

ALMADEN LITTLE LEAGUE

2019 AA DIVISION GROUND RULES

“AA” DIVISION LITTLE LEAGUE (Ages 8, 9, & 10)

The focus at the Little League AA division level remains developmental and players continue with skill building in both fielding positions and batting techniques with an emphasis on team play, sportsmanship and having fun. Greater baseball strategy is taught as well. Players are taught pitching mechanics and will have their first experience with “live” pitching. Players in this division are usually 8, 9 or 10 years old. It is a transitional level so it may include older players who are beginners. Players can sign up to play in this division without trying out. Players who try out and are not drafted to an AAA team will be assigned to a team in this division. Parents should also have fun, be patient and be unconditionally supportive. This is for the kids... we must all remember they are 8, 9, and 10 years old.

General AA Division information

1. AA division teams will be formed in early February.
2. You will be contacted by the manager of your team in mid-February.
3. AA division practices will begin in mid-February, usually twice a week until games begin. Once games have begun, most teams practice once a week but it may be twice a week.
4. AA division season games will begin in early March and end in early June.
5. AA division practices and games are played on a rotating schedule. There will usually be one midweek game and one Saturday game. However, depending on the number of teams, there may be Sunday games.
6. This season, some AA games will be played at the AAA field at Greystone Park. All practices and some games are played on the dirt field at Simonds School.
7. The League provides each player with a team jersey, hat, belt and socks. Pants are to be purchased by the family.

AA Division Playing Rules

1. Be positive with all the kids on the field and re-enforce good behavior/skills.
2. No standings will be kept. Scorebooks are provided for learning scoring, monitoring runs per inning and pitch count. Official scores are recorded but winning and losing is not the focus.
3. Ten players will play in the field when playing defense. Each player should be rotated and allowed to play every position throughout the year. Every player must play a minimum of four innings in a complete game. In a shortened game, they must play at least two innings.
4. The 4 outfielders must be positioned no closer than 20’ from the outer edge of the infield/start of the outfield grass. Outfielders cannot cover a base for making a defensive out. They can back up plays as a result of over-thrown ball to a base.
5. Coaches are not allowed on the field except when pitching if their batter is walked
6. All players bat (i.e. continuous batting order) and teams will bat each inning until either 5 runs have scored or three outs have been made.
7. No base stealing is allowed in AA. No extra bases on an overthrow until second half of the season.
8. A complete game is 6 full innings or the 1 hour, 45 minute time limit on Saturdays.
9. The Managers will use their judgment to cancel games due to rain or unsafe playing conditions. Managers may schedule make-up games on Sundays.

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10. Pitching:

- a. Any player on a regular season team may pitch. There is no limit to the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.
- b. A pitcher once removed from the mound cannot return as a pitcher.
- c. Maximum Pitch Count is 50 in AA regardless of age.
- d. Rest requirements for league age 14 and under:
36-50 pitches – 2 days' rest
21-35 pitches – 1 days' rest
1-20 pitches – No days' rest
- e. Reach max limit while pitching to a batter:
 - i. Can continue until batter reaches base or is put out; or
 - ii. If third out is made to complete the half-inning.
- f. **Reach rest limit while pitching to a batter:**
 - i. **The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he/she reached during that at-bat, provided that pitcher is removed before delivering a pitch to another batter**
 - ii. **Can continue until batter reaches base or is put out; or**
 - iii. **If third out is made to complete the half-inning**
- g. Pitcher can pitch only one game a day. Cannot pitch in a continuation game and then a regularly-scheduled game.
- h. A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of the day.
- i. A player who played the position of catcher for three (3) innings or less, moves to the pitcher position, and delivers 21 pitches or more in the same day, may not return to the catcher position on that calendar day.
- j. Managers are ultimately responsible to remove pitchers that reach max limit.
- k. Official scorekeeper shall inform the home plate umpire when a pitcher reaches his/her limit.
- l. Pitcher illegally exceeds max limit:
 - i. Pitcher must be removed from the mound immediately
 - ii. Opposing team's manager may protest before umpires leave the field
- m. Pitches in called games count:
 - i. Pitch count itself does not carry over
 - ii. Rest requirements must still be observed. Exception: pitches in games that do not complete one full inning do not count
 - iii. Pitches in uncompleted innings under the "revert back" rule do count
- n. There are NO WALKS in AA. If the pitcher throws 4 balls to a batter prior to the batter striking out or the ball being put in play, the OFFENSIVE Coach pitches to the batter for the remainder of the at bat. Once that batter is retired or reaches base, the coach gives the ball back the pitcher for the next batter.
 - i. While the coach pitches, the umpire calls strikes until the batter is out or puts the ball in play
 - ii. Batter keeps the strike count prior to the "walk" (e.g. if the count was 3-2 before the walk, the batter has one more strike left)
 - iii. While the coach pitches, the batter does not have to swing at balls out of the strike zone and can't be walked by the coach
 - iv. The Coach must pitch from the mound area in an overhand manner
 - v. Pitcher must remain next to the pitching mound to play defensively

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- vi. Dead ball if a batted ball hits the Coach; that pitch does not count and it is a “do over”
- vii. The coach should pitch fastballs only

Rules Concerning Conduct and Sportsmanship

1. Parents and Spectators: Be a good role model. Kids are very observant. Be aware of what you say and how you say it. Stay positive to all kids on both teams. No profanity allowed.
2. No smoking, chewing tobacco or drinking of alcoholic beverages on fields at any time.
3. Players are not permitted to chew gum or sunflower seeds during practices or games.
4. Throwing a bat at any time is not permitted. This is a very important safety rule.
5. No player is allowed to touch a bat except for the actual batter. There is no “on-deck circle” to practice swinging before an at bat.
6. Players are not allowed to swing bats outside the dugout during the game to warm up; this includes hitting off a tee or hitting stick
7. Parents, coaches and managers are responsible for picking up trash on the field during and at the end of their game or practice.
8. **Safety is a first priority.**

New Bat Rules in 2018

1. All metal bats used in Little League starting Jan 1, 2018 must have the “USA Baseball” stamp on the bat. No exceptions. Wood bats are permitted.

Volunteer Duties

1. Manager: Ultimate responsibility for the team and primary contact point for the league
2. Coach(es): Help manager to teach the game of baseball to the players
3. Team parent: helps with scheduling other volunteer duties, organizing names on jerseys, parties, etc.
4. Scorekeeper: Keeps the official scorebook for home games; needs to keep accurate pitch count and score per inning (5 runs max)
5. Umpires: Each team provides one umpire for each game; recruit parents to attend umpire clinic on 3/3 at Greystone Park
6. Field Prep: team of 2-3 parents should prepare the field and tear it down after each game. Home team sets up, visiting team tears down. This includes watering the infield, dragging the field, chalking the baselines and batter’s box, setting out the cones that act as a fence