

# 2026 Minors/Majors ByLaws

Please refer to the 2026 Little League Rule Book for all rules. These are rules and bylaws adopted by the UCLL.

**Teams:** Teams shall consist of players between the league age of 8-12 years old unless a player is found to be unsafe, or it is his/her first year playing. Teams should consist of 12 players.

**Uniforms:** All players must be in their standard issued UCLL uniforms to games. Player numbers must always be visible. Players not in their standard issued UCLL uniforms will remain in the dugout during the game. Coats and sweatshirts (unless purchased UCLL numbered sweatshirt) may be worn under uniform if needed. **Every** player is required to wear either baseball/softball pants with long socks or closed toe shoes for all practices and games.

**Playing Time:** There is a minimum play rule during the regular season of Little League, which **MUST** be followed. All players will get a minimum of **six (6) defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time. Juniors divisions do not have a playing requirement.**

**-Playing positions:** Coaches will place players in positions that will allow for strategic advantages that benefit the team. Players that wish to try out for a different position, should work OUTSIDE of practice to learn that position, prior to speaking to the coach. Practice time is limited and should be spent on focusing on developing the skills of the entire team.

**-Pitchers:** A pitcher gets 1 minute to warm up. Time will begin from the 3<sup>rd</sup> out of the previous half inning (NOT from when the pitcher takes the mound.) This is a little league rule and will help with the flow of the game. If your pitcher or catcher is on the bases with two outs a courtesy runner may be requested to replace them.

**-Safety:** For safety reasons there will be no on-deck or in the hole warm up batters at this level. All players must remain in the dug out unless they are up to bat. Head slides are NOT allowed.

**-5 Run Rule:** To encourage pace of play we have adopted the 5 run rule (per inning) in the Minor Baseball and Softball Divisions. Once a team has earned 5 runs, the offensive team at bat ends and the inning is over.

-As a suggestion, the 5 Run Rule MAY be adopted by the Majors Baseball and Softball Divisions to encourage teams to meet the 4 inning minimum and strive towards the 6th inning in the early season. In order to use this rule the following conditions must be met; both teams MUST agree PRIOR to the start of the game, and should be documented in their scorebooks. There should be a mid season cut off to encourage player development. \*\*Again this is a suggestion, not a Rule, and does not have to be used\*\*

**-Drop 3<sup>rd</sup> Strike Rule:** When the catcher drops, misses, or fails to catch a third strike, the batter becomes a runner and can try to reach first base. The batter must be tagged out or forced out before reaching first base. This rule applies to the Majors Baseball and Softball Division.

**-Minors Coach Pitch Suggestion:** On a count of 4 balls and 0 or 1 strikes, the batter will be afforded up to 5 coach pitches (baseball: overhand/softball:underhand) to become a runner or complete the count for a strikeout. A (walk) based on balls will only be awarded on the count of 4 balls and 2 strikes. This is a suggestion to aid pace of play and allow minimum play time. While this suggestion can be used all year, we encourage teams to move away half way through the season, to encourage the further development of players.

**Volunteers:** All volunteers must have completed and passed a background check through the UCLL. The UCLL Board of Directors has a working list of approved volunteers. Coaches are responsible for making sure ALL volunteers are approved prior to having any contact with children or participating on the field for any reason. All approved volunteers are covered under the UCLL insurance, volunteers not vetted by the Board of Directors are a personal liability to the coach for any injuries.

**Scorebooks/Game Changer:** All teams are required to keep a manual scorebook and pitch count (for both teams) for every game. Scorekeepers must note when subs enter/exit the game. Teams that are using Game Changer must still also keep a manual scorebook at this time. Pitch count rules can be referenced in the 2026 Rule Book. Pitch count pages will be provided for Baseball. For softball, the pitcher's name and number of innings pitched must be recorded. If a player is not eligible to pitch and does, the game can be disputed and would be disqualified from game counts for All Star qualifications, among other repercussions. After every game, a photo of the scorebook and pitch count must be sent to the Coaches Band App.

**Umpires:** The HOME TEAM is responsible for finding an umpire. It is best to plan, once your game schedules have been released contact an umpire off the available approved umpire list. Umpires that are used more than twice in a season are required to pass a background check.

**Game Schedules:** Games schedules will consist of 12 to 14 games. Weather and daylight permitting, no new innings should begin after the 1 hour and 45-minute mark. Games that have to end early due to weather conditions, must be documented in the scorebook, and may need to be completed.

- Minors' teams are NOT allowed to play more than ONE game per day. Majors' teams may participate in double headers.

**All Star Eligibility:** All Star eligible teams must play 12 of their scheduled games, and players must play 8 of their scheduled games. All Star teams are selected based on evaluated skill assessments within All Star team age brackets. The UCLL Board of Directors selects the teams and coaches based on evaluation statistics, and applicants. All applicants will have the opportunity to participate in the tryouts.

#### **Weather Guidelines:**

- WeatherBug App is the approved Little League Weather App and should be used to track lightning strikes.
- Any strike registered within 1-5 miles, play is to stop immediately, and cannot resume until 30 minutes after the most recent lightning strike has passed.
- Any strike registered within 6-10 miles should be assessed for location. Play must stop, and cannot resume, until 30 minutes after the most recent lightning strike has passed.
- See 2026 Rule Book for further Lightning Strike Rules.

**Field Safety:** Except for lightning, the only other reason to cancel a game for weather is if there is standing water or sticking snow on the field, which poses a safety hazard to your players.

#### **Baseball Specific:**

- No white sleeves are allowed for pitchers.
- 15-year-olds are allowed to pitch

#### **Softball Specific:**

- Pitchers- NO neon yellow sleeves are allowed.
- Face masks are REQUIRED for players in the position of pitcher, however, recommended for players on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. UCLL strongly recommends ALL players wear them for safety. - All batting helmets are REQUIRED to have a face mask.