



Coaching Expectations & Reference Guide

Umpires (Majors, AAA, and AA)

- All umpires have attended the 8-week RLL umpiring class and passed the final exam.
- Umpires should be at the field 15 minutes before the start of each game.
- Umpires and head coaches meet at home plate 5 minutes before the start of each game to discuss ground rules, exchange names and for the home team to provide 3 game balls.
- Umpires are instructed that they are partially responsible for ensuring that the game moves along at a reasonable pace, and that a fair game is called.
- A lot is happening during the game and umpires may confer with their partner on any controversial plays.
- Umpires do not want to eject a coach or player from a game
- If you feel a call was missed, do NOT:
 - Yell at the umpire
 - Yell at the opposing coach
 - Run/walk onto the field
- Proper etiquette:
 - Take a deep breathe, call timeout, calmly ask the umpire(s) for a clarification. Live with the decision regardless of the final call.
 - You are setting an example for your players and fellow coaches.
 - Remember that our umpires are as young as 12 years old.
 - Remember that MLB umpires miss calls and they are professionals.
 - 2020: 552 MLB coaches challenges - 55% not overturned (305), 45% overturned (247)
- If you have positive or critical feedback on an umpire, please provide it to Director of Umpires, Preston Lucas in a timely manner

Communication

- Communicate with your team often, reminding parents to inform you when their player(s) will not be in attendance.
- Readinglittleleague.com → Team Page → Email
- GameChanger App

Games

- No inning can start after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the beginning of the game (unless it is a playoff game)

Recording scores and pitch counts

- Please enter this information ASAP - at least within 24 hours of each game ending
- Readinglittleleague.com → Team Page → Calendar → Results

Cancellations/Rescheduling

- Cancelling games is the decision of the head coaches of each team. Only under major weather events (tropical storms, etc.) will RLL step in to cancel games.
- Simple rule: LIGHTENING = CARS. Do not place the players, coaches, umpires, and spectators in severe danger.
- **Majors, AAA, and AA - You must CALL Director of Umpires, Preston Lucas, at (781) 439-1855 as soon as you make the decision to cancel/reschedule a game. Email is not acceptable as he could be driving home when you are trying to contact him.**
- To reschedule a game, contact your League Director for field availability options.
- In order to have umpires at the rescheduled game, contact Preston Lucas.

Call up procedures

- If you plan to be short a player or two to field a team of 9 players, please use the call up system (i.e., a Majors team calling up a player from a AAA team).
- Each team will have a specific list of two teams from the division below theirs.
- Please contact the coaches of those teams to reach out to the player's parents – do not reach out to the player's parents directly. If you cannot get a player from these teams, please contact your League Director.
- Players called up should be placed at the bottom of your batting order and should never pitch.
- Worst case scenario – you can play with 8 players, utilizing 2 outfielders (7 in Rookie League due to no catcher).

Arm care and pitch counts

- While there is not one factor that leads to arm injuries, fatigue, overuse, lack of proper conditioning/strengthening and spikes in repetitions are among the most significant risks.
- Some players did not play baseball last year and may not have started to get their arm into shape prior to the season.
- It is imperative to use practice time to stretch, build arm strength and proper pitching technique.
- 9-12-year-old levels: Communicate with players and parents to understand if any of your players also play (and pitch) on another team (club team). For the safety of the player's arm, please apply the LL days rest rules to their club team pitch counts.
- As games begin, it is tempting for coaches to ride their best pitchers. Remember that you want to protect their arms from overuse and give others a chance to pitch if interested.
- The pitch count maximum for all divisions will be 50 prior to May 8th.
- Use pitch count limits as a guide but it is not something that necessarily needs to be reached, especially early in the season. MLB pitchers slowly build up their pitch counts over the course of spring training so that by the time the season starts, they are at a higher pitch threshold.
- Every pitcher has their own threshold level based on several factors (strength, ability, workload, etc.) and pitch usage and limits should be geared accordingly.

Field Maintenance

- Each field has storage bins (Hunt has a storage closet as well) with bases, rakes, hand sanitizer, etc. Additionally, most fields also have a soft toss net and L-screen that are locked up. The code for all combination locks is "2019". In order to not lose keys, the best practice is to open the combination lock, take the keys out, open all necessary locks, then re-lock the keys back in the combination lock.
- Please re-lock all locks, return the bases to the storage bin, and return the tarps to the mound and home plate areas after each practice/game, unless another team is coming on behind you.
- Please rake/drag the field after you are done with the field to help maintain playability.
 - Fill in any low points from sliding, etc. If this is not done, puddles will form during the next rain storm.
 - ALWAYS rake parallel to the grass, and NEVER rake dirt into the grass.
 - Dragging the field will help the infield skin keep an appropriate grade.
 - The goal is to have water shed off the infield to the grass during a rainstorm.
- When prepping the field after a storm, NEVER use more than one bag of quick dry/field saver. Quick dry makes the field very hard.
 - Rule of thumb: If you think you need more than one bag, you should not be playing the game.
- Lime can be found in the storage bins in order to line the fields and create batter's boxes.
- Majors Scoreboard – Directions for use can be found in a storage bin at the field
 - You MUST turn the scoreboard off in the electrical box just below the scoreboard, otherwise the scoreboard will not recharge.