

2026 Minor 1 Machine Pitch Rules) – Boys Baseball

Pre-Game Guidelines:

- **Little League Pledge:** Must be read before each game.
- **Start Times:**
 - Weekday games begin promptly at **6:00 PM**.
 - Saturday games start at the **scheduled time**.
- **Time Limit:**
 - No new inning may start after **1 hour and 15 minutes**.
 - Games will not exceed **1 hour and 30 minutes**.
- **Home Team Responsibilities:**
 - The **home team** is the second team listed on the schedule and will bat last.
 - The home coach should arrive early to:
 - Set up the pitching machine.
 - Line and prepare the field.
 - Bases must be set at **50 feet**.

Batting Rules:

- **Pitch Limit:**
 - Each batter receives **7 pitches** unless they hit a **foul tip** on the 7th pitch—then they may continue.
 - **Out Rule:** If a batter does not hit within **7 pitches**, they are out (applies to 7 total pitches, not 7 swings).
- **Post-May 15th Rule:**
 - Starting **May 15th**, **3 swinging strikes** will be considered an out.
- **No Tees or Walks:**
 - Batters cannot use a tee, and **walks** are not allowed.
- **Hard Balls Only:**
 - **No "softie" balls** are permitted—only standard **hard baseballs or softballs** are allowed.
- **No On-Deck Batters:**
 - Players must remain in the **dugout** until it is their turn to bat.

Base Running Rules:

- **No Stealing or Leading Off:**
 - Runners cannot **steal bases** or **lead off**.
- **Base Advancement:**
 - Players may advance **one base per hit**, unless:
 - **Ball hit in the air to the outfield:** The batter and base runners may advance **two bases** at their own risk.
 - **Ball on the ground passing an outfielder:** Players may also advance **two bases**.
- **5-Run Limit:**
 - Each inning has a **5-run maximum**.

Fielding Rules:

- **Player Participation:**
 - All players must be **in the game** at all times.
 - A maximum of **6 players** in the infield; remaining players should be positioned in the **outfield grass**.

- **Team Size:**
 - **No forfeits**—games will be played regardless of the number of players present.
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Pitching Machine & Coach Pitch Guidelines:

- **Machine Setup:**
 - The pitching machine must be placed **35 feet** from home plate.
 - Speed should be set to **4**.
 - **Dead Ball Rule:**
 - If a batted ball **hits the pitching machine, bucket, or coach**, it is a **dead ball**.
 - **Loading the Machine:**
 - Ensure the **sling arm** is set in the middle of the release stop and **avoid pulling hard**—this ensures consistent pitches.
 - **Ball Return:**
 - All **7 pitches** must be thrown before returning the ball to the pitcher.
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Game Cancellation Policy:

- **Only the League President or Vice President** has the authority to cancel a game.
 - Contact them first if you believe a game should be canceled.