

## 2024 Minor A Ground Rules

### **PLAYER DRESS CODE:**

- Players must be in uniform provided by the league, a shirt and hat with the team logo.
- Catchers must wear a protective cup, and all catchers gear must meet Little League requirements (ie throat guard).
- Uniform shirts are to be tucked in at all times.
- Only Little League approved equipment may be used. No metal cleats.

### **PRE-GAME:**

- Coaches should meet and review all ground rules.

### **GAME DURATION:**

- Weekday game duration will be six (6) innings **OR** until the game is called due to darkness.
- Weekend game duration will be six (6) innings **OR** ninety (90) minutes from the scheduled start time. If time expires during an at bat, the batter will complete the at bat before ending the game due to time. Teams need 15 minutes to warm up and prepare the field for the following game.

### **5-RUN RULE:**

- An inning will end after a team scores its fifth run.

### **OFFENSE:**

- Managers/coaches will pitch the entire season.
  - A coach-pitch stripe shall be chalked at a set distance from the front of home plate as follows:
    - 30 feet during March
    - 35 feet during April
    - 40 feet during May
- The coach pitcher should start the pitch near the coach-pitch stripe and may either throw from a standing or kneeling position at their discretion. Variation of this rule for individual players may be allowed by manager agreement.
- A coach will call balls and strikes.
- A traditional count will be used and there will be **no strikeouts**.
- If a batter takes or swings at three strikes the batter will return to the dugout but it will not count as an out.
- Runners **will not** advance on overthrows to any base. Runners may advance on balls hit to the outfield.
- When a throw from the outfield is controlled by a defensive player positioned anywhere in the infield, the ball is dead and base runners may not take extra

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bases. Base runners must stop at the base they were heading to when the ball was controlled.

- There will be no stealing, sliding, or leading off.
- An offensive team will complete their “at bat” if any of the following occur:
  1. Three (3) defensive outs. (no strikeouts)
  2. Five (5) runs scored.
  3. Offensive team has batted through the line up.

### **DUGOUTS:**

- No food or gum will be allowed in the dugouts. Water in non-glass containers is recommended. All batters will wait to bat inside the dugout. No on-deck area will be available for warm up. Bats will not be touched in the dugout until the on-deck batter is leaving the dugout to go to home plate to hit.

### **DEFENSE:**

- A regular defense will be played: P, C, 1B, 2B, 3B, SS, LF, CF, & RF only.
- Outfielders will start behind the outfield chalk line.
- Players will play an infield position a maximum of two innings in a row and three innings per game.
- Players must be rotated thru the infield positions, including catcher, each game and throughout the season.

### **COACHES:**

- Two adult base coaches allowed when batting.
- Two coaches are allowed in fair territory to assist defensive players.
- A coach should be placed behind their catcher to assist in quick ball return back to the pitcher.

### **FORMS:**

- All coaches and managers must have a league-approved application on file.
- Player medical release forms must be with the manager/coach at every game or practice.

### **FIELD PREPARATION:**

- Both managers are responsible for field prep (watering, dragging, raking, and chalking) before each game.
- If a pitching machine is being used, then it is to be set up by the home team.
- **Coaches from the completed game should help prep the field for the next game.**

### **END OF GAME RESPONSIBILITIES:**

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Both managers are responsible for the trash in their dugout and in the stands after each game or practice. When time permits between games and after the last game of the day, please rake the field and groom the batter's box and pitchers mound. Managers are to keep the equipment room clean and organized after each game or practice and will also ensure the equipment shed is locked and all lights are off before leaving the park. ***Both managers shall empty all trash cans and replace liners after the last game of the day.***

### **SPIRIT OF PLAY:**

Our responsibility as managers/coaches is to teach the fundamentals of baseball and sportsmanship in a fun and relaxed environment. Game score will be kept only to determine innings, not a winner or loser.