

PONY U13/U14

Rules and Procedures Revised 4/16/2011

The official Little League baseball playing rules will be the main source or guide to govern play. The following LZBSA guidelines have been adopted by the LZBSA Board of Directors to incorporate and enhance the little league rules.

1.0 Manager, Coach, Player and Parent Responsibilities

- A. Managers, coaches, players and parents shall exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. Any action to taunt, intimidate or degrade opposing managers, coaches, players, parents or umpires will not be tolerated.
- B. Players will not throw bats, helmets or any other equipment to display anger, frustration or displeasure. Violators may be removed from the game, at the discretion of the umpire, for flagrant violations.
- C. Swearing by managers, coaches, players or parents, on and off the field, during games or practices, will be strictly prohibited. Violations during a game will result in immediate ejection.
- D. Influencing the umpires (for example, yelling "safe" or "out" before the umpire makes a call, or yelling "good pitch" before the umpire makes a call) or openly questioning or complaining about the umpire's call will not be tolerated.
- E. Arguing with umpires will not be tolerated and, if violated, managers, coaches, players or parents may be ejected and subject to disciplinary action.
- F. All managers and/or head coaches will be responsible for their teams, including coaches, players and parents, as outlined in the manager's agreement. All managers will be required to submit a signed manager's agreement prior to beginning the season, and to abide by the guidelines set forth by the agreement. These guidelines include, but are not limited to manager/coach responsibility and conduct to players, rules violations, disciplinary action, equipment, knowledge of playing rules, LZBSA responsibilities, etc.
- G. The position of the manager is a privilege retained for one baseball season. At the completion of the season, the league president will review each manager's privilege and/or the manager review committee, umpire in chief and the respective vice commissioner.
 - 1) Home team will keep official scorebook.
 - 2) Each player will play a minimum of four (4) innings in the field.
 - 3) No player shall sit two innings in a row.
- F. A pitcher, once removed, cannot re-enter as a pitcher.
- G. All balks will be called. No warnings will be given.

1.01 Rain Outs or Other Postponed Games

- A. When a game is rained out or must be rescheduled, the league president is responsible for rescheduling the game on the first available date.
- B. Failure to play on the assigned date may result in forfeiture; games rescheduled on Sundays may not be played before 12:00 noon.
- C. Suspended games are a continuation of the originally played game. The original lineup will remain and the same rules will apply if the original game had been played in its entirety. Late players will be added to the bottom of the batting order. The pitching rules for the week the suspended game is played is also in effect. A suspended game can resume with eight (8) players.

1.02 Pony League Draft Procedure

- See attached

1.03 All Play Rule - Continuous Batting Order

- A. All players present and eligible for the game shall be listed in a continuous batting order, which is in effect for the entire game. All players must bat in their position in the order, whether or not they play in the field. Each manager will submit a listed batting order, including player name and number, to the opposing team manager and patched umpire, prior to the game. Players arriving late to the game must be placed at the end of the batting order. If a player leaves before the end of a game, that player's position in the batting order will be eliminated and such elimination will not constitute an out.
- B. All players must play at least four (4) full innings in the field per game. Late arriving players will play an appropriate, prorated amount of innings. Violations to the play rule may cause the manager to be suspended.
- C. Once the game has started, if, due to injury, illness or ejection of a player, a team has only 8 players remaining, that team will be allowed to complete the game. An out will be called each time the missing player comes up in the batting order. Less than eight players will result in a forfeit regardless of the score or the inning.
- D. To field a legal team, a 15-minute grace period on the umpire's watch will be allowed before a forfeit is called.

1.04 Game Rules and Time Limits

- A. There will be time limits on games, 2 ½ Hours. No inning shall start after the time limit.
- B. A game will be official if it is called by the umpire after 4 1/2 innings (if the home team is leading), or after any part of the 5th inning in which the home team is leading or after 5 complete innings. If a game is called before it is official, it will be a continuation from that point in the game. As far as pitching rules, substitution rules, player statistics, etc. will be a continuation of the rules.
- C. The umpire has the sole discretion of calling a game because of weather, darkness, etc. The winner of a game called after 5 full innings is per NF Rule 4, Section 2, Article 3, which details how winning score is determined. In the event of a tie game, the game is suspended and must be completed later.
- D. The slaughter rule is in effect if a team is 10 runs ahead after 5 innings (4 1/2 if the leading team is the home team). That team wins the game and the game is over provided that the home team completes its turn at bat if it is the team behind in the score.

1.05 Catcher & Catching Rules

- A. Catchers must wear a cup and a supporter. The catcher must wear a mask while warming up the pitcher or the umpire can eject him.
- B. A courtesy runner must be provided for the catcher any time after 2 outs. A courtesy runner can be provided for the pitcher any time after 2 outs. The courtesy runner must be a player not in the game; otherwise the courtesy runner is the player who made the last out.

1.06 Borrowing Players Rule

- A. Any 12-year-old player from the Major Division will be eligible to be brought up, to play in the Pony League only in accordance with the rules in this section.
- B. No player on a traveling team or all-star team can be borrowed.
- C. A specific player may only be borrowed once during a regular season game. During playoffs, all ball players are again eligible to play, but again can only be borrowed once.

- D. Borrowed players will play at least the required minimum number of innings, but will not be allowed more innings than rostered players. Borrowed players must bat at the end of the batting order. Borrowed players will not be allowed to pitch.
- E. Players may not be borrowed if the Pony League game conflicts with their regularly scheduled Major League game. Before a borrowed player is placed on the game line up card, the Player Agent or Pony League President must be called for approval. If a manager exhausts all efforts to contact either representative and then elects to play a 12-year-old, the manager is responsible for the player's eligibility. If it is later determined that the player has played before, the manager will forfeit the game.
- F. A team can borrow no more than a total of three 12 year old players for any one game as the team's 7th, 8th and 9th players. A team must have 9 eligible players including at least 6 regular rostered players in order to play a game. Playing with less than 6 Pony League Players will result in a forfeit.
- G. When 9 Pony League players are available, one 12 year old may be brought up as a 10th player as insurance against injury. This 12-year-old player must play the minimum of innings in the field, but no more than the minimum. In the event of an injury to one of the Pony League players, the player may be substituted for the injured player without regard to the maximum play time limit.

1.07 Pitching Rules

- A. No pitcher can pitch more than 10 innings per week. The pitching week is from Monday through Sunday.
- B. No pitcher can pitch more than 75 Pitches in one game. If you throw 75 pitches you must rest 3 complete days. (Example Palmer pitches on Monday and throws 75 pitches he is eligible to pitch Friday). 31 to 45 pitches must rest one full day. 46 to 60 pitches must rest two full days. 61 to 75 pitches must rest three full days.
- C. If a pitcher is reaching his 75 pitch limit in the middle of a batter, he can finish that at bat. He must be removed before the next batter steps up to the plate.
- D. If a Pitcher throws less than 30 pitches in a game he is eligible to pitch the next day with pitch count being a continuation of the day before.
- E. If a pitcher is removed from the game he **cannot** be used as a catcher for at least 1 full defensive inning.
- F. All pitches shall be counted by both teams and between each inning each team must agree upon the number of pitches the pitchers have thrown. If a Pitcher is nearing his limit the Plate Umpire must be informed. At the end of the game both managers must review and sign each score book to verify who pitched and how many pitches. Both teams must report the following to the League President and an e-mail to all managers:
 - The game location (What Field)
 - What two teams played
 - Score of the game
 - Who pitched for each team
 - How many pitches and innings did each pitcher have.
 - Umpires Name

1.08 Hit by a Pitch Rule

- A. If a pitcher hits two (2) batters in the course of one (1) inning, that pitcher must be removed from the mound.
- B. If a pitcher hits three (3) batters during the course of the game, that pitcher must be removed from the mound.

1.09 Playoff Pitching Eligibility

- To Be Determined

1.10 Other Rules of Play

- A. The distance between base paths is 80 feet. The distance between the pitcher's mound and home plate is 54 feet.
- B. There is no designated hitter.
- C. Players shall not wear jewelry, including chains, earrings, watches, etc.
- D. Full uniform is required to play.
- E. Metal spikes will be allowed.
- F. The home team will supply three balls for each game.
- G. Any team that loses a player for the year will take the next player on the waiting list held by the League President. No player will be added after the first half of the season is over.
- H. No player may play for more than one team.
- I. Any manager who has disciplinary problems with a player must bring the matter to the attention of the League President for evaluation and action. The enforcement of the appropriate disciplinary action is only available for the League President.
- J. There will be restrictions or limits on baseball bat size and weight. Check Little League Web Site and I.H.S.A. for approved bats No fungo bats will be allowed.
- K. All rules not specifically mentioned will be governed by IHSA rules.