



## Minor League Baseball

Effective September 2025

### GENERAL:

1. The home team shall occupy the first base dugout; the visitor shall occupy the third base dugout
2. If a team cannot field at least 7 players within 15 minutes of game time that team will forfeit the game.
3. Specific rules apply to those adults serving in coaching capacities at a game:
  - a. A team may designate no more than four adults to serve in coaching roles at any given time.
  - b. All of these adults must have passed background checks and have been approved by the league.
  - c. The team at bat may select up to two base coaches from the four adults, who should use the areas indicated for coaching on the field.
  - d. If an umpire approves a base coach under 18 years of age, that coach must wear a helmet while coaching a base.
  - e. Coaches are reminded that they must not physically assist runners in running the bases (Penalty: out is called).
  - f. One coach of the offensive team is positioned on the field as a pitcher. No other adults may be in in-play areas.
  - g. Coaches are not to interfere with batted or thrown balls. If a coach accidentally is touched by a ball, the ball is alive in play.
  - h. All defensive coaches must be in the dugout or in areas otherwise out of play. In minor league Softball only, one defensive coach may be in playable area.
  - i. No one who is not a player or one of the adults serving in a coaching capacity may occupy any dugout or fenced-in area. This includes relatives of the players of any age. (Penalty: Umpire's discretion of warning, ejection, and/or team forfeit.)
  - j. Coaches are expected to exhibit positive sportsmanship at all times, and to insist upon the same from all their team's players and spectators.
4. Teams are required to leave the field in good condition, dispose of all trash, and otherwise respect the league's permits.
5. Games consist of 6 innings unless extended by a tie score. No inning may start after the game has been in progress for 90 minutes if a game is scheduled in the following time slot. If a game is delayed due to a shortage of players from either team, the time of the game will be counted from the scheduled starting time.
6. No changes shall be made to the Little League Schedule. (Exception: In the event of permit changes or weather challenges, the league at its sole discretion will make necessary adjustments.)

### PLAYER POSITIONING:

7. It is the philosophy of the Minor league and below that players rotate among the various positions. We rely on our coaches to position their players in accordance with this philosophy. At the very minimum, the following rules will be enforced:
  - a. every player who arrives before the first pitch is required to be positioned in the infield at least once and the outfield at least once.
  - b. When a team has eight or more players present, no player may play the infield for more than three of the first four innings, or more than four of the first six innings.
  - c. The catcher wears full equipment and is positioned in the catcher's box. The catcher is to return pitches that are not put into play, and may do so directly to the adult pitcher. The catcher may leave the



forced to advance at the start of the play, no matter how close to the next base the runner is. (Exception: If the pitcher's helper fields a batted ball with both feet planted in the circle, the pitcher's helper has the option to attempt a play. If the pitcher's helper does not elect to attempt a play immediately, the ball will be dead and runners not forced to advance will return.)

15. Bunting is permitted.

16. A batter must complete his turn at bat within 10 pitches. An out will be charged. A foul ball on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> pitch shall not be considered a pitch for the purpose of this rule.

17. Runners must remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit by the batter. The violation by one runner affects all runners. There is no automatic out. For penalty see rule 7.13b excluding the last two sentences of 7.13b.

18. Under no other circumstances are pinch runners permitted unless a player is being removed from the game permanently due to injury. With 2 outs, a courtesy runner is permitted for the player who will play catcher in the following defensive inning so that he may begin to dress. Such a courtesy runner is the player who made the last out, and may enter the game once time is called by the umpire.

19. All batters and runners must wear helmets.

20. There shall be no infield fly rule

21. No more than six runs can be scored by one team in an inning. (Exception: In the 6<sup>th</sup> inning or the final inning of the game, the inning shall have no run limit. A team losing by 10 or more runs may elect to reinstate the run limit in the last inning, which will then apply to both teams.)

22. Any game that has not been official due to darkness shall be official provided it has been underway for at least 75 minutes.