

## RULES FOR 2023 PATRIOT LEAGUE REGULAR SEASON

All games will be played in accordance with the 2023 Little League Rule Book.

1. **PITCHING RULES:** All Little League pitching rules will be followed. Pitchers may not pitch on three consecutive days within a seven-day time period. (Please review Regulation VI – Pitchers, for a refresher on the pitching rules, which would also include pitching in two games in one day.)

2. **INABILITY TO PLAY A SCHEDULED GAME:** If it is known a team is unable to play a scheduled game, the manager shall notify Nancy and the opposing manager so umpires may be contacted if their services are no longer needed.

3. **RESCHEDULING GAMES:** An attempt will be made to reschedule all rained out games if there are openings in the schedule. Forfeited or cancelled games by a team will not have priority in being rescheduled.

4. **POOL PLAYERS:** will be allowed to avoid forfeits per Ambria and Nancy's approval. Ambria and/or Nancy will find a player(s) with comparable skills to the player(s) lost for any given game. Managers may not select their own Pool Players. Pool players are not allowed to play the position of pitcher, catcher or an infield position – they are relegated to the outfield only. Pool Players will wear their own team's regular season uniform and bat last in the line-up. Pool players will only be used to get a team to nine players. Additional pool players will not be used as "insurance." Pool players must play the entire game even if the team ends up having enough players to field a team.

5. **CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER:** Will be used throughout the entire season. Free substitutions will be allowed but all players must play a minimum of six outs in the field. Any manager not meeting minimum play for all players on his team will be automatically suspended for a minimum of one game. Hint: make substitutions early to avoid any penalties!

6. **FIELD PREPARATION:** Both teams are responsible for grooming and preparing the field for play, as well as grooming and breaking down the field after the game. Home team is to lead in set up and visitors are to lead in break down. Both teams are responsible for the cleanliness of their respective dugouts and stands after each game, which means emptying the trash and sweeping.

7. **GAME LENGTH:** Due to the lack of lighting and park hours, no new inning shall begin after 7:00 p.m. for weeknight games. Any innings started prior to 7:00 p.m. must end no later than 7:10 p.m. in order to break down the field and vacate the premises. No new inning shall begin after two (2) hours from the scheduled start time for weekend games. Any inning started prior to the two-hour mark must end no later than 10 minutes past the two-hour mark in order to allow the next games' teams to warm-up and prep the field. The last game on weekends is held to the same time-restraints out of respect for the umpires and snack bar volunteers' time.

8. **REQUIRED PLAYER FORMS:** All managers must have in their possession an original, signed medical release from the parent, a concussion form (signed by both player and parent), a Sudden Cardiac Arrest form (signed by both player and parent), and a signed Parent Code of Conduct for each player on the team roster.

9. **MEDICATIONS:** All players **MUST** have current medications in their possession as per listed on their Medical Release. Expired prescriptions are not acceptable. If a player does not have his/her prescription as listed on the medical release he/she must be removed from the field until the parent provides a current prescription.

10. **MERCY RULE:** If after four (4) innings—three and one-half innings if the home team is ahead—one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If after five (5) innings—four and one-half innings if the home team is ahead—one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If after six (6) innings—five and one-half innings if the home team is ahead—one team has a lead of eight (8) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent.

*Notes:* (1) If the visiting team has a lead of fifteen (15) or ten (10) or eight (8) runs or more respectively, the home team must bat in its half of the inning.

(2) A game determined by the 15-run rule, shall be considered a regulation game.

11. **COACHES:** Only the manager and two rostered coaches are allowed on the field during warm-ups and during the game. This means all coaches must have been cleared by Joe by having a background check and attended the skills and safety clinics within the past three years. Any replacement coaches must be approved by Nancy or Joe prior to each game.

12. **SCOREKEEPER:** The home team must provide a scorekeeper at each game and the visiting team will provide a pitch counter. The scorekeeper **MUST** complete and sign each managers' Pitching Affidavit at the end of each game.

13. **LINE-UP CARDS:** All players must be listed on the line-up cards. If anyone is absent, designate as such on the card.

14. **MINIMUM PLAYERS REQUIRED:** Games may start and be played with eight players on each team. If used, team(s) will be charged an out for the ninth position.

15. **BORROWED PLAYERS:** If a team cannot field nine players, a player(s) from the opposing team may play defensively for the opposing team but may only play in the outfield. The borrowed player(s) must bat for their own team in the spot designated for them on the line-up card.

16. **PITCHING AFFIDAVITS:** Must be carried by each team to every game. It is the sole responsibility of the team manager to maintain the affidavit. The affidavit must be signed by the home scorekeeper immediately after each game so as not to old them up. If a completed pitching affidavit is not provided prior to the start of the game to the UIC or home scorekeeper, the game will be suspended, and the manager will be subject to disciplinary action by the league.

17. **BATTERS:** Must keep one foot in the batter's box during at-bat. See Rule 6.02C for details and exceptions.

18. **WARMING UP PLAYERS:** Coaches warming up players is now allowable under Little League rules. However, leagues may choose to adopt these as written by Little League or they may augment to provide a level of safety for the coach. Patriot League coaches may warm up pitchers in the bull pen as well as on the field of play in-between innings; however, a mask is required, and cup protection is recommended.

19. **GAME/ FIELD DECORUM:** The actions of players, managers, coaches, umpires and league officials must be above reproach. Any player, manager, coach, umpire or league representative who is involved in a verbal or physical altercation, or an incident of **unsportsmanlike conduct of any kind**, which will include the use of foul language, derogatory remarks or excessive celebrating, which includes taunting towards another manager, coach, player, umpire, etc., at the game site is subject to disciplinary action by the league's Board of Directors. Anyone who has disciplinary action pending against them will not be allowed to participate in any game until such disciplinary action is resolved. Any player, manager or coach ejected from a game will be suspended for a minimum of one game beginning with the next game. (Please discuss with players and coaches possible reasons for ejections, i.e., throwing helmets, foul language, arguing calls, taunting, etc., which can be applied before or after the games as long as the umpires are on the field.)