



Tehachapi Little League Local Rules 2026

Conduct

- A. Tehachapi Little League requires all players, volunteers, spectators and anyone otherwise involved in Tehachapi Little League to behave in a respectful and positive manner. The following are examples of behavior that will not be tolerated: violence, threats of violence, excessive screaming or verbal abuse, abuse or damaging of equipment and/or facilities, and other actions deemed harmful by the Board of Directors.
- B. If the Board of Directors determines someone to be in violation of the above conduct policy, the violator may face disciplinary action from the league. The discipline can vary from verbal warning, suspension and removal from the league.
- C. No Artificial Noise makers are allowed.

Manager Duties & Responsibilities

- A. Umpire duties
 - a. As part of the managerial duties, managers will be assigned umpiring duty in divisions other than the one they are managing in. The Manager is responsible for providing two (2) umpires to each game they have been assigned. One (1) plate umpire and one (1) base umpire. This may be the Manager or a representative, however, the manager is ultimately responsible for the umpiring duty. If a junior umpire is being used, there must always be **one (1) adult umpire on the field to control the game**. The adult will be considered as the Umpire in Charge regardless of the position they assume on the field (base or plate). Tehachapi Little League will hold a yearly umpire clinic that covers the rules and mechanics of umpiring.
- B. Snack Bar
 1. All teams will be given assigned days to cover the snack bar. Each team will be scheduled for snack bar duties up to four (4) times in a season. It is the manager's responsibility to make sure their team has at least three (3) volunteers for the main/large snack bar to cover their scheduled day/time. **No child under the age of fourteen (14) will be assigned to work in the snack bar at any time. No one under eighteen (18) years of age can handle cash. No exceptions.**
- C. Work Days
 1. Managers are required to attend or provide an adult representative at all work days.
- D. Field Prep/Clean up
 1. The managers of both teams are responsible for field prep before and after each game. This can be completed by the managers or by other volunteers, but the managers are ultimately responsible.
 2. Each team will be responsible for cleaning out the dugouts at the end of each game. If it is the last game of the day, both teams will assist in returning all league equipment (bases, pitching machines, etc.) to their proper locations.
 3. If a manager does not follow through with their responsibilities, the consequences will be as follows:
 - a. First offense: Verbal warning



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- b. Second offense: One game suspension
- c. Third offense: Removal of managerial duties
- d. All managers must follow the Tehachapi Little League Code of Conduct. Misconduct of any kind, or continuous violations, will result in the manager being brought before the Board of Directors and disciplinary action will be determined at that time.

League Administration

- A. Registration
 1. The Board of Directors, based on registration numbers, will determine the number of players that must be carried on each team roster (Regulation III (a)) and which League Divisions shall be used for the season. League divisions are Senior, Junior, Intermediate, Major, and Minors.
 2. The Minor Leagues can be subdivided into several divisions depending on registration numbers and skill levels (Upper Minor, Lower Minor, Farm).
- B. Team Rosters
 1. Team rosters will be filled by a conventional draft plan for the minor divisions (excluding Lower Minors Baseball and Farm) and above, for more information refer to TLL 2026 local draft rules.
 2. The Board of Directors can decide to re-draft any division to ensure a competitive balance.
 3. Options on sons, daughters and siblings
 - a. An option is an agreement between a manager and a player agent covering a special condition. All options must be in writing, forty-eight (48) hours prior to the draft.
 - b. Names of players who did not evaluate are put into a hat. A manager may pull a name from the hat on his/her turn in any round (selected by chance). **In accordance with the rules, no player may be drafted by free selection if the player did not attend evaluations.**

If a parent desires to hold their child down a level, the parent must provide this request in writing to the Board of Directors no less than 48 hours in advance of the draft. If such a request is approved, that player is unable to be called up to the higher division for that season.
 4. Player agents have the right to hold any player down in Minors, if safety is deemed an issue.
 5. No 9-year-old shall be drafted to the Majors.
- C. Season Play
 1. All divisions will play a minimum of twelve (12) games.
- D. All Stars
 - a. All Managers and Coaches interested in coaching All Stars MUST have Diamond Training completed by opening day, March 21, 2026, to be eligible.
 1. To be eligible to participate in All Stars as either a player or coach, an All-Star commitment form filled out and turned into the Vice President(s) of the league no later



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- than May 1, 2026. The form does **not** mean a guarantee of selection for an All-Star team, only consideration for a position. The Board of Directors will hold a special meeting to assess the status of eligibility for any Manager, Coach or Player that gets ejected from a game.
2. There will be an All-Star selection meeting held between May 3, 2026, and closing ceremonies to discuss and select the All-Star teams. Prior to the meeting, guidelines will be presented to all managers.
 3. All-Stars managers will be chosen by the Board of Directors.
 4. Players will be selected in accordance with Baseball and Softball Tournament Rules and Guidelines.
- E. Special Rules
1. Senior/Junior Baseball
 - a. Play seven (7) innings, but no new inning shall begin after two (2) hours from official start time. No new batter after two (2) hours and fifteen (15) minutes.
 - b. This division is considered competitive, the minimum number of players required per team is eight (8). Each team must have a minimum of 8 players to start, play, and finish the game.
 - c. Maximum of eight (8) runs or three (3) outs per inning.
 - d. Consecutive batting order **MUST** be used.
 - e. No metal cleats on the pitching mound.
 - f. Managers will have a scorebook with them at all games to verify and questions cornering any questions of player and/or pitcher eligibility.
 2. Major Baseball
 - a. Play 6 innings, but no new inning shall begin after two (2) hours from official start time. No new batter after two (2) hours and fifteen (15) minutes.
 - b. This division is considered competitive, the minimum number of players required per team is eight (8). Each team must have a minimum of 8 players to start, play, and finish the game.
 - c. Maximum of eight (8) runs or three (3) outs per inning.
 - d. Consecutive batting order **MUST** be used.
 3. Minor Baseball (Upper and Lower)
 - e. Play 5 innings, but no new inning shall begin after one (1) hour and forty-five (45) minutes from official start time. No new batter after two (2) hours.
 - a. In the Minor division, each half inning is completed when five (5) runs have been scored, the entire team has batted, or three (3) outs are recorded.
 - b. Consecutive batting order **MUST** be used.
 - c. This division is considered non-competitive and as such may start and play a game with a minimum of seven (7) players. If one team has eight (8) or less players and the other team has nine (9) or more players, players must be loaned to the team in need to ensure adequate players for the game. Any loaned players shall not pitch.
 4. Farm Baseball and Softball



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- a. Play 5 innings, but no new inning shall begin after one (1) hour and (45) minutes from official start time. No new batter after two (2) hours.
 - b. The Farm division utilizes a pitching machine.
 - c. There is no stealing of home in the Farm division.
 - d. There are no protests in the Farm division.
 - e. This division is considered non-competitive and as such may start and play a game with a minimum of seven (7) players. If one team has eight (8) or less players and the other team has nine (9) or more players, players must be loaned to the team in need to ensure adequate players for the game.
 - f. In the Farm division, each half inning is completed when five (5) runs have been scored, the entire team has batted, or three (3) outs are recorded.
 - g. Consecutive batting order MUST be used
 - h. The Farm division shall utilize the baseball pitching machine from a pitching distance of forty-six (46) feet if the field in use by the Farm division has electricity safely and properly installed at the pitching mound. A generator placed behind the pitching machine shall be considered an acceptable substitute for a hard-wired plug at the pitching mound. The pitching machine speed setting shall be agreed to by both team managers.
 - i. The umpire of the specific game will call balls and strikes, as the umpire deems fit. The player may hit, walk, or strike out. At the discretion of the umpire, the pitching machine may be adjusted vertically or horizontally.
 - j. The pitching machine shall have a safety screen positioned in front of the machine prior to the start of the game and remain in place until the conclusion of the game.
 - k. Any batted or thrown ball hitting the safety screen will be considered a dead ball and all batters/runners will advance one base.
 - l. When a thrown ball gets trapped by, on or under the pitching machine or generator if used, the umpire will call time out. The ball is immediately dead: the batter gets first base, and all runners advance to the base they were advancing to when the ball was ruled dead. When a player playing in the pitcher position has possession of the ball and hands or attempts to hand the ball to the umpire at the pitcher's mound, base runners shall not leave their bases until the ball has been pitched and has reached the batter.
 - m. For safety reasons, the player playing in the pitcher's position shall remain behind the safety screen until after the pitch has been made.
 - n. In the event of a power failure and/or pitching machine malfunction, the manager or coach will pitch to their own team. The manager or coach must pitch from the forty-six-foot pitching rubber. No short distance pitching or soft toss will be allowed.
 - o. The umpire is not a player on the field and all balls must be thrown to the player in the pitcher position for the play to end.
5. Junior Softball
- a. Play 7 innings, but no new inning shall begin after two (2) hours from official start time. No new batter after two (2) hours and fifteen (15) minutes.



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- b. This division is considered competitive, the minimum number of players required per team is eight (8). Each team must have a minimum of 8 players to start, play, and finish the game.
 - c. Maximum of eight (8) runs or three (3) outs per inning.
 - d. Consecutive batting order MUST be used.
 - e. Managers will have a scorebook with them at all games to verify and questions cornering any questions of player and/or pitcher eligibility.
6. Major Softball
- a. Play 6 innings, but no new inning shall begin after two (2) hours from official start time. No new batter after two (2) hours and fifteen (15) minutes.
 - b. This division is considered competitive, the minimum number of players required per team is eight (8). Each team must have a minimum of 8 players to start, play, and finish the game.
 - c. Maximum of eight (8) runs or three (3) outs per inning.
 - d. Consecutive batting order MUST be used.
7. Minor Softball
- a. Play 5 innings, but no new inning shall begin after one (1) hour and forty-five (45) minutes from official start time. No new batter after two (2) hours.
 - b. In the Minor division, each half inning is completed when five (5) runs have been scored, the entire team has batted, or three (3) outs are recorded.
 - c. This division is considered non-competitive and as such may start and play a game with a minimum of seven (7) players. If one team has eight (8) or less players and the other team has nine (9) or more players, players must be loaned to the team in need to ensure adequate players for the game. Any loaned players shall not pitch.
 - d. Consecutive batting order MUST be used.
8. Farm Softball is integrated with Farm Baseball.

Miscellaneous:

- A. While CBO is used: if a batter leaves or is unable to complete their turn at bat due to injury, illness or ejection, the next batter in the batting order WILL complete the turn at bat (WITHOUT PENALTY) assuming the previous batters count (See Note 2, Rule 4.04).
- B. While CBO is used: if a player becomes injured or ill or ejected while a base runner (this includes a batter who was awarded first base on a HBP), that player will be replaced, while the ball is dead, with the player who made the last out. In case of a situation before an out is made, the replacement shall be the closest player in the batting order that the injured player bats AFTER (that is not on base). (EXAMPLE: #3 in the batting order gets hurt, the replacement would be the #2 batter in the batting order unless on base, then it would be the #1 batter in the batting order, if both are on base, it would be the last person listed in the batting order)



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- C. While CBO is used: In accordance with Rule 4.04 Note 3, teams with seven (Farm/Minor Baseball and Minor Softball) or eight (Major/Intermediate/Junior Baseball and Major/Junior Softball) players present to play the game may use a CBO and the 8th and 9th (Farm/Minor Baseball and Minor Softball) or the 9th (Major/Intermediate/Junior Baseball and Major/Junior Softball) spots in the batting order will be skipped over with NO OUT RECORDED.
- D. 15/10/8 Mercy Run Rule is in effect for ALL divisions in accordance with Little League Rule 4.10(e).
- E. The scorekeeper for any teams when traveling to away games will act as the leagues representative of the BOD.

Amy Porter
President
Tehachapi Little League
February 26, 2026