

Land-O-Hills Baseball League
5th-6th Grade Boys (AAA) Rules
2021 Season (updated 5/20/21)

Note: *The purpose of the Land-O-Hills Baseball League is to allow the players to learn the game of baseball and have fun doing so. The league is not run for the benefit of the coaches or the parents of the players. The rules stated below are intended to help carry out this purpose. Should a situation arise not specifically covered in these rules, resolution of the situation should be made keeping this stated purpose in mind.*

It is also the intention of the league to maintain a fair level of play amongst all the teams within a community. Rosters should be balanced by age and talent. The commissioners will investigate all complaints and they alone will determine if and what disciplinary action will be taken. Your cooperation is appreciated to keep baseball fun, challenging and rewarding for all of our young players.

General Rules

1. Players in this league must be in 5th or 6th Grade when registration takes place in order to play. For Home Schooled children, players must not turn 13 before September 1 of the current season. Exceptions can only be made by agreement of the League Committee.
2. Each team must share a lineup prior to the start of each game – including player numbers.
3. The home team will keep the official scorebook for both teams . If the score is disputed and the coaches cannot resolve it, the umpire will be the final decision maker.
4. The home team is responsible for reporting the score to ballcharts.com/LandOHills within 24 hours of the completed game. **Login: Coach's Last Name Password: LOH2021**
Click Admin button to add/edit game scores
5. Scheduled games: Once officially scheduled, games can be cancelled or postponed only because of weather related conditions (by 5pm of game day) including heavy rain, wet, muddy, puddle field or lightning.
6. No protests allowed. Problems can be discussed at the coaches meeting at the end of the season.
7. Players can be called out or ejected for throwing equipment. This decision is up to the umpire, although the umpires should first give a warning unless the incident is intentional or flagrant.
8. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their team and fans. Heckling by players or fans is not allowed. Arguing umpire calls will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and after one warning, may result in ejection. Continued incidents will result in a game forfeit. It is the responsibility of each community commissioner to give a copy of these league rules to every umpire they expect to use. Umpires regardless of age are expected to read and understand these rules. Questions can be forwarded to the League Committee if need be.
8. Coaches should avoid conversations with umpires during games to avoid the look of impropriety.
9. Umpires may not stand by either team's bench for any extended period of time between innings.
10. Umpires may eject coaches for negatively interacting with players of opposing team. (New)
 - Umpires should give an initial warning.
 - Additional interactions will result in an ejection.
11. All umpire calls are final. (New)
 - Only head coaches may ask for an explanation, and the other head coach may be present for the explanation.
 - Once an umpire declares a call final, the play will stand.
 - Coaches should apply common sense and set an example for players and parents once a call is final.
12. Game play shall be governed by the rules of Major League Baseball – except for rules specific to Land of Hills.
13. All players present at the game must play at least two innings in the field, with the following exceptions:

- Coaches and umpires must be notified if a team member will not participate due to disciplinary actions or injury.
 - Ejections for unsportsmanlike conduct - failure to comply will result in forfeit of the game.
14. No infield fly rule.
 15. The home team coach will decide when a game shall be suspended or discontinued due to bad weather. In no case shall a game start or continue when there is lightning in the area.
 16. A team will consist of nine (9) rostered players with three (3) outfielders. Teams may play an official game with eight players. In the event, an extra player becomes available, then that player may be added to the bottom of the batting order. In the case of an injury, a team will be allowed to continue with eight (8). A team will also be allowed to play with less than 8 players upon agreement between the two coaches. No players may be currently playing for or rostered on a select team, however, players from our league team may play on a tournament (non-LOH) only team.
 17. Injury rule for taking outs for injury vs. kid leaving for other reasons – use State league rule. If a player leaves the game due to an injury or illness, there is an automatic out for that player the next time his spot comes up in the batting order. His spot is then skipped on subsequent at bats. Once the out is taken, this player may NOT return to this game. *Note: Opposing coaches should discuss with the umpire and agree upon the final disposition of the player and his removal from the game. Any exceptions made to this rule must be agreed upon by opposing coaches and umpires in the spirit of good sportsmanship.*

Field Preparation

1. The home team is responsible for having the playing field in good condition.
2. Bases and pitcher's rubber must be staked down.
3. Bases are 70 feet. The pitcher's rubber is 50 feet from home plate.

Game Rules

1. The Home Team will supply two new baseballs for each game.
2. The Home team will provide the home plate umpire or both umpires if both are paid. The visiting team will provide one base umpire unless home team provides paid umpires.
3. The home team coach will determine when conditions prevent the playing of a game and shall contact the visiting team's coach by 4:30 p.m. of game date. The home coach is responsible for verbally talking with the visiting coach—no emails, no postings on webs. The home team coach must take the initiative to communicate to the visiting coach and is responsible for notifying the Community Directors of the date and field of choice to insure availability.
 - Coaches will make a good faith attempt to reschedule rained out games.
 - Rained out games may be played at any LOH venue and also on Saturdays/Sundays.
 - The home team from the original game will be responsible for baseballs and umpires.
 - The home team shall provide a minimum of two alternate dates within 7 days of the rained out game.
 - If the home team does not provide two alternate dates, then the visiting team is awarded a 1-0 win.
 - But, the single run may not count toward any tie-breaking totals.
 - If the visiting team cannot make either of the two alternate dates (provided the dates do not conflict with other LOH games or require a team to play games on three consecutive days), then the home team shall be awarded a 1-0 win, but the single run may not count toward any tie-breaking run totals.
4. Games start promptly at 6:00 pm. Teams arriving more than 15 minutes late shall forfeit the game; however, this rule may be waived by mutual consent of the coaches.
5. Visiting team gets the field for the 15 minutes immediately prior to scheduled game start time.

6. No new inning may start 2 hours after actual game start time. In case of a tie, the home team coach will determine if the game can be safely completed. Both coaches can also agree to resume a tie game at a later date or end play with a tie score.
7. Games shall consist of 7 innings. Four and one-half (4½) innings is considered a full game if the home team is ahead, five (5) if the visiting team is ahead. Score reverts back to the last completed inning for a game called in the middle of an inning.
8. *The maximum number of runs a team can score in a given inning is 7. The ONLY exception to the 7 run limit is a team who enters their last at-bat behind by more than 7 runs. In this specific scenario, the team can score as many runs in order to win the game. This applies to ONLY the last inning. (NEW AS OF 5/29/19)*
9. A game will be considered over if the winning team has a fifteen (15) run lead at the end of four (4) innings or anytime thereafter. Coaches may agree to keep playing if time permits, but the score will freeze once a team is up by 15 runs after 4 innings are complete.

Pitching

1. A pitcher will pitch no more than four (4) consecutive innings per game or eight (8) innings in three consecutive calendar days. Pitching should be limited based on Calendar Days not on 24 hour periods.
2. Any pitch thrown by a pitcher in an inning constitutes a full inning.
3. No pitcher can re-enter a game as a pitcher once he is removed from that position.
4. Umpires must call balls and strikes from behind home plate.
5. Balks

While pitching from the stretch, a pitcher must come to a complete stop after bringing his/her hands together prior to throwing the ball. A balk occurs if a pitcher fakes either a throw to third or first with a foot on the rubber.

Once the pitcher is in the windup, then he/she may only throw to home.

Balks ultimately are at the judgment of the umpire.

If the pitcher fakes a throw to a base while his foot is on the rubber, a balk will be called. No other balks will be called except in the case of the "hidden ball trick".

6. Pitchers may wear sunglasses.

Base Running

1. Players may not lead off until the ball crosses home plate.
2. Players must wear helmets at all times while in the field of play. Intentional removal of a helmet while baserunning when the ball is live shall result in the runner being given a warning for the first such incident or being declared "OUT" for any further incidents.
3. If the ball is out of play, the runners shall be awarded the base to which they were headed plus one base.
 - Example #1 - An overthrow out of bounds while a runner is going from first base to second - the runner is awarded third base.
 - Example #2 - An overthrow out of bounds while a runner is heading back to first base after going part way to second - the runner is awarded second base.
4. A courtesy runner is allowed at any time for the catcher. Courtesy runners may be used at any time for the catcher – provided the catcher is the catcher of record of the previous inning.
 - The player recording the last out will serve as the pinch runner.
 - A courtesy runner for the catcher is recommended after two outs.

5. If a play is made at home plate, the runner must slide or attempt to avoid contact. It is a judgment call by the umpire if the play is close enough to require a slide. The umpire must call the runner out if the runner does not slide when the umpire decides a slide was required. The catcher cannot block home plate or make a play for the runner if he does not have the ball or will not have the ball before the runner reaches the base. The umpire shall warn the catcher for the first infraction and can eject the catcher from the game for flagrant or further infractions.
6. Runners may steal second and third base, however, a runner may not begin stealing until the ball has crossed home plate. If the runner leaves early he must return to the original base. The team of a player stealing prior the ball crossing the plate will be given a warning from the umpire and required to return to their original base. Following team warning, players stealing prior to the ball crossing the plate may be declared out. On a passed ball or wild pitch (ball passes a 3' arc around the catcher), runners may not take home, a runner can advance to any other base as per the rules, but cannot take home. The purpose is to create a situation where only a ball put into play can score the runner. Therefore, a runner can only take home when the ball is put in play or on a pick-off attempt. A ball being returned to the pitcher from the catcher is not a ball put into play and a runner may not steal home when a ball is returned to the pitcher from the catcher.
7. If a play is made on a runner by throwing the ball, the runner may advance to the next base, including home plate, or return to the original base.
8. NO Dropped 3rd Strike.
9. Head first slides are permitted at all bases.

Batting

1. No designated hitter.
2. All players present at the game must bat.
3. Batters must wear a batting helmet.
4. There is continuous batting in this league.
5. Batter interference is subject to umpire judgment.
6. Fake bunts or slash bunts shall be prohibited.
7. A batter that shows bunt is committed to a bunt attempt or taking the pitch.
8. A batter who swings after showing bunt shall be called out, the ball declared dead and no runners may advance.

Equipment

1. Metal spikes are not allowed.
2. Catchers must wear a protective helmet, facemask, throat protector, shin guards, chest protector and cup.
3. There is no restriction on a bat's weight to length ratio; however, bats are limited to a 2 5/8" maximum barrel diameter. Any adult league bat (those with a weight to length ratio of -3) must conform to current NFHS standards (WSYBL rules).
4. All players must have the same uniform (hats and shirts), if possible.

5-6 PLAYOFF RULES

Playoffs and Awards: Playoffs and Awards: Playoffs and Awards: The League playoffs will take place between July 15 thru 18. The League will supply 1st and 2nd place trophies after completion of all playoff games. 3rd Place teams will receive medals. All regular season games that have a potential impact on playoff seeding must be played by July 14, 2021. Regular season games not played by July 14 do not have to be played. All teams will be seeded by their regular season league records.

If a tie exists for any of the seeds after all league games are completed then the seeding for tied teams will be determined first by head to head results, second by fewest runs allowed, third by most runs scored and finally by a coin toss. All decisions on seeding by the LOH Commissioner are final. For tournament play after July 17th, the number one seed will play the worst seed and so on. The tournament will be single elimination. All league rules apply to all games with the following exceptions/additions:

- 3 innings per pitcher per game.
- 12 innings for the tournament.
- One pitch constitutes an inning.
- "Innings pitched" forms will be handed out prior to the first tournament games
- All forms must be signed by the coaches after each game.
- Forms need to be turned in after your final game each tournament day.
- Violation of pitching rules will result in forfeiture of game by the offending team.
- No substitute or non-rostered players from other LOH teams may be used.
- Games will not start an inning 1 hr, 45 minutes following the time of the first pitch.
- Tournament championship games will not be subject to the time limit.
- Extra innings will invoke the California Tie Breaker Rule: Each team on offense will put the batter who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half of the inning on second base and will start the half inning with one out. Play will continue until a team is ahead at the end of an inning.
- As a courtesy, each team should supply one game ball for each game.