

2016 Addendum to Little League Rules for BB Rookies

1. We will play 3 outs or 5 runs (whichever comes first) per inning on offense.
2. We will use a continuous batting order every game, meaning that all players get to bat whether they played the field that inning or not.
3. For safety reasons, there is no on-deck batter in little league baseball (anywhere). All players of the team at bat must sit on the bench without a bat in their hands until their at bat.
4. We will start the season with a 5 swing strike out/7 pitch max per at-bat rule and then transition to 3 swing strike out/5 pitch max at-bat by the 8th scheduled game or no later than Saturday May 7th 2016 (the season midpoint).
5. Foul tips caught by the catcher on the final strike will be recorded as an out. There is no dropped last strike rule.
6. We will play with 10 defenders (4 outfield, 4 infield, pitcher, catcher). In an effort to encourage players to make throws to any base,
7. No advancing on overthrows. The goal is to encourage players to make the throw and not penalize them for making a mistake when trying to make a baseball play.
8. Coaches can position themselves in the outfield (behind the players) to provide instruction for the first 7 games. Starting with the 8th scheduled game or no later than Saturday May 7th 2016, coaches should instruct from the sideline.
9. Pitchers must have one foot on the pitcher's mound or inside the circle and cannot play directly behind the machine. Players must wear a batting helmet when playing the pitcher position.
10. If a hit baseball hits the machine/coach/bucket/etc the play is automatically dead and base runners are entitled to advance one base even if they are not forced.
11. What signals that a play is dead and base runners can no longer advance?
 - a. We should be coaching players to think about taking 2 bases on balls hit to the outfield. The rule in surrounding leagues is that the baseball must be firmly under the control of a player in the infield/in fair territory. In the past, we have played under the control of any player/anywhere (infield/outfield) in order to avoid taking advantage of players with less developed skill levels.
 - b. The recommendation is to start the season with the ball under control by a player, anywhere (infield or outfield). If an outfielder misplay a hit baseball (i.e. gets by him) base runners should be entitled to take extra bases until the ball is under the control of any defender.
 - c. Again, by the 8th scheduled game or no later than Saturday May 7th 2016 (midpoint of the season), we should try to play rules that require outfielders to field the ball and make throws to the infield with the play stopping when the ball is under the control of an infielder.
12. Leads and stealing are not permitted. Base runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit.
13. Base runner must avoid physical contact (e.g. collision) with a defender at any base at all times.
14. Players should rotate positions frequently, with no player at one position for more than 2 innings per a game. Common sense should be taken in placing players at high-risk positions (e.g. first base, pitcher, catcher). Freebaseballlineups.com is a free website that is a great resource to prepare an automated lineup with the ability to exclude certain players from specific positions.
15. All coaches are encouraged to develop catchers, which is crucial as players move up to BBminors

Both coaches should meet before the game starts to agree to the ground rules.

2016 Addendum to Little League Rules for Baseball Minors

1. Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 2 consecutive innings, but pitch counts should be managed to protect players' arms. Little league pitch counts will still be followed. The rationale is to enable more players an opportunity to pitch.
2. Stealing home is eliminated. This includes scoring on an over thrown ball to third on a steal attempt. The rationale is to allow pitchers and catchers to focus on mechanics of the position without having to worry about a runner on third. The rule is designed to promote player development at both positions. When stealing of home comes into play, managers tend to put a proven player behind the plate versus developing players at this position
3. A player may not catch 4 or more innings and pitch in the same game. This rule is actually the LL rule. Again, to protect the arms of our young players.
4. We will use a continuous batting order with a 10 batter/5 run max per an inning. We will not play unlimited runs in the final inning.
5. **No mercy rule**, we are a developmental league and should maximize playing opportunity for our young players.
 - a. Managers with large leads should consider taking the opportunity to play players in new positions (ex. pitcher, infield, etc.) rather than running up scores.
6. If a runner leaves the base early on a steal, he is not automatically out. LL rule states the runner, if safe in his steal attempt, simply returns to the base.
7. The Little League rule is that a base runner must avoid contact with a defensive player.
 - a. There is no slide-or-surrender. Coaches should encourage players to slide into bases when a throw/play is eminent.
 - b. Likewise, defenders may not interfere with a base runner (ex. the defender cannot block the path unless he has the ball or is making a play to get the ball).

Both coaches should meet before the game starts to agree to the ground rules.

All managers / all divisions should have the little league rule book in their possession for every game.

Playoffs for SB and BB Minors, Majors and Intermediates will follow BOOK Rule.

2016 Addendum to Little League Baseball rules for Baseball Intermediates

We will follow book rule with the following modifications:

1. A player may not catch 4 or more innings and pitch in the same game. Again, to protect the arms of our young players.
2. We will use a continuous batting order with a 10 batter/5 run max per an inning. We will not play unlimited runs in the final inning.
3. **No mercy rule.** We will not use the mercy rule (>10 runs after 4 innings). (maximize playing time)
 - a. Managers with large leads should consider taking the opportunity to play players in new positions (e.g. pitcher, infield, etc.) rather than running up scores.

Both coaches should meet before the game starts to agree to the ground rules.

All managers / all divisions should have the little league rule book in their possession for every game.

Playoffs for SB and BB Minors, Majors and Intermediates will follow BOOK Rule.