

2021 FCKLL Sluggers Special Playing Rules
-2021 Amendments to section 9b, baserunners -

1) Games

- a) A complete game consists of three innings.
- b) An offensive team's half inning is complete when all of the players on the team have batted one time regardless of how many outs the defensive team may record.
- c) No new inning may begin one hour and 10 minutes after the scheduled start time of the game. All games must end within one hour and 30 minutes of the scheduled start time.
- d) Neither game scores nor won/loss records are kept in Sluggers either officially or unofficially.
- e) There are no forfeits in Sluggers, nor is there a minimum number of players for a team to play.

2) Equipment

- a) It is recommended each team provide at least two game balls for coach pitch games.
- b) Catchers must wear complete catchers gear which includes a mask/helmet, chest protector, and shin guards. Boys are also required by Official Little League Regulations to wear a protective cup and supporter.

3) Player Participation

- a) All players in good standing must play the entire game. The rare occurrence of playing time being reduced due to a discipline or safety issue must be reported to the level coordinator.
- b) All players will be assigned a defensive position each inning. Player positions will be rotated each inning to provide each player the opportunity to play every position during the season. Each player must play at least one inning a game in an infield position. The rare exception of a player not being able to play certain positions due to a safety issue must be reported to the level coordinator.
- c) All players will be assigned a position in a continuous batting order. The batting order will be adjusted each game, or even each inning, to provide every player the opportunity to bat first and last in the order during the season.

4) Coaches

- a) The defensive team is allowed up to three coaches on the field of play.
 - (1) Two defensive coaches may be positioned in fair territory to guide the defensive players.

- (2) A defensive coach may be positioned in foul territory near the catcher to provide guidance to the catcher. This coach may also assist in collecting pitched balls that pass the catcher.
- b) The offensive team is allowed up to three coaches on the field, plus the offensive team should employ a fourth coach in the dugout to manage the players on the bench.
 - (1) Base coaches – One each in the first and third base coach’s box. There will be no offensive coach at second base. Runners on second should receive direction from the third or first base coach.
 - (2) An offensive coach will pitch to his/her team’s batters and, if the batter does not hit a pitched ball, the coach will handle the tee.
 - (3) Bench coach will manage the players on the bench.
- c) Coaches shall not interfere with play.

5) Umpires

- a) Umpires are not provided for Sluggers games.
- b) Coaches will make any necessary fair/foul or out/safe decisions.

6) Batters / Runners

- a) Each batter is allowed to bat until he or she hits a fair ball.
- b) The offensive manager/coach will pitch to his/her team’s batters.
 - (1) An overhand pitch from an adult will be used.
 - (2) The coach-pitcher can be positioned at the pitchers plate or move up halfway to the batter. The coach-pitcher may pitch from a standing or kneeling position.
 - (3) If the ball is not hit after four pitches, the batter will bat from the tee until he/she hits a fair ball.

Note: Depending upon the speed and time of the game, team managers may agree upon a minimum of three pitches or maximum of five pitches per batter before bringing out the tee.

- c) Batters and baserunners will be limited to running one base on a batted ball that stays in the infield.

Note: The “infield” is the area in front of the baselines or in front of the position of the infielders – whichever is further from the batter.

If an infielder is playing behind the baseline in a traditional infield position, a ball is not considered to be in the outfield until it has passed the infielder. If an infielder is playing slightly in front of the baseline, the ball is not considered to be in the outfield until it has passed the baseline.

- d) Batters and baserunners may advance more than one base on batted balls hit to the outfield. Baserunners must stop when a fielder attempts an overhand throw toward the infield. Baserunners may reach the bases they were advancing to when the throw was attempted.

- e) When the last batter of each inning hits, batter and baserunners may advance all the way to home plate until an out is recorded. Once an out is recorded, the inning is over and no more runners may advance.

7) Fair / Foul Balls

- a) When batting off a tee, a ball is foul if:
 - (1) The ball travels less than 15 feet from home plate in fair territory
 - (2) The batter hits the tee causing the ball to fall from the tee
- b) When hitting coach pitch, Official Little League Regulations for fair/foul will be followed.
- c) The determination of fair or foul is made by the coaches on the field. Whatever the decision, it is most important for the call to be made quickly and clearly. There is no score being kept, and batters will hit until they hit a fair ball, so there is no cause for argument with any fair/foul call.

8) Infield Positions

- a) Teams may position no more than six players in the infield including the pitcher and catcher. Players should be positioned in the traditional infield positions. Remaining players must be positioned in outfield positions. Outfielders should not move inside the baselines.
- b) The pitcher should be positioned in contact with the pitchers plate. When a coach is pitching, the player-pitcher may be positioned slightly to the right or left of the pitchers plate so as not to be obstructed by the coach pitching.
- c) No infielder may be positioned closer to the batter than the pitcher. Infielders should play in the traditional positions.

9) Recording Outs

- a) Defensive teams are encouraged to attempt to make outs (fielders should be taught to throw to bases for force outs, catch pop-ups, etc.).
- b) Batter/runners who are put out shall remain on the base the first half of the season, during the second half of the season they are to be removed from the base paths.
- c) Only the defensive players positioned immediately adjacent to a base will be allowed to record force outs at that base. Specifically, the first baseman and the pitcher are the only players who can record a force out at first base. The second baseman and shortstop may record a force out at second base. The third baseman can record a force out at third base, and the catcher at home.

Note: The league is discouraging defensive players recording force outs by foot race with the batter. A few aggressive players will try to record a force out from any position. The result is fewer players involved in the play, a missed opportunity to attempt a traditional baseball putout and collisions of players at the bases. If coaches are not able to get their players to understand when they should go to the base and when they should throw the ball, the league recommends making all defensive plays a throw to first base.

- d) On the last batter of the inning, all baserunners may attempt to run all the way to home plate. Once the defensive team records an out at any base, the inning is over and no more baserunners may advance.

10) In Sluggers there is NO:

- a) Striking out
- b) Base on balls
- c) Stealing bases
- d) Infield fly rule