



Local Rules

2026

Manager's Rules and Regulations

- A. **Manager Discipline:** If a player is disciplined (for missing games, practices or for some other reason), the President of the League **MUST** be notified in advance and in writing that the player will not play in a game. Exception: It is not mandatory that any player in the Minors Division play 3 innings or bats if HE or SHE wishes not to do so. This was one of the reasons this league was formed. Be it certain, however, that all players wishing to play, do so. If a child does not play the required time in any game, the Manager must come before the Board of Directors and explain the reason why. It will be at the discretion of the Board to suspend the Manager.
- B. **Team Roster/Scorebook:** Upon request, coaches must show opposing coaches the team roster and lineup with all appropriate lineup changes.
- C. **Field Preparation:** Before the start of each game, all preparation will be completed by **BOTH** the home team and the visitor's team managers and coaches. Bases, rakes, liners and lime are stored in the container at Paper Mill and the fieldhouse at Cross Street. When preparing the field, do not rake toward the grass. It is the responsibility of the managers to return all field equipment to the storage areas following their games.
- D. **Swearing/Smoking/Drinking Alcoholic Beverages:** None of the before mentioned are allowed by the players, managers, or coaches. Any player doing so will be immediately suspended from the game. Managers and coaches will be dealt with by the Board of Directors.
- E. **Umpire Harassment:** Umpire harassment will not be tolerated. The umpire has the authority to eject from the game any player, coach, or manager who physically or verbally abuses an umpire or displays unsportsmanlike conduct or language. Please keep in mind that umpires can make mistakes. If you have a dispute with an umpire, bring it to the attention of the Vice President of your Division or the Umpire-in-Chief.
- F. **Practice Fields:** With the exception of "reserved" practice fields by the league or by school officials, no manager has the authority to take over any field at a playground or school for his/her own use if it is already in use. Fields at the following facilities have been reserved: Cross Street, Paper Mill, Hampton Ponds, Sadie Knox and the Intermediate School.
- G. **Practice Sessions:** All practices should be limited to 2 hours in Majors, Wheeler and Farm, 90 minutes in Instructional and 75 minutes in Rookie.
- H. **Rainouts:** Only the **Vice President (or designate)** can cancel a game due to rain. No manager will decide to cancel any game without consulting one of the above first. Once the game has started, the only person with the authority to suspend the game because of weather conditions is the home plate umpire.
- I. **Equipment:** Each team will be issued an equipment bag with catcher's gear and a first aid kit. League issued equipment is to be taken care of and not abused. Any lost equipment is the responsibility of the manager and will be expected to be replaced by him/her. Any broken equipment should be turned into the Equipment Manager for exchange. We spend nearly \$4,000 yearly for baseballs and softballs. Keep track of them. The designated home team is responsible for providing game balls for each game in the Senior, Majors and Wheeler Divisions. They will be distributed to managers prior to opening day. It is the responsibility of the manager to turn in all equipment to the Equipment Manager at the conclusion of the season. The Equipment Manager should not have to track everyone down to collect the equipment.

Specific Local Regulations

In general, all rules and regulations in the 2026 Little League Baseball Rulebook must be followed. The Official 2026 Little League® Rulebooks App can be downloaded free of charge from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#), and also from the [Amazon Kindle Store](#).

The following local rules and regulations are exceptions to the rulebook and apply to regular season play only.

All Divisions

General Playing Rules

- All teams must wear League issued jerseys, hats and socks during their games.
- Bats – USA Baseball or single source/piece wood bat.
- The home plate umpire has the official time and may call a game early because of darkness or other weather-related situations.
- **Regular Season Game Limitations:**
 - Majors – No new inning after 2 hours from the scheduled start time.
 - Wheeler – No new inning after 2 hours from the scheduled start time.
 - Farm – Limited to 105 minutes.
 - Instructional – Limited to 90 minutes.
 - Rookie – Limited to 75 minutes.

***NOTE:** The declaration of the last inning must be made with the 2 Managers and Umpire (if applicable) together.*

- No game balls will be given to players.
- Managers must submit scores on Westfield Little League website after each game ([Click Here](#))

Pitching

- Little League Pitch Count Rules are in effect for all divisions (see **Pitching Rules and Regulations on last page**)
- Managers must fill out online Pitching Log after each game ([Click Here](#))
- The calendar week runs from Sunday to Saturday.

Lineups and Substitutions

- Official Little League batting order sheets indicating prior pitching totals must be used each game and given to the opposing Manager.
- All players must play a minimum of 3 defensive innings. One inning equals three outs.
- Every player must be in the game by the 2nd inning.
- All players must bat in rotation (whether or not they are playing defense).

Pre-Game Protocol (Majors/Wheeler)

Example – 5:30 pm game

- 4:30 pm –Batting Cages Available (60 minutes before first pitch)
- 5:10 pm – Visitor Infield Practice (20 minutes before first pitch)
- 5:20 pm – Home Infield Practice (10 minutes before first pitch)
- 5:30 pm – Game Start

Majors Division

- All pitchers are limited to 7 innings per week (Sunday to Saturday). One inning equals three outs.
- All 12 year old pitchers are eligible to pitch, provided no more than 14 innings of 12 year old pitching is used in any calendar week.
- Maximum of 8 players in each age group.
- The designated home team will provide game balls for each game.

Wheeler Division

- All pitchers are limited to 6 innings per week (Sunday to Saturday).
- All pitchers are limited to 50 pitches per game during the first half of the regular season.
- League age 12-year olds players are not allowed to pitch (per Little League International rules).
- All players must play one defensive inning in the outfield and one defensive inning in the infield each game.
- There is a 5 run limit per inning for each team (waived for the last inning).
- The designated home team will provide game balls for each game.

Farm Division

- All players must play one defensive inning in the outfield and one defensive inning in the infield each game.
- There is a 3 run limit per inning for each team.
- Games are limited to 1 hour and 45 minutes or 6 complete innings (whichever comes first).
- Stealing – Baserunners may not advance on wild pitches, passed balls, stolen bases or overthrows.
- There is no infield fly rule.
- Batters must wear helmets with cages.
- Teams may have 2 adult coaches on the bases during games, provided there is also a coach in the dugout.
- There will be a tournament at the end of the season. The tournament will consist of one round robin to determine seeding. The teams with the two best records will play in a Championship game. Little League tiebreakers will be used to determine seeding, if needed.

Pitching

- Coaches will pitch for the first 2 innings.
- Players will pitch from the third inning on.
- There are no walks. If a player is pitching and throws 4 balls to a batter, a coach will step in to pitch to that batter. The count will not reset. Coaches could strike out batters.
- All pitchers are limited to 6 innings per week (Sunday to Saturday).
- No player may pitch more than 3 innings per game. One inning equals three outs.
- Pitching rubber will be a distance of 40 feet. Players capable of pitching from 46 feet should do so all season.

Instructional Division

- All players must play one defensive inning in the outfield and one defensive inning in the infield each game.
- All Players must be moved into different positions inning to inning. This rule is established to provide every player the opportunity to experience multiple positions.
- There is a 3 run limit per inning for each team.
- Games are limited to 90 minutes or 6 complete innings (whichever comes first).
- Stealing – Baserunners may not advance on wild pitches, passed balls, stolen bases or overthrows.
- Batters must wear helmets with cages.
- Teams may have 2 adult coaches on the bases during games, provided there is also a coach in the dugout.
- Teams may have 3 adult coaches in the field to assist with defensive positioning, provided there is also a coach in the dugout.
- No standings will be kept. Also, no trophies will be awarded for any team.

Pitching

- Coaches will pitch for the first three innings.
- If a coach strikes out a batter, the batter will be able to put the ball in play using a tee.
- Players will pitch from the 4th inning on.
- There are no walks. If a player is pitching and throws 4 balls to a batter, a coach will step in to pitch to that batter.
- All players are limited to 4 innings pitched per week (Sunday to Saturday).
- No player may pitch more than 2 innings per game. One inning equals three outs.
- Pitching rubber will be a distance of 35 feet. Players capable of pitching from 40 feet should do so all season.
- A coach from the defensive team must be positioned next to the pitcher for safety and to intercept balls hit hard back to the pitcher that the pitcher may not handle. The coach next to the pitcher will have a bucket of balls with him/her. If the ball goes past the catcher a new ball should be taken from the bucket and handed to the pitcher to keep the game moving at a good pace.
- A coach from the offensive team must be positioned behind the catcher to retrieve passed balls, assist batters and keep the game moving.

Pitching Rules and Regulations – See Next Page

Pitching Rules and Regulations

Refer to rulebook for more details

| Pitch Count Quick Reference Guide | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|
| League Age | Pitches | Pitches | Pitches | Pitches | Pitches | Max Pitches |
| Age 7 | 1-20 | 21-35 | 36-50 | --- | --- | 50 Max |
| Age 8 | 1-20 | 21-35 | 36-50 | --- | --- | 50 Max |
| Age 9 | 1-20 | 21-35 | 36-50 | 51-65 | 66-75 | 75 Max |
| Age 10 | 1-20 | 21-35 | 36-50 | 51-65 | 66-75 | 75 Max |
| Age 11 | 1-20 | 21-35 | 36-50 | 51-65 | 66-85 | 85 Max |
| Age 12 | 1-20 | 21-35 | 36-50 | 51-65 | 66-85 | 85 Max |
| Days Rest | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |

- A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game and is not covered under the threshold exception cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.
- Any player, who has played the position of catcher in any part of 4 or more innings in a game, is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.
- A player who played the position of catcher for 3 innings or less, moves to the pitcher position, and delivers 21 pitches or more in the same day, may not return to the catcher position on the same calendar day. Exception: If the pitcher reaches the 20-pitch limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to return to the catcher position, until any one of the following conditions occur: 1) that batter reaches base; 2) that batter is retired; or 3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game.
- A pitcher once removed from the mound cannot return as a pitcher.
- The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group (as noted above), but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position. **Exception:** If a pitcher reaches the limit for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: 1) That batter reaches base; 2) That batter is put out; 3) The third out is made to complete the half-inning. **NOTE:** If a pitcher reaches 40 pitches while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day, until any one of the following conditions occurs: 1) that batter reaches base; 2) that batter is retired; or 3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game. The pitcher would be allowed to play the catcher position provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter. If a player delivers 41 or more pitches, and is not covered under the threshold exception, the player may not play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.
- Players can not pitch in 3 consecutive days.