



## 2021 Season - Majors Division Notable & Local Rules

- Official Game:** 6 innings or mercy rule (whichever comes first). No ties – extra innings allowed.
- Time Limit:** No time limit. [Reg. VII(h)]
- Mercy Rule:** 10 runs after 3 ½ innings (home leading or 4 innings (visitor is leading) innings. [Rule 4.10(e)]
- Batting:** Continuous batting order that includes all players present for the game. [Rule 4.04]
- Strike Zone:** The space over home plate which is between the batter's armpits and the top of the knees when the batter assumes a natural stance. The umpire shall determine the strike zone according to the batter's usual stance when the batter swings at a pitch.
- Min. Playing Time:** No player shall sit out defensively more than 1 inning consecutively unless due to injury. [LR] Each player must play at least 1 full inning in the infield in a game. [LR]
- Intentional Walks:** Permitted. Defensive manager notifies umpire. Pitcher does not have to throw pitches, but 4 pitches are added to his pitch count. [Rule 6.08]
- Infield fly rule:** In effect. [Rule 2.00 re Infield Fly, 6.05(d) & (k)]
- Stealing:** Permitted, but no leadoffs. [Rule 7.13]
- Bunting:** Permitted.
- Minimum Players:** 9 players are needed to start a game [Rule 1.01 and 4.16], 7 of which must be from the team. [LR] 3 players may be borrowed from the Minors division (through the Player Agent) to make 10. [LR] Pool Player Rules apply. [LR and Reg. V(c)3] If a game cannot be started within 10 minutes from the time the home plate umpire declares the game is to begin (which can be no earlier than the scheduled time unless agreed to by both managers) because either team is unable to place 9 players on the field, the game is officially a forfeit. The game will still be played as a practice game. [LR and Rule 4.16] If during a game either team is unable to place 9 players on the field, the game is officially a forfeit. The game will be continued as a practice game. [LR] A win by forfeit shall be recorded in the standings as a 6-0 victory.
- Scorekeeping:** Each team provides a scorekeeper. The official scorekeeper is the home team scorekeeper. Both scorekeepers shall verify the score with each other and the home scorekeeper shall verify the score with the home plate umpire after each half-inning. If there is a discrepancy, the home plate umpire's score prevails. [LR] The visiting team is responsible for operating the scoreboard for the entire game, designating either an adult or a responsible teenager to do so. [LR]

**Protesting:** Protests are allowed. A protest shall be considered only when based on the violation or interpretation of a playing rule, use of an ineligible pitcher or the use of an ineligible player. No protest shall be considered on a decision involving an umpire's judgment. Only the manager (or acting manager if manager is absent) shall have the right to protest. A protest must be made in the manner specified in the Official National Little League Rules. [Rule 4.19]

### **Pitching**

- A pitcher may only wear glasses (including sunglasses) if they are prescription glasses. [LR]
- Any part of the pitcher's undershirt exposed to view shall be of a solid color, but can't be white. Nor shall a pitcher wear any items on his/her hands, wrists or arms, which may be distracting to the batter. [Rule 1.11(a)]
- If a pitcher hits 3 batters in one game, he/she must be removed as a pitcher for the rest of that game. [LR]
- A manager or coach may come out twice in one inning to visit with the pitcher, but the second time out the player must be removed as the pitcher. [Rule 8.06(a)]
- A manager or coach may come out two times in one game to visit with the pitcher, but the third time out in the game, the player must be removed as the pitcher. [Rule 8.06(b)]
- The number of visits resets when a new pitcher is brought into the game.
- The scorekeepers for each team are responsible for keeping track of the pitch count for all pitchers that pitch in a game. After each half-inning both scorekeepers shall verify the pitch count for each pitcher with each other. If there is a discrepancy the home team scorer's pitch count prevails. [LR and Reg. VI(e)]

### **Bats**

- All non-wood bats must have the USA Baseball insignia to be used during practice and games. Such bats shall not be more than thirty three (33) inches in length nor more than two and five eights (2 5/8) inches in diameter.
- If an illegal bat is used in a game, the bat must be removed from the game.
- A batter is out for illegal action when he enters the batter's box with an illegal bat or is discovered having used an illegal bat prior to the next player entering the batter's box. If the infraction is discovered before the next player enters the batter's box, the opposing manager may either take the out or accept the result of the play. [Rule 6.06d]
- For the first violation, the offensive team will lose one eligible adult base coach for the duration of the game. For the second violation, the manager of the team will be ejected from the game. Any subsequent violation will result in the newly designated manager being ejected.
- If a team is caught using an illegal bat for a second time during the season, the manager will be immediately ejected from the game, and may be subject to further discipline by the Executive Board.

### **Offense**

- *Sliding:* A runner is out when the runner does not slide or attempt to get legally around a fielder that either has the ball and is waiting to make the tag, or in the umpire's opinion, about to receive the ball in order to make a tag. [Rule 7.08(a)(3) and LR] A runner is out when the runner slides head first while advancing, but is not out if sliding head first back to a base he has already occupied. [7.08(a)(4)]
- *Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> Strike:* A runner may advance on a 3<sup>rd</sup> strike not caught in flight by the catcher provided there are less than two out and first base is unoccupied. On a dropped third strike with less than two out and first base occupied, the batter is automatically out and baserunners may advance at their own risk. It is not a force play. With two out, it is a force play for the following situations: man on 1<sup>st</sup>; men on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, bases loaded) [6.05b]
- *Overrunning First:* A batter who overruns first base and turns into the field of play instead of away, is not automatically out if tagged. It is up to the umpire to decide if the player was making an attempt to advance to second base [7.08c]

- *Batter hit on hands*: A batter hit by a pitch on the hands is awarded first base as he would be if it struck any other part of his body. It is only a foul ball if the batter attempts to swing at the pitch or his hands were in the strike zone. [2.00e]
  - *Throwing bat*: If a batter throws the bat in a manner deemed dangerous by the umpire, that batter shall not be called out but shall be given a warning to cease such bat throwing. The umpire shall also give a warning to that batter's entire team upon this first infraction. However, for the remainder of that game, any batter from that same team that throws a bat deemed dangerous by the umpire shall be called out. [LR]
  - *Arriving Late / Leaving Early*: Any player leaving a game after the first pitch shall not be recorded as an out when his spot comes up in the batting order. If this player returns, he is inserted into his original spot in the batting order without penalty. [Rule 4.04 Note 2]
- Injured Player*: If a player is injured in the field, and is due up to bat in the following inning, his spot is skipped over without penalty. However, if the injury occurs during that player's at bat, then the player who made the last out will bat for the injured player assuming the count when the original batter was injured. [LR]
- If a player is injured while on the base paths, the player who made the last out shall replace the injured player. [LR]
  - *Courtesy Runner*: No courtesy runners are allowed (except for injured players).
  - *Runner Leaving Early*: A baserunner attempting to steal a base before the ball has crossed the plate will be sent back to his base and incur a warning from the umpire. Thereafter, any baserunner from the offending team will be called out for the same violation. (The opposing coach may instead choose the result of the play). The same applies to a baserunner illegally leading off).

### Defense

- 9 defensive players. [Rule 1.01]
- If a defensive player blocks a base or base line clearly without possession of the ball, obstruction shall be called. The runner is safe and a delayed dead ball shall be called. For example, the catcher is not allowed to block home plate without the ball. [Rule 7.06(b) Note 2]

### Manager/Coaches

- A manager and not more than 2 coaches are allowed on the field (dugout) during a game. [Rule 1.01, 3.15 & 3.17]
- There must always be at least one adult in the dugout at all times.
- Only the manager may talk to the umpires. Managers and coaches may not argue or question an umpire's call but the manager may ask for time to discuss a rule or protest a call/the game.
- Players, coaches and the manager may not have food or gum in the dugout or on the field at any time. Only bottled water and sports drinks are allowed. It is the manager and coaches' responsibility to enforce this rule. [LR]
- The manager or coaches must not warm up a pitcher at home plate or in the bullpen or elsewhere at any time. They may, however, stand by to observe a pitcher during warm-up in the bullpen. [Rule 3.09]
- If a team wants to hold a post-game meeting, it must be held off the field so the next teams can take the field. [LR]
- Managers must be sure that the correct final score is in the official scorebook and the managers must sign the official scorebook and Pitch Count Summary after each game. [LR]
- Both managers must submit the final score by e-mail to [scoresforsoll@gmail.com](mailto:scoresforsoll@gmail.com) within 24 hours of the game. The opposing manager should be cc'd. [LR]
- Managers are required to follow the minimum playing time rules. If a manager fails to follow the rules, a first offense will result in a warning from the league. Further offenses will result in a one-game suspension. [LR]

- Violations of the playing time rules should be reported to the Division Representative (Division Rep). The Division Rep and Executive Board will have discretion to determine the nature of the offense and issue a warning or suspension as prescribed above. [LR]

### **Safety**

- **All safety measures and protocols related to COVID-19 transmission issued by SOLL must be followed by all players and coaches at all times.** [LR]
- Face cages are optional, not required. [LR]
- Only official coaches and players are allowed in the dugout. No siblings, batboys/girls, etc. [LR]
- During a game, all catchers must wear chest protectors with neck collar, “dangling” type throat guard, shin guards and catcher’s helmet. When warming-up a pitcher between half-innings, the player must wear a mask, “dangling” type throat guard and catcher’s helmet. [Rule 1.17]
- Players must not wear jewelry *such as, but not limited to, rings, watches, earrings, bracelets, necklaces, nor any hard cosmetic/decorative items.* (**EXCEPTION:** Jewelry that alerts medical personnel to a specific condition is permissible.) [Rule 1.11(j)]
- The on-deck position is not permitted outside the dugout. Also, only the first batter of each half-inning will be permitted outside the dugout between half-innings. [Rule 1.08]
- No player (including the on-deck hitter) may have a bat in his/her hand unless it is his/her turn to bat. [LR]
- No hitting sticks or the like may be used to warm up the first batter while outside the dugout between half-innings. [LR]
- Only the on-deck hitter may sit in the uncovered area of the dugout, and that player must wear a helmet. All other players must stay under the covered portion of the dugout. [LR]

### **Sportsmanship**

- Players who throw equipment in anger, including bats, helmets and gloves, are subject to warning and/or ejection, at the sole discretion of the umpire. A first offense results in a warning to the entire offending player’s team. A second offense, by any player on the warned team, may result in that second offender being ejected from the game. [LR]

### **Field Maintenance**

- The home team manager is responsible for ensuring that the field is ready for play at the scheduled start of the game. This includes, but is not limited to, dragging and watering the infield, and chalking the batter's box and foul lines. [LR]
- The visiting team manager is responsible for general field clean-up after the game, including dragging and watering the infield. [LR]
- These rules apply even if subsequent games will be played on the field that day. [LR]
- At the conclusion of the game, the manager is responsible for cleaning and vacating the dugout immediately, and to make sure that the bleachers are clean for the next game. [LR]
- The managers of the day’s final game are responsible for emptying in-field trash cans into the main dumpsters. [LR]
- Both managers are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the facilities are locked and secured at the end of the last game of the day. [LR]

**Any Rule or Regulation not discussed above is governed by this year’s Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules (the “Green Book”).**