



Tri-Cities Little League:

Instructional Division

In-House Game Rules:

The Game

- 1) The game will begin at the designated time.
 - a. Managers will confer and agree on start time prior to the game.
 - b. If the game is delayed because of weather or because of a previous game that went long, the start time of your game is the time of the first at-bat.
 - c. The home team is responsible for the official game clock.
- 2) Nine players should take the field.
 - a. If there are fewer than 9 players present, the shorted team can borrow a player from the opposing team until their player arrives. A typical position to place that player would be in the outfield.
- 3) Each game will be with the intent of playing 4 innings.
- 4) Each game should have a time limit of 2 hours. No inning should start after 1 hour and 45 minutes.
- 5) If lightening is seen in the sky, or if the alarm is sounded that there was lightening present, all individuals should evacuate the field immediately and move to shelter.
- 6) The game will occur on the baseball diamond if playable.
 - a. If there is standing water that cannot be removed by game time, or the infield is unplayable for another reason, the managers must confer/agree and notify the VP of Instructional for possible rescheduling of the game.
 - b. Prior to the game, the infield and batting box should be raked smooth, and all major divots/holes should be filled.
 - c. Prior to the game, the infield should be chalked: batter box and baselines that extend 10 feet past the base.
- 7) Games 13-17 will be officially scored for the purpose of seeding for our In-House end of season Divisional Double Elimination Tournament. Games 1-12 and Game 18 are considered practice games. They will be scored and can be recorded on the pitching website for league viewing, however, do not go towards the tournament seeding.

Personnel

1. All teams are allowed 1 Team Manager and 2 Team Coaches in the dugout.
2. At least one Board approved Manager or Coach must be in the dugout in all times.
3. The Team Manager is responsible for the actions of any member of their team's coaching staff AND their team's parents and fans.
4. Absolutely no unauthorized adults or children are allowed in the dugouts.
5. Anyone that plans on helping out at practice or in games (setting-up/closing down the fields, help warming up the players, helping the Manager or Coaches in any way) needs to submit a volunteer application and complete a background check prior to any type of contact with the team.
6. Anyone who plans on becoming Team Parent that assists in communication, snacks, etc; needs to submit a volunteer application and complete a background check prior to any type of contact with the team.

Game Rules

- 1) Offense: (Batting and Baserunning)
 - a. The offensive team will use a continuous batting order and that batting order will consist of the entire team present.
 - b. Each offensive inning of play will end when the offensive team has three outs, has batted all the way through their order, or has scored 5 runs...whichever comes first.
 - c. In official games (Games 13-17, Double-Elimination Tournament): If there are not 9 batters present, the missing batter or batters will be recorded as an automatic 'out' through the batting order.
 - d. There is no "on-deck" position. No batter is allowed to take practice swings as an on deck batter or in the dugout. They must always stand inside the dugout until it is their turn to bat.
 - e. A batted ball that goes into the outfield is considered an extra base hit. The base runners are permitted to continue to advance to the next base until the ball leaves the outfielder's hand. The runner can continue advancing to the base he/she is headed toward when the ball leaves the outfielders hand. The runner is "live" and can be tagged on the way to that base or when heading back to a previous base, but cannot advance past the base they are heading toward, even on an overthrow.
 - f. The offensive team will supply one coach with a glove to serve as a "designated pitcher" along with a 1st and 3rd base coach.
 - g. During the games where an umpire is not present, the offensive team will supply a coach to be placed behind the catcher to call balls and strikes and umpire the bases. Umpire coaches are strongly encouraged to wear a catchers mask during play.
 - h. There are no walks from player pitch or coach pitch.
 - i. A player may not be called out on a foul ball during Designated Pitcher/Coach Pitch. If the fifth pitch is fouled off, there will be another pitch until the batter swings and misses, puts the ball in play, or elects not to swing at the ball (called

out on strikes). The batter will either get a hit or a strike out. In other words, the batter should be swinging on pitch 5 from the Designated Pitcher.

- j. There are no steals or leadoffs.
- k. There is no advancing bases on overthrows or passed balls.
- l. Sliding feet first into bases is permitted.
- m. Head first sliding is permitted ONLY when a runner is returning to a previously occupied base. A runner sliding head first into an advancing base will be immediately called out.
- n. If a player has possession of the ball and is waiting to make a tag, the runner must slide or attempt to avoid contact with the fielder.
- o. There is no 'tagging up' as a baserunner and then advancing during a pop-out. If the ball is hit into play in the air, and the player tags up, he may proceed to the next base as a 'live' runner only if the defensive player drops the ball or does not make the pop-out. The runner would be considered 'live' and the defense can attempt to get them out on the advancing base.
- p. Extra Innings: (Postseason Tournament)
 - i. California Rule is implemented: At the start of each half inning, the batting team has 1 baserunner placed on 2nd base. The batter starts with 1 strike, 1 ball, and 1 out.
 - ii. There is only Designated Coach/Coach Pitch for extra innings. (This is a new rule as of 2019). This was implemented for time management reasons, as well as excessive use of pitchers and their pitch counts.

2) Defense: (Fielding and Pitching)

- a. There will be 9 players on the field during the game filling in 1B, 2B, SS, 3B, C, P, LF, RF, and CF.
- b. A fielder may record an out catching a pop-up in foul territory.
- c. Player Pitchers: are NOT allowed to be warmed up on the field from an adult coach. A player with proper protective catcher's helmet and catcher's mitt shall be used to warm up a pitcher on the field or outside the field of play.
- d. A pitcher will be allowed to hit a maximum of 2 batters in one inning and a total of 3 batters in a game. When those limits are reached the pitcher must be replaced.
- e. **Pitch Count Rules:** (refer to Section VI of green Little League Rule Book)
 - i. The manager must remove the pitcher when the pitcher reaches 50 pitches.
 - ii. If a pitcher reaches 50 pitches while facing a batter, he/she may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base or the batter is put out
 - iii. A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play catcher for the remainder of that day.
 - iv. A pitcher may only pitch 2 innings per game or six consecutive outs if that pitcher entered the game in the middle of an inning.

- If a player pitches 36-50 pitches in a day, 2 calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 21-35 pitches in a day, 1 calendar days of rest must be observed.

- **If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, 0 calendar days of rest must be observed.**

- f. Designated Pitcher/Coach Pitch: If a pitcher reaches ball 4, the Designated Pitcher will replace the live pitcher with the Player Pitcher positioned to the side. The Player Pitcher should stand 5' from the Designated Pitcher. He should stand on the right side for right handed batters, and on the left side of the Designated Pitcher when facing left handed pitchers.
- g. The Designated Pitches/Coach Pitch will not inherit the pitch count when they come in.
- h. The Designated Pitcher will throw a maximum of 5 pitches. If the fifth pitch is fouled off, there will be another pitch until the batter swings and misses, puts the ball in play, or elects not to swing at the ball (called out on strikes). The batter will either get a hit or a strike out. In other words, the batter should be swinging on pitch 5 from the Designated Pitcher.
- i. Players (and Designated Pitcher/Coach Pitch) will pitch from 42' away.

3) Equipment:

- a. Each batter is required to wear a batting helmet **WITH** a cage/face mask attached.
- b. Each batter must use a bat that has the **USA approved sticker** on the stem of the bat: **NO EXCEPTIONS**- this is a Little League Official Rule as of 2018. **See Below**
- c. Cup protectors are mandatory for all male players.
- d. Each player should have a glove on their hand when in the field.
- e. The catcher must have all appropriate gear on before squatting/standing in the batter's box behind the batter.
- f. All catcher's masks must be fitted with a protective throat guard.

Post Game

1. Each team should line up along the base lines at the end of the game and shake hands (or give high-five).
2. The teams are strongly encouraged to purchase a post-game snack from the concession stand. There are picnic tables and bleachers along the field that the whole team can sit at. This allows the players and families to socialize after the game.
3. The managers (with the help of the assistant coaches) are responsible for making sure the field is left in game-ready condition.
 - a. The batting area and infield should be rake so that holes are filled and the batting area is smoothed out.
 - b. Each base should be returned back to the base closet and a plugs should be placed at each station (1B, 2B, 3B). Home plate stays on the field.
4. All equipment should be placed back where it was taken from (rakes, chalk, tractor, etc) before leaving the fields. This is important in ensuring our equipment is stocked and

being kept away from the outdoor elements as well as it getting taken/stolen from the field.

5. Advocate that all of your players as well as their families pick up their trash at the end of the game to keep the grounds as nice as possible. Trash cans are placed at each field to dispose in. This includes the dugouts.

*USA Approved Logo:



2019 Opening Day: April 27th

2019 Picture Day: May 11th

2019 Closing Ceremony: June 29th



2019 VP of Instructional Division: Paul Venezia

2019 President of Tri-Cities Little League: Jeff Scheider