

# MORRISVILLE LITTLE LEAGUE

## Spring 2018 Minor Baseball Division Plan

### Overview

#### ***Eligibility:***

All players age 9 and players ages 8 and 10, as drafted. Ages are determined as of August 31, 2018. Parents of 11-year-old players may elect (upon the review of Player Agent & Division Coordinators) to have their child play in the minor baseball division.

#### ***Objective:***

The minor baseball division is designed to provide players with instruction and assistance with development while introducing the competitive aspect of the game. This is accomplished by dividing the season into three sections: spring training, regular season, and playoffs

#### ***Skill Development:***

Players in the minor baseball division should have already developed the basic skills necessary to play at this level and have a basic understanding of the game of baseball. Team managers will teach the Minor Division skills as outlined in the Minors Division Baseball Curriculum provided.

#### ***Placement on a Team:***

All players must attend tryouts and must be drafted to play at this level. All teams are redrafted each year. If a player does not attend tryouts then he/she cannot be drafted onto a team until all of the other players have been selected.

#### ***During The Season:***

Games: Teams will typically play two 6 inning games per week from early April through early June against the other Morrisville Little League minor baseball division teams.

Playing Time: All players must bat in order before any player has a second time at bat. All players must play at least three innings per game.

Practices: Teams typically practice once or twice per week

Equipment: Morrisville Little League will provide each player with a hat, shirt, pants and socks. The league will provide each team with bats, balls, catcher's gear, helmets, first aid kit, and ice packs. Each player needs to have their own glove; should wear rubber cleats; and boys must wear a protective cup.

#### ***Location of Games:***

All games are played on the minor baseball field (the field at the north end of the park) in Williamson Park on Delmorr Avenue in Morrisville.

## Additional Information

### PURPOSE

The minor baseball division is designed to provide players with instruction and assist with development while introducing the competitive aspect of the game. This is accomplished by dividing the season into three sections: spring training, regular season, and playoffs.

### RULES

#### 1) Weather

- a) All games will be called in the event of lightning.
- b) Rainouts and games interrupted by rain should be discussed with the division coordinator.

#### 2) General Rules

- a) Games in minor baseball will be played under these rules and Little League rules where applicable. Any questions regarding rules should be submitted to the division coordinator.
- b) Games last 6 innings. There is a two hour time limit (meaning no new inning shall start after two hours from game start time). If the home team leads after the top of the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, they do not bat in the bottom of the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- c) Maximum pitching is six innings per week (Monday through Sunday) and one pitch equals one inning under Little League rules.
- d) Continuous batting – all players must bat in order before any player has a second time at bat. Late arriving players must be added to the bottom of the line-up (with notice to the other team).
- e) Innings will end after four runs are scored or three outs are made, whichever occurs first. Even if the play concludes with 5 or 6 runs scored (example: three-run home run after three runs have already scored), only four runs per inning will count.
- f) Free defensive substitution (except removed pitchers may not return as pitchers) and all players must play at least three innings per game (only exception is for a coach disciplining a player).
- g) All boys must wear protective cups during the games.
- h) Catchers must be dressed and ready to take the field. Catchers running the bases must be replaced when there are two outs. The replacement runner is the player who made the second out that inning. **Adults shall not catch pitchers in warm ups or during the game between innings or at practices (subject to suspension).** Only catchers with gear may receive pitches.

- i) For spring training only, teams are allowed one defensive coach in the field who can be stationed anywhere on the outfield grass. It is suggested that the coach stand behind the second base position and help with outfielders and second base cutoff arrangements.
  - j) For spring training, there will be no league umpires. The batting team's coach will stand behind the pitcher and call balls and strikes (and take over to pitch in spring training if called upon). The nearest coach will make a judgment call for out or safe. A coach consensus can be used for decisions regarding baseball rules. The fielding team's coach in the dugout will call runners for leaving early (if applicable). **Please remember that no call is worth arguing about. Keep things in perspective.**
  - k) Pitchers are limited to five warm up pitches maximum between innings and 7 warm up pitches when a pitching change is made. (less if teams are not prompt in getting on the field). Pitchers are removed after hitting three batters in a game. Pitchers must have one foot on the mound while the coach is pitching in spring training. All pitchers must be recorded in the pitching log.
  - l) Limit of three steals (or steal attempts) per inning. No advance on an overthrow by the catcher on a steal. No leading or leaving the base until the pitch crosses home plate. See Little League rule book for penalty. At a minimum, runner returns on a steal attempt and that team forfeits a steal attempt. A player may not steal a base on the catcher's throw back to the pitcher, even if it is an overthrow.
  - m) Games can result in ties if the time limit has expired. Regular season standings will award 2 points for a win, one point for a tie, and no points for a loss.
  - n) No infield fly rule, no balks, and no game protest.
- 3) Please note that Little League International has imposed new bat regulations for the upcoming 2018 season. Only wood bats and/or bats with the USA sticker are able to be used for practice and games. Please refer to Little League International's website for details and a list of approved bats.
- a) On deck batters are NOT permitted at any time.

#### 4) Season Breakdown

A) **Spring Training**: In the first part of the season, game results do not count and standings are not kept. Use full player rotation and allow every player to pitch at least one inning in spring training. A player may pitch a maximum of one inning per game. If a pitcher walks three batters in an inning, the third walked batter stays at home (with a fresh count) to face coach pitching (in other words, only two players may reach base by walking in a half inning). The coach will pitch the remainder of that inning from the rubber on the mound. Against coach pitching, a batter must hit or strike out swinging. Balls and strikes are not called when the coach pitches (though strikes may be called if a batter is not swinging at good coach pitches). Spring Training shall consist of two to three games.

B) **Regular Season**: No coach pitching at all in the regular season (in theory, a pitcher could walk seven batters, causing four runs to score, which would end the inning). Real umpires are introduced. A player may pitch a maximum of two innings per game and six innings per week. Standings are kept and records determine league champion and seeding for playoffs. Every player shall pitch at least one inning during the regular season. Pitchers can pitch in no more than two consecutive games. Pitchers must be entered in the pitching log, kept in the minor clubhouse, after each game.

C) **Playoffs**: Single elimination playoffs for fun season-ending tourney. Double elimination playoffs will be considered if time permits.

## 5) Team Responsibilities

a) Home Team – Occupies the third base side.

- Has infield pre-game warm up one half hour before the game for 15 minutes.
- Is responsible for selling the 50/50 tickets.
- Is responsible for setting up and putting away the bases.
- Provides two game balls.
- Sweeps out dugout after the game.

b) Visiting Team – Occupies the first base side.

- Has infield pre-game warm up 15 minutes before game time.
- Sweeps out dugout after the game.

c) Note: both teams should help with field preparation.

## 6) Runners

- a) No leading or leaving the base until the ball reaches the batter (or crosses home plate).
- b) A runner must slide to avoid a collision. Runners who intentionally cause a collision are automatically out.
- c) A runner running out of the baseline to avoid a tag will be called out.
- d) Runners may advance on an overthrow (at their risk). No advancing on an overthrow by a catcher on a steal play.
- e) Play ends when the ball is thrown to the pitcher and the pitcher has control in the mound area. Runners will be placed on the closest base.

## 6) Fielders

- a) Standard nine players in the field with three outfielders.

- b) Free defensive substitutions. Try to allocate fielding time equally among your players. Rotate players so that they can try all different positions. All players must play the field for at least three defensive innings. Coaches should be more liberal in spring training when game results do not count. Allow players to try any position then even if it is not your most competitive line-up.
- c) Catchers must wear full safety gear including a protective cup. Catchers crouch behind the plate in the traditional manner.

## 7) Coaches

- a) Coaches must always set a proper example. No arguing and no confrontations.
- b) Coaches will umpire in spring training. In the event of a disputed call, the closest coach makes the call: base coaches for first and third base, field coaches for second base, and pitching coach for home plate. Any coach may call a runner for leaving early on a steal attempt.
- c) Coaches shall not touch a ball or player in play.
- d) Pitching coaches must avoid batted balls. A batted ball that unavoidably hits a coach will still be a live ball.
- e) Coaches must keep games moving along. Have players hustle on and off. Have catchers dressed and ready. Try to get the game in under the time limit.
- f) Coaches may coach first and third base. If a player is used as a base coach, the player must wear a batting helmet.
- g) Coaches must emphasize safety and instruction and promote good sportsmanship at all times. Although score will be kept, the competitive aspect of the game should not be over-emphasized. Keep the games fun and always line up for the good game exchange after the game.
- h) In addition to teaching baseball skills, coaches should stress that: (1) once the scoreboard is turned off, the score no longer matters; and (2) that strikeouts (and outs in general) are part of the game of baseball. Teach that the batter's best response to a strikeout is simply – "get them next time!"

## 8) Little League Rules

- a) All other rules covered by the coordinator(s) of the Minor Baseball Division, the Board of Directors of Morrisville Baseball and/or Little League Baseball.

HAVE A GREAT SEASON AND THANKS FOR COACHING!

Contact Information:

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