

MAJOR DIVISION LOCAL RULES FOR 2024

Below are the local rules for the 2024 season that will apply to the Poway National Little League Major Division (PNLL). Selected standard Little League rules are included for emphasis and importance. It is the responsibility of each manager to comply with the Official Playing Rules of Little League Baseball and Poway National Little League.

1. Recommended Age: The recommended age for the Major Division is league age 10 – 12.

2. Playoffs: All teams will be eligible for the playoffs and are guaranteed at least one playoff game. The teams will be seeded according to how they finished in the regular season. In case of ties, the following criteria to determine the seeds: 1st: head to head competition; 2nd: lowest average runs scored against; 3rd: Coin toss. The playoffs will be played in one of two formats.

a) A double elimination format tournament held at the end of the season. A double-elimination tournament is broken into two sets of brackets, generally called the winner's bracket and the loser's bracket. Each team begins in the winner's bracket, but with one loss, goes into a loser's bracket, where they will have to play their way back.

b) A best of three games series format. In this format, the teams are matched in the bracket based on seeding from the regular season in a best of three series. The winner moves on to play in the next round.

The winner of the tournament will be crowned the PNLL Major League Champion. The PNLL Major League Champion will represent PNLL in the City Championship against Poway American Little League on a date yet to be determined.

3. Playing Time:

a) Everyone who is present for the game will be in the batting order for that game. If a player arrives after the game has started, that player will be inserted into the lineup at the Manager's discretion and held to the minimum play rule stated in rule 3c and 3d.

b) On defense, there will be free substitutions. On offense, a continuous batting order will be used. As a result of using a continuous batting order pinch running is not allowed. In case of an injury the last out will be used as the pinch runner.

c) In any regulation game, a player must play a minimum of 6 defensive outs and bat at least once.

d) In addition, every player who is present and on the team roster shall participate in each game during regulation for a minimum amount based on the number of defensive innings played as outlined below. 6 innings – each player must play at least 12 defensive outs 5 innings - each player must play at least 9 defensive outs

e) If a team plays 3 defensive innings in a game, BUT THE GAME FAILS TO REACH Regulation per 4.10(c), each player must play at least 3 defensive outs and bat at least once.

f) Any player who did not play the required number of outs in a game shall play in the entire next scheduled game. The manager may be suspended for one game at the discretion of the PNLL Board.

g) A player must start and complete the inning in order for that inning to count towards the minimum play rule.

h) If a half-inning ends before 3 defensive outs are recorded and a player on the defense has played for the entire half-inning, that player will be considered to have participated for three consecutive defensive outs for the purposes of this rule.

4. Behavior: The actions of players, managers, coaches, umpires and league officials must be above reproach. Any player, parent, spectator, manager, coach, umpire or league representative who is involved in a verbal or physical altercation, an incident of unsportsmanlike conduct, or commits any violation of Little League/Poway National Little League Rules at the game site or any other Little League activity, is subject to disciplinary action by the Local league Board of Directors Grievance Committee.

5. Time limits:

a) Infield practice will be limited to 10 minutes per team only if time permits.

b) No inning shall start after 8:45 p.m.

c) Under no circumstances will a game be allowed to continue past 9:15 p.m.

d) For all games there is no time limit, except for rule 5b and 5c. The games will be played to their completion.

6. Minimum Players to Start:

a) A game may not be started with less than nine (9) players on each team. If a game cannot be started due to the inability of either team to field nine players, this shall not be grounds for automatic forfeiture, but shall be referred to the Board for a decision.

b) If a team cannot field nine (9) players for a game due to a school-related or religious function, the manager, in good faith, must notify the President and/ or Vice President with 48 hours notice. The decision to reschedule the game shall be considered and rendered by the Board.

c) If, after a game begins, either team is unable to field at least nine (8) players according to rule 4.17 in the green book, this shall NOT be grounds for automatic forfeiture. The game shall be suspended and referred to the Board for a decision.

7. Run Rule: If after four (4) innings, 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the Manager of the team with the least runs will concede the victory to the opponent.

8. Pitching Rules:

a) All the pitching rules can be found in the Green Book (VI – Pitchers) including pitch limit per league age and required days rest.

b) If the pitcher reaches their limit while facing the batter they may finish pitching to that batter until they reach base or are put out.

c) Once a pitcher throws 41 or more pitches they may not play catcher during the same day.

d) Any player, who has played the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings in a game, is not eligible to pitch on the same day.

e) The Official Scorekeeper will be responsible for keeping count of a player's pitches, and notify the team manager when a player is within 10 pitches of his/her limit, should the official scorekeeper forget to do this, this does not absolve the manager of the responsibility of knowing his pitch counts. The manager is ultimately responsible. The Official Scorekeeper will also notify the manager when a player has reached his pitch count. It is also highly recommended that a coach or parent keep count of a player's pitches as well. It is required that each manager after the game verify, by initialing the official score book that they have the same pitch counts that the Official Scorekeeper has. If there is a conflict you can discuss it with the Official Scorekeeper and if he/she agrees then the pitch counts can be adjusted accordingly, however, the Official Scorekeeper has the ultimate decision. Once the official score keeper has signed off the book, records become official and mandatory rest periods will be observed for the pitchers based on the official score keeper's records.

f) All these rules pertain even if a make up or playoff game causes a team to play more games in one calendar week.

g) It is the responsibility of each manager to ensure the pitching rules are followed. We want to ensure the pitcher's health is not at risk. The Vice President is also responsible to ensure compliance. If a pitcher is discovered to have violated the days rest in an outing, the manager will be reprimanded at the discretion of the Board.

h) During a pitching change (middle of the inning) there will be no balls thrown around the infield.

9. Uncaught "dropped" 3rd Strike: PNLL has elected to keep this option for the Major division.

10. Catching Rules: The catcher must wear a catcher's mitt (not a first baseman's mitt or fielder's mitt). Catchers must wear the metal, fibre or plastic type cup, a chest protector with pelvic guard and neck collar, shin guards, and a catcher's helmet and mask with a "dangling" type throat guard. The catcher's helmet must bear the NOCSAE stamp. Skull caps are not permitted.

11. Adults in the Dugout: One manager and no more than two (2) rostered coaches shall be allowed in the dugout at any time. Two adult coaches are authorized to base coach as long as there is a rostered adult coach in the dugout.

12. Field Preparation: The home team shall prepare the field for play. The visiting team shall retire the field. Each team is responsible to ensure their dugout and surrounding area is clean before they leave the field. The visiting team of the last game of the day shall be responsible for pulling the trash bags and tying the top and leaving it by the trash can and putting in the new trash bag left on the handle. This is to help expedite the closing process for the board member in charge that night.

13. Batting Team: THERE IS NO 'ON-DECK' POSITION. No player in the dugout may have a bat in hand. The batter is the only person that should have a bat in hand. Only the batter, base runners and base coaches from the batting team are allowed on the field during play. On-deck batters shall not be allowed on the field. All other players must remain in the dugout during play.

14. Fielding Team: All players not fielding a position must remain in the dugout during play.

15. Food in the Dugout: No Food is allowed in the dugout.

16. Uniform: Uniform consists of shirt, hat and long pants. No shorts are allowed. Number 11 and 42 are retired numbers and may not be used by any PNLL player.

11) Michael Cammarata – Former LLWS player. Fallen 9/11 firefighter.

42) Jackie Robinson – Former MLB player