



2023 League Rules

Ages 5-6

Updated January 26, 2023

Coach-Pitch rules shall be the official Little League rules with the league modifications below.

Starting and Ending the Game

- ◆ Fields have 60' bases. Each team provides at least one new ball each game.
- ◆ Coaches will serve as umpires and should be in the field of play. We encourage ALL coaches to teach and coach while in the field.
- ◆ 5-6 year old league scheduled time slots will be 1 hour and fifteen minutes. The first 30 minutes of the scheduled time will be practice; with the last 45 minutes teams will play a game. ***NO EXCEPTIONS or DEVIATIONS.*** It must be realized that practice time is important in the development of each player. Additional practices outside of "game days" are at the discretion of each team/coach.
- ◆ If one or both teams are short players:
 - Must play with eight (8) players, unless the managers agree to exceptions. There will be no automatic out for the 9th batter.
 - If one of the two teams has sufficient players to field a full team, they may send players to the opposing team.
 - Scores do not need to be reported and no standings will be kept.
- ◆ Games will be canceled if the wind chill is 40 degrees or less at game time. After a game starts, coaches may use their own discretion and both teams must agree to call off games at any time due to weather conditions.
- ◆ When thunder is heard or lightning is seen, play **MUST** be suspended for at least 30 minutes before resuming play. Any subsequent thunder or lightning starts a new 30-minute delay. No additional playing time is added due to a weather delay. Time limit rules still apply.

Playing Time

- ◆ Every player **MUST** play an infield position once per game. We strongly urge coaches to rotate players to allow everyone a chance to develop and learn different positions.
- ◆ A player may not play the same position more than two innings in a game.
- ◆ Coaches from the defensive team may be on the field for instructional purposes.
- ◆ It is recommended that all players are on the field for their team's defensive half-inning. A traditional infield shall be used with all extra players positioned in the outfield grass or at least 20 feet behind the bases.
- ◆ Round Robin batting is **MANDATORY**: Every player on the team will be in the batting rotation and take a spot in the field. A half-inning ends when every batter in the batting order has batted. Bases will **NOT** be cleared even if 3 outs are recorded prior to all players batting. However, if an out is recorded on the bases whether at 1st or via a force out, the player forced out will return to the bench.

Pitching

- ◆ Coaches will pitch to their own team and avoid play when the ball is hit.
- ◆ Coaches should **KNEEL** approximately 30-40' away from home plate and adjust their velocity to according to the player's ability to hit the ball.
- ◆ The player in the field at the pitcher's position shall be beside the adult pitcher and have full view of the play.

- ◆ The first 5 week of the season, **ALL** players will hit off the tee. Beginning the week of **June 15th**, coaches will **begin pitching**. Each player is allowed three swinging strikes or 5 pitches. If the ball is not put in play a tee will be available for the player to hit off. Please do not throw additional pitches as this slows the game down. There will be no walks.

Batting

- ◆ No bunting. After one warning, a second attempt to bunt results in the batter being called out.
- ◆ Players shall not warm up with a bat inside or outside the dugout/bench area under any circumstances.
- ◆ Only one warning for a player throwing the bat, whether intentional or unintentional. Next violation, the player may be declared out by the umpire.

Base Running

- ◆ No leading off. Runners must have one foot or both feet on base until the pitch crosses home plate.
- ◆ No stealing bases.
- ◆ No advancing on an overthrow, wild pitch or passed ball. You cannot advance on a ball that is thrown in to foul territory. The foul lines are used as a restricted area for advancing. Coaches, continue teaching players to back up plays.
- ◆ Extra bases on outfield hits should be managed in a conservative, sportsmanlike manner.
- ◆ There is no “must slide” rule. However, a runner is called out if they do not attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag. NO PLOWING!
- ◆ No head-first slides when advancing to a base. The runner shall be called out. Head-first slides are allowed if a player is going back to a base.
- ◆ In the event of an injury to a player, a substitute runner may be used. This substitute must be the player who was the last recorded out. The substitute runner will remain in their normal batting order.

Equipment

- ◆ Non-wood and laminated bats shall bear the **USA Baseball logo** signifying that the bat meets USABat – USA Baseball’s Youth Bat Performance Standard.
- ◆ The bat’s diameter shall not exceed 2 5/8 inches.
- ◆ All BPF 1.15 bats and BBCOR .50 bats are prohibited.
- ◆ All players must wear an athletic supporter.
- ◆ Shoes with metal cleats or spikes shall not be worn by players, managers, coaches, or umpires.

Team Expectations

- ◆ Teams are encouraged to arrive 30-45 minutes before the game to warm up. This early arrival teaches kids how to start preparing for games and helps ensure enough players are fielded to have a game.
- ◆ Home and away designations are on the league schedule.
- ◆ Each team provides at least one new baseball each game. Umpires return the baseballs after the game.
- ◆ Each team will be supplied with a tee with their equipment. This tee is to stay with the team for the duration of the season and should be brought to each game.
- ◆ After the game, teams will shake hands with their opponent in a line extending from the dugouts across home plate.
- ◆ Both teams are responsible for cleaning their dugout, under the bleachers and around the field. Please dispose of all garbage in proper receptacles.
- ◆ In the event of an injury to a player, a substitute runner may be used. The runner must be the last recorded out. This substitute runner should be in his normal batting order.