

Lamar Little League JUNIOR DIVISION 2016 GROUND RULES

**The 2016 Little League Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules shall govern the
“Playing Rules” for the Junior Division.**

**The Lamar Little League Junior Division Ground Rules listed below are additional,
modified, or detailed explanations of the “Playing Rules” for the Junior Division, only.**

1. **SCHEDULED GAME START TIME:** All games shall begin promptly at the scheduled start time. If a team is unable to field at least 8 players by the game’s scheduled start time, then that team shall forfeit the game – the game score will be recorded as 7-0.
2. **CURFEW:** There is no time limit; however, no new inning may begin after **10:30 PM** per Reg. X (a).
3. **LENGTH OF GAMES:** All games shall consist of seven (7) innings (6 ½ if home team is ahead), unless the game is shortened by the umpire due to run rule, weather, etc.; or lengthened due to a tie. All shortened games must consist of at least 5 innings (4 ½ if home team is ahead) to be considered a complete game. Games tied after 7 innings shall be played until there is a winner, or as long as the curfew allows. If the game is still tied at curfew, the game is considered complete and recorded as a tie.
4. **LENGTH BETWEEN INNINGS:** Teams shall change positions as rapidly as possible at the end of each inning. Play should resume within 2 minutes after the last out of the previous half inning. The Pitcher may take up to 8 warm-up pitches in between each inning, if within the 2 minutes.
5. **RAIN-OUTS:** Rain-out games shall be rescheduled by the League Junior Division VP. In the event a team cannot field enough players on the initial makeup date, and notifies the Junior Division VP and Opposing Manager 24 hours prior to the scheduled game time, a second date will be set. If said team cannot make the 2nd makeup date, that team shall forfeit – the game score will be recorded as 7-0.
6. **BATTING ORDER:** Each team may elect to use a continuous batting order with unrestricted substitutions, or bat 9 with substitutions. The manager or coach of each team shall declare which option they are using during the pregame meeting with the plate umpire and opposing manager/coach. The mandatory play rule applies to each option.
7. **SUBSTITUTIONS:** Plate umpires should be given a copy of the batting order during the pregame meeting between the managers and umpires. Managers are to notify the plate umpire and official score keeper of all substitutions, courtesy runners, etc. throughout the game. Announcement of defensive players should be done during the 2 minutes between innings, or immediately if done during an inning (i.e. Pitcher changes). Announcement of offensive substitutions shall be done before the substitution batter enters the batting box.
8. **MANDATORY PLAY:** Each player on the team’s roster and present at the start of the game shall play a minimum of six (6) consecutive outs and one (1) at bat. The penalty for violating the mandatory play rule will be assessed to the Manager as followed: 1st Offense – suspended from next scheduled game, 2nd violation – suspended from the following two games, 3rd violation – Manager

will be removed from the league as a manager. [EXCEPTION: for weather, shortened games, illness, injury]

9. **PITCHERS & CATCHERS:** Pitchers removed from the game as a pitcher may return to the mound as a pitcher later in the game, once per game, as long the pitcher has not reached the maximum daily pitch count. Pitchers that throw 41 pitches cannot play the position of catcher the remainder of the day. Catchers that catch 3 full innings cannot play the position of pitcher the remainder of the game; and catchers that catch less than 3 innings and then pitch, cannot return as a catcher the remainder of the game.
 - a. Pitchers cannot pitch more than 95 pitches in a single day; however it is highly recommended that managers develop several players to pitch and limit pitchers to 75 or fewer pitches per day, throughout the season.
 - b. Pitch count rest days will comply with the Rule Book as follows:
 - 66 or more pitches – (4) calendar days rest
 - 51-65 pitches – (3) calendar days rest
 - 36-50 pitches – (2) calendar days rest
 - 21-35 pitches – (1) calendar day rest
 - 1-20 pitches – (0) days rest
10. **BALKS:** Pitchers will be given (2) balk warning per game for the first 2 weeks of the season, only. After two weeks, no warnings will be given and balks will be enforced.
11. **PROTESTS:** Only rule infraction protests will be allowed. All disputes must be settled within 5 minutes, by the Lead Umpire. The Manager may, with rule book in hand and permission from the Lead Umpire, question a call regarding a ruling. The Umpires decision at the end of 5 minutes is final. **JUDGEMENT CALLS CAN NOT BE PROTESTED.**
12. **PLAYING FIELD:** To help transition the players from Little League Majors to the Juniors division, the first half of the season will be played on a 54/80 field (54 feet pitcher's mound and 80 foot base paths) and the second half of the season will be played on a 60/90 field.
13. **ON-DECK BATTER:** The next batter in the line-up is allowed to be outside the dugout in the designated "on-deck" area. The designated "on-deck" area for both teams shall be on the 1st base side (visitors' dugout) if a left-handed batter is batting; and the 3rd base side (home dugout) if a right-handed batter is batting. If no runners are on base, the on-deck batter shall retrieve pass or foul balls for the umpire and/or opposing team's catcher.
14. **SCOREKEEPER, PITCH COUNTER, SCORE BOARD OPERATOR, & FIELD MAINTENANCE:**
 - a. The home team shall be responsible for making sure the field is prepared before each game (putting out bases, marking the field, lightly watering, etc).
 - b. The home team shall provide the official scorekeeper and the visiting team shall provide the scoreboard operator and official pitch counter. After the game, the scorekeeper & pitch counter shall have both Managers and Umpires sign the scorebook & pitch count.
 - c. Both teams are responsible for getting water coolers from the concession stand for their dugout and returning them after the game.
 - d. Both teams are responsible for picking up the trash in their respective dugouts.
 - e. The visiting team is responsible for watering the field after the game (no raking or dragging is necessary, just water heavily)

15. **INJURY REPORT:** An injury report must be filled out for every injury, no matter how minor. Be sure you keep a form with you at all times, or obtain a copy on-line, or from the Safety Manager's mail drawer in the Concession Stand area. The incident must be reported to the league Safety Manager within 24 hours of the injury.
16. **END OF SEASON PLAYOFFS:** There will be a single elimination (if 8 or more teams in the division) or double elimination (if fewer than 8 teams in the division) tournament at the end of the regular season to determine the Lamar Little League Junior Division Champion.
17. **TOURNAMENT "ALL-STARS" TEAMS:** A 13-yr old and a 14-yr old tournament team will be selected. A 13-yr old is eligible for both teams, but a 14-yr old is only eligible for the 14-yr old team.

Bats:

Junior League: bats shall not be more than 34 inches in length; nor more than 2 5/8 inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. *All composite bats shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be so labeled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color.*

In all divisions, wood bats may be taped or fitted with a sleeve for a distance not exceeding sixteen (16) inches (18 inches for Junior/Senior/Big League baseball) from the small end. A non-wood bat must have a grip of cork, tape or composition material, and must extend a minimum of 10 inches from the small end. Slippery tape or similar material is prohibited.

NOTE 1: Junior/Senior/Big League: The 2³/₄ inch in diameter bat is not allowed.

NOTE 2: The traditional batting donut is not permissible.

NOTE 4: Non-wood bats may develop dents from time to time. Bats that cannot pass through the approved Little League bat ring for the appropriate division must be removed from play. The 2 5/8 inch bat ring must be used for bats in the Junior, Senior and Big League divisions of baseball.

Note 5: An illegal bat must be removed. Any bat that has been altered shall be removed from play. Penalty – See Rule – 6.06(d).

Summary and Implementation: For the 2012 season, language was modified for the Junior, Senior and Big League bats regulation noting the new BBCOR bat standard.