**Rochester Hills Little League**

Local Playing Rules 2023

 **Junior Baseball Division**

The following is a listing of RHLL “Local” playing rules, which take precedence over the Official Little League rules. It is imperative that all managers and coaches become thoroughly familiar with both Local and Official Little League rules.

# Practices and Games

1. Weekday games start at 6:30 PM.
	1. Through May 17, no inning shall start after 1 hr 45 min, provided 5 innings have been completed (4½ if the home team leads).
	2. After May 17, no innings are allowed to start after 2 hr, provided 5 innings have been completed (4½ if the home team leads).
	3. In the event the time limit has been reached and the minimum number of innings has not been played or the game is tied, either a) the game can continue provided, in the umpire’s discretion, there is enough daylight to continue safely; or b) the game is suspended and will be completed as scheduled by the league.
2. Saturday games start times are 9:00 AM, 11:30 AM, 2:00 PM and 4:30 PM, no inning shall start after 2 hours, provided 5 innings have been completed (4½ if the home team leads) – Exception – See Mercy Rule Below. In the event the time limit has been reached and the minimum number of innings have not been played, or the score is tied, either a) the game can continue provided, in the umpire’s discretion, there is enough daylight to continue safely AND there is not another scheduled game on the same field; or b) the game is suspended and will be completed as scheduled by the league.
3. Any Sunday games would not start prior to noon.
4. Visiting team occupies the first base dugout and takes the infield for warm-up starting at 30 minutes before game time.
5. Home team occupies the third base dugout and takes the infield for warm-up starting at 15 minutes before game time.
6. Managers of each team shall exchange lineups and rosters before the game.
7. Manager and approved coaches must present ID to the umpire prior to the game. A total of 4 approved managers/coaches are allowed in the dugout/field during a game. A manager that allows an unapproved person in the dugout or field is subject to a one game suspension. At no time will coaches or players be permitted behind the backstop area.
8. Managers are responsible for having ALL LITTER and equipment removed from the dugout after every game.
9. Depending on playing conditions, tie games will continue into extra innings until the tie is broken even if time expires.

# Reporting Scores and Pitchers

1. The home team scorekeeper is to record scores and pitchers of record for both teams on the RHLL Game Report.
2. The home team records the final score of the game on the RHLL web site
3. The Game Report must be signed by both managers at the end of the game and returned to the umpire.
4. Also see additional rules on reporting scores and managing the pitch count rules from Little League.

# Rainouts

1. RHLL will send out email blasts on weather updates for field playability on game days.
2. Managers and coaches should follow RHLL on twitter (<http://twitter.com/rhll1>) for league news, information on rainouts and other important information.
3. In the event of inclement weather the Home Plate Umpire will determine if a temporary game suspension is required.
4. The Home Plate Umpire will wait at least 30 minutes before terminating the game and may confer with other League Officials as to whether the game may resume or is to be declared a rainout.
5. Lightning, alone, can bring an automatic game suspension.
6. Tornado siren will suspend all games for the night.
7. All rainouts will be rescheduled by the League and MUST be played at the earliest possible date.

# Forfeits

1. A forfeit is declared by the Home Plate Umpire if a team cannot field at least EIGHT (8) players within 15 minutes of posted game time, unless extenuating circumstances exist as determined by the Umpire(s).
2. If a team can field 8 players, that game is considered an official game with all runs and innings pitched being reported.
3. Extended play (below) does not apply when a team cannot field at least 8 players - no borrowing of players.
4. If additional players arrive after the start of the game, they are placed at the bottom of the batting order.
5. If there is a school function with required attendance which would force a team into a forfeit situation, the manager may submit a written request prior to the date of the scheduled game that the game needs to be rescheduled.

# Mercy Rule – Extended Play

1. When a team has a 10+ run lead at the end of 5 innings (4½ for home team) the game is declared complete and official.
2. When a team has a 15+ run lead at the end of 4 innings (3½ for home team) the game is declared complete and official.
3. Once a mercy has been declared by the Home Plate Umpire, game continues into “extended” play - with umpires.
4. Pitches thrown during extended play are recorded for the pitcher’s pitch count for that game on the game report.
5. Runs scored during extended play do not count and are not recorded on the game report
6. In extended play, a 4 run max per inning becomes effective.
7. Extended play concludes at the normal time allotted for the game (1.5 or 2 hrs).

# Dress

1. Additional clothing items (such as jackets or sweatshirts) may be allowed at the umpire’s decision based on weather.
2. Pitchers may not wear clothing with exposed white or light colored sleeves.

# Defensive Play

1. Substitution rules are to be followed as described in the Little League, Inc. Playing Rules.
2. Managers must insure that players get a minimum of three defensive innings per game (9 defensive outs).

# Offensive Play

1. Continuous batting order will apply as described in the Little League, Inc. Playing Rules.
2. Player who leaves the game for any reason is not an automatic out; except where 8 player rules would apply.
3. A Player arriving late will be entered in the last position of the batting order.
4. Penalties involving use of an illegal bat as described in the Little League, Inc. Playing Rules.

**Pitchers**

1. All pitchers are subject to rest periods described in Little League, Inc. 2023 Playing Rules. Pitchers are required to follow the calendar days of rest requirement as stated in the 2023 Official Regulations and Playing Rules. A player pitching in a game that did not receive the required rest makes them ineligible and the penalty for using an ineligible player is that team forfeits the game. **Note:** There are different pitch rest intervals for 15 yr olds
2. Any manager who violates Local and/or Official Little League pitching rules are to be suspended for 1 game and the game in which the violation took place is forfeited. This rule is strictly enforced and no appeals are allowed.

# Managers and Coaches

1. Only Team Managers may discuss rule interpretations or protests with the Umpire.
2. A manager or coach must receive permission from the umpire before leaving the dugout to enter the playing field.
3. A manager or coach may be removed from the field for the remainder of the game for violating this rule.
4. The manager is responsible for ensuring only Little League approved equipment is used during practices or games

# Base Coaches

1. Base coaches may be either players or RHLL Board approved team managers or coaches.
2. At least one RHLL Board approved manager/coach must be in the team’s dugout throughout a game.

# Appeals/Protests

1. Formal protests must be announced by the team Manager PRIOR to the next pitch being thrown, to the Home Plate Umpire and manager of the opposing team.
2. The team Manager must also file the protest in writing and a $30.00 deposit to the Division Administrator or other board member within 24 hours. The $30.00 deposit will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
3. Any Board Member coaching a team will exclude themselves in the event of a protest within their Division.
4. A protest committee appointed by the Board shall review all properly filed protests.

# Umpires

1. A complaint about an umpire may be filed by a Manager within 24 hours. Compliments will be accepted at any time.
2. Umpires may provide ONE warning, prior to removing a manager, coach, or spectator from a game.
3. Any manager, coach, or spectator removed from a game MUST leave the Ballpark Area within five minutes.
4. Failure to do so will result in team FORFEIT of game. No appeals will be allowed.
5. No manager, coach or player shall physically or verbally assault, abuse or attack an umpire, at any time.
6. Any such actions will result in serious repercussions from the Board of Directors.
7. Any manager or coach removed from a game by the umpire will automatically be suspended from the NEXT game.
8. Should a suspended manager or coach enter the Ballpark Area during the next game, the team FORFEITS this game.

**NOTE: “Ballpark Area” is defined as school or park property, including parking lot.**

# Junior Division Field Dimensions

* Reduced field with 80’ baselines and pitching rubber set at 54’.