

# ATWATER LITTLE LEAGUE GENERAL GROUND RULES 2023

Age of Player per Division:

## BASEBALL

T-Ball	4-6 yrs old
Single A	5-7 yrs old
AA Coach Pitch	6-8 yrs old
AA Kid Pitch	7-10 yrs old
AAA	9-10 yrs old*
Majors	9-12 yrs old
50/70	12-13 yrs old
Juniors	13-14 yrs old
Seniors	13-16 yrs old

## SOFTBALL

AA (Coach Pitch)	6-8 yrs old
AAA	9-10 yrs old
Majors	11-12 yrs old
Seniors	13-16 yrs old

*\* Undrafted 11 year olds can also  
play in AAA Division.*

1. A team must field no less than eight (8) players for a regulation game.
2. The Majors draft for Softball and Baseball will follow Atwater Little League Draft Procedure per Little League International Operating Policies. (see attached Atwater Little League Draft General Rules/Procedures)
3. Any League Age eleven (11) year old drafted by a Major team remains in the Major division and may not appear on any Minor team roster. If a player in the Minor League division is drafted during the season as a replacement player for a Major team, the player remains in the Major Division for the remainder of the season and may not appear on a Minor team roster.
4. Grounds Maintenance – Managers and coaches for both teams are responsible for putting out the bases, chalking the lines, chalking the batter's box, putting out trash cans, dragging and water the field. EXCEPTION: If the Local League has a Grounds Keeper, that person will be responsible for putting out the bases, chalking the lines, chalking the batter's box, putting out trash cans, dragging and water the field.

**ALL MANAGERS AND COACHES** are responsible cleaning the dugouts and surrounding areas of their respective dugouts. Failure to fulfill their post-game field responsibilities are subject to referral to the League Disciplinary Committee and potential action as determined by the League Board of Directors.

*Adopted on January 4, 2023 by the Atwater Little League Board of Directors*

5. Little League International requires that catchers wear appropriate gear including a Dangling Throat Guard. Only a team's catcher wearing the appropriate gear will be allowed to take the field.
6. On-Field Play – Only a Manager/Head Coach and two (2) assistant coaches will be allowed on the field of play during a game. No more than three (3) coaches and assistants are allowed in the team dugout.

At all times, at least one (1) of the following team officials (as listed on the team roster) must be on the field/in the dugout: Manager/Head Coach, 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant, or 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant. (Rule 4.16 b) In the absence of the team Manager/Head Coach or one of the two primary assistants listed on the team roster, an alternate coach may be allowed onto the playing field/in the dugout providing that person has a valid volunteer application of file with the League.

7. On Deck Batters - Little League prohibits an on-deck batter on the playing field for players twelve (12) years and younger. This rule does not apply to Junior and Senior divisions.  
(Rule 4.16 b)
8. Mercy Rule - For all AA, AAA, and Majors baseball and softball the Mercy Rule will apply as follows:
  - 8 runs after 5 innings (4 ½ ) if the home team is ahead.
  - 10 runs after 4 innings (3 ½) if the home team is ahead.
  - 15 runs after 3 innings (2 ½) if the home team is ahead.
9. A new inning starts the instant the last out of an inning is recorded. No new inning may start when only five (5) minutes remain in the game.
10. Rescheduled Games – If a team cannot field at least eight (8) players due to conflict with a school function, the game will automatically be rescheduled. The manager must contact the Player Agent at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled game to advise that they will not have enough players and state the reason why. All other games fall under Rule 4.16 if the Little League Baseball and Softball Official Regulations, Playing Rules and Policies.
11. Scorekeepers, Umpires and Pitch Count Recorders – the local league will supply an official Umpire and official Scorekeeper for each game (EXCEPTION: no umpire or scorekeeper will officiate for T-Ball and A baseball and softball games). NOTE: **Scorekeepers** are game officials and should be treated as such. Managers will direct all questions regarding the score only through the umpire.

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The umpire will call time and allow the scorekeeper to resolve any discrepancies before play continues.

Pitch Count Recorders (if not kept by the Scorekeeper) will be designated by the Manager of each team. This person may be a coach or a volunteer. Before the start of each game the Managers will introduce the pitch count recorders to the head umpire. After each half inning the umpire(s) will confer with the pitch count recorders to make sure that pitch count is accurate for both teams. At the end of each game, the head umpire will record the pitch count and score, and both Managers will sign the scorecard to be handed in to the Player Agent for official stat records.

If no League umpire is available for a scheduled league or playoff game, the head coaches of the teams can mutually agree to stand in for umpire or umpires. Balls and strikes can be called from behind the pitcher's mound if necessary. If no League scorekeeper or pitch count recorder is available for a scheduled league or playoff game, the Home team will provide the official scorekeeper and pitch count recorder.

12. Umpire Rulings – A No-Contest rule is in effect at all times. After asking for a time out, only a Manager is allowed to approach the umpire(s) and request that they confer with one another on a call. AT NO TIME may a coach, player or spectator approach or speak to an umpire.
13. Atwater Little League is a Tobacco-Free Environment. Any and all tobacco use is only permitted in the parking lot areas.
14. Chanting – no derogatory or demeaning chants are allowed by players, coaches, or spectators.
15. All Star Manager Selection – Any manager or coach who wants to manage an All Star team must provide a written request to the League President by the end of the first half of the season. The Board of Directors will then select and appoint the manager from a pool of applications received. The manager will be allowed to choose a number of assistant coaches per the Little League Rule Book and subject to approval by the Board of Directors. All Star managers and coaches must be rostered manager and coaches in the same age division for which they are applying. NOTE: All tournament managers and coaches are required to complete the Little League Diamond Leader Training Program prior to any tournament play. ( [LittleLeague.org/DiamondLeader](http://LittleLeague.org/DiamondLeader) ).

All Star team Managers will select players up to a maximum of fourteen (14).

16. Players who are invited to participate in the All-Star teams are asked to make a commitment to represent Atwater Little League tournaments after completion of the regular season. If a player who commits to playing on the All-Star team drops out prior to the completion of the tournament, without good cause, will not be invited to play for an All Star team in the future.
17. Special Games - Special Games is an option that allows additional opportunities to play regular-season games in the form of tournaments and doubleheaders against other Little League®, or non-Little League, teams. A special games request must be presented in writing by the team manager to the League president, approved by the Atwater Little League Board of Directors and the District President.
18. Championship Games, Post-Season Playoffs, Standings – The seeding for playoff games will be determined by the overall record of each team for the entire season. Atwater Little League uses a point system to determine standings and team records as follows:

Each win	2 points
Tie game	1 point (except Majors and above)
Loss	0 points

The following process will be used to break a tie in points: most wins, runs scored, runs allowed and coin flip.

The Home team designation is determined by the teams' overall season record; the team with the higher standing/better overall record is the Home team.

Playoff games for AA, AAA and Majors will adhere to the 8/10/15 run rule with no time limit (see Rule 8 above).

Any protests will be decided upon before play resumes. If a protest is not decided upon within twenty (20) minutes, the remainder of the game will be rescheduled for a later date after the protest is ruled upon by the Disciplinary Committee.

19. Formal Complaint Protocol – Complaints are directed to the Atwater Little League Board of Directors. Any complaint received by the Board of Directors must be received in writing within 24 hours of any incident. A written response

from the Board of Directors will be returned within five (5) days after the next scheduled or special meetings of the Board of Directors.

20. The findings of any accusations brought to and investigated by the Disciplinary Committee must be submitted in writing to the Atwater Little League President. The President will report findings to the Board of Directors for potential action.

## **Addendum to Atwater Little League General Ground Rules 2023**

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

I understand that Atwater Little League (A.L.L.) Board of Directors will enforce this code of conduct upon any individual(s) regardless of whether they have signed this Code of Conduct or are unaware of its existence.

I understand that A.L.L. defines and enforces this code of conduct over all facilities used by A.L.L. including parking lots. The jurisdiction of this code of conduct also encompasses all A.L.L. sanctioned events and activities at their respective locations, and will include, but is not limited to, Board meetings, team drafts, fundraisers, registration, training events, and any and all off-site Little League games/tournaments.

**I will not initiate or contribute** to any activity or behavior that is or may be determined by ANY League official to be inappropriate, confrontational, illegal, violent, threatening, unethical or unsportsmanlike.

**At NO TIME will I** indulge in an abusive verbal or physical confrontation with another player, parent, coach, spectator or League official during or following any A.L.L. game; nor will I allow myself to be drawn into any verbal or physical confrontation.

**As a player, parent, spectator, or coach, I will not engage in** an argument or discussion of the rules by an official, or a call made by the umpire. As a COACH, I may question a ruling as allowed for in the Little League Rule Book (current edition), and I will do so with respect and composure. If allowed for in the Little League Rule Book (current edition), I may exercise my option to protest a game but will continue to play the game in a respectful and positive manner.

**I will not engage in** confrontational behavior to a coach for any reason prior, during or immediately following a game, unless it is considered an emergency for the physical well-being of a participant.

**I will not use profanity** or other offensive language, nor will I demean or taunt other players, coaches, or League officials.

**I will not indulge in** any drug or alcohol use while present at an A.L.L. activity or event.

**I WILL ADHERE TO THE RULES GOVERNING ELIGIBILITY, COMPETITION, CONDUCT, AND ACCEPT ANY CONSEQUENCES PLACE UPON ME AS AN INDIVIDUAL OR MY TEAM FOR MINE OR THEIR ACTIONS.**

## **CODE OF CONDUCT CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS**

**Any physical abuse violation may result in immediate and permanent dismissal from ALL Atwater Little League (A.L.L.) events and activities.**

Violations of the Code of Conduct, other than physical abuse, will prompt an examination and assessment of the severity of the violation by the Disciplinary Committee, as appointed by the Board of Directors. The Disciplinary Committee will forward their findings and recommendations in writing to the A.L.L. President, and the President will present the findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors for possible action as indicated below.

1. A first violation will result in referral to the Disciplinary Committee for assessment and referral to the President for possible Board action. Violators will be suspended from all A.L.L. activities and events until such time as the Board of Directors has reviewed the findings of the Disciplinary Committee and issued a verdict, a warning or suspension from all A.L.L. activities and events for as much as 30 days. (NOTE: the individual(s) committing the alleged violation may appear before the Board to provide information)
2. A second violation will result in referral to the Disciplinary Committee for assessment and possible recommendation to the Board for potential action. Violators will be suspended from all A.L.L. activities and events until such time as the Board of Directors has reviewed the findings of the Disciplinary Committee and issued a verdict, a warning or suspension from all A.L.L. activities and events. **SECOND VIOLATIONS CANNOT result in a warning but may include a suspension of up to 120 days from all A.L.L. activities and events.** (NOTE: the individual(s) committing the alleged violation may appear before the Board to provide information)
3. Third violations will result in referral to the Board of Directors for immediate suspension from all A.L.L. activities and events for the remainder of the season and any tournament activities, as well as suspension from all A.L.L. activities and events the following year.
4. Any infraction/violation may result in removal from the playing facility/area including the parking lots. If an individual(s) will not freely comply with the order from a League official to leave the facility/parking lot, the League official may request the assistance of local law enforcement to remove the individual(s).

**Additionally, any individual(s) who do not freely remove themselves when directed to do so by a League official will receive an automatic 30-day suspension from all A.L.L. events and activities.**

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