

Yucaipa Valley American Little League 2026 Seniors League Local Ground Rules

Yucaipa Valley American Little League considers SAFETY TO BE A PRIORITY. As such we expect all players, managers, coaches and volunteers to follow the rules as stated:

- No players climbing on fences or dugouts.
- A batting helmet **MUST** be worn by any player that has a bat in their hand.
- A supporter (for boys) **MUST** be worn in order to participate in games or practices.
- A catcher's mask with a throat protector, chest protector, shin guards, and a hard cup (for boys) must be worn while in the catcher's position.
- There must be an approved coach or volunteer in the dugout with the players at **ALL** times.
- Any manager, coach or volunteer that is in the dugout or on the field for the team, shall give their **UNDIVIDED** attention to the players of the game (i.e. **NO** scorekeeping, emails, or texting by these individuals).
- No smoking, vaping, or alcohol use permitted while on **YVALL** premises.

The Yucaipa Valley American Little League Board of Directors have determined that the Seniors Division will play its season in accordance with the official playing rules of the Little League Baseball Rules and Regulations, subject to the following additions and amendments:

- 1) The batting order shall be continuous, with all the players on the team roster present at the start of the game, batting in order, throughout the game.
 - a. Those players that are not present must still be listed at the bottom of the lineup card and marked as absent.
- 2) Every player present at the start of a game will play a minimum of six (6) defensive outs and bat at least once per game. Defensive substitutions and re/entry are allowed at every position throughout the game, with the exception of the pitcher. Managers must make every effort to comply with this rule, even in a potential "Mercy Rule" game – there are no exceptions.
- 3) Little League International Rules will govern in regards to pitching, including:
 - a. The number of pitches which may be thrown in any given time period and mandatory rest periods.
- 4) When pitching from a portable mound pitchers are **HIGHLY** encouraged to wear turf/tennis shoes. No metal spikes are allowed on the artificial surface.
- 5) The offensive team's time "at bat" ceases when:
 - a. Three (3) offensive players have been legally put out, or
 - b. Five (5) runs have been scored (innings 1, 2 & 3). Additional innings are open.

Please note that the “15-run rule,” “10-run rule,” and “8-run rule” still apply.

6) Age Restrictions: The Seniors League will be played by 13 to 16-year-olds. Nobody under the league age of 13 will be allowed to play "up".

7) "15-run rule" – If after three (3) innings or two and one-half innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent.

“10-run rule” – If after four (4) innings or three and one-half 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 shall concede the victory to the opponent.

“8-run rule” – If after five (5) innings or four and one-half innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of eight (8) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent.

8) A team must have a minimum of eight (8) players (healthy & capable) present at the start & completion of the game for it to be considered an official game. Should a team have insufficient players to field a team, pool players may be assigned randomly or the opposing team will provide the other team player(s) to play defensively. These players will only play outfield positions starting with right field and will be the last batters scheduled to hit. Specific Pool Players may *NOT be requested by a Manager*. When playing with only 8 players, the team may skip over the ninth (9th) position in the batting line-up without penalty and no out will be called for the missing ninth (9th) position.

9) Should a player arrive after the game begins, all mandatory playing time rules will apply and the player will be placed at the end of the lineup submitted prior to the start of the game.

10) A regulation game consists of seven (7) innings, unless extended because of a tie or if shortened because:

- i. The “15-run rule”, “10-run rule”, or “8-run rule”;
 - ii. The home team doesn't need any runs in its ½ of the seventh inning;
 - iii. The umpire calls the game;
 - iv. The time limit has been reached (see item 11).
- b. All games will be played until a winner is determined unless:
- i. The umpire calls the game;
 - ii. The time limit has been reached (see item 11).
- c. If, in the Umpires judgment, playing conditions are unsafe, the game shall be suspended and scheduled for completion.
- d. If a game is called, it is considered a regulation game if four (4) innings have been played (three and one-half (3 ½) innings if the home team is ahead).

- e. If a game is called before it has become a regulation game, but after one (1) or more innings have been played, it shall be resumed (at a later date) exactly where it left off. (All records, including pitching shall be counted). The balance of the game will be scheduled to resume immediately before the next scheduled game between the two teams involved.
 - f. If a game is canceled before it begins, it will be re-scheduled for play at the discretion of the board.
- 11) Time Limit: The umpire will announce and Score Keepers will record the official start time of the game. No new inning can begin once the 2 hour mark is reached. If the home team is up, the time is treated as a regular baseball game.
- a. In the interest of keeping the game moving, pitchers will be allowed only 8 warm up pitches within 1 minute. If the catcher is putting on his gear, the coach or manager is allowed to warm up the pitcher.
 - b. A courtesy runner can be used for the catcher if the catcher reaches base when there are 2 outs or the second out is recorded at a point in time when the catcher is on base.
- 12) Balls or Strikes, Fair or Foul, Safe or Out are all judgment decisions. All Umpire judgment decisions are final. No manager, coach, spectator or player shall object to any judgment decision.
- 13) Should the Manager have reasonable doubt in an Umpires decision, as it relates to the rules, the manager may appeal the decision and ask that a correct ruling be made. All protests will attempt to be resolved immediately by the board member(s) on duty from the league(s). Should a manager believe that the ruling is still uncorrected the following will take place:
- a. The Scorekeeper will record the time/place of the protest.
 - b. The manager will file an official protest. The matter will be reviewed by the protest committee as soon as possible. Should the protest committee determine an incorrect ruling was made / the game will be scheduled to resume (at the point the protest was recorded in the earlier game) immediately before the next scheduled game between the teams.
 - c. If a manager protests a judgment call play after a game protest has already been filed, the Umpire will eject that Manager from the game.
- 14) The home team is responsible for setting up the field of play and the visiting team is responsible for clean-up. During an interleague game, the team playing on their home field is responsible for set-up and clean-up. Both teams are responsible for cleaning up their dugouts and stands.
- 15) At the end of the season, there will be a double-elimination tournament that all teams shall participate in. The rules shall be the same as above.

- a. The teams shall be seeded by the best record in the second half of the regular season with the following point system determining the best record.
 - i. 1 point for a win, 0.5 points for a tie, and 0 points for a loss.
 - ii. In the event of a tie, the Tie Breaker Policy will be utilized.
- b. This means for the first half of the season, no official records will be kept. Scorekeepers are still needed, and the score will still be kept and pitch count will still be maintained. However, there will be no wins, losses, or ties recorded.
- c. Managers and coaches should rotate players throughout the game in various positions and use the beginning of the season as instructional.

Manager/coaches/umpires and players must conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner at all times. Conduct to the contrary will not be tolerated in any form. Disciplinary action may be taken if this rule is violated.