

Rules specific to Little League (Small Field)

| Category | Description |
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| Safety/ Procedural | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach cannot warm up pitcher (in bullpen or on field) – Regulation XIV (f) • Dangling throat guard required on catcher’s mask – Rule 1.17 Applies to all types of catcher’s masks including hockey style masks • No on-deck batter, except for first batter of an inning – Rule 1.08 • No metal cleats – Rule 1.11(h) • No jewelry – rule 1.11(j) Medic Alert is the only exception • Youth base coaches must wear batting helmets – Rule 1.16 • Coaches do not wear uniforms – Rule 1.11(i) • 10 run mercy rule – Rule 4.10(e) If the home team is ahead by 10 or more runs after 3 ½ or more innings or if the visiting team is ahead by 10 or more runs after four or more full innings, the game is over. <i>(Note – this is optional on a league-wide basis)</i> • Ejection penalty An ejection carries a mandatory one-game suspension |
| Playing Rules | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide or attempt to get around – Rule 7.08(a)(3) There is no “must slide rule”. Fielder must have the ball waiting to make a tag. Attempting to get around the fielder or sliding meets the criteria of the rule. • Tight bases – Rule 7.13 Penalty for leaving early is, generally, to send runners back, not call runners out. • No head first slide – Rule 7.08(a)(4) Runner is out. Ok to slide head first when returning to a base. • Uncaught third strike – Rule 6.05(b) Does not apply in Minors, <i>optional (league-wide decision) in Majors</i> |
| Pitching | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balk/Illegal Pitch – Rule 8.05 No balks. Generally what would normally be a balk is an illegal pitch, i.e. a ball to the batter. Exceptions: No stop is required in the set position, May wind up from set position Ok to take hand off ball • No hand to mouth on the mound – 8.02(a)(1) • Visits to the pitcher – Rule 8.06 Visits are at the mound. After third in one inning or fourth in the game, the pitcher must be replaced on the mound. |
| Bats – Rule 1.10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 33” long and 2 ¼” diameter • Non-wood bats must be marked BPF 1.15 • Composite barrel bats are prohibited except for approved models (see list at littleleague.org/batlist) |