

SCOTTS VALLEY LITTLE LEAGUE
2026 Approved A-Ball Local Rules

1) Age Range:

- a) League Age 5–8-year-olds –Notes:
 - i) It is recommended but not required that players entering A-ball have at least 1 year of experience at the T-ball level.
 - ii) Note that League Age 5- and 6-year-olds are required by LLI rules to have played at least 1 year of T-ball before advancing to this minor’s division.

2) Equipment/Field dimensions:

- a) Only league issued “soft” balls, and Little League approved helmets and catcher’s gear shall be used.
- b) The field of play extends 5 feet from each foul line into foul territory. No spectators are allowed to sit within the field of play.

3) General League Rules:

- a) All managers/coaches shall **READ and KNOW** all rules supplied by Little League International and SVLL. They shall keep a copy of all rules with their equipment (analog or digital). All volunteers **must** complete the Little League International background check form and other required training yearly and turn it in to SVLL (including one-time DOJ Live Scan fingerprinting), **prior** to being allowed on the field (even during practices). Managers and coaches are encouraged to complete all required trainings by January 1. Managers who have not completed their required training will not be allowed to select a practice day/time.
- b) If a rule is not presently covered in the Official Regulations and Playing Rules or Operating Manual or by these local rules and/or needs clarification, the Board will make a ruling and those rules and/or clarification shall then be incorporated as a local rule.
- c) All games will normally consist of 6 innings unless shortened by agreement of both team managers. A time limit shall apply to all games such that no new inning shall begin after 90 minutes from the time of the first pitch unless shortened by agreement of both team managers.
- d) The home team is listed first on the schedule and should sit on the third base side.
- e) The visiting team is responsible for preparing the field for play. (The visiting team is urged to help.)
- f) The home team (if the last scheduled game of the day) is responsible for the removal and storage of all equipment after the game. (The home team is urged to help.)
- g) Both teams are responsible after the game for making sure the field, dugout area and stands are clean, and all garbage is placed in the cans provided.
- h) For safety reasons:
 - i) There is NO on-deck circle.
 - ii) Batters are not allowed to pick up their bat until it is their turn in the batting order, and they are walking up to the plate.
 - iii) No shorts or short pants are allowed to be worn by players during practices/games.
- i) It is a privilege, and not a right of a team to take warm-up practice on the field. Except for unusual circumstances, all games are to start on time.
 - i) Home team will be allowed to warm-up in the slot 15 minutes prior to game time.
 - ii) Visiting team will be allowed to warm-up time in the slot 15-30 minutes prior to game time.
- j) No parents are allowed on the playing field during a game unless they are officially participating as a manager, coach, assistant coach, or umpire.
- k) The team manager is responsible for the safe keeping of all issued equipment for the duration of the season and for doing their best in preserving this and other league equipment and facilities.
- l) All managers/coaches and players shall exhibit good sportsmanship. If at any time a SVLL Board member believes that poor sportsmanship has occurred and/or an incident has been reported to them, the incident will then be reported to the responsible League Commissioner (for managers or coaches) and/or the Player Agent (for players). The League Commissioner and/or Player Agent will meet with the “offending” party and others who may have observed the purported incident

SCOTTS VALLEY LITTLE LEAGUE
2026 Approved A-Ball Local Rules

to collect information and determine if further review is needed. The League Commissioner and/or Player Agent will then meet with the Executive Committee to discuss the incident, report their findings, and recommend if further action is warranted. If it is found that there may be an issue, one and/or all the following may occur:

- i) Offending manger/coach shall appear before the Executive Committee to discuss the situation and if warranted, suspension from one or more games. Any penalty will require Board approval.
- ii) Offending player and parent shall meet with the Player Agent and League Commissioner to discuss the situation and if warranted, suspension from one or more games. They may also be required to write a letter, as determined by the Player Agent and League Commissioner, about sportsmanship to the league/team(s), which must be received prior to their participation in any future games.
- iii) If the incident is serious enough, the offending Manager/Coach or Player, with Board approval, may be disqualified from post season activities.
- m) **Minimum play requirements:** Each player must play a minimum of ½ of the game on defense.
- n) SVLL adopts rule 7.15 – Use of a Double First Base – as stated in the LLI rule book for Little League Baseball.
- o) A division teams shall not have more than 3 official events per week before or after Opening Day. An event is defined as a game, a mandatory practice, and a non-mandatory practice coordinated by a manager/coach, or person affiliated with a player on the team. Sunday shall be the first day of the week. Practices shall not exceed 90 minutes.

4) Game Specifics:

- a) Rather than rescheduling, games may be played with less than 9 players, as determined by the Team Manager. (up to 2 Defensive players may be “borrowed” from the other team, as required and available.)
- b) There is a 4-run limit to each batted ½ inning. After 4 runs are scored or 3 outs are made in a ½ inning (which ever comes first), the team batting and the team in the field will switch.
- c) The visiting team shall supply a plate/base umpire.
- d) Score shall be kept; however, no league standings shall be kept.
- e) At the conclusion of the game, each team should line up and congratulate the players on the other team.

5) Offense:

- a) A coach (for the team batting) will throw from the pitching rubber, using an overhand delivery.
- b) Batter will receive up to 5 hittable pitches to put the ball in play. The batter is entitled to another pitch if on the previous pitch, the pitch is fouled off. There will be no walks.
- c) Batting order will consist of the entire team roster. Managers may use a different batting order for the first and second scheduled games of the season. Prior to the second scheduled game of the season, whether or not the first game was rained out or otherwise canceled, the managers must submit their permanent line-up to their Division Representative. Once permanent lineups are established, the first batter of each game shall be the batter who was next scheduled to bat in the previous game at the time of the last out.
- d) If a batted ball hits the adult pitcher, the ball is dead, and the pitch is redone.
- e) Intentional bunting is NOT allowed.
- f) Stealing is NOT allowed, nor advancement on wild pitches or passed balls.

6) Defense:

- a) Each team will field up to 10 players, utilizing four (4) outfielders.
- b) All players shall be rotated equally in all positions throughout the season, with the intent of allowing all players to play all positions though out the season.
- c) No catchers will be allowed. Any player can cover home plate when a play is made at the plate.

SCOTTS VALLEY LITTLE LEAGUE
2026 Approved A-Ball Local Rules

- d) Play stops when a ball thrown by a defensive player enters the 8-foot diameter pitcher's circle. No other play can be made (Runners who are between bases at this point shall return to the previous base if they were not more than ½ ways to the next base/home plate).
- e) On any overthrow, the ball is dead and there shall be no advancement.

7) Other:

- a) All players will receive a participant trophy at the end of the season.
- b) There is no draft at this level. The Player Agent, League Commissioner and Director of Registration shall assign players to teams.