

2023 Montana District 1 Little League Regular Season/TOC Rules

District Website: www.mtd1ll.org

**All games shall be conducted in each division in accordance with the applicable Official Regulations and Playing rules of Little League Baseball & Softball. Ignoring these rules is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

*Minimum play rules will be strictly enforced for all leagues and divisions. Every rostered player present at the start of the game will participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time. See rule book (Page 54-55) for additional clarification. It is mandatory for 9/10 & 11/12 Majors, **Juniors Baseball (new)** use continues batting and free substitution in all games for regular season and TOC tournament.

**Seniors play regular baseball for both regular season and TOC tournament.

**Each team will present a current pitching record at the start of each game (before game starts) and this will be filled out and signed in ink and returned to the manager at the end of the game. Do not forget to get that before you leave the field.

** The home team is responsible for all field prep, official scorekeeper, pitch counter, concessions, and plate umpire. Visitors will provide field umpire. Remember, if you do not have one, the manager/coach will have to take care of that role. Judgement calls are not to be questioned. If a rule is in question, politely call timeout and ask the umpire to explain.

**No food in dugouts. Gum and/or Sunflower seeds are allowed if home field rules allow. All teams shall clean the dugout of trash and debris before leaving the field.

**Game Protocol:

- Visitor team infield 5:30, home team 5:40, plate meeting 5:50, Game start at 6 pm.
 - Catcher's facemask (Hockey style as well) with dangler (mandatory) required during warm-ups/games. Skull caps NOT allowed. **Coaches can warm up players in 2023 (new).**
 - Home team 3rd base dugout/Visitor 1st base dugout unless District is notified and approves any requested change before the start of the season.
 - Captains to mound, teams on foul lines, hats off—Perform Pledge of allegiance, Little League pledge. Recommend having LL Parent/Volunteer pledge read as well.
 - **In 2023**, teams can start with 8 players with the expectation that the team has a team player or a pool player coming to fill the 9th spot. **IF** you get to the 9th spot, and the player is not there, it is an **out**. You as a Manager needs to make sure you have enough players. Contact your player agent for assistance.

- Regulation game—6 innings for 9/10, 11/12 Divisions. 7 innings for JRS/SRS Division.
- 1 minute in between innings—Please keep your players moving.
- NO time limits in Baseball during interleague games. Leagues can adopt within their own league games, meaning HTS VS HTS. Call with questions.
- All rainouts and other rescheduled games shall be completed as soon as possible. Managers are responsible for rescheduling. Double headers are acceptable, and Sunday is not off limits. Please make up all the games.
- Do not cancel a game if you, a coach(s), and a few players will be gone. Work with your Player agent to find kids to play. If you need someone to manage a game for you, ask a parent or a league official. If needed call me and I will get it covered or I will manage the game for you.
- **Run Rule 15/10/8-Review page 115/116 of rule book.** Ties are allowed- Review page 117/118 of rule book.

Pitching Rules:

- Any player on a regular season roster can pitch.
- A player who played the position of catcher for 3 innings and moves to a pitcher position and delivers 21 or more pitches (15/16-year-olds-31 pitchers or more) in the same day may not return to the catcher position on that calendar day. See Rule Book (page 60).
- The Manager must remove the pitcher when he/she reaches the limit but can remain in the game at another position. See age group limits below.
- Ages 13-16 95 pitches per day
- Ages 11-12 85 pitches per day
- Ages 9-10 75 pitches per day
- Age 8 50 pitches per day

Exception-If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed for the age bracket while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any of the following conditions occur: 1) the batter reaches base, 2) the batter is put out, or 3) third out is made to complete the half inning. **If the pitcher is removed in the above example, then the pitch count for days rest will revert to the threshold. Example, Johnny is 14 years old and pitches 52 pitches and retires the batter who was up and started when the pitch count was 50. If Johnny is removed, the pitch count for determination of days rest is 50, not 52—2 days' rest (not 3) are required.

See additional rules for days of rest for each division in Rule book (page 61/62)

Majors-Pitchers can only pitch in one game per day. JRS/SRS-a player may pitch in up to two games per day. Review rule on page 63 of rule book.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL A PITCHER PITCH IN (3) CONSECUTIVE DAYS

Pool Player Rules:

- All players are eligible within their regular season team's divisions. Please use your own leagues players as needed. If unavailable, you can check with your neighbor league (if they allow it) to ask. You should be going through your Player Agent for pool players.
- Pool players must bat last, and no regular season player may play less defensively or offensively than the pool player. Pool players will not start games unless required due to numbers. Pool players cannot pitch, but they can catch.

Reporting Game Scores:

- Send email to jbsommerville@msn.com Please do not Text.
- Subject Line-Division
- Body of email-Teams and Score
- Example
 - 9/10 Majors
 - BU3-7 BU2-5
- Both teams report scores each night after games.

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP WILL BE CONDUCTED BY ALL MANAGERS, COACHES, PLAYERS, PARENTS/FANS & ALL VOLUTEERS AT ALL TIMES. ALL EJECTIONS WILL RESULT IN SUSPENSIONS OF GAME (S) FOR ALL PARTIES. ADDITIONAL PENALTIES WILL RESULT IN FURTER SUSPENSIONS BY LEAGUE/DISTRICT. ALL MANAGERS, COACHES, AND BOARD MEMBERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO SET AN EXAMPLE OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP FOR ALL THE YOUTH IN LITTLE LEAGUE. PLEASE SET THE EXAMPLE AND BE THE EXAMPLE

Thank you for all your time and efforts for Montana District 1 Little League

Jim Sommerville-District Administrator—406-861-9210 “PLAY BALL”