

RULES FOR 2026 PATRIOT LEAGUE REGULAR SEASON

All games will be played in accordance with the 2026 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 the President 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:** Pool Players will be allowed (to avoid forfeits) per the president or player agent's approval. Player(s) with comparable skills to the player(s) lost for any given game will be found. 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." If a pool player is secured and shows up to a game but a regular player shows up who previously stated they would not be there, then the pool player is to play the entire game, while the other player is the sub.

5. **CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER:** CBO 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:

WEEKNIGHT GAMES – The drop-dead time will be 7:10 p.m. with no exceptions, including but not limited to letting the next batter bat. No new innings will start after 7:00 p.m. due to the lack of lighting and park hours and in order to break down the field and vacate the premises.

WEEKEND GAMES: Game clock starts when Plate Meeting is finished and players have finished reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and Little League pledge. From that moment "no new inning" applies at two hours from start. Drop dead time is two hours and 10 minutes from start 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 and Player 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 the Safety Officer by having a background check, livescan and attended the skills and safety clinics within the past three years to be on the field or in the dugout. Any replacement coaches must be approved by the President or Safety Officer prior to each game.

12. **SCOREKEEPING & PITCH COUNT:** The home team must provide a scorekeeper at each game and the visiting team will provide a scoreboard operator, except at the San Carlos Rec Center Field, where there is no scoreboard and no scoreboard operator is required. GameChanger will be used for all scorekeeping and pitch counting during regular season games by the Official Scorekeeper (provided by the home team). No additional pitch counter is required at games. The official scorekeeper **MUST** complete and sign each managers' Pitching Affidavit at the end of each game using the data from Game Changer. If games are played at Shira Field, the scorekeeper **must be in the score booth**. If games are played at the San Carlos Rec Center Field, the scorekeeper must sit **near the backstop and home plate** and must **identify themselves to the umpire prior to the game**.

13. **PITCHING AFFIDAVITS:** Each team must carry a pitching affidavit to every game. The team manager is solely responsible for maintaining the pitching affidavit. The affidavit must be signed by the home team official scorekeeper immediately after each game. Pitch counts will be taken from GameChanger. If a completed pitching affidavit is not provided prior to the start of the game to the UIC or home scorekeeper, the game may be suspended, and the manager may be subject to league disciplinary action.

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

15. **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.

16. **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.

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.)