

PCBA General & Special Rules 2019

Updated March 1, 2019

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Purpose

This Exhibit outlines the Palmyra Civic Baseball (PCBA) Team responsibilities and game rules that supplement those in the Little League International Rule Book. The PCBA may modify their rules annually. It is the responsibility of each PCBA Coach, Commissioner and Board member to be familiar with these rules.

Rules will be distributed to coaches at all levels at the Draft meeting prior to the start of the season as well as direct them to the copy posted on the PCBA website prior to each season.

Alcohol & Tobacco

The use of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes or vaping products is strictly prohibited on Palmyra Borough, Palmyra School District, South Londonderry Twp, and North Londonderry Twp properties during any PCBA event or activity.☐

Equipment

Equipment will be purchased and bagged for each team by the designated equipment manager. Each head coach will receive a full bag of equipment and are responsible to keep track of their equipment during the year and return it along with used game balls at the end of the season.

2018 Bat Rules Changes:

As of January 1, 2018, the new USA Baseball Bat Standard will be implemented. Little League-approved baseball bats that are approved for use for the 2017 season ***will no longer be acceptable for use in any Little League game or activity*** starting on January 1, 2018. For more information on the USABat standard and a complete list of bats approved through the USABat Standard, [visit usabat.com](http://usabat.com).

Coach Conduct

It is important to allow the kids to make decisions and mistakes, thereby Coaches should attempt to minimize the amount of In-game technical instruction. The yell results in tentative players. There is an old baseball adage "Practices are for coaches, Games are for players". The time for instruction is before the play by asking where the play is or when they come off the field in a non-embarrassing, private and constructive manner. No child likes being yelled at or yelled to, in front of friends. Rather, take the opportunity when they come off the field to ask him "Do you know what you did wrong?"

Coaches shall lead their teams in compliance with all League Rules, policies and procedures. Failure to do so, especially when a Coach deliberately or willfully breaks League Rules, will be subject to immediate disciplinary action.

Conduct Guidelines

- (a) The use of profanity is strictly forbidden.
- (b) Smoking and use of tobacco products in the dugouts or on the field of play is forbidden.
- (c) The use of physical force is forbidden.

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- (d) Coaches are responsible for their players from the time they tell them to arrive until they are picked up after the practice/game.
- (2) The use of unsportsmanlike language or any unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.
- (3) Coaches are reminded that they are role models for their players and should conduct themselves accordingly.
- (4) Questioning an umpires' call in a civil and proper manner is permitted; however, arguing with and/or badgering the umpire will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct.
- (5) Sexual connotations by any member directed towards a player are strictly forbidden.

Discipline Procedures

- (6) Discipline of Officers, Managers, coaches and players may result if they are in violation of any part of these By Laws.
- (7) Such discipline will be administered in accordance with By Laws Article IX, Section 2 and in accordance with the Coaches Agreement that is signed by every coach.
- (8) Discipline of players by coaches.
- (9) Discipline of players by Managers and coaches for various reasons may occur from time to time.
- (10) Discipline may not be excessive or abusive, and it must be administered fairly and without prejudice.
- (11) It is advisable to keep parents informed of all discipline.

If the discipline is limited to taking laps, doing pushups, etc it will be administered by the Manager or coach. If the discipline is to include loss of playing time, such discipline must be discussed with and approved by a league officer before being administered and the parent must be notified.

PCBA General Rules

Coaching Clearances:

- All coaches must have BOTH criminal background clearance and child abuse clearance to help in any practice or game.
- All manager's must have both clearances on file with league office by April 1.
- It is the manager's responsibility to turn in an initial list of all assistant coaches and other volunteers that will be interacting with the team either on the field or on the bench (i.e scorekeeper on bench) by April 1.
- All assistants will be required to have clearances on file with league office by Opening Day in order to be on the bench.
- It is the Managers responsibility to ensure that the staff meets all clearance requirements.

Duties of the Home Team:

- The infield should be dragged, a batter's box lined, and the first and third baselines marked.
- Bases should be secured in the appropriate location.
- Unless weather inhibiting, the field should be ready 25 minutes prior to game time so that each team can have 10 min for Infield
- Home team shall supply one new ball and one good used ball to the Home Plate Umpire.
- Take collection and turn in to refreshment stand or lock box located in the main shed at the Pool and at Forge.

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Duties of the Visiting Team.

- Remove the bases and place in storage box.
- Drag / Rake the infield after the game
- Clean-up dugout areas and make sure all equipment is stored and shed is locked.

Pre-Game: Warm-Ups (Field)

- Home team gets field for Infield from 5:35-5:45
- Visitors get field from 5:45-5:55
- If both teams cannot have 10 min to warm-up, NEITHER team shall take Infield warmups

Pre-Game: Warm-Ups (Batting Practice)

- Only Batting Cages will be used for Pre-Game Batting Practice (No BP on the field prior to a game)
- Home team gets Batting Cage from 5:45-6:00PM
- Visiting Team gets Batting Cages from 5:30-5:45
 - A team arriving early may use the cages but must not impede on the allocated 15min slot noted above.

Game Start Times & Duration – Regular Season Games

- All games Mon – Friday will be scheduled for a 6PM start
- Exception: Friday games at the Pool Field may be scheduled for a 6PM and an 8PM game.
- Weekend games start times will vary based on field and time slots
- All games should start on time unless unforeseen circumstances arise (umpires late, field being worked on)
- No inning shall start after 1hr and 45 minutes. In the event of a suspended game, the time resets to zero. This rule applies for regular season and playoff games. It does NOT apply for the Championship game.
- Games can end in a tie if time expires.
- There are no ties in playoffs. There is no time limit for the Championship game.
- LL Rule 4.11 & 4.12 shall govern all suspended games

Scorekeeper

- Each team must have a scorekeeper, but the Umpire will consider the Official Scorekeeper of the game to be the Home team's scorekeeper.
- A lineup must be submitted to the opposing coach prior to the game and should note any pitcher that is NOT eligible to pitch due to pitching rules.
- At the conclusion of each game, it will be the HOME manager's responsibility to login to the proper website and report the game scores within 24hrs of game completion.

Pitch Count Reporting

- Each manager (or someone on the staff) is responsible for tracking pitch counts for both team's pitchers.
- Pitch Count forms are available on the website if needed.
- The home team will be considered the official recorder of pitch counts
- After each inning, both teams should confer and verify that the pitch count numbers are accurate for both pitchers. If there is a discrepancy, it should be cleared up prior to the next inning starting.

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- After each game, both coaches should verify the pitchers that pitched and the pitch count for each pitcher. The home team's manager will be responsible for logging into the appropriate site and entering the pitchers and pitch count for each player that pitched in the game for both teams.

Crossover and Non-League Games

- Rule are based on home team rules and regulations

Make-up Games

- It is the duty of the managers involved in any rainout or cancellation to reschedule the game within 1 week of the cancellation date.
- Each team will receive a loss for all games played less than the number of scheduled games.

PCBA SPECIAL Rule Exceptions to Standard Little League Rules

Rule 1.00: Objectives of the Game

- **Rule 1.08: Note 1:** The only players who may have a bat in their hand are the current batter, and a single player in the on-deck circle.
- **Rule 1.10 Note 2:** The traditional batting donut is permissible.
- **Rule 1.17:** Catchers are required to wear a throat guard, athletic supporter and cup in order to play the position.

Rule 2.00: Definition of Terms

- **Definition, Infield Fly: Note 2:** There is no "infield fly" rule in the Minors. There is one in the Majors

Rule 3.00: Game Preliminaries

- **Little League Rule 3.03: ALL** players may re-enter the game. **Continuous Batting order will be used for all PCBA League games in Minor and Major Divisions.** All players must be scheduled to play half a game. This rule applies to all official games (i.e., 10 run rule games included). Managers are required to make substitutions in the third inning if the mercy rule is likely to be invoked.
- **Little League Rule 3.03:** A "Courtesy runner" is permitted for the catcher only. To use a courtesy runner, there must be two (2) outs and the courtesy runner must either be a player not in the current lineup (nine player batting order) or the player who made last out (continuous batting order)
- **Little League Rule 3.05(a):** The withdrawal of an eligible pitcher after that pitcher is announced, or after a warm-up pitch is delivered, but before that player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation. Pitches delivered in games declared "Regulation Tie Games" or "Suspended Games" shall be charged against pitcher's eligibility.

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- **Little League Rule 3.09:** Managers or coaches may warm up a pitcher at home plate or in the bullpen or elsewhere at any time. Use of catchers' protective gear is optional for an adult coach or manager when warming up the pitcher.

Rule 4.00: Starting and Ending the Game

- **Little League Rule 4.10(e):** After four (4) full innings, or three and one half (3 ½) innings with the home team ahead, if a team is leading by ten (10) or more runs the game is official and the team leading is the winner. The teams can continue to play all six (6) innings to give the players more playing time, at the Manager's discretion.
- **Little League Rule 4.16: Note:** A team may play with as few as eight (8) players.

Rule 5.00: Putting the Ball in Play - Live Ball

- **Little League Rule 5.07:** Minor league only - The side is retired when three (3) offensive players are legally put out, or when the offensive team scores five (5) runs. The sixth inning and beyond will be open with no run limits.

Rule 7.00: The Runner

- **Little League Rule 7.00: Base Stealing (MINORS ONLY)**
 - **No Stealing of ANY base in the Minors from Opening Day until April 30th.**
 - **Stealing of 2nd Base and 3rd Base ONLY from May 1st to end of season, including post season tournament.**
 - A runner can only score on a continuous play resulting from a hit ball or a forced walk.
 - When a player receives a walk, the player must stop at first base. The player cannot steal second base even if the ball has not been returned to the pitcher.
 - Stealing of home is not permitted for any reason.
 - Runners cannot advance on an overthrow to a base when attempting to steal
 - Base runners shall not leave base until after the ball reaches the plate. Paragraph 7:13 of Official Little League Rules shall be used to determine the penalty to the runner when leaving base early.
- **Little League Rule 7.08 (a3):** A runner has the right to advance to the next base unobstructed. However, a runner must also attempt to avoid any contact with a fielder who is obstructing the path to the next base, **whether or not they are in possession of the ball**. Coincidental contact with a fielder may occur during an attempt to avoid the fielder; however, deliberate direct contact with a fielder obstructing the base path will result in the runner being called out automatically. This is an umpire's judgment call and will not be subject to appeal.

Rule 8.00: The Pitcher

- **Little league Rule 8.05(a):** If the pitcher stops in the middle of his pitch when a batter squares for a bunt, he will be given a warning the first time and the second time the batter will be awarded an illegal pitch. (NOTE: An illegal pitch increases the ball count but runners do not advance.)

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- **Little league Rule 8.06(a):**
A **starting** pitcher replaced on the mound by another player may return to the mound only once. A relief pitcher cannot return to the mound once he has been replaced. Three (3) trips to the mound in an inning and the pitcher must be taken off the mound and cannot return to the mound for the rest of the game. (Note: The last sentence in this special rule negates the first if it's the reason the starting pitcher was removed.)
- **Otherwise, the PCBA will adhere to the Little League rule book Official Regulations, Section VI Pitchers, for all other pitch count guidelines and restrictions.** (For reference only, the current Little League rule is 1-20 pitches, 0 days rest; 21-35, 1 day rest; 36-50 pitches, 2 days rest; 51-65 pitches, 3 days rest; and 66 or more pitches, 4 days rest. The current daily maximum is 75 in the Minors and 85 in the Majors.)

Pony Division Supplemental Rules

- Games will consist of 4 innings or a max of 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- All players play every inning (put the extras in the outfield)
- All players play all positions with no player playing the same position for more than 1 inning in a game. **Exceptions are for safety reasons only and must be pre-discussed with the parent.**
- Players alternate starting at infield and outfield
- Infielders MUST play actual positions in the field and should be no closer to the batter than even with the bags.
- The players playing the Pitcher and the Catcher positions MUST wear a helmet
- The entire lineup bats.
- No score is kept in Pony Division
- There are no extra base hits (advance one base at most per hit)
- The last batter is NOT to run completely around the bases.
- A player cannot strikeout (everyone gets a hit)
- There is no sliding or stealing.
- If a player is thrown out on the bases, they are not permitted to remain on base and must return to the bench
- Tees shall be used exclusively for the first four (4) games. After the (4th) game, it is permissible for the coach to soft toss or pitch
 - After 3 soft tosses or pitches, the ball will be placed on the tee.
 - There is no requirement to soft toss.
- Coaches may be on the field.
- There shall be no on deck batter. Most injuries at this level are siblings hit by an on-deck player.
- There are no umpires. The team coach will put the ball on the tee and the base coaches will ump bases.
- There is no requirement to makeup rainouts.
- No Bat Restrictions are in place for the Pony Division

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Colt Division Supplemental Rules

Coach Pitch

- All bats must be stamped with USABat marking. It is coach's responsibility to insure the enforcement of the bat rules.
- All games PRIOR to May 19th will be traditional Coach Pitch Games.
- Games will consist of 4 innings or a max of 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- All players play every inning (put the extras in the outfield)
- All players Bat
- Infielders MUST play actual positions in the field and should be no closer to the batter than even with the bags.
- The players playing the Pitcher and the Catcher positions MUST wear a helmet
- The coach shall throw from NO Farther than 40ft (in front of mound) and throwing from a knee is encouraged.
- The last batter is NOT to run completely around the bases.
- After 6 pitches, the coach should soft toss. After 3 soft toss attempts, a tee should be used.
- On cleanly hit balls to the outfield, a player can attempt to take an extra base. Once the ball is in the control of an infielder, all runners must stop at the base they are headed to
- **Sliding**
 - Sliding will be permitted with the exception of 1st base. Sliding into 1st base will be result in an out. Emphasis should be placed on sliding as a means to reduce injury and the potential for collisions.
- **Accidentally Thrown Bats**
 - FIRST and SECOND offense in a game – NO PENALTY
 - All runners are returned to their base.
 - The pitch will be considered a foul ball.
 - THIRD offense in a game by same player – PENALTY APPLIED
 - (a)The coach will immediately call TIME and stop the play.
 - (b) The batter will be declared out.
 - (c) All runners are returned to their base.
 - (d) The offending player shall not be allowed to bat the rest of the game. They may continue to play defense.
 - (e) If their turn comes up again in the batting order, the batter will be skipped without penalty

Kid Pitch / Coach Pitch

- All games from May 19th on will be combination Kid Pitch / Coach Pitch
- USABats are required. It is coach's responsibility to insure the enforcement of the bat rules.
- Games will consist of 6 innings or a max of 1 hour and 45 minutes.
- A half inning ends when there are 3 outs or 4 runs are scored.
- Field 10 players on defense (with 4 outfielders)
- A maximum of 3 defensive coaches are permitted on the field (one positioned behind home plate to retrieve passed balls and two a minimum of 10 feet into the outfield grass behind SS & 2nd baseman)
- One offensive coach is permitted on the field of play (to be positioned directly behind the pitcher) and will be responsible for calling balls and strikes and all outs.
- Equal play time and position rotation is of utmost importance. Specifically:
 - The entire lineup bats.
 - Batting should pick up about where it left off from game to game.

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- The goal is to have an equal number of at bats for all players and avoid batting the same players first.
- No player shall sit more than 1 consecutive inning. The strongest players shall also sit.
- No player shall start on the bench more than 1 consecutive game.
- Where appropriate, Players alternate starting at infield and outfield
- Every effort should be made to provide experience to all players at all positions; however, player safety will be of highest priority and positional assignments will be at the discretion of the head coach.
- **Scoring**
 - Score will be kept but no standings maintained. A team may record a maximum of 4 runs per inning
- **Sliding**
 - Sliding will be permitted with the exception of 1st base. Sliding into 1st base will be result in an out. Emphasis should be placed on sliding as a means to reduce injury and the potential for collisions.
- **Pitching:**
 - Pitching distance is 40ft from the back of the plate and no closer. If a player cannot throw the distance, they may not pitch due to safety reasons. Coaches may pitch closer, but not less than 30 feet.
 - A player may pitch no more than 2 innings or 50 pitches per 5 days. Balls and strikes must be recorded as well as pitch count.
 - At four balls, the coach pitches (the strike count carries to the coach). The player is out on the 3rd strike or the 4th coach pitch (even if the coach throws no hittable pitches).
 - If a pitcher hits 2 batters, they are done pitching for the day.
 - There are no walks. Exceptions permitted for hit batters that are afraid to continue.
 - At 3 strikes the batter is out (player and coach pitch total).
 - The strike zone is from shoulders to the middle of the shins and 3" each side of the plate. Players should be encouraged to swing.
 - All innings from May 19th will be kid pitch unless a team does not have adequate pitching, at which time a coach will pitch.
- **Base Running**
 - There is no stealing. There will be no leading, stealing or advancing on balls past the catcher or on overthrows back to the pitcher. Runners are allowed to lead off the base once the ball reaches the batter to begin training the players how play at upper levels.
 - Runners may advance on safe hits to the outfield, until the ball is under control by a player who is on the infield dirt.
 - Runners between bases at the time the ball is brought under control in the infield may only attempt to advance to the next base or retreat to the previous base and are at risk of being put out. (It does not matter if are half way or not.)
 - Runners who reach a base safely, may not advance beyond that base regardless of reason EXCEPT if the ball goes out of play. Then runners will be awarded one additional base.
 - If two runners are between the same two bases and entitled to the same base per this rule, the base will be awarded to the lead runner and the trailing runner will be place one base back.
- On deck batters are not permitted. Most injuries in youth baseball are teammates hit by bats.
- **Accidentally Thrown Bats**
 - **FIRST and SECOND** offense in a game – **NO PENALTY**
 - o All runners are returned to their base.
 - The pitch will be considered a foul ball.
 - **THIRD** offense in a game by same player – **PENALTY APPLIED**
 - (a) The coach will immediately call **TIME** and stop the play.
 - (b) The batter will be declared out.

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- (c) All runners are returned to their base.
- (d) The offending player shall not be allowed to bat the rest of the game. They may continue to play defense.
- (e) If their turn comes up again in the batting order, the batter will be skipped without penalty
- The entire lineup bats.
- There is no requirement to makeup rainouts.