



## Local Rules Instructional, T-Ball, Minor A, Single A Divisions 2026 Season

### 1:00 - Purpose

1:01 - The purpose of the local operating rules is to ensure that all teams serve the best interests of the children playing at this level. Everyone involved with the operation of the team should know that this is a non-competitive level of play. No scores will be kept or reported. The instructional league is designed to teach the fundamentals of baseball and to ensure that all the players have fun, while promoting high self-esteem. All players should be given positive reinforcement, and encouragement at all times from their coaches and parents. These rules are written to ensure that safe and equitable games are always conducted. Any question of violation of these rules should be directed to the Instructional Player Agent as soon as possible.

### 2:00 - Discipline

2:01 – Managers, coaches and parents are required to conduct themselves in an adult manner. Improper touching, gestures, speech, throwing of any equipment will not be tolerated by players, parents, coaches or manager. If such conduct is from a player, the manager must counsel the player immediately. Situations contrary to this policy will be referred will be reviewed and handled in accordance with the WYLLL Constitution, District 56 guidance, and Little League policies. A Disciplinary Committee made up of three (3) Board Members shall hear and review all game ejections with consideration to the ways of the League Constitution. The Committee shall meet within 72 hours after the incident and give a decision within 24 hours after the meeting to determine if more than a one (1) game suspension is warranted.

It is the responsibility of the Manager to contact the Player Agent immediately following the infraction of his/her team. Managers are ultimately responsible for the conduct of their players, coaching staff and parents. Misconduct by any of these participants may result in a game forfeiture and/or additional suspensions, including the manager. The Player Agent will contact the Manager if further disciplinary action will be taken.

Any team manager, coach, player or parent ejected from a game, for any reason, shall be suspended for the next game, at minimum. Individuals who are suspended are not allowed to participate in any pre-game warm-ups, post-game team talks or be present at any league function. The Manager or Coach must refrain from attempting any type of communication with any coach in the dugout or parents from his Team to relay any messages having to do with the game. Any suspension will affect that person's ability to manage or coach in future seasons.

2:02 – Managers are responsible for the safety of their players at all times during practices and games. Transportation to and from events is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.



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## 3:00 – Scheduling

3:01 - Normal scheduled days will be Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Game time is between 4:45 PM to 5:00 PM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and range from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday.

T-Ball/Minor A - Our permits for the YLMS school grass fields w/backstops are from 4:30 PM to 8:00 PM on weekdays. All games and practices using the backstops on the skin fields must conclude by 6:15 PM to allow for practice following and COMPLETELY vacated by 6:30 PM on weekdays to accommodate PYLGSA.

Single A - Our permit for the Single A (skin) field are from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM on weekdays. All games must start and end on time. Regulation game is 4 innings or time limit of 1 hr 15min (max), whichever comes first. All games must end by 6:15 PM and the FIELD COMPLETELY vacated by 6:30 PM.

3:02 – All games are played at Yorba Linda Middle School. Managers are responsible to call the Yorba Linda Parks and Recreation Field Condition hotline at (714) 986-1015 or check the website at [www.wylll.com](http://www.wylll.com) during times of questionable weather or field conditions. In the event there is a field issue and/or conflict, the Field Ambassador can be reached at 714-457-2201. Parks emergency after hours staff (714) 290-4719.

3:03 - Games may only be rescheduled due to school activities, religious reasons, weather, or any other Board approved activity, which may conflict with a scheduled game. The Player Agent must be notified 48 hours prior to the game.

3:04 – WYLLL recognizes and schedules for three (3) “events per week.” An “event” is defined as practices and/or games. Any practices above and beyond the 3<sup>rd</sup> “event” shall be voluntary. Any “event” that takes place elsewhere other than a permitted practice facility, must have Player Agent and Board President approval. Any practices above and beyond the 3<sup>rd</sup> “event” shall be voluntary.

## 4:00 - Ground and Playing Rules

4:01 - The home team shall take the third base dugout.

4:02 - Both teams are responsible for ensuring that the field is ready for use.

T-Ball - Upon completion of the game, make sure the player benches are returned to the bullpen area and all trash is picked up in, and around, the field. Team parents should bring trash bags as necessary and dispose of at closest trash receptacle at the park.

Minor A - The field must set up with 60 ft. bases. Upon completion of the game, make sure the bases and equipment are returned to the equipment bin, trash is picked up inside the dugouts and around the field.

Single A - Upon completion of the game, make sure the bases and equipment are returned to the equipment bin and trash is picked up in, and around, the field.



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4:03 - The managers will meet 5 minutes before the game begin to discuss field conditions, clarify rules, and out of play boundaries. Each team will provide a new game ball to use.

4:04 - The Little League Pledge will be recited before each game. It is common to select one or two players to stand on the pitcher's mound and lead the players.

4:05 - All games must start and end on time. A regulation game is 4 innings, or a time limit of 1 hr. 15 min (max), whichever comes first. If the 1 hr. 15 min. limit is reached, the batter may finish his/her at-bat.

4:06 – Umpires

T-Ball/Minor A - Managers and coaches are the umpires.

Single A - The Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) will assign "Umpires in Training" when available. Otherwise, the responsibilities will be handled by the Managers, coaches, or a designated parent to fill the role of umpire. Intimidation of a youth umpire WILL NOT be tolerated, whether by a manager, coach, parent, family member, etc. Managers and coaches must support the umpires. This division is instructional and must be managed accordingly. Managers are responsible for their fans.

Per Little League rule 9.03(d), if no adult umpire is available for a game, and non-adult umpires are used exclusively for that game, the local Little League must assign an adult as Game Coordinator, or the game cannot be played. The Game Coordinator must not be a manager or coach of either team in the game, and cannot be assigned as Game Coordinator for more than one game at a time.

4:07 – Up to FOUR (4) adult coaches per team may be on the field.

T-Ball/Minor A - While batting, one coach will be positioned at home plate to place the ball on the tee, one coach at first base and one coach at third base. While on the field, coaches may be positioned as needed. However, one (1) coach or team parent must remain in the dugout when their team is batting to supervise players. All adult coaches must have a prior background check from the League. Players are PROHIBITED from putting the ball on the tee. Please ensure coaches are placed near at-risk players (i.e. Pitchers)

Single A - While batting, the fielding team may have a coach positioned at home plate to help retrieve pitched balls. The batting team may have one coach at first base and one coach at third base. While on the field, coaches may be positioned as needed. However, one (1) coach or team parent must remain in the dugout, at all times, to supervise their players. These individuals must have a prior background check from the League.

4:08 – No player shall have a bat in their hand at any time, except for the immediate batter.

4:09 – Pitching (Applicable only for Minor A and Single A)



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### Minor A – Coach Pitch

1. The Local Rules Committee has instituted a Coach Pitch Program for the Minor A Division for the season. The program is intended to provide a better “brand” of baseball to the players in this division.
2. Each player is entitled to **four (4) coach pitches**. If after four total pitches (combined balls and strikes), the ball is not put into play, a tee will be used. The batter MUST put the ball in play off the tee. Players are prohibited from putting the ball on the tee.
3. There are no walks or strikeouts.
4. There is no bunting; however, any ball that is batted into fair ground with a full swing is a live ball.
5. Throwing a bat or any equipment will not be tolerated, and the manager must counsel the player immediately
6. A half inning constitutes once through the lineup. However, if an out is recorded, the player who is out shall be removed from the base they attempted to attain.

### Single A – Player Pitch (4 Pitch Limit per Batter)

1. Pitchers may throw four (4) pitches per batter. If after four (4) total player pitches (combination of balls and strikes), the ball is not put into play or the batter has not struck out, a Coach will come in and pitch to the batter and continue the strike count from where the player pitcher left off (i.e., 3-1 count, the batter is entitled to two (2) strikes, 2-2 count, the batter is entitled to one (1) strike). The at-bat will conclude with the batter either striking out or putting the ball in play, unless the last pitch is a foul ball, in which another pitch will be granted. A batter may strike out swinging or looking.
2. The maximum number of pitches from a coach is 4, unless the last pitch is a foul ball, in which another pitch will be granted.
3. To promote player safety and consistent development at this instructional level, WYLLL limits pitching eligibility in Single A to league ages 7 and 8. League age 6 and league age 9 players will not pitch in Single A during the regular season.
4. Pitchers must follow all Little League pitching rules while observing days off of rest depending on pitch count. See the Little League Rule Book. It is the Manager’s responsibility to ensure that the pitch count rules, and rest days are followed. A pitching log will be kept by the manager and subject to review by the Instructional Player Agent. Make sure this is consistent
5. There is no bunting; however, any ball that is batted into fair ground with a full swing is a live ball.
6. Throwing a bat or any equipment will not be tolerated, and the manager must counsel the player immediately.
7. A half inning constitutes (three) 3 outs OR once through the lineup.
8. The coach comes into pitch, the player pitcher must keep one foot within 12" (left or right) of the mound and he/she must not block the shortstop or second baseman (spray a line or mark for reference). All attempts should be made to pitch from inside the circle of the mound.

### 4:10 – Batting



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## T-Ball/Minor A

1. All team members that are present must bat.
2. Each inning the teams will bat once through the entire lineup regardless of the number of outs recorded.
3. All players must wear a helmet when batting and base running.
4. Each batter is entitled to swing off the tee until the ball is put into play.
5. There is no bunting or stealing.
6. Throwing a bat or any equipment will not be tolerated and the manager must counsel the player immediately.

## Single A

1. There are no walks. The player continues their at-bat until he/she strikes out or puts the ball into play. A coach has a maximum of 4 pitches. If the batter does not hit any of the coaches (4) four pitches – the player will be recorded as an out. Final pitch foul balls may continue with their at-bat.
2. A ball that is batted into fair ground with a full swing is a live ball.
3. There is no bunting or stealing of bases.
4. All team members that are present at the game must be in the batting lineup and bat.
5. The Umpire will call balls and strikes from behind the plate. If an umpire is not scheduled, the Manager or Coach for the defensive team shall call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher's mound. Refer to Section 4:05 for priority of who will Umpire.
6. The strike zone shall be very liberal and as follows:
  - a. Top of shoulders to the bottom of the knees.
  - b. 2 ball widths on each side of the plate.

4:11 - (Applicable for Single A only) A half inning shall constitute three (3) outs or once through the batting lineup, whichever comes first.

## 4:12 - Running the Bases

### T-Ball

1. All players will run the bases after each at-bat regardless of the outcome of the play.
2. A runner who passes one base and is less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the way to the next base when the ball is returned to the infield shall return to the base that was just passed, whether a play was made on the runner or not. Fielders are encouraged to make plays on advancing runners, however, when the play is over or the coach deems the play over, the  $\frac{1}{2}$  way rule must be applied.
3. If there is an overthrow of a ball or the ball goes out of play, the runner is limited to the base attained.
4. All runners should be encouraged to advance multiple bases while the live ball is in the outfield, until such time the ball is returned to the infield. Runners are not limited to one base at a time.



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### Minor A

1. All players that reach base safely will run. There are no substitutions.
2. A runner who passes one base and is less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the way to the next base when the ball is returned to the infield shall return to the base that was previously obtained, whether a play was made on the runner or not. Fielders are encouraged to make plays on advancing runners, however, when the play is over or the coach deems the play over, the  $\frac{1}{2}$  way rule must be applied.
3. If there is an overthrow of a ball or the ball goes out of play, the runner is limited to the base attempting to obtain.

### Single A

1. All players that reach base safely will run. There are no substitutions.
2. A runner who passes one base and is less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the way to the next base when the ball is returned to the infield and controlled in the hand or glove of a defensive player, shall return to the base that was just passed, whether a play was made on the runner or not. Fielders are encouraged to make plays on advancing runners, however, when the play is over or the coach deems the play over, the  $\frac{1}{2}$  way rule must be applied.
3. Interference and obstruction of runners is covered in the Little League Rule book.
4. If there is an overthrow of a ball or the ball goes out of bounds, the runner is limited to the base attempting to be obtained.

### 4:13 – Fielding

### T-Ball

1. All players present will play in the field during each inning.
2. The infield is limited to a maximum of six (6) positions and the outfield will consist of the remaining players present. Outfielders must be positioned no closer than 15 feet from the infield.
3. Catchers are to be positioned opposite the batter and against the fence to promote safety to the player.
4. The catcher must wear a helmet.

### Minor A

1. All players present will play in the field during each inning.
2. The infield is limited to a maximum of six (6) positions and the outfield will consist of the remaining players present. Outfielders must be positioned no closer than 15 feet from the infield.
3. Catchers are to be positioned opposite the batter and against the fence to promote safety to the player.
4. The catcher must wear a helmet.
5. Teams must provide a coach and position themselves a minimum of 10' away from the batter to help retrieve



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pitched balls. Once the ball is put into play, the catcher shall become an active participant in the play.

## Single A

1. Defense will consist of 9-10 players unless otherwise directed by the Instructional Player Agent prior to the beginning of the season. Do not leave one player in the dugout by themselves.
2. The infield is limited to the normal six (6) positions and the outfield will consist of four (4) players. Outfielders must be positioned no closer than 15 feet from the infield. No outfielder should be positioned behind second base.
3. Catchers are required and must be equipped in full gear. Teams may provide a coach to position himself or herself 5' behind the catcher to help with passed balls and to expedite the game.
4. A manager may substitute defensive players freely. A player does not have to be a starter to re-enter the game. Substitutes will rotate each defensive inning so that no player sits more than one (1) inning at a time. No player shall sit out a second inning of defensive play, until such time all other players have sat out one defensive inning.

## 4:15 – Field Distances for T-Ball

1. Distance between bases shall be 50'.
2. Distance from home plate to center of pitcher's mound should be 40'.

## 5:00 - Opportunity

5:01 - All players shall have the opportunity of playing all positions in the field throughout the course of the season. The WYLLL Board of Directors expects managers to rotate players throughout the infield and outfield to ensure that all players have a chance to contribute to the team's success. However, player safety shall always be taken into consideration. A manager should not jeopardize a player's safety by placing them in a position where a possible injury may occur due to inexperience or level of ability regardless of a parent's desire to see him or her play such position.

5:02 - All players should have the opportunity of batting throughout the batting order. Managers should rotate players throughout the batting order to ensure that all players have a chance to contribute to the team's success.

## 6:00 - Safety

6:01 - Safety of the players must be the main concern of all managers during any game.

6:02 - Report all safety concerns to the League Safety Officer.

6:03 – All players shall remain in the dugout at all times except when they are either batting or playing defensively



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in the field. Managers shall discourage players from socializing outside the dugout during the game. Non-coaching adults should not be in the dugouts with the exception of the Team Parent.

## 7:00 – Draft

### 7:01 – T-Ball

T-Ball is an instructional division. Teams will be formed by the Instructional Player Agent using a fair and balanced process. There will be no formal draft.

The league will make reasonable efforts to honor parent requests when possible (such as carpooling or school placement), but such requests are not guaranteed. Team assignments are final once rosters are approved.

### 7:02 – Minor A

Minor A is an instructional division. Teams will be formed by the Instructional Player Agent using a fair and balanced process. There will be no formal draft unless the league determines that a draft is necessary based on registration numbers and competitive balance.

If a draft is conducted, it will follow the applicable team formation procedures described in the current Little League Baseball Operations Manual and will be administered by the Instructional Player Agent.

### 7:03 – Single A

Single A is an instructional division. Teams will be formed by the Instructional Player Agent using a fair and balanced process.

If the league determines a draft is necessary due to registration numbers or competitive balance, the draft will be conducted in accordance with the current Little League Baseball Operations Manual and administered by the Instructional Player Agent.

Manager/coach option players (including a manager's child) and sibling options, if applicable, will be handled in accordance with the Little League Baseball Operations Manual. No manager may pre-select players outside of those options.

### 7:04 – Freezes / Special Requests

The league may allow managers to request a limited number of player "pairing requests" for legitimate instructional or logistical reasons (such as a parent volunteer commitment, school safety considerations, or carpooling).

Any approved pairing requests must be submitted to the Instructional Player Agent by the league deadline. All pairing requests are subject to Player Agent approval and must not compromise competitive balance or fairness across teams.

### 7:05 – Authority

The Instructional Player Agent, with oversight from the League President, shall have final authority over all team



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formation decisions for T-Ball, Minor A, and Single A in accordance with Little League regulations.

## 8:00 – Equipment

8:01 – Regular fielder gloves, softball or fast-pitch style catcher's gloves are acceptable for use, provided the glove fits and covers the entire hand.

8:02 – All bats that meet the specifications defined in the Little League rulebook are acceptable for use. Effective January 1, 2018, Little League Baseball will adhere to the new USA Bat standard. Bats must have a USA Baseball stamp/sticker on it (above the handle/below the barrel). T-Ball and Minor A bats may not exceed 26" long.

8:03 – Single A – All catcher's mask, including hockey style, must be equipped with a "dangling" throat protector.

8:04 – Single A – All chest protector must have the flap down in the crotch area (do not snap up).

## 9:00 – Field Preparation

9:01 – Home team is responsible for field preparation.

9:02 – Away team is responsible for field tear down.

9:03 – Managers are encouraged to communicate with one another for conflicts in timing.

9:04 – Minor A - Use of safety base at first base can be found in the green bin. The white base is attached to the magnetic post, with the orange base in foul territory.

## 9:05 – Post Season Intra-League Tournament Play for Single A

Upon conclusion of the regular season, the Player Agent will organize a tournament with teams in the Single A Division. Exact dates and format of the tournament will be determined by the Player Agent and conveyed a few weeks prior to the end of the regular season.



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