

# ARROYO GRANDE VALLEY LITTLE LEAGUE

The rules listed below do not make up the entire rules for a division, but an overview of key rules. Use the QR code to download the Official Little League Rulebook app on your smart phone.



Little League Rulebook App

<https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/little-league-rulebook-app/>

## DIVISION RULES - 2026 SEASON JUNIOR DIVISION GENERAL

- The Junior League Baseball Division is a program for boys and girls league ages 13-15, using a conventional 90-foot diamond with a pitching distance of 60 feet, 6 inches.
- Players who are League Age 12 may request to NOT be drafted to the Junior League Division prior to the draft. The request will be honored by the League EXCEPT when the board decides that the player poses a safety risk to other players.
- A player shall attend an Junior Skills Assessment to be considered for an Junior team. Those players who are unable to attend a Skills Assessment may provide a recording of their child catching, throwing, and hitting a baseball for coaches to review/rate.
  - Any player who does not attend a Skills Assessment AND does not provide a recording of their skill will be placed on a team as a hat pick in the draft process
- This is a competitive division. Score and division standings will be kept. Teams will be chosen by coaches in a draft. Teams will be formed to eleven (11) or twelve (12) players.

### FIELD / GAMEPLAY

- The side is retired when three offensive players are legally put out or called out by an umpire. The Junior division does NOT have a five-run rule per inning.
- Official umpires will call the game. The Dropped third strike rule is in effect. The Infield fly rule will be in effect and called by umpires. No "Must Slide" rule.
- The bases shall be set at Ninety (90) feet. (Junior base path may be 80 feet if necessary).

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- The Pitching mound shall be set at 60-feet, 6-inches (rear tip of home plate to the back of the pitching rubber).
- The Outfield fence shall be set at a distance of at least 300 feet.
- All players must play a minimum of six (6) defensive outs per game.
- Balks will be enforced.
- Players are permitted to slide headfirst when advancing to the next base.
- All batters, base runners, and base coaches must wear a helmet while on the field of play.

## **BATTING**

- There will be a continuous batting order for each game.
- Umpires are not required to check equipment prior to the start of the game. The responsibility for legal and proper equipment falls on the manager or each team.
- Bat Standards: Non-wood and laminated bats used in the Junior Division shall bear the USA Baseball's Youth Bat Performance Standard logo. Also, permitted for the Junior Division are bats meeting the BBCOR performance standard, and so labeled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. All BPF – 1.15 bats shall be prohibited.
- Bats shall not be more than 34 inches in length; nor more than  $2\frac{5}{8}$  inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths ( $\frac{15}{16}$ ) inches in diameter ( $\frac{7}{8}$  inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed eighteen (18) inches from the small end. Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo.

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## PITCHING / CATCHING

- NO metal spikes allowed on synthetic pitching mounds. When possible, potential pitchers should already have their cleats changed before the pitching change is made.
- Any player who has played the position of catcher in four (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 three (3) innings or less, moved to the pitcher position, and delivered 21 pitches or more in the same day, may not return to the catcher position on that calendar day.
- 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.
- A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different defensive position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game.
- Managers or coaches are permitted to warm up a pitcher at home plate or in the bullpen or elsewhere at any time including in-game warm-up, pre-game warm-up, and in other instances. They may also stand by to observe a pitcher during warm-up in the bullpen.
- Pitchers are held to the following pitch count regulations. The manager shall remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position.
- A pitcher's pitch count for the purposes of day(s) rest threshold is determined by the first pitch thrown to a batter. The pitcher may not start a new batter once the pitch limit has been met.

**Max Pitch Count by League Age:**

13-16 – 95 pitches per day

11-12 – 85 pitches per day

9-10 – 75 pitches per day

7-8 – 50 pitches per day

**Required Minimum Rest Days**

1-20 Pitches = 0 Days Rest

21-35 Pitches = 1 Day Rest

36-50 Pitches = 2 Days Rest

51-65 Pitches = 3 Days Rest

66+ Pitches = 4 Days Rest

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## GAME LENGTH

- Game length is seven (7) innings. No new inning may begin after two (2) hours of play.
- After four (4) complete innings, if a game is called by the umpire for any reason (i.e., daylight, rain...etc.), it is considered a "complete game" and will not be made up or replayed.
- If after four (4) innings, three and one-half innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If after (5) five innings, four and one-half innings, if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If after six (6) innings, five and one-half innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of eight (8) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent.
- NOTE: If the visiting team has a lead of fifteen (15), ten (10), or eight (8) runs or more respectively, the home team must bat in its half of the inning.