

# Little League Baseball, Inc.

## Montana District #1

### 2021 Baseball and Softball

#### Policies for Inter-League Regular Season, TOC Play

##### GENERAL GUIDELINES.

1. All games shall be conducted in each division in accordance with the applicable **Official Regulations and Playing Rules of Little League Baseball and Softball** and these District policies. Ignorance of Little League Rules and/or these policies will not be accepted as an excuse. Some softball inter-league policies are published separately and where in conflict with these policies, they will prevail.

The 'Minimum Play' rule will be strictly enforced by all Leagues at all divisions of play. Please read and understand where and when this rule applies and its' penalties. ***Major Baseball and Major Softball Only: Beginning in the 2008 regular season, the district voted that it will be mandatory that your team use continuous batting and free substitution. This will continue through Regular Season and TOC tournament. Juniors and Seniors division play regular baseball Minimum play and substitution rules will be followed for all leagues.***

All inter-league games count in your league's standings. The Home Team shall be responsible for field preparation and markings. The Home Team shall be responsible for field preparation and markings.

Each team shall carry a current pitching record **signed in ink** by the official scorer, Manager, or Coach of all previous games and present this pitching record for review by the official scorer, opposing Manager or Coach. If there is not a pitching record then the game is suspended until one is produced. . If a player participates on more than 1 team and is eligible to pitch, that pitcher must carry with him/her his or her own pitching record to all games in which he/she might pitch. If there is no pitching record for that player, they are not allowed to pitch in that game. This only applies if the player participates on more than one team outside of the pool player rule.

No food is allowed in the dugout at any time-with the exception of special needs players. Gum and sunflower seeds are allowed if local league (Home Team) rules allow. All water and/or Gatorade type beverage must be kept in the dugout. All teams shall clean the dugout of trash and debris upon leaving.

7. Each team is responsible for bringing 3 new baseballs to each game. The balls will be given to the umpire for use during the game.

8. Please limit the use of cell phones unless looking up a rule on the LL app. Otherwise, no cell phone unless needed for an emergency.

9. All Divisions-See website for an approved listing of bats.

10. The league President may manage, coach or umpire provided he/she does not serve on any Protest committee. The President of record on or anyone who assumes the position or duties of president, on or after January 1 of the current year, may be eligible for selection by the local league Board of Directors as tournament team manager or coach with approval from their respective District Administrator. Player Agents can NOT manage, coach or umpire within their respective divisions. Vice presidents may manage, coach, or umpire provided they do not serve on the Protest Committee.

## MANAGERS AND COACHES

Certification is strongly encouraged for either the Manager or Coach of each team. Available certification options are:

Big Al Program (Little League)

## SCHEDULING OF GAMES

All games schedule for week days, unless they are part of a doubleheader or otherwise scheduled for a different time, shall begin at 6:00 PM. Some games may start at 7 pm if lights are available.

## RAINOUTS, RESCHEDULING AND "NO SHOWS"

All rainouts and other rescheduled games shall be completed as soon as possible on Saturday or any other available weeknight. **The Managers of the teams are responsible to reschedule. Any and all games not played shall be counted as a loss to the team unable or refusing to make up the game.** For purposes of draft order for the next year, this game will be counted as a win. In the event of a "no show", the Manager shall contact their League's Division Representative (usually Vice President) and inform them of the details. Division Representatives shall contact the District Administrator to provide details for a final decision. PLEASE MAKE UP ALL GAMES.

## FIFTEEN RUN - TEN RUN RULE (ALL DIVISIONS OF BASEBALL, MINORS AND ABOVE)

For Baseball Minor, Major, Juniors & Seniors games: Rule 4:10 is in effect. This is not an option.

Regulation game--6 innings for 9/10, 11/12 Divisions - Regulation game--7 innings for JRS/SRS Divisions

4:10

(e) If after (3) innings [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: four innings], two and one-half innings. [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: three and one-half innings] if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If after four (4) innings [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: five innings], three and one-half innings [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: four and one-half innings] if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. NOTE: (1) If the visiting team has a lead of fifteen (15) or ten (10) runs or more respectively, the home team must bat in its half of the inning. (2) The local league may adopt the option of not utilizing this rule. **A game determined by the 15-run rule, shall be considered a regulation game.**

## UMPIRES.

The home team provides the plate umpire, official scorekeeper, pitch counter. This function is not done in the stands or dugout. The field team will show up and provide the field umpire for all games. Home teams

use the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout, and the away team will use the 1<sup>st</sup> base dugout unless approved by District prior to the start of the season.

The District will provide a list of umpires to all leagues prior to the start of the season for use during the regular season, if available. This list will originate primarily from participants in the pre-season umpire classes and league contributions.

The plate umpire has the choice of calling the game behind the plate or mound.

**Each team will be responsible to arrange for at least one game umpire. Home team will provide the umpire in chief (behind the plate) and the visiting team will provide the field umpire(s).**

For inter-league or 'special games', all Major, Junior, Senior Division umpires under the age of 18 shall be allowed only when accompanied by an adult umpire. Umpires will be age appropriate. In no case will the age of the umpire be less than the oldest division age plus 3 years, except Seniors where the minimum umpire age will be 18. Example: for 11/12 Majors, the youngest age an umpire can be will be 15, for 9/10 Majors, the youngest age an umpire can be will be 13. It is highly recommended that younger umpires (less than 15) do not take on the role of 'umpire in chief' (behind the plate). Umpires without proper gear (face mask, chest protector, shin guards and protective cup (Males)) shall not call a game from behind the plate. If a 'plate umpire' has insufficient protective gear, he or she shall call the game from behind the pitcher.

Game protocol:

5:30—Away team takes infield. **Catchers must wear catcher helmet, mask, and throat guard.**

5:40—Home team take infield. **Same as above**

5:50—Plate meeting with umpires, managers, and captains of teams (2 players)

Captains to mound and team line up on foul line. Recite Little League pledge and Pledge of Allegiance.

**6:00—Game Starts**

End of game—PLEASE TIP YOUR HATS TO OTHER TEAM AND THANK YOUR UMPIRES.

The District has a maximum of 1 minute in between innings to move the games along. Umpires are directed to strictly enforce this to keep a good pace to the game. Managers are responsible to get your players in and off the field.

Games can begin with 8 players on each team. The 9<sup>th</sup> position will be skipped and NOT be charged an out for all of District 1 games.

The District has not applied a time limit for inter-league games. Leagues can choose to apply a time limit for games within its leagues. Example BA1 VS BA2-- Boulder Arrowhead Little league can implement the time limit per board approval.

Pool Players can be used to a maximum team count of 10. (See attachment for Pool Players). The pool player must bat LAST and must not enter the game until all players have met their minimum play defensively.

Courtesy Runner-Rule 3.04 is in effect. CR can be used for Pitchers/Catchers with 2 outs. With continues bat, the CR will be the player that made the last out.

**SPORTSMANSHIP—LITTLE LEAGUE IS VERY SERIOUS ABOUT GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP. THE MANAGER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS COACHES, PLAYERS AND FANS. PLEASE BE GOOD EXAMPLES FOR THE RESPECT OF THE GAME. BALLS, STRIKES, SAFES, AND OUTS ARE ALL JUDGEMENT CALLS AND ARE NOT TO BE QUESTIONED. IF YOU HAVE A RULE INTERPRETATION, PLEASE CALL TIME OUT AND DISCUSS WITH YOUR UMPIRES.**