



Greater Fauquier Little League Baseball/Softball By-Laws



Appendix (A) - Local Rules

Blast Ball and Tee Ball Divisions (Baseball & Softball)

The most current Little League Baseball Rules and Regulations will govern all play not specified below.

- The ball used at this level is a "softer" version of a regulation baseball and/or softball, which greatly reduces the potential for serious injury.
- The score shall not be kept.
- Games are permitted to begin with less than ten (10) players (but no less than 6)
- Four Coaches are allowed in Tee Ball and Blast Ball; one Coach must remain in the dugout at all times.

Mandatory Play

- All players shall be listed in the batting order and shall bat once every inning.
- All players shall play in the field every inning.
- Coaches should teach the basic fielding position and not line all the kids up in the infield in a rainbow pattern.
- All players must play at least one inning in the infield and one inning in the outfield.

The Defense

- All players shall play on defense every inning. The extra players must be positioned in the outfield. · All outfield players shall be positioned at least 15 feet off the base path.
- A player in the outfield may not make a putout in the infield unless acting as a back-up on a run down. The outfield player must throw to an infielder for an out.
- Two (2) defensive coaches may be positioned on the outfield grass in order to reposition and coach players after the completion of a play. They may coach the players during live play. No other defensive coaches shall be on the playing field.
- The pitcher and first baseman may wear a batting helmet with a protective facemask while on defense.
- The pitcher shall be positioned either on the pitching mound or within 3 feet of either side of the pitching mound, even with the pitching plate.
- The catcher shall be positioned in such a way that a potentially thrown bat poses no danger. For example, in the case of a right-handed batter, place the catcher a few feet behind and to the right of home plate. Reverse this for left-handed batters.

The Tee

- The tee shall be placed directly in front of home plate. It shall not be placed on the plate. This serves two purposes: it teaches players proper hitting technique and it also provides for a much safer environment as runners advance between third base and home.

The Offense

- The batting order will consist of all eligible players.
- All players in the batting order shall bat every inning. Although runners are removed when they are put out, the side does not retire until all players listed in the batting order have completed their turn at bat.
- One (1) adult coach shall operate the tee and determine whether the ball is fair/foul.

The Batter

- The batter swings at a ball placed on the tee until the ball travels into fair territory.
- Strikes shall not be recorded.

The Runner

- Stealing is not allowed.
- The runner is removed from the base when he/she is put out. In T-Ball Division only after three runners have been put out bases are cleared, and play continues with next batter.

- There is no advance on an overthrow. For balls hit to the outfield, base runners may advance until the ball is "under control" (in possession) in fair territory by one of the infielders. If a base runner is more than halfway to the next base, then the runner is entitled to try to reach that base. Otherwise, the base runner must return to the last base legally occupied. A fielder still has an option of making a play on the runner and if tagged, the runner is out; otherwise the above rules apply as to whether the runner was halfway or not when the ball was originally "under control". In order to fairly judge this, a mark should be placed halfway between first and second, second and third, and third and home plate.
- During the last batter of an inning, the batter and all runners can run on overthrows and can continue to run until an out has been made. The last batter will be treated as if there are two outs and the defense is trying to make the third out. The defense should try to get an out on any of the runners or the batter. Once an out is made or the last batter scores, the inning is over.

Starting and Ending the Game

- A maximum of three (3) innings shall be played at this level.
- A new inning shall not begin after one (1) hour.
- The game shall not continue after 1 ½ hours.

Team Responsibilities, Pre and Post Game

- The home team will sit in the first base dugout.
- Pre-game practice time between games shall be divided equally between home and visitor when consecutive games are played on the same field in the same day.
- 10 minutes before game time shall be reserved for grooming the field and discussing ground rules with the umpire.
- The home team is responsible for raking/grooming the field, lining the field, repairing the pitching mound, repairing the batter's box and putting away the bases.
- Although the home team has the responsibility for field maintenance prior to and after games, the visiting team should have volunteers to assist with getting the field ready for play and repairing the field at the end of the game. Both teams shall clean up the dugouts and spectator areas after each game. However, the Home team has the final responsibility to ensure the cleanup has occurred.