean and drag the field after the game, and cleans their dugout.

✓ 4.05 – OFFENSE - Two (2) Adult Coaches allowed as Base Coaches contingent on one (1) Adult/Coach/Manager is in the dugout. DEFENSE – One (1) Coach may be on the field of play behind second base to instruct their players. One (1) Assistant Coach behind catcher may be used to speed up play because of frequent passed balls. However, the player positioned as catcher should throw the ball to the player playing the position of pitcher. The player then hands the ball to Coach who is pitching. Coaches should not touch the ball while it is in play other than while pitching or assisting the catcher with a passed ball.

✓ A Coach may call time to instruct his players after the play is over. Normal coaching is allowed while the play is in progress.

✓ First and third Base Coaches are to help “police” the base paths. They should notify the defensive Coach of any impending obstruction of the base paths. Defensive Coaches should be aware that the Base Coaches will be helping to keep infielders out of the base lines and should not be offended by another Coach should he/she point out this type of situation.

TIME LIMIT/INNINGS/PLAYERS/BATTING ORDER/SIDE RETIRED

✓ VII (h) – Time Limit. No new inning will start after (1hr 15min.) No new pitch after (1hr 30min.)

✓ 3.04 – A Courtesy Runner cannot be used because of Continuous Batting Order.

✓ 4.04 - A Continuous Batting Order shall be used, which includes kids on the bench.

✓ 4.10 - Six (6) innings per regulation game, or less depending on time.

✓ 4.16 – Minimum (9) players to start a game; Minimum (8) players to end the game. Game may not continue if each team has less than (9) players. (10) Players allowed in the field defensively, LF, LC, RC, RF out in the “grass”. Infielders play infield, outfielders play outfield. Cannot have (5) infielders between bases. The pitcher must stand within a (6’) radius of the pitching plate and not in front of the Coach- pitcher. The pitcher cannot leave the area before the ball is hit.

✓ 5.07 – Side is retired at (3) outs, or all players have batted, or when (5) runs are scored. Play stops when (5th) run crosses the plate.

✓ 5.08 – Runner/Batter is out if Base Coach interferes with thrown/batted ball. Coaches cannot assist players. Coaches cannot participate.

✓ 7.14 – A Special Pinch Runner cannot be used because of Continuous Batting Order.

GAME PLAY

✓ The batter may only take four (4) pitches without swinging and will be limited to three (3) swinging strikes. Seven (7) pitch max per batter. Foul balls will count as swings. Foul ball on seventh pitch gets one more pitch, and then is called “out” if ball is not hit in play.

✓ Bunting is not allowed.

✓ Courtesy: Consider (15) foot arc from home plate for foul ball, no hit, or a so called “swinging bunt”.

✓ Courtesy: If a batted ball hits the Pitching Coach, the ball is ruled dead, and the batter is awarded first base. Only those base runners forced to advance due to the batter being awarded first base may advance in this situation.

✓ For balls hit to the outfield, base runners may advance until the ball is in the infield and in possession by one of the infielders. If the base runner is more than halfway to the next base when the ball is determined “under control”, the base runner may continue to advance at risk of being put out, to the next base. Under control as used above would be a judgment call, but with the benefit of doubt placed with the defensive player.

✓ On first overthrow, runners do not get to automatically advance. Runner may advance, at Coaches discretion, at their risk to be put out, but no more than (1) base.

✓ Catchers MUST be utilized defensively and at least attempt to catch the pitched ball. Catchers are to catch from the normal location behind home plate.

PITCHING

✓ Coaches will pitch to hitters and will have discretion to pitch from a reasonable distance and height appropriate to the batter’s hitting ability.

✓ No Tee's used for Coach Pitch.