

## ROOKIES DIVISION LOCAL RULES FOR 2024

Set forth below are the local rules for the 2024 season that will apply to the Poway National Little League Rookie Division, plus selected standard Little League rules are offered for emphasis and importance.

### 1. Recommended Age

The recommended age for the Rookie Division is league age 6 – 8.

### 2. Objective

The Rookie Division is designed to teach baseball fundamentals. Winning and losing are secondary to teaching baseball skills. Wins and losses are not recorded. Standings and scores are not kept.

### 3. Playing Time

a) Everyone who is present for the game will be in the batting order for that game. If a player arrives late to a game (after the second inning), that player will be inserted into the lineup and the manager will not be held to the minimum play rule stated in section 3c.

b) Defensive substitutions: There is no limit to the number of times a player may be substituted in or out of the defensive lineup and no requirements for him/her to go in for the same player.

c) Each player is to play at least 50% of the game defensively for those innings in which they are in attendance. Most games will not go more than 4-5 innings and it is the responsibility of the coaches to keep game duration in mind when making defensive lineups.

d) Any player who did not participate in the required minimum number of defensive outs in a game shall start the next scheduled game and play enough defensive outs to complete both the previous and current requirements before being removed.

e) No player may play more than 2 innings consecutively at the same position.

**EXCEPTION:** Should there not be adequate players to *safely* field the catching position, rule 3.e. shall be waived.

f) Each player shall be given the opportunity to play infield in every game. Players who did not get to play infield in the previous game must play infield in the next game, unless there are safety reasons.

g) Managers will field 10 players: six infield positions (to include pitcher and catcher) and 4 outfield positions. Outfield positions must be positioned at least 25 feet beyond the infield baselines.

h) For the first half of the season, each half inning will end when the team at bat has batted through their complete lineup (“bat around”).

1. Even if a defensive play results in an out, the runner will still remain on the base.

**Amendment 3h1.3.1.29** Managers have voted that the runner will not remain on base if the defensive play results in an out. The team will still bat through the order during the first half of the season.

i) For the second half of the season, the inning will end when three defensive outs (*not* counting strikeouts) are recorded, or after that team bats around; whichever happens first.

### 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) All games must start and end on time.

c) Each game shall have a one and one-half hour (1 ½ hour) kill-time, which is counted from the *scheduled* starting time. The game shall be called regardless of the number of innings played, or which half-inning is in progress. If the start of the game is delayed, it may not be extended and shall not interfere with the start of the following game.

## 6. Pitching Rules:

a) A pitching machine (Louisville Black Flame) shall be used and each batter is allowed five (5) pitches to put the ball into play.

1. During the first half of the season, after the fifth pitch, if the batter has not hit the ball, the batter will hit off the tee.

2. During the second half of the season, after the fifth pitch the batter will be called out. The last pitch shall not end on a foul ball. This out will not count toward the three outs to end the half inning.

b) It is the responsibility of the coach or manager operating the pitching machine to ensure that players remain off the pitching mound and remain proper distance from the pitching machine.

c) Any ball put into play by a batter that comes into contact with the pitching machine shall be ruled a dead ball and the batter shall be awarded first base.

d) The pitching machine will be set at 40 feet from home plate and anchored in at the marked location on the dirt, and 'dialed in' so it throws the ball in a relatively flat trajectory that passes through the strike zone for an average sized rookie player standing in the batter's box at home plate.

**Amendment 2.29.24** Managers have voted to coach pitch in lieu of the pitching machine. Rules 6.a.1, 6.a.2, and 6.b still apply.

## 7. Catching Rules

Catchers must wear the metal, fiber 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.

## 8. Adults in the Dugout:

At least one, rostered coach or team parent must remain in the dugout whenever players are present in the dugout.

## 9. Field Preparation

The home team shall prepare the field for play. Preparation shall include:

- watering down the field
- setting up the pitching machine
- setting out the bases

## 10. Field Retirement

The visiting team shall retire the field. Retirement shall include:

- dragging the field

- putting away the bases and ensuring the plugs are placed in the ground

For the final game of the day, retirement shall also include:

- appropriately storing the pitching machine
- pulling the trash bags, tying the tops and leaving them by the trash can
- replacing the trash bag

## 11. Responsibilities of All Teams

Each team is responsible for the cleanliness of their dugouts and surrounding areas, to include bleachers/spectator seating. These areas are to be clean and litter free before leaving the field *whether for a game or a practice*.

## 12. 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 allowed to 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.

- a) No more than a double is permitted off a batted ball.
- b) A runner may advance no more than once on an overthrown ball per batter.

**Amendment 12b.3.1.24 Managers voted runners will not advance on an overthrown ball.**

## 13. Bunting

Bunting is not allowed.

## 14. Base Stealing

Base stealing is not allowed including on passed balls.

## 15 Fielding Team

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

## 16. Food in the Dugout

No Food is allowed in the dugout.

## 17. Uniform

Uniform consists of shirt, hat, long pants and cleats. No shorts are allowed. Uniform numbers 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