

# PNLL MINOR A DIVISION LOCAL RULES 2024

## 1. Recommended Age

The recommended age for the Minor A Division is 9–11 (league age).

## 2. Playoffs

All teams are guaranteed at least one playoff game. Teams will be seeded according to how they finished in the regular season. In the case of a tie, the following criteria will be used 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; or

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) Every player who is present for the game will be in the batting order for that game. If a player arrives late, 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 are free substitutions. On offense, a continuous batting order will be used. Pinch runners are not allowed. In case of an injury, the player who made the last out may be used as a pinch runner.

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

d) Every player who is present shall participate in each game during regulation for a minimum amount based on the number of defensive innings. For 6 inning games, each player must play at least 12 defensive outs. For 5 inning games, each player must play at least 9 defensive outs.

e) Each player must play at least 1 complete infield inning constituting all outs in that inning.

f) 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.

g) Any innings played after the 10-run mercy rule do not count towards the minimum play rule. a) Any player who did not play the required number of outs in a game shall play in the entire next scheduled

game. The manager will be reprimanded at the discretion of the Board and may be suspended for at least one game.

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

i) If a half-inning ends because of the imposition of the five-run limit (see below in Rule 7), Run Rule in "Rule 2.00 – Inning," or because batters cannot bat more than once in an inning 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. However, if the player has not played on defense for the entire half-inning, that player will be credited only as having played for the number of outs that occurred while the player was used defensively.

#### **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 or 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 is limited to 10 minutes per team.

b) Each game shall have no new inning start after 1:45, which is counted from the start time not to exceed 15 minutes from the scheduled start time. The umpire or adult game coordinator may call the final inning prior to the 1:45 mark. The game shall be called regardless of number of innings played.

c) Under no circumstances will a game be allowed to continue past 9:00 p.m. If at 9:00 p.m. the game is in the middle of an inning, the game ends and the final score is determined by the score of the last completed inning.

#### **6. Minimum Players to Start**

a) A game may not start with less than nine (9) players on either team. If after a 10- minute grace period a team does not have 9 players, that team forfeits the game. If neither team has nine players, the game shall be referred to the Board for a decision on whether to reschedule or be scratched from the regular season schedule.

b) If a manager is aware that a team will not be able to field nine (9) players for an upcoming game due to a school, religious or civic function, the manager must notify the President and UIC 48 hours in advance. 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 (9) 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:**

a) If after four (4) innings, 3 1/2 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.

b) (Green Book rule 5.07) Minor League Only – A five-run limit per inning is to be imposed. Once the batting team scores 5 runs this would complete the half inning.

c) An addition to Regulation IV (i) Note 3 with regard to Minor League Baseball and Minor League Softball will permit a defensive player who has played defensively since the start of a half-inning to be credited with having played for three defensive outs when that half-inning is shortened by the five-run limit.

Note: If a half-inning ends because of the imposition of the five-run limit in “Rule 2.00 – Inning,” 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. However, if the player has not played on defense for the entire half-inning, that player will be credited only as having played for the number of outs that occurred while the player was used defensively.

d) Exception to the 5-run rule:

1) In any inning, should a team have less than three outs and a player hits a homerun over the fence, all the runs shall score. Once the homerun hitter reaches home plate the inning is over. If a batter hits a ground rule double, the runner will advance their two allotted bases and all applicable runs will score. The inning will be over once the last applicable runner touches home plate.

## **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) Any player with a league age of 12 cannot pitch in Minor A.

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

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

e) 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.

f) Balks count as a pitch in the pitch count.

g) 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.

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

i) It is the manager's responsibility to ensure that the pitching rules are followed. 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.

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

k) Managers for the home team must report pitch counts following each game in a manner to be determined by the President.

### **9. Catching Rules**

Catchers must wear a catcher's mitt (not a first baseman's mitt or fielder's mitt), a 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.

### **10. Adults in the Dugout**

Only the manager and no more than two (2) rostered coaches are allowed in the dugout during games. Two adult coaches are authorized to base coach as long as there is a rostered adult coach in the dugout.

### **11. 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.

### **12. Batting Team**

There is no "on-deck" position. Players in the dugout may not 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 are not allowed on the field. All other players must remain in the dugout during play.

### **13. Fielding Team**

All players not fielding a position must remain in the dugout during play.

### **14. Food in the Dugout**

No food or drinks other than water are allowed in the dugout. Seeds are permitted.

### **15. Uniforms**

Uniforms consists of a shirt, hat and long pants. No shorts are allowed. Numbers 11 and 42 are retired numbers and may not be used by any PNLL player. Michael Cammarata (#11) was a LLWS player who died as a fire fighter in 9/11. Jackie Robinson (#42) was the first African-American MLB baseball player