

WEST VALLEY LITTLE LEAGUE BYLAWS

WVLL LOCAL RULES, Baseball

“All divisions of West Valley Little League Baseball practice and game play shall be conducted in accordance with the Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules for Baseball AND all policies set forth by Little League District 12 for Baseball, WITH the application of the following WVLL Local Bylaws.”

MOST RECENT REVISION: March 2014

SECTION 1: DURATION OF RULES

Bylaws, Local Rules and Ground Rules, must be voted in annually.

“Each local Little League Board of Directors should adopt its own bylaws, local rules or ground rules (the terms are interchangeable). These documents expire annually at the end of the fiscal year and must be renewed annually.

Because each local Little League BOD should have the authority to change these types of procedures, they require only board consent, without the general membership’s approval. No part of the bylaws, local rules or ground rules can conflict with or supercede any Little League rule, regulation or policy.”

SECTION 2: BATTING LINE UP

Each team will bat all players (example: 12 player batting order). The order shall be established before the game.

SECTION 3: MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS

A team must start a game with a minimum of nine (9) players but can finish a game with eight (8) players.

SECTION 4: UNIFORMS/JEWELRY

Only those uniforms issued by WVLL will be worn by all players as per section 1 of National rule book.

The league (WVLL) shall provide all players with conventional uniforms. The official Little League Shoulder Patch must be affixed to the upper left sleeve of the uniform blouse in all divisions of play. This rule applies to summer season play. No jewelry is to be worn by players during their game.

SECTION 5: STANDING BEHIND THE BACKSTOP

Nobody is to be directly behind the backstop during the game (managers, coaches, spectators). It is suggested that a buffer of 10 feet be respected behind the backstop during all games.

SECTION 6: HARASSMENT OF UMPIRES [modified February 2013].

It is the responsibility of the manager to see that there is no harassment of the umpires by their coaches, players or spectators.

Umpires will be respected by all managers, coaches and spectators. Negative comments directed at an umpire or harassment by anyone will not be tolerated. Comments regarding umpires will be directed to the Manager or a WVLL Board Member, NOT to an umpire.

SECTION 7: HORN OR NOISEMAKERS HORN OR NOISEMAKERS

No horns or noisemakers are allowed at the ballpark during games.

SECTION 8: TEN (10) RUN RULE

MAJORS [Baseball]: All games where a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more, and has completed five (5) innings, a ten run rule will be enforced. This will be considered a complete game.

Progressive Mercy Rule – for MINORS division [BASEBALL], added March 2014

Progressive Mercy rule for Minors [Baseball]: A complete game would be considered when one team is leading by: 15 runs after 3 innings, 11 runs after 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings. A team is still only allowed to score 5 runs maximum per inning in the Minor League.

SECTION 9: SWINGING OF BATS

There will be no swinging of bats. Players caught swinging a bat during their game anywhere other than the area of the batter's box, during their turn at bat, may cause an out to be counted against their team. All batters are to remain in the dugout until their turn at the plate.

SECTION 10: ABUSE OF EQUIPMENT

Abuse of any equipment, whether it is their personal equipment or not, will be warned. If the abuse continues, or is flagrant, the player will be ejected from the game.

SECTION 11: SLIDING -- HEADFIRST

For safety reasons, intentional headfirst slides are not allowed while advancing, the player will be called out. A dive back to the base is allowed.

SECTION 12: SLIDING -- TO AVOID CONTACT

A runner will be called out if the runner does not slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make a tag. There is no "Must Slide Rule". The rule is "slide" or "attempt to get around." If the fielder does not have the ball, and there is a collision, you CAN NOT call the runner out.

SECTION 13: REMOVING HELMETS WHILE RUNNING THE BASES

Helmets are to be kept on while running the bases. An out will be called if a player intentionally removes their helmet while running the bases.

SECTION 14: REPLACING INJURED BATTER OR BASE RUNNER

If a batter gets hurt while batting and cannot continue, the player that made the last out shall replace them. A catcher may be pinch run for with two outs to get gear on to speed up games. (The pinch runner will be the batter who was last out).

SECTION 15: TIME LIMIT ON ALL GAMES (revised March 2014)

On all games there is a (2) hour time limit from your official start time, not the scheduled start time. "No new inning shall begin more than 1 hour 45 minutes after the actual start of the game, not the scheduled time." This will help keep our games within their 2 hour intended time frame, and to help keep on track with Saturday game schedules. The teams scheduled after you should be warmed up and ready to begin play immediately.

NOTE: the last out of an inning signifies the end of that inning. The new inning starts immediately.

PITCHING RULES

SECTION 16: PITCHING REQUIREMENT (AS PER NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE)

WVLL REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING RULES REGARDING UNDER AGE PITCHING.

Major League – All major league teams are required to pitch a player under league age twelve (12) a minimum of six (6) batters per week (Sunday – Saturday) unless there is only (1) game per week. Forfeiture of game if this does not occur.

Minor League – All minor league teams are required to pitch a player under league age ten (10) a minimum of six (6) batters per week (Sunday – Saturday) unless there is only one (1) game per week. Forfeiture of game if this does not occur. Eleven (11) and twelve (12) year old players are ineligible to pitch in the minor league.

REGULATION VI-Pitchers: As per National rules a. Any player on a regular season team may pitch. (NOTE: There is no limit to the number of pitchers a team may use in a game). b. Junior, Senior, Big League Divisions only: A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game but only once per game. c. The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position (other than catcher).

13/14 y/o--95 per day

11/12 y/o--85 per day

9/10 y/o--75 per day

7/8 y/o--50 per day

These rules apply to league age kids 14 and under:

**If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day; 4 calendar days of rest must be observed.

**if a player pitches 51-65 pitches in a day; 3 calendar days of rest must be observed.

**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 day of rest must be observed.

**if a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day; no calendar days of rest are required.

IMPORTANT NOTES: A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game CANNOT play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day. ALSO, a player who plays the position of catcher in four [4] or more innings in a game, is not eligible to pitch for the remainder of that calendar day. REMINDER: 1 pitch equals 1 inning.

These rules may be found in the Little League Rules and Regulations for Baseball Rule book.

Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Regulation VI (c.) for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: 1. That batter reaches base; 2. That batter is put out; 3. The third out is made to complete the half-inning.

Exception: **NEW, introduced in 2013.** Regulation VI (d). If a pitcher reaches the day[s] of rest limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: 1. That batter reaches base; 2. That batter is retired; 3. The third out is made to complete the half-inning.

The pitcher will ONLY be required to observe the calendar day[s] of rest for the threshold he/she reached during that at-bat; provided that pitcher is removed before delivering a pitch to another batter.

Note 1. Intentional walk: Before a pitch is delivered to the batter, the catcher must inform the umpire-in-chief that the defensive team wishes to give the batter an intentional base-on-balls. The umpire-in-chief waves the batter to first base. The ball is dead and four pitches will be added to the pitchers total pitch count. Each league must designate the scorekeeper or another game official as the official pitch count recorder.

The pitch count recorder must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager is responsible for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed. The official pitch count recorder should inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted in Regulation VI (c.). The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed in accordance with Regulation VI (c.). However, the failure by the pitch count recorder to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in-chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.

Violation of any section of this regulation can result in protest of the game in which it occurs. Protest shall be made in accordance with Playing Rule 4.19.

A player who has attained the league age of eleven [11] or twelve [12] is not eligible to pitch in the Minor league.

A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day. (Exception: In the Big League Division, a player may be used as a pitcher in up to two games in a day).

NOTES: 1. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after that pitcher is announced, or after a warm-up pitch is delivered, but before that player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation. Little League officials are urged to take precautions to prevent protests. When a protest situation is imminent, the potential offender shall be notified immediately. 2. Pitches delivered in games declared "Regulation Tie Games" or "Suspended Games" shall be charged against pitcher's eligibility. 3. In suspended games resumed on another day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of their eligibility for that day, provided said pitcher has observed the required days of rest.

Note: The use of this regulation negates the concept of the "calendar week" with regard to pitching eligibility.

SECTION 17: PITCHING -- HIT BATTERS (removed 3/2010)

SECTION 18: PITCHING -- VISITS BY MANAGER OR COACH

A manager or coach can visit a pitcher two (2) times in one (1) inning, but on the third (3rd) visit the pitcher must be replaced. On the fourth (4) visits to one pitcher during a single game, the pitcher must be replaced.

SECTION 19: PITCHING -- BALKS

There are no balks; if there is an illegal pitch a ball will be called.

SECTION 20: MAXIMUM RUNS ALLOWED PER INNING

Minor and Rookie leagues. No team is allowed to score more than five (5) runs in a single inning. Once the fifth [5th] run scores, that half of the inning is over. Innings are declared over once the fifth run scores, or when three [3] outs have been made, whichever comes first. NOTE: A team may continue to bat through the batting order, continuing until five runs have scored or three [3] outs have been made.

THERE IS NO "OPEN" 6TH INNING RUN RULE in the Minor or Rookie league.

Major league. NO limit on runs scored per inning.

SECTION 21: PLAYING REQUIREMENT

Minor and Rookie league – All players must be played in the field every other inning.

Major league – All players must be played in the field every other inning.

SECTION 22: BASE COACHES

Rookie league – Must have one adult on the mound, operating the pitching machine at all times, may have two coaches in the field and two base coaches. Rookie league is an instructional league.

Minor league – The manager may designate any two (2) adults to coach 1st and 3rd bases. A player may coach first or third base but must be a member of that team and be in full uniform, including a batting helmet.

Major league – It is the manager's option whether to have an adult or player as the 1st base coach. A player may coach first or third base but must be a member of that team and be in full uniform, including a batting helmet.

SECTION 23: SIBLINGS

Siblings 8 and 10 year old do need to try out for respective divisions to deem safety/capability issues.

SECTION 24: ROOKIE LEAGUE RULES

Rookie league (machine pitch) players will be allowed (5) machine pitches or (3) strikes, whichever comes first. All other minor league rules will stand for rookie/machine pitch. All rookie/machine pitch bases will be set up per Little League regulation for minors/majors fields.

SECTION 25. Dropped 3rd Strike – MAJORS division. [February 2013]

Beginning with the 2013 season, WVLL will incorporate the "Dropped 3rd Strike" rule into the MAJOR league division, as mentioned under Rule 6.09 (b) in Little League Official Book.

"The batter becomes a runner when: the third strike called by the umpire is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied or (2) first base is occupied with 2 out. NOTE: a batter forfeits his/her opportunity to advance to first base when he/she enters the dugout or other dead ball area.

SECTION 26. Parent/Spectator Ejections, Negative Behavior – Implications. [February 2013].

The following punishments will be enforced for a parent/spectator who is harassing/disrespecting umpires, behaving badly, interrupting play, causing disturbance.

1st WARNING. The Umpire will notify the manager or coach in charge that identified parent/spectator is behaving inappropriately. The MANAGER [not the umpire] will immediately address the parent/spectator.

2nd WARNING. If the identified parent/spectator continues to act in any way disrespectful to the game or any of its participants, the Umpire will notify the MANAGER that the identified person is to be removed from the Park. The MANAGER [not the Umpire] will notify person immediately, play will be stopped until the individual is gone.

IF THE PARENT/SPECTATOR RESISTS LEAVING. The game will be forfeited, both Managers are encouraged to handle this situation together, in a very professional manner.

SECTION 27: No Video Recordings at Tryouts.

There is to be NO video recording of players at Tryouts, due to parental concerns over child safety and privacy.

SECTION 28: Mandatory Tryout for ALL 8 yr old Baseball and Softball players.

All 8 year olds are required to participate in a mandatory tryout. If their individual skills are deemed not ready for the Minor league, they will be allowed to participate in the Rookie Division.

SECTION 29. [2018] – Stealing Bases – Minors.

Stealing Home Base while a batter is in the batter's box shall not be allowed in Minors and under divisions.

Previous Revisions: February 2013