



PLAYING RULES

2018 LFL

Rookie Division

Rookie Division Season Play

The Rookie Division is intended to be a logical transition from Tee Ball to single A (limited player pitch) baseball. Players develop the skills of batting, fielding and base running in this non-competitive, developmental division while learning the rules that closely resemble those of baseball. Players are taught to bat at a ball that is safely pitched to them by their own coach via a mechanical pitching machine. Emphasis is always placed on having fun, player safety and sportsmanship!

1. Teams shall only use Reduced Impact Force (“RIF”) or safety balls. No “hard” baseball may be used at any time, including at practices.
2. The batting team’s manager or manager’s designated coach will pitch to his/her team’s players using the LFL provided mechanical pitching machine(hereinafter referred to as the “Coach Pitcher” or “CP”). Only adult “Coach Pitchers” shall operate the pitching machine, during games and practices.
3. The Coach Pitcher may wear a baseball glove. The Coach Pitcher must be dressed to pitch. No sandals or other clothing is allowed that may inhibit the Coach Pitcher from dodging a batted ball or otherwise be unsafe for themselves or others.
4. Each batter is allowed five (5) hittable pitches. If the 5th pitch is fouled, coach pitch can continue until missed, fouled off (gets another pitch) or put into play. If at that point the ball has not been put into play, the batter must then use a tee to put the ball into play. There are no strikeouts, walks or hit by pitches. **(Local Rules)**
5. The Coach Pitcher is limited to instructing the batter only. The Coach Pitcher may not instruct base runners.
6. Bases are not cleared when three (3) outs are recorded during the first two innings of a game. For all innings after the second inning, bases will be cleared when three (3) outs are recorded. Teams will bat through their entire lineup each inning, regardless of number of outs recorded and inning being played.
7. One dugout parent must be present at all times for offense. If no parent is present, a coach must be in the dugout at all times when players are present in dugout. Dugout parent must have volunteer form on file.
8. The catcher shall remain against the backstop in a safe location until the batter has hit the ball.



9. No new inning shall start after 1 hour and 30 minutes. If four (4) full innings have been played, no new innings shall start after 1 hour and 20 minutes. **(Local Rules)**
10. Cones will be positioned 120 feet from home plate. Any ball clearing the cones on the fly will be a homerun. Any ball that rolls or bounces past the cones is a ground rule double.
11. Base running shall follow the “one base at a time” philosophy. Only exception is ground rule doubles, home runs and “last batter”. On the “last batter”, all base runners and the batter may run all the bases until they are put out or score. On the “last batter”, defense must make a play at one of the three bases before throwing home. On “last batter” any runner tagged or forced out shall return to the dugout, and shall not continue running the bases.
12. A maximum of two defensive coaches are allowed, and shall be positioned in the outfield only.
13. Offense coach/parent (positioned at 1st and 3rd coach’s box) will determine if an out shall be recorded. Players thrown or tagged out will return to the dugout. Liberal interpretation of an out will be used since there is no score or standings in Coach Pitch.
14. Players shall rotate from infield and outfield each inning for teams with twelve (12) players. For teams with less than twelve (12) players, no player shall play the infield more than two consecutive innings before going to the outfield and shall not return to the infield until all players have played at least two innings in the infield. At the conclusion of the game, the number of innings played in the infield and outfield shall be the same (as possible) for all players. For teams with more than twelve (12) players, no player shall play the outfield for more than two consecutive innings to ensure equal time playing in the infield is obtained by the end of the game if possible, and most certainly by the end of the season. For this rule, as it pertains to teams with more than twelve (12) players, the catcher position shall NOT be considered an infield position. For teams with twelve (12) or less players, the catcher shall be considered an infield position for no more than one (1) per player.
15. Rained out games will not be rescheduled. However, shall fields be available, the manager’s may choose to coordinate amongst themselves to reschedule rained out games.
16. There is no infield fly rule, as no catch is deemed routine at this level of play.
17. The defensive player playing the pitcher’s position must be completely within the eight (8) foot diameter pitching circle painted at approximately thirty-six (36) feet from home plate at the batter’s contact. Penalty - Batter will be awarded first base, and all other base runners shall advance one base.
18. Home team is responsible for field preparation prior to each game. Preparation includes dragging, watering, painting, bases and cones. Visitors are responsible for take down, clean up and field lock up after the last scheduled game of the day. Take down consists of putting away bases and cones, dragging, watering and locking storage bin and bathrooms (where applicable).
19. Each team is responsible for dugout cleanup after each game.
20. A hit must travel beyond the ten (10) foot arc in front of home plate to be considered a fair ball.
21. All players shall receive a participation trophy. **(Local Rules)**

ATTACHED ARE NEW RULES THAT WERE VOTED ON BY CONGRESS TO BE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY – THESE WERE NOT WITHIN THE GREENBOOK HOWEVER THEY ARE NOW

ITEM 1 - Affects: Regulation II – LEAGUE BOUNDARIES – New Regulation – II(h) – All Divisions of Baseball and Softball – **No Action – Yes 41.80% and No 57.99%**

ITEM 2 - Affects: Regulation III(c) – THE TEAMS and Operating Policies Local League Draft Methods – Major Divisions of Baseball and Softball – Local League must establish the age structure for the Little League (Major) Division. At no time shall a team have on its roster more than with players whose league age is 12. Balance of the team roster shall be comprised of players whose league age is 9, 10, or 11. For **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**, it is recommended that the local little league set a maximum and/or minimum number of participants of a particular league age. (**Example:** If the league has all 15 and 16-year old's in its Senior League Division, it may have a local rule that states that each team must carry between four and eight players of league age (16) – **Approved Yes 70.16% and no 29.63% - which means you can have as many 12 year old's on majors, not just 8**

ITEM 3 - Affects: Regulation VI(d) - PITCHERS – All Divisions of Baseball and Challenger – **Pitching in 3 Consecutive Days – Approved Yes – 68.99% and no 30.60%**

ITEM 4 - Affects: Regulation VI NOTE 3 - PITCHERS and Rule 4.10(d) – All Divisions of Baseball, Softball, and Challenger – In Suspended games resumed on another day, the pitcher of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extend of their eligibility for that day, provided said pitcher has observed the required days of rest. EXCEPTION; In the event that the first inning is not completed, all records including pitching records, batting records, etc. shall be disregarded – Pitching & records for incomplete First Inning – Approved - Yes 80.94% and No 18.85%

ITEM 5 - Affects: Regulation VII(a) – SCHEDULES and Tournament League Eligibility (2) – Senior Divisions of Baseball and Softball – **Number of Regular Season Games – Senior Division – Approved - Yes 87.16% - No 11.60%**

ITEM 6 - Affects: Rule 3.03 – All Divisions of Baseball and Softball – **Regular Season Substitution – Approved – Yes 77.87% and No 20.90%**

ITEM 7 - Affects: Rule 4.10(e) and Tournament Rule 12 - Regulation Game – All Divisions of Baseball and Softball – **15-Run Rule After 3 Innings – Approved Yes 79.71% and No 19.88%**

ITEM 8 - Affects: Rule 8.06(a) and (b) – All Divisions of Baseball and Softball – **Visits per Pitcher – Approved Yes 85.86% and No 13.93%**

ITEM 9 - Affects: Player Eligibility – Little League (10-12) and Intermediate (50-70) Divisions of Baseball – **Tournament Player Eligibility – 10-12 Baseball – Approved – Yes 75.10% and No 23.46%**

ITEM 10 - Affects: Player Eligibility – Little League (10-12) and Junior Divisions of Softball - **Tournament Player Eligibility – 10-12 Softball – Approved Yes 76.39% and No 21.11%**

ITEM 11 - Affects: Tournament Protests – The Use of an Ineligible Player – All Divisions of Baseball and Softball – **Tournament Protests – Ineligible Player – Approved – Yes 86.68% and No 13.32%**

ITEM 12 - Affects: Tournament Rule 9 – Mandatory Play - 8-10, 9-11, 10-12, Intermediate (50-70), and Junior Baseball and Softball Divisions – **Mandatory Play Violation & Removal of Team Manager – Approved Yes 50.61% and No 48.77%**

ITEM 13 - Affects: Tournament Rule 14 – New Rule – All Divisions of Baseball and Softball – **Tie Breaker Scenario – No Action Yes 54.51% and No 45.29%**