



2012 EAST LAKE LITTLE LEAGUE
LITTLE LEAGUE (MINORS/AAA) DIVISION
GROUND RULES
Rev. 2/7/12

The rules used for the ELLL Minors Division are the most current Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules ("LL Rules") published by Little League Baseball. Every team Manager is responsible for reading the LL Rules and having a copy of those Rules in his/her possession at every game. In keeping with rule 3.13 of the LL Rules, ELLL has established these additional Ground Rules for our League. Each team's Manager and Coaches are accountable for assuring compliance with LL Rules and these Ground Rules. Failure to comply may result in League disciplinary action, including removal of the accountable Manager or Coach.

Note that Tournament play may be governed by separate Tournament rules.

- 1) **Safety First:** Our highest priority is the safety and well-being of all participants. Managers and Coaches are expected to exercise careful judgment at all times to assure Player safety.
- 2) **Medical Release Form:** Each Player must have a completed Little League Medical Release form on file with ELLL prior to participation in any practice or game. A team Manager must have in his/her possession at any practice or game a Medical Release for each Player.
- 3) **Lightning Predictor System:** A Lightning Predictor System located on top of the East Lake Football concession stand services the entire East Lake Youth Sports Complex. When the LPS determines that a lightning strike is possible or has occurred, it will sound a *loud* alarm for 15 seconds and the light on at the top of the LPS will flash. The light will continue to flash until the all-clear is sounded, comprised of three shorter alarms (approximately three seconds each). ***Upon arriving at the Complex, each Manager/Coach must check the LPS for the flashing light to determine if an alarm is active.*** If the alarm sounds or is active when you arrive at the Complex, you must direct ALL personnel to sit in their cars or completely under the Football concession roof until the all-clear sounds. There are no exceptions to this important safety policy.
- 4) **Batting Safety:** A NOCSAE-approved batting helmet with a full-face protective guard must be worn by any batter, whether during practice or a game, whether on the field or in a batting cage. At no time should anyone swing a bat inside a dugout.
- 5) **Catcher's Equipment:** A catcher must wear full regulation equipment when receiving pitches, including warm-up pitches in a bullpen.
- 6) **Protective Cup Required:** All Players must wear a protective cup during practices and games.
- 7) **Minimum Play:** Each player will: bat in the continuous batting order (see rule below); play at least one complete inning in the infield per game; and start one out of every three games. If there are more than nine players present for a game, the Manager will not rest any player twice defensively until every player has been rested once.
- 8) **Continuous Batting Order:** All Players on the team roster that are present for the game shall be included in the batting order. A Player may be entered and or re-entered defensively into the game at any time provided he meets the requirements of minimum play. A Player arriving late will be added ***at the end*** of the batting order.
- 9) **Batting Order:** Each team's batting order must list each Player's full name, uniform number and starting defensive position.



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- 10) **Batting Cages:** On a game day, ELLL batting cages may be used by a game-scheduled team up to one hour prior to scheduled game time. No team may use more than one cage if other teams are waiting to use a cage. Cages may not be reserved except by the Minors Division Vice President. On game days and during League-scheduled practices (those approved by the Minors Division Vice President), use of ELLL batting cages is prioritized for ELLL teams and scheduled opponents; Managers may ask other users to vacate cages to accommodate ELLL users. At all times, the batting cages by the Juniors/Seniors field are reserved for Juniors and Seniors Players, who may not use the cages by the T-Ball field.
- 11) **Dugout Assignments:** The home team dugout shall be along the first base line and the visitor's dugout along the third base line.
- 12) **Field Preparation:** The home team is responsible for preparing the field for play, including raking the pitcher's mound, chalking the batter's boxes and foul lines, and walking the field to find and repair any holes or other items that could represent a safety risk for Players.
- 13) **Concession Stand:** The ELLL Volunteer Coordinator will assign teams responsibility for Concession Stand staffing. Should either team in a game fail to provide the assigned number of volunteers for Concession duty, League officials (including the Concession Stand Manager) may stop the game until sufficient volunteers are provided.
- 14) **Umpire Assignments:** Home plate and base umpires shall be furnished by each team as set forth in the schedule provided by the Minors Division Vice President.
- 15) **Little League Pledge:** Both teams shall line up along the base lines and recite the Little League Pledge before starting a game.
- 16) **Scorebooks:** Each team shall maintain a scorebook during the game to record runs, outs, pitch counts and minimum-play compliance. In the case of a discrepancy that cannot be resolved, the home team's scorebook will be considered the official record for the game. Scorebooks are subject to review by league officials.
- 17) **Game Balls:** The home team is responsible for supplying two new Official Little League baseballs for each game. Additional game balls, if needed, need not be brand new. Teams requiring additional new baseballs should contact the league Equipment Manager.
- 18) **Game Uniform:** Only ELLL-issued uniforms and hats may be worn on the field during a game.
- 19) **Injured Player:** The team Manager must immediately notify the Player Agent and Minors Division Vice President if a Player is injured during any League activity. The Minors Division Vice President will then notify the League President and Safety Officer.
- 20) **Game Timing:**
 - 21) The official start time of any game is its scheduled start time, regardless of when the first pitch is actually thrown. All game timing will be based on the scheduled start time of the game.
 - 22) No new inning shall start after 2 hours following the start time (e.g., for a 6:30pm scheduled game, no new inning shall start after 8:30pm).



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- 23) The plate Umpire is responsible for keeping the official time.
- 24) Subject to these game timing rules, if a six-inning game ends in a tie and there is time remaining, an East Lake tie-breaker (last batter out from previous inning starts on 2nd Base with one out for each half-inning) will be played until the tie is broken or time expires. Tie games are allowed during the regular season.
- 25) **Batter Outside the Dugout:** Between half-innings, no batter is permitted outside the dugout before the pitcher's warm-up period is complete. However, should a pitcher change occur during a batter's at-bat, the batter may remain outside the dugout at a safe distance from home plate during the new pitcher's warm-up period.
- 26) **Batter Must Clear Home Plate Area:** When there is a runner on third, the batter should immediately clear the home plate area if a play at the plate is imminent. Failure to do so may be ruled offensive interference.
- 27) **Two Innings Maximum Per Pitcher:** A pitcher may appear in only two innings or partial innings. This is in addition to required compliance with Little League pitch-count rules.
- 28) **No Intentional Walks:** Intentional walks are not permitted. If, in the judgment of the Umpire, a pitcher intentionally walks a batter, the pitcher may be removed from the mound.
- 29) **Three Hit Batters Maximum:** If a pitcher is charged with three hit batters during a game, the opposing Manager or Umpire may request that the pitcher be removed from the mound.
- 30) **Less than Nine Players:** If a team has at least six but less than nine Players present for a scheduled game, that team shall "borrow" one or more Players from the opposing team to complete its nine defensive positions. The opposing Player(s) who made the last offensive out(s) in the previous half-inning will be borrowed, and will play in the outfield. The results of a game played with borrowed Players will count as a regular game. If a team has fewer than six Players present for a scheduled game, that team will forfeit the game by a score of 6-0.
- 31) **No Ten-Run Rule:** To maximize game experience for players, no ten-run rule is in effect.
- 32) **No Infield Fly Rule:** To encourage players to field every ball, the infield fly rule is not in effect. If, in the Umpire's judgment, a fielder purposely drops a fly ball to create a double play, the Umpire may disallow the second out of the double play.
- 33) **No Stealing Home:** For the safety of all players and to allow for early-season development of pitchers and catchers, runners may not steal home early in the season. The date when this restriction will be lifted will be communicated to Managers by the Minors Division Vice President.
- 34) **Five-Run Rule for Four Innings:** During the first four innings of any game, any half-inning will end immediately when the offense scores five runs in that half-inning.
- 35) **Defensive Coach on the Field:** To support player development, one defensive coach may be positioned in the outfield during early-season games. The on-field coach may direct the defense, but must not physically interfere with play. Any time-out called by the on-field coach will count as a



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mound visit (see Little League rule 8.06). The date when all defensive coaches must remain in the dugout will be communicated to Managers by the Minors Division Vice President.

- 36) **Dugout Personnel:** Only three adults are allowed in each dugout: the team Manager and two Coaches. One adult must be in the dugout at all times. Players are to remain in the dugout while games are in progress. Players may leave the dugout only to use the restroom (with a Coach's permission) or warm-up a pitcher in the bullpen.
- 37) **Dugout Cleanliness:** Eating in the dugouts is strongly discouraged. Each team must be sure its dugout is completely free of debris after a game or practice.
- 38) **Game Results:** The home team Manager must report the final score of a game to the Minors Division Vice President by e-mail, phone or text message within 2 hours of the conclusion of the game. This is for information only. No win/loss records are maintained during the regular season.
- 39) **Canceled Game:** Any game canceled for any reason may be rescheduled by the Minors Division Vice President.
- 40) **Background Checks Required:** Managers and approved Coaches do not have the authority to appoint additional Coaches, since this is the League President's responsibility. No adult may be on the field, in the batting cage area or in the dugout with Players unless ELLL has confirmed to the team Manager that the adult has a verified background check on file with the league.
- 41) **No Extra Games:** No ELLL team may participate in games with teams from any other league unless authorized by the Minors Division Vice President.
- 42) **Player Disciplinary Procedure:** In keeping with Little League Official Regulation XIV, any Player who, at a game site or other Little League activity, is involved in a physical or verbal altercation or other behavior that would be deemed by most team Managers to constitute unsportsmanlike conduct will be subject to disciplinary action by the team Manager and/or the Minors Division Vice President. The Manager of said Player must immediately remove him from competition for the remainder of any game in progress. The Player may remain with the team, including in the dugout, unless ejected by an Umpire. The Manager must document the conduct and related discipline to the Player Agent and the Minors Division Vice President via e-mail within 24 hours.
- 43) **Manager/Coach Disciplinary Procedure:** The behavior of Managers/Coaches toward Players and other adult participants must be above reproach, and must always demonstrate respect for the judgment and authority of the Umpire and League officials. Any Manager/Coach who is involved in a verbal or physical altercation or an incident of unsportsmanlike conduct, at a game site or other Little League activity, is subject to disciplinary action by the ELLL Board of Directors. Any Manager/Coach observing inappropriate conduct by another Manager/Coach must report that conduct to the Minors Division Vice President within 24 hours.
- 44) **Parent/Spectator Disciplinary Procedure:** ELLL expects parents and other spectators to support our high standards for sportsmanship and field decorum. Disrespectful or unsportsmanlike comments from a spectator directed toward an Umpire, Manager, Coach, Player or other spectator will not be tolerated. Any Manager/Coach observing such conduct from his/her own fans



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should attempt to identify and calm the spectator, and must report the offending conduct to the Minors Division Vice President within 24 hours.

- 45)**Ejections:** In the unexpected event that a Manager, Coach or Player is ejected from a game, he/she shall leave the game site immediately and take no further part in that game. He/she may not sit in the stands nor be in the vicinity of the field. Both team's scorekeepers must note in their scorebook the name of the individual(s) ejected, the time of the ejection, the name of the Umpire making the ruling, and a summary of the Umpire's reason for making the ruling. The home team scorekeeper must report this information to the Minors Division Vice President by e-mail within 2 hours of the conclusion of the game.
- 46)**Suspension Following Ejection:** Anyone ejected from a game will be automatically suspended from the next scheduled game as well, even if that game is a playoff/tournament game. If a Player was ejected, he must sit on his team's bench in uniform during the next game he attends; he may not participate in the game in any manner, and the team Manager must provide the game Umpire and opposing Manager with documentation of the Player's suspension. If a Manager or Coach was ejected, he/she is not allowed to attend the next scheduled game.
- 47)**Questions Regarding These Ground Rules:** Any questions regarding these Ground Rules or their interpretation should be directed to the Minors Division Vice President or the League President.
- 48)**Amendments and Revisions:** These Ground Rules may be amended or revised by the ELLL Board of Directors at any time. Any changes to these Ground Rules will be communicated to all Minors Managers via e-mail within 24 hours of approval.

This concludes the ELLL Ground Rules for the Minors Division. The following section lists notable items from the 2012 Little League Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules. This list is provided for the convenience of League Managers and Coaches, and does not remove each Manager's and Coach's responsibility to read and be familiar with all applicable Little League Rules.

Notable Items from the Little League Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules
Page references are from the 2012 "green book" version of these rules.

ELLL will provide each team at least one copy of the current LL Rules prior to the start of the season. Each team is expected to have a copy of the LL Rules available at each game.

Official Regulations

IV – Players (pg 35)

- (a) Note 2: Manager must immediately notify the Player Agent and Minors Division Vice President if a Player repeatedly misses practices or games for any reason.

VI – Pitchers (pg 39)

- (a) Any Player, who has played the position of catcher in four or more innings in a game, is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.
- (b) A pitcher once removed from the mound cannot return as a pitcher.



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(c) Pitch count rules, including that a pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.

XIV – Field Decorum (pg 46)

(a) The actions of Players, Managers, Coaches, Umpires and League officials must be above reproach.

Official Playing Rules

1.06 Note 1 (pg 52) – If a base is dislodged from its position during a play...

1.08 Note 1 (pg 53) – The on-deck position is not permitted...

1.10 (pg 53) – Bat rules, including that the traditional batting donut is not permissible (see Note 2).

1.11(j) (pg 55) – Players must not wear jewelry **regardless of composition** (exception for medical jewelry).

1.17 (pg 56) – Required gear for all Players, including requirement for “dangling” throat protector for catchers.

2.00 (Definitions)

- Bunt (pg 57) – The mere holding of the bat in the strike zone is not an attempted bunt.
- Catch (pg 57) – Runners “tagging up” may leave on the fielder’s first touch of the ball.
- Fair Territory (pg 58) – Base lines are considered fair territory.
- Illegally Batted Ball (pg 59) – The batter’s feet must not be entirely outside the batter’s box.
- Inning (pg 60) – An inning starts the moment the third out is made in the preceding inning.
- Interference (pg 60) – Offensive and Defensive (Catcher’s) interference.
- Obstruction (pg 61) – A fake tag is considered obstruction, as is blocking off a base while not in possession of the ball.

3.09 (pg 65) – Managers or Coaches may not warm-up a pitcher at any time.

4.01 (pg 66) – Exchange of batting orders prior to game start.

4.05 (pg 67) – Base Coaches shall remain in the dugout until the pitcher has completed his warm up.

4.09 (pg 68) – A run may count on a play in which the third out is recorded under certain conditions.

4.11(d) (pg 69) – How to score a game called during an incomplete inning.

4.15 (pg 71) – A team that purposely delays or shortens a game may forfeit that game.

4.19(f) Note 2 (pg 72) – All Managers, Coaches, Umpires and league officials should take precautions to prevent game protests, including that Managers and Coaches should notify opposing Managers and Coaches if a protest situation is imminent.

5.09 (pg 73) – A runner hit by a fair batted ball is out.

6.03 (pg 75) – The batter must stand with both feet inside or on the batter’s box lines.

6.05(j) (pg 76) – Running to first base outside the running lane may be interference.

6.06(c) (pg 76) – The batter is entitled to hold his position in the batter’s box while the catcher attempts to make a play on a runner, but may be declared out for illegal action if he moves and hinders the catcher’s ability to make the play.

6.08(b) (pg 79) – Hit-by-pitch rules, including that the batter must make an effort to avoid being hit.

7.05 (pg 81) – Two free bases if a ball is thrown out of bounds from the field; one free base if a pitch goes out of bounds (“two from the field; one from the mound”).

7.08 (pg 82) – Runner is out if running out of the baseline; failing to slide or avoid a collision with a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag; or sliding headfirst while advancing. Runner may “tag up” and advance at risk on the fielder’s first touch of a caught fair or foul ball.

7.13 (pg 87) – When a base runner leaves his base early...



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8.03 (pg 92) – A pitcher's warm-up between half innings shall be up to eight pitches or one minute, whichever comes first. The warm-up period for a replacement pitcher during an inning shall be at the Umpire's discretion.

8.05 (pg 92) – An illegal pitch is considered a ball. There is no balk in Minors.

8.06 (pg 93) – Rules governing mound/field visits by the Manager on defense.

This concludes the list of notable items from the 2012 Little League Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules. The following final page of this document must be signed by any Manager or Coach before he/she may participate in a League game this season.



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Each Manager and Coach must read and sign the Statement below and return it to the Minors Division Vice President before that Manager/Coach may participate in any League game this season.

MANAGER'S AND COACH'S STATEMENT REGARDING LEAGUE RULES AND PRIORITIES

I have received and read a copy of the East Lake Little League Ground Rules for the Minors Division, and I agree to abide by these Ground Rules. I further agree to review and be familiar with the Official Regulations and Rules of Little League Baseball. I understand that I am accountable for leading my team to understand and follow these rules.

I will work to assure the safety and well-being of every participant. I will be generous with praise and encouragement, setting a generally positive tone for my team.

I will lead my team (players and parents) by example in showing respect for other League participants. I understand that my behavior as a role model for young athletes must be above reproach.

I will lead my team to pursue athletic excellence, and to strive to win in a fair and sportsmanlike manner. I will, however, emphasize that young athletes should derive their primary satisfaction from the experience of playing, improving and attaining goals – not just from winning. I will lead my team to handle both success and disappointment with maturity.

I acknowledge that any failure on my part to follow these rules and priorities may result in disciplinary action from East Lake Little League, including my removal as a Manager or Coach.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Team: _____

Date: _____