

TVLL 2021 House Rules

TVLL 2021 House Rules Matrix

	Tee-Ball	Farm	Minor B⁹	Minor A	Majors¹¹
League Age	5-6	6-8	8-10	9-11	10-12
Game Length ¹	3-4 innings; 1:00 ¹	4 innings; 1:30 ¹	6 innings; 1:45 ¹	6 innings; 1:45 ¹	6 innings; 2:00 ^{1,2}
Extra Innings	No	No	Yes (ties allowed)	Yes (ties allowed)	Yes (ties allowed)
Playoffs	No	No	Yes ⁹	Yes ⁹	Yes ⁹
# Players on Field	10 ³	10 ³	9 ¹⁰	9 ¹⁰	9 ¹⁰
Minimum Playing Time	N/A	4 innings (2 IF/ 2 OF)	4 innings (2 IF/ 2 OF)	4 innings (2 IF/ 2 OF)	3 innings (1 IF)
Batting Order	Continuous	Continuous	Continuous	Continuous	Continuous
End of 1/2 Inning	All Players Bat	3 outs or 5 runs	3 outs or 5 runs	3 outs or 5 runs	3 outs
Mercy Rule ⁴	No	No	Yes ⁴	Yes ⁴	Yes ⁴
Bunting	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Base Stealing	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Dropped 3rd Strike	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Infield Fly Rule	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pitching ⁵	Tee	Adult/Tee	See Provision 5	Player ⁵	Player ⁵
Pitcher Eligibility ⁵	N/A	N/A	As per Reg VI (d) ⁵	As per Reg VI (d) ⁵	As per Reg VI (d) ⁵
Ball Type	Tee-Ball	Level 5	LL Hardball	LL Hardball	LL Hardball
Base Distance	50 feet	50 feet	60 feet	60 feet	60 feet
Fence/Cones Distance	100 feet	120 feet	150 feet	175 feet	200 feet
Draft	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Umpire	N/A	Parent (1 home, 1 visitor)	Plate & Base (assigned)	Plate & Base (assigned)	Plate & Base (assigned)

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1. No new inning may start after this time has elapsed from the start of the game
2. Time limits apply to Majors due to field requirements as per LL Regulation VII (h)
3. Tenth fielder is an outfielder (when applicable); 4 outfielders will be distributed evenly beyond the infield dirt (or equivalent)
4. **Mercy Rule (Majors, Minor A, Minor B)**
 - A. Ten (10) run rule observed for Majors and Minor A Divisions per LL Rule Book, Rule 4.10(e)
 - B. If the visiting team is ahead by 15 runs or greater after the home half of the 3rd inning the game will be complete
 - C. If the home team is ahead by 15 runs or greater after the visiting half of the 3rd inning the game will be complete
5. **Pitching (applies to Majors, Minor A, Minor B)**
 1. Pitch limits daily limits
 1. **Majors:**
 1. Beginning of season to April 3, 2021-**limit 35 pitches**
 2. April 4, 2021 to May 14, 2021-**limit 50 pitches**
 3. May 15, 2021 to completion of playoffs-**per LL pitch limits (LL Rulebook, Regulation VI, Article C)**
 2. **Minor A**
 1. Beginning of season to April 3, 2021-**limit 35 pitches**
 2. April 4, 2021 to May 14, 2021-**limit 50 pitches**
 3. April 15, 2021 to completion of playoffs-**per LL pitch limits (LL Rulebook, Regulation VI, Article C)**
 3. **Minor B**
 1. Beginning of season to April 3, 2021-**mechanical pitching machine**
 2. April 3, 2021 to May 1, 2021-**limit 25 pitches**
 3. May 2, 2021 to completion of regular season-**limit 35 pitches**
 4. Playoffs-**mechanical pitching machine**

4. If the pitcher reaches the imposed pitch limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until one of the following conditions occurs (whichever happens first)
 1. That batter reaches base
 2. That batter is put out
 3. The half-inning is completed
 1. 3rd out made or
 2. 5th run scored
5. Rest Requirements-**See LL Rulebook, Regulation VI, Article D-K**
6. Mounds (for fields with temporary/moveable mounds)
 1. Mounds will be used in AA, AAA, and Majors
 2. Mounds will be placed at standard Little League distance
 1. Front of the rubber is 46 feet from the front of home plate as measured along the ground
 2. Placement will be verified by umpire and managers prior to first pitch
 3. Once the mound is in place, it will remain in place for the remainder of the game

6. Entire Season, All Divisions:

1. No appeals/requests for help can be made to any umpire that makes a judgement call, such as, but not limited to: whether a batted ball is fair or foul, whether a pitch is a ball or strike, or whether a runner is safe or out. You may request or appeal for help if the umpire's decision may conflict with the rules, such as, but not limited to: pitch counts, or batting orders. Rule 9.02(a).
2. A game may be played with 8 players
 1. If a team is playing with 8 players:

1. if a timely pool player request has been made the lineup will proceed continuously without an out being recorded for the missing 9th player
 2. If a pool player request is not made in a timely manner, an automatic out will be recorded for the missing 9th player
 3. Innings may end on an “automatic out”
 4. In the final inning of play, neither side will record an “automatic out” for the missing player, lineups will be continuous
3. If the catcher or pitcher in on base with 2 outs in the inning, at the managers discretion, a pinch runner may be used for players that will be playing these 2 positions in the next half inning.
1. The pinch runner will be the player that recorded the last/most recent out

4. Farm Division: Entire Season

Coach will pitch 5 pitches to the batter. After 5 pitches, if the ball is not put in play, the player will hit off the tee. No Strikeouts. Batting order is continuous. Inning is over after 3 outs are recorded or 5 runs are scored (whichever occurs first). Runners cannot advance on an overthrow. Play is ruled over when the ball reaches the infield dirt or equivalent. If a runner is not at the half-way point between bases when the play is ruled over, the runner must return to the base that they came from. Force-outs, fly-outs, tag-outs are enforced.

5. Minor B Division

Draft-Players will complete a player evaluation by the TVLL Player Agent. Players that are not drafted into the Minor A Division will be placed in the Minor B player pool. Evaluation performance will be considered and players will be assigned to teams by a TVLL official. Umpires will be assigned for games

Entire Season-The play is considered over and the ball is dead when the pitcher, with ball in hand, has returned to the pitching rubber. Stealing of any base will not be permitted.

Beginning of season to April 3, 2021-Players will be pitched up to 7 pitches by the pitching machine. If on the 7th pitch the batter fouls the ball off they will be pitched subsequent pitches until the ball is put in play or the batter swings and misses, whichever occurs first. A swing and miss on the 7th pitch will be considered an out. A half-inning ends when 5 runs are scored or 3 outs are recorded, whichever occurs first. Runners can advance one (1) base on an overthrow, but may not advance to home plate.

April 4, 2021 to end of season-Players will pitch to the opposing team. Pitch counts will be as stated in the **Provision 5 of House Rules**. If a batter is walked a coach from the batters team will complete the pitching for the at bat. The number of strikes WILL NOT be reset at this time. Once the at-bat is completed the pitcher will pitch to the next batter. If a pitcher reaches his pitch count without completing a half-inning, a coach from the “at bat” team will pitch the remainder of the half inning. Runners can advance one (1) base on an overthrow at their own risk, but may not advance to home plate.

Playoffs-Players will be pitched up to 7 pitches by the pitching machine. Strikeouts count. A strikeout will consist of 3 pitches considered “strikes,” by the designated umpire. This includes swing-and-miss, pitches in the “strike zone,” and foul balls. If on the 3rd strike or 7th pitch the batter fouls the ball off, they will be pitched subsequent pitches until the ball is put in play, the batter swings and misses, or the batter does not swing at the third strike, whichever occurs first. An inning ends with 5 runs scored or 3 outs recorded, whichever occurs first. Runners can advance one (1) base on an overthrow, but may not advance to home plate.

Playoffs seeding will be determined by W-L record at the conclusion of all regular season games. Tie breakers as outlined by league. Umpires will be assigned for playoffs.

6. Minor A

Beginning of season to April 3, 2021-Dropped 3rd strike NOT in effect

April 5, 2020 to end of season (including playoffs)-Dropped 3rd strike rule in effect

Entire Season:

The play is considered over and the ball is dead when the pitcher, with ball in hand, has returned to the pitching rubber

All forms of stealing are allowed as long as the pitcher has not returned to the pitching rubber. Once the pitcher has returned to the pitching rubber the runners cannot advance until after the next pitch is thrown.

7. Majors Division: Entire Season

All Little League rules follow the Little League Rulebook with the exception of TVLL Rules that pertain to pitch counts, as specified per Local provision 5.

The play is considered over and the ball is dead when the pitcher, with ball in hand, has returned to the pitching rubber AND the catcher has returned to the home plate vicinity and is preparing to or is ready to receive the next pitch

8. Provisional Inning (Majors & Minor A)

Observed Rules

1. The official start time of the game is when the **first** warm up pitch of the visitor half of the first inning is thrown (this time will be declared by the umpire to both managers)
2. No new inning may start after the time limit (as indicated on TVLL House Rules 2020 Matrix)
3. If a new inning is to start within 10 minutes of the time limit, managers can agree to a “provisional” last inning with unlimited runs
4. If **ALL** following conditions apply, one more inning may be played after provisional inning:

1. The “provisional” last inning is completed AND
2. The next (final) inning is started before the time limit expires AND
3. Neither team has scored more than 5 runs in the “provisional” last inning

9. Playoffs

1. For Majors, Minor A and Minor B, playoff seeding is determined by regular season W-L records.
2. Tiebreakers for playoff seedings are as follows, in the following order:
 1. Win %
 2. Head to Head
 3. Runs scored against
 4. Runs scored for
3. No pool players are allowed during playoffs
4. No time limits-all games will complete 6 inning unless shortened by the mercy rule
- 5. For Majors, Minor A and Minor B - 3 game playoff series:**
 1. Home team for the first game of each playoff series is determined by the higher seed (4 is home team when playing 5 seed).
 2. Home/visitor will alternate the remainder of the 3-game series.
 3. Winners will advance to the next round-3 game championship series
 4. Losers will play consolation game-1 game to determine 3rd/4th place

10. Pool Players

1. Parents will indicate if they choose to have their child entered into the player pool
2. Pool player list will be managed by the “TVLL Player Agent”
3. Managers will request pool players to replace absent players
4. “TVLL Player Agent” will be responsible for assigning pool players to requesting managers and notifying players and managers of their playing assignment

5. Pool Player requests must be submitted to player agent at minimum 24 hours prior to scheduled game time
 1. If a pool player request is submitted with the appropriate time allotment and a pool player is not assigned the 9th spot in the batting order WILL NOT be considered an out
 2. If a pool player request is submitted less than 24 hours prior to scheduled game time and a pool player is not assigned the 9th spot in the batting order WILL be considered an out
6. Pool players can not pitch or catch. Pool players will be the last player(s) to bat the first time though the batting order.