



THE SPORTS FORUM

MODIFIED LITTLE LEAGUE RULES 8u-12u

EQUIPMENT

Bat Diameter

- With the creation of the NEW bat standard; players within the affected organizations will also now be allowed to use bats with “either” a 2 ¼ inch or 2 5/8 inch barrel diameter (yet all bats must carry the new USA Bat stamp).

Metal Spikes

- No metal spikes are allowed in 8U-12U

Batting Helmet

- Full use batting helmet covering the top and back of the head and side of the face, must be worn at bat and while on base. Helmets must remain on until back in the dugout.

Catcher's Gear

- The catcher must wear the appropriate protective gear; a protective helmet/mask covering both ears, chest protector, shin guards, protective cup and throat guard.

GAME RULES

- No pitcher to catcher rule restrictions.
- Players may only play on (1) tournament team roster per age, forfeiture will be enforced.
- No Slug Bunts allowed. The batter will be called out if he turns to bunt and swings away.
- No Head-First slides allowed. Runners may dive head-first only when returning to a base.
- If a runner attempting to reach home plate intentionally/maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of home plate, he will be called out and ejected from the game. This is a judgment call by the umpire. Players return to the bases last touched at the collision.
- Courtesy runners are allowed for current pitcher and catcher only, must be a player not in the lineup, if roster batting then the furthest batter away.
- A player judged by the umpire as throwing the bat after successfully hitting the ball will be warned once. 2nd offense by the same player will result in an out. 3rd offense by any player on the team will result in an ejection.
- An intentional walk may take place by announcement by the catcher and/or pitcher.
- No lead-off: 8u-10u=No drop ball strike three. 11u-12u=Drop ball strike three

STARTING/ENDING THE GAME

- Teams may warm-up in the outfield grass before their game if time permits. Game time is "Forfeit Time" be ready to play. No formal infield/outfield is allowed prior to the game. No soft-toss into the chain link fence is allowed.
- A coin flip will determine the Home Team before the game for pool play. The higher seeded team will be designated Home Team for playoffs.
- Game Time-Limit is 1 hour 45 minutes; no new inning. During the Championship Game there will be NO Time-Limit. Mercy Rules will still apply. All games = 6 innings.
- During Pool Play if time has not expired, and Playoff's if there is a tie at the end of the game, the "Sports Forum Tie-Breaker Rule" will be used. Last recorded out will be put at 2nd Base and there will be (1) out.
- Mercy Rules applied: 12 after 2½ or 3, 10 after 3½ or 4, 8 after 4½ or 5 innings.
- Line-up: Coaches have the option of batting entire line-up or 9 players using DH or EH. If batting the lineup: if any player is taken out of the lineup – penalty will be an OUT unless mutually agreed by both coaches at the plate meeting.
- All teams MUST pick-up their trash and debris following completion of their games.

PITCHING

- No Balks will be called, just warnings.
- Pitchers are allowed **3** innings per game with a maximum of **8** innings per Tournament. Pitchers will receive (1) EXTRA Inning for the Championship Game (8 innings + 1 = 9 TOTAL. Once the pitcher is removed from the mound he may not re-enter as a pitcher. A pitcher must be removed from the mound upon the 2nd visit by the coach/manager in that same inning. Each pitcher is allowed 2 visits by the coach.
- Violation of Pitching Rules = Ejection of the head coach "and" the pitcher in question.

UMPIRES

- Umpires will settle all issues on the field with the UIC. Any protests will be presented to the UIC/Tournament Director with a \$100 fee; protest must be presented **before** the next pitch. If the protest is won, the \$100 fee will be refunded.

SPORTSMANSHIP

All players, coaches and fans will be expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanship manner at all times. Heckling, taunting, rude gestures and disparaging remarks will not be tolerated. That person or persons will be removed from the ballpark.

~ Playing Rules not specifically covered shall follow the Little League Inc. Rules ~