

LBA Rules and Regulations for 1st Grade

(revised April 2017)

Coaches, Players and Spectators Responsibilities	
1-1)	General Behavior. All coaches, players and spectators are prohibited from abusive shouting or use of obscene language and must adhere to the No Smoking and No Alcohol Policy on the field. Coaches and spectators who are intoxicated will be asked to leave. Violation of these rules will result in eviction from the field and review by the Board.
1-2)	Badgering Players. Coaches, players and spectators are prohibited from trying to disrupt a player at bat or in the field (for example, by yelling "swing" to hinder the player at bat).
1-3)	Clean-Up. All coaches, players and spectators should insure the field and surrounding area are free of debris and left in an orderly fashion when the game is complete.
1-4)	Injuries. All players and spectators must report any injuries immediately to the coach. It is the coaches responsibility to report these injuries to the level director. The possibility of injury requires that a responsible adult be present at all games and practices. If parents are unable to be present at a game or practice, it is their responsibility to find an adult to watch their child. This is not a duty of the coach. Players are not to be dropped off unsupervised.

Coaches Responsibilities: Pre- and Post-Game	
1-5)	Home Team Duties. The home team occupies the 3rd base bench and is responsible for setting up all equipment (tee, bases, bats, etc.).
1-6)	Visiting Team Duties. The visiting team occupies the 1st base bench and is responsible for returning all equipment to the equipment box at the end of the game.
1-7)	Equipment. All equipment must be kept behind the bench.
1-8)	Field Dimensions. The base distance is 50 feet. Pitching distance is approximately 36ft.
1-9)	Umpires. The home and visiting teams coaches on the field serve as umpires for the game. There is absolutely no disagreements (or emotional outbursts) allowed against the coaches. All decisions are final and should never be questioned by coaches or spectators.
1-10)	Game Coaches. The offensive team provides 1st base, 3rd base and home plate coaches. The defensive team provides 3 coaches in the field of play.
1-11)	Pre-Game Conference. Home and visiting team coaches are to meet at home plate 5 minutes prior to the start of the game to exchange line-ups (rotation charts), agree on field boundaries and identify rule changes due to field conditions.
1-12)	Length of Game. All games have a maximum of 5 innings or 1 ½ hours, whichever comes first. No full inning is to start after 7:45 PM. An inning starts the moment after the last batter has hit in the preceding inning.
1-13)	End of Inning. An inning ends when every player has batted.
1-14)	Weather. Lightning constitutes an immediate danger and the game must be called at once and players sent home. Heavy rain or an unplayable field can also cause a game to end. Players must have an adult present at all practices and games to take them home in the event that a game or practice is shortened. It is not the duty of a coach to drive players home.

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Players Responsibilities

- 1-15) **Uniforms & Shoes.** The Lakeville Baseball issued shirt & hat shall be worn for all games and practices. Tennis shoes & rubber spikes are allowed. Steel spikes are prohibited.
- 1-16) **Helmets.** Helmets (with straps) must be worn by batters, base runners, pitchers, and players on deck.
- 1-17) **Bats.** Only the batter and on-deck batter may have a bat in their hands during the game. The maximum barrel diameter is 2 ¼"; the maximum weight differential is unlimited, and the maximum bat length must be 36" or less. Wooden bats are not allowed.
- 1-18) **Hitting Off Tee.** Batter must not swing at the ball until the home plate coach states it is safe.
- 1-19) **Mouth Guards.** It is strongly recommended that players wear a mouth guard.
- 1-20) **Protective Cups.** It is required that all male players wear a protective cup.
- 1-21) **Bench.** All players, when not in the field, at bat or on deck, must be on the bench.

Offensive Rules

- 1-22) **Batting.** All players bat in order (round robin) and hit coach pitching. Each team provides their own coach pitcher. Each player gets **maximum** 5 pitches of live pitching. After 5 pitches, live pitching is replaced with the tee to finish the players at bat.
- 1-23) **Sliding.** Runners must avoid contact with a fielder attempting to make a play on them. This is done by sliding, stopping or otherwise avoiding contact. Head-first sliding is not allowed. Head-first "diving" back into a base isn't considered to be a head-first slide. The intent is to avoid injury to the runner and fielder.
- 1-24) **Free Bases.** There are no free bases (walks) allowed.
- 1-25) **Bunting.** Bunting is not allowed.
- 1-26) **Base Running.** There is no leading off base. A runner may leave only on the batter's contact. On a ball hit to the outfield, a batter may round the bases until the ball is returned to the infield (even if not under control). The runner must stop at the oncoming base.
- 1-27) **Infield Fly Rule.** The infield fly rule is not enforced. All runners return freely to their bases. Coaches should explain to the players why they need to return to the base.
- 1-28) **Stealing.** Stealing is not allowed.
- 1-29) **Advancing on Overthrows.** There is no advancement on overthrows.

Defensive Rules

- 1-30) **Playing Positions.** Ten players are allowed on the field (6 infielders and 4 outfielders). All players must be rotated equally through all positions during a game.
- 1-31) **Infielders.** The 5 infield positions are pitcher, 1st, 2nd, 3rd base, shortstop, and catcher. All infielders should be encouraged to throw a runner out, and not out run them (except for first base).
- 1-32) **Outfielders.** The 4 outfield positions are left field, left-center, right-center, and right field. All outfielders must play on the grass, at least 10 feet outside of the infield.