



Greater Fauquier Little League Baseball/Softball By-Laws



Appendix (A) - Local Rules Minors "A" Division - Baseball

The most current Little League Baseball rulebook will govern play not specified below.

Mandatory Play

- No player shall sit out two (2) consecutive innings, nor shall any player sit out a second inning prior to all eligible players having sat out an inning. No player shall sit out a third inning prior to all eligible players having sat out two (2) innings.
- All players must play two (2) innings in the infield and two (2) innings in the outfield or catcher.
- Infield positions are defined as 1st, 2nd, 3rd base, shortstop, pitcher for mandatory play purposes.
- Four coaches are allowed in this division, one coach must remain in the dugout at all times.

The Defense

- The defense shall field a maximum of ten (10) players. The extra player must be positioned in the outfield. All outfield players shall be positioned at least 15 feet beyond the outfield grass cut. The third baseman and shortstop must be positioned at the time of the pitch no closer than one step in from a straight line running from second to third base. The second baseman and first baseman must be positioned at the time of the pitch no closer than one step in from a straight line running from first to second base.
- A player in the outfield may not make a put out in the infield unless acting as a back-up on a run down. The outfield player must throw to an infielder for a put out.
- The pitcher position shall be within 3 feet of either side of the pitching mound, even with the pitching plate.
- The catcher shall wear all regulation protective gear to include a catcher's mitt and be positioned properly behind the plate in the catcher's box.

The Pitcher

- A coach from the offensive team will operate the pitching machine to their team's respective batters.
- **Pitching machines are to be set 30-35 feet from the plate or slightly in front of the mound. Settings are position A3, B4, C5 Pitch speed is 32-36 mph.**
- **The coach may coach the batter between pitches, but may not coach after delivery of the pitch, while the ball is in play, or coach the base runner. Should two base runners be caught on the same base, the lead runner will be called "out" by the umpire.**
- If a ball comes into contact the coach, after the ball is hit, the ball is considered live and in play.

The Offense

- Each of the first five innings shall end after three outs, five (5) runs, or when all players have batted once during the half-inning, whichever comes first.
- The top and bottom of the 6th will end when either three (3) outs are made or when everyone in the line-up bats once, whichever comes first. It does not matter if the teams have a different number of batters.

The Batter

- Bunting is not allowed
- Strikes are recorded. A batter will be called out with three (3) swinging strikes or five (5) total pitches. The out is recorded towards the "3 outs an inning."
- Bunting is not allowed. If the 5th pitch is fouled off, the batter will be awarded another pitch. If the pitch is deemed unhittable by the umpire's judgment, he may be awarded another pitch, **(examples: ball hits the batter, ball several feet outside the strike zone, etc.)**

The Runner

- Stealing is not allowed.
- Runners may advance one (1) base on an overthrow at their own risk with only one advance on the overthrow on the same play. **If the defensive team chooses to try make a play on the runner taking the additional**

base which results in ANOTHER overthrow, then one (1) additional base may be taken for each subsequent attempt made against a runner.

- Runners cannot advance to another base once the ball reaches the infield and is under control by an infielder or if the runners are contained. The runner may continue to the next base in this situation but must return to the previous base if they were no more than half the distance to the advancing base at the time of the ball entering the field. **(judgment call by the umpire)**
- For balls hit to the outfield, base runners may advance until the ball is "under control" (in possession) in fair territory in the infield by one of the infielders (in this instance the catcher is considered an infielder). 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."

Starting and Ending the Game

- A maximum of six (6) innings shall be played at this level.
- No new inning may start after 1 hour 45 minutes.
- The game shall not continue after 2 hours.
- There will be no time limit in playoff games.
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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. · The home team scorekeeper shall be the official scorer and is designated as the official pitch count recorder for each 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.