

2021 Fall Little League Baseball & Softball

The NY District 18 Little League Baseball and Softball Fall season is primarily instructional and is less competitive than the Spring season. However, we do keep score, as we recognize that part of the fun and the learning process includes having a competitive component to the games. We do not keep standings or hold playoffs but players should be encouraged to play competitively to maximize the learning experience. Managers are expected to use the Fall season to give players the playing time at the pitcher position and any other position that they may not get the chance to try in the more competitive Spring season.

All Little League Softball rules apply, as stated in current 2021 Official Little League Rule Book, except:

1.0 PITCHING

Softball:

- * A (player) pitcher may pitch a maximum of three (3) innings per *game*.
- * Pitchers may pitch on consecutive days. Pitchers do not need to remain in the field to come back and pitch.

Baseball:

- * Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 50 pitches per *day*. They may exceed this limit to finish the batter.
- * Pitchers must follow normal rest rules as per LL rules.
- * **C Division only:** We will want the players to pitch but realize that the coaches may need to pitch as well as some players have never faced live pitching or pitched. We will leave it to the managers to know when to step in to avoid frustration from both the pitcher and hitter.

2.0 BATTING ORDER

Continuous Batting order - The batting order is to consist of all players present on the team and the whole team bats in succession. An inning will end by means of three (3) outs or upon five runs scored for every inning played, whichever comes first. (Teams are permitted to borrow LL players from the opposing team).

3.0 FIELDING

There shall be nine (9) players on the field (except the C Division which can play with 8). Players should play a minimum of 3 innings in the field. These innings do not need to be consecutive.

Softball only: Players not in the field should be practicing pitching.

4.0 STEALING & BUNTING

Bunting is allowed. Fake bunt/slash is not allowed: A player who squares and then pulls the bat back and then takes a swing will be an automatic OUT even if they don't make contact. (Note: This is a local rule, not a LL rule)

BB Seniors, BB A and SB Majors Only - There will be unlimited stealing of 2nd and 3rd base. There is no further advance allowed on errant throws attempting to throw out a runner. There will be a limit of 2 steals of home per inning. It will be considered a steal of home unless the runner advances to home plate by a batted ball put into play or by being forced in by a bases loaded walk.

BB Seniors: Balks will be called but only a warning will be issued upon the first offense (without penalty). Dropped 3rd Strike and stealing as per LL rules are in effect.

SB Majors: Drop 3rd strike and the runners leaving upon release LL rules are in effect.

BB A Division: Drop 3rd strike and the runners leaving upon the ball crossing home plate are in effect.

BB B Division and SB Minors Only: Only one steal of second and one steal of third will be permitted per inning. No stealing of home allowed.

BB C Division: No stealing allowed

5.0 MERCY RULE

There is no MERCY RULE or 10 run rule. Games will continue through the 6th inning even if the 5 run rule makes a comeback impossible. **Only the time limit, lack of light, or weather should end a game early.** (See time limits below)

6.0 PERSONS ALLOWED IN DUGOUTS AND ON THE FIELD

Only a manager and three coaches are allowed in the dugout along with the players. There should be no other adults or children on the playing field or in the dugout with the exception of one score keeper who is allowed, but must remain in the dugout.

EXCEPTION: In the C Division, coaches may be in the field to assist or pitch. All coaches must have background checks from their own league in order to be on the field.

7.0 TIME LIMITS

ALL BB AND SB Divisions, except C Division and Juniors/Seniors:

If a game has not gone 6 innings, a new inning can't be started once the game has reached 1 hour and 45 minutes (105 minutes)

Juniors/Seniors:

If a game has not gone 7 innings, a new inning can't be started once the game has reached 2 hours and 15 minutes (135 minutes)

8.0 GAME LENGTH/OFFICIAL GAME

The normal length of a game is six (6) innings [or (7) for Juniors/Seniors], darkness, weather or time permitting (see above timelimit rules).

9.0 UMPIRES (not applicable to BB C Division)

The Umpire is the chief authority on the field. Showing the players how to be good citizens and how to interact with umpires is even more important than teaching the players how to field, pitch, bat, or run. The example that our managers and coaches provide can't be underestimated. The example they provide when dealing with the umpires is usually under heavy observation by the players and fans. For this reason, Managers and coaches should not display verbal or physical disagreement with an umpire's call. Rather they should call time out or wait for the end of the ½ inning and then ask to discuss with the umpire.

10.0 GAME CHANGES AND OR CANCELLATIONS

For any weather related cancelations, the home team manager or home league coordinator must text or call 845-825-0151 as soon as the decision is made. We will make every attempt to advise teams within 75 minutes of the scheduled game start. Managers will receive auto-generated emails and we will also advise via www.newcityll.org.

Important Notes: We expect that there may be some lopsided scores which can sometimes be hard to avoid as players try new positions. Please do not be afraid to talk with the opposing managers to let them know if you plan to practice something out of the ordinary. (IE: Lots of bunting, or switch hitting etc). If you feel that a manager is purposely running up the score or making a farce of the game **it should not be met with a confrontation on the field**. Rather they should be reported to one of the League Coordinators immediately after the game. This also applies to unresolved issues with an umpire as well.

The League Coordinators may address issues with the party in question, the League Presidents, and or head of the Umpire Association accordingly which has led to a very successful Fall Program.