



Little League (Majors) Baseball Division **Local Rules – Effective Spring 2026**

The 2026 Little League Baseball Rules and Regulations will govern all play not covered below.

Batting Line-up

- During the regular season, teams may choose to use a nine (9) player batting order following substitution rules outlined in the Little League rules, or a continuous line-up. This determination must be announced at the plate conference.

Note 1: A nine (9) player batting order must be used for all post-season games.

Note 2: All mandatory play requirements must be met regardless of batting line-up employed.

Mandatory Play

- Game may start with eight (8) players. Note that this is the exception and not the rule. Teams who will be at roster sizes of 10 and below for a given game should use pool players as first option. When starting with 8 players an out is called for 9th player.

The Batter

- The dropped third strike rule will be employed for all games. A player may attempt to advance to first base on a dropped third strike when first base is unoccupied with less than two (2) outs, or in any situation with two (2) outs. Rule 6.05(b) (2).

*Baseball and Softball – Rule 7.15(g) – Procedures for Use of a Double First Base: Clarifies that on an uncaught third strike, the fielder and the runner can use either part of the base.

Courtesy Runners

Courtesy Runners: A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher at any time and for the pitcher only when there are two outs. The courtesy runner is the player who made the last out. If there have been no outs in the inning, use the last out from the previous inning. If there have been no outs in the game, the team must wait until the first out is recorded. If both the pitcher and catcher reach base with two outs, courtesy runners are assigned in the order the runners reached base, using the most recent outs.

Starting and Ending the Game

- For purposes of time limits, the game immediately starts at the conclusion of the plate conference.
- No new inning may start after 1 hour and 45 minutes.
- The game will end and there will be no pitch after 2 hours and 15 minutes.
- An inning begins immediately upon the end of the preceding inning. Play should begin within two (2) minutes after the start of the inning.

- **Suspended Games / Tie Games:**

If a game is called before it becomes a regulation game (e.g., due to weather), or if a tie game is stopped due to a time limit, the game shall be suspended and resumed from the exact point of stoppage at a later date, in accordance with Rules 4.10(d), 4.11(e), and 4.12.

- There will be no time limit in playoff games.

- **Run Rule:**

A game shall be declared over and scored as a regulation game if a team is ahead by **15 runs after three (3) innings, 10 runs after four (4) innings, or 8 runs after five (5) innings.**

- ***** Double First Base – Safety Bag:** When a double first base (orange safety bag) is present, it is in effect and must be used in accordance with LL Rule 7.15.