

**MAJOR BASEBALL**

**PHILOSOPHY:** Emphasis is to be on participation and instruction in throwing, hitting, catching, pitching from a stretch position, base running and offensive & defensive strategy. Managers, coaches, & parents must be patient with players. Remember: you are out there for the children; they are not out there for you.

**LEAGUE RULES:**

1. NO HITTING BALLS INTO FENCE
2. A team on the field can consist of as many as nine players (seven players minimum to start and/or end a game).
3. Games will be six innings. No new inning can start after 1 hour 10 minutes from the start of the game.
4. Games will start at the scheduled time or fifteen minutes after the conclusion of the previous game to allow adequate time to clean the bench. For the first scheduled game of the night, 10 minutes grace will be allowed before a forfeit is called due to lack of players.
4. MERCY RULE: Games shall be called completed and the team in the lead declared the winner when there is a 15 run difference after 3 innings or a 10-run difference after 5 innings.
5. The batter is out when the third strike is called even if it is not caught by the catcher.
6. No throwing the bat. If a batter throws the bat (more than five feet or hits the catcher) the batter will be called out.
7. First Base slides are not allowed. The base-runner should be taught to run through first base, turn right and return to the base. If a player slides into first base, the player will be called out and a verbal warning will be given to the entire team. If a second offense occurs during the same game, the offending player will be dismissed from the game.  
  
Head First slides are not allowed into any base when a base runner is trying to advance to the next base. If a player commits a head first slide while advancing to the next base, the player will be called out and a verbal warning will be given to the entire team. If a second offense occurs during the same game, the offending player will be dismissed from the game.  
  
The only exception to the Head First slide rule is when the pitcher is attempting a pick off and the base runner is diving back to a base.
8. Pitchers get five warm up pitches or a one-minute time limit between innings. This includes the first inning. Pitchers can not wear light undershirts under uniform.
9. If the pitcher hits two batters in one inning or three during the game, he must be removed as a pitcher for the remainder of the game.
10. On the second trip to the mound by a coach in any one inning to the same pitcher, that pitcher must be removed from that inning. A 3rd trip to the mound for the same pitcher during a game will mean that pitcher is to be removed from the pitching position.
11. A pitcher who is removed from the pitching position can re-enter in the game as a pitcher for just one additional turn. The additional turn cannot be in the same inning the pitcher was removed.
12. The pivot position of the pitcher must be in contact with the pitching rubber until the ball is released.

13. **LEADOFFS:** Base runners will be allowed to lead off.
14. **STEALING HOME:** A runner on third can only steal home if he breaks before the pitcher delivers the ball and without the aid of a base hit, walk, passed ball or wild pitch.
15. **PASSED BALL/WILD PITCH:** Teams can only score once per inning on a passed ball or wild pitch (a pitch that is too high, too short or too wide and gets away from the catcher); thereby permitting a runner to advance.
16. **OVERTHROWS:** Are considered a continuation play. These can occur at any base (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or home plate.) The runner can advance as long as the play has not stopped. **A wild pitch does not count as an overthrow.**

(The defense is encouraged to hold the ball or to make “good/accurate” throwing decisions. On overthrows, the outfield will have to support the infield and the pitcher will have to learn to back up the catcher.)

17. Pitching balks are to be called.
18. The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position.

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>PITCHES</u>
Pitcher’s Age 11-12	85 Pitches Per Day

Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit for his/ her age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: that batter reaches base or that batter is put out.

19. Pitchers must adhere to the following rest requirements: (Doesn’t include warm ups)
  - If a player pitches 61 or more pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 41-60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 21-40 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest must be observed.

A calendar day is one full day as it is seen on a calendar. A calendar day begins at midnight and ends at midnight the following evening.
20. Each team will be responsible for tracking their pitcher’s count (the umpire in the field will keep the official count and turn in with scorecard). Tracking sheets will be provided.
21. All players must wear complete safety equipment including a cup for boys.
22. Each team can use free substitution. Each player must play at least two innings defensively. The catcher position may change only once per inning except for injury. A player cannot sit out two consecutive innings. A continuous batting order will be used.
23. A player batting out of order will be replaced by the correct batter. The correct batter will assume the count of the out of order batter.
24. A player that leaves the game early is not called out when their turn at bat comes up, batting order shall continue in the same continuous order. The manager must notify the other team when the player has left.
25. Umpires will not call a player out for missing a base unless the call is appealed by the opposing manager after time is called and before time resumes.
26. The distance between bases will be 70 feet. A 50 feet pitching distance will be used.

## BAT SPECIFICATIONS:

1. All bats must be a USA Bat Standard bat. A list of approved bats can be found at [usabat.com](http://usabat.com)
2. Non-wood bats shall be labeled with a BPF (bat performance factor) of 1.15 or less. Newer bats have a clear to see USSSA marking BPF 1.15 right at the tape.
4. If an illegal bat is used during a game, that team will be warned once and that bat will be ejected from further use. If a second violation occurs then that team will be forced to forfeit the game. If the issue continues throughout the season further actions could be taken against either the coach of the players who are in violation of the regulation.
5. Coaches should do a gear check of the players and players should be told to leave the illegal bats at home.

## REGULATION GAME RULING:

A regulation game consists of six innings, unless shortened due to game time limits or shortened because the home team needs none of its half of the sixth inning or only a fraction of it after taking the lead with less than three outs or because the umpire calls the game. If the game is called, it is considered a regulation game if any of the following are true:

- a. If three innings have been completed
- b. If the home team has scored more runs in two and a half innings that the visiting team has scored in three
- c. If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the third inning or later to tie the score

If a game is called before it has become a regulation game, but after one or more innings have been played, it shall be resumed where it left off. Note All Records, including pitching shall be counted.

NOTE: When a TIE game is halted, the pitcher of record may continue pitching in the same game on any subsequent date provided said pitcher has observed the required days of rest and has pitching eligibility in the calendar week in which the game is resumed. For scorekeeping purposes, it shall be considered the same game, and all batting, fielding and pitching records will count.

### EXAMPLE:

Rule 4.11

	1	2	3	4	5	6
VISITORS	0	0	0	4	1	
HOME	0	0	0	5		

Game called in top of 5<sup>th</sup> inning on account of rain. Scores reverts to last completed inning (4<sup>th</sup>) and the home team is the winner  
5 to 4.

All games reverting back to a tie will go on record as a tie. The tied game will not be considered suspended and will not be continued at a later date and time.

## PROCEDURES:

1. Prior to the start of the game, the starting pitcher should throw at least 15 minutes to warm up his arm. During the game, coaches need their catcher suited up and ready to go for the next inning. It's a good idea to enlist the team help of a parent volunteer to assist the team in the dugout. It helps the kids to play as many innings as possible before the time limit!

2. Teams should be before their scheduled time and practice time limits must be enforced.
3. Batting practice is not allowed prior to game time and practicing on the field after a game is not allowed.
4. Coaches are encouraged to hold a wrap-up meeting after the game, but should clear the dugouts and hold their team meeting in another area of the park. This will allow players to get into the dugouts and be ready to go for the next game.
5. Umpires will check bats and helmets before each game.
6. Defensive team coaches cannot be on the field of play.
7. For safety purposes, bats need to be kept in the dugout.
8. Managers & umpires should sign the score sheets at the end of the game.
9. Home Team Manager will be responsible for providing an umpire, if necessary. Visiting Team Manager will provide second umpire, if necessary.
10. Managers must maintain defensive player sheets and provide them to the P & R Department upon request.
11. Additional practices can be secured by permit (pending field availability).
12. Batting cages are available for use at Pollard Park, but an adult parent/coach is required to be in the cage with the child. The child must wear a helmet. Park employees facilitate use of the batting cages on a first-come, first-serve basis with departmental teams and players having first priority. Coaches submitting request for use before showing up to the park is preferred.
13. A coach or manager will go to the barn before their first practice to get rental equipment for team use during the course of the season.
14. All managers and coaches will return all equipment after the last game to a park employee inside of the Pollard Pole Barn.

#### **LEAGUE POLICIES:**

1. Positive cheering only. No comments are to be directed to opposing team or game officials.
2. Parents are never to approach an official; not before, during or after a game. Questions directed to the umpire must come from the team manager only. Some umpires will be approachable, and others will not. Coaches and players must adapt to an umpire's style, because the umpire makes the decision on the field and their decision is final. Questions regarding rule interpretation and overall general conduct can be directed to the Parks and Recreation Department the next business day.
3. Scores are kept in Pitching Machine. Standings are not kept.
4. Players are not to wear jewelry or wrist bracelets of any kind. No metal spikes.
5. No smoking, tobacco products, or alcohol allowed within 200 feet of any playing field.
6. No dogs are allowed at the park.

7. All “official” practices and games are scheduled through the Parks & Recreation Department and are held at Township facilities unless otherwise noted on the official schedules.
8. Coaches are not to encourage or condone unnecessary roughness. Any player using unnecessary roughness will be called out and warned once per game. On a second occurrence, a player will be removed from the game. A second occurrence must be reported to the Parks & Recreation Department by the next business day. Additional penalties may be assessed.
9. A coach or manager who is ejected from a game will include a minimum suspension of 2 games with further review from department staff depending on infraction.
10. At times, there may be questions on rules that are not specifically covered in our house rules. While we are not a Little League affiliate program, we feel their guidelines are best suited to utilize as supplementary to our rules provided. If there is a rule that is a discrepancy between our house rules provided and the Official Little League Rules. The rule in question will automatically default to our house rules.

#### **ADVANCE WEATHER CANCELLATIONS:**

1. In the case of severe weather, cancellations will be posted by 4:00PM on our weather hotline at 586-949-0400, press 4, then 1. Cancellations will also be posted on our Department Facebook page.

#### **ON-SITE CANCELLATIONS:**

1. Cancellations after 4:00PM will be determined by park supervisors and umpires on the field at practice/game time. All players and coaches should report to the practice/game site.

#### **2. UNPLAYABLE FIELDS / RAIN:**

- Park employees and umpires together will make the decision to cancel games based on weather and field conditions.
- Cancellations can be made on a field by field basis. If one field is unplayable, but the rest are playable, only games scheduled on the unplayable field need to be cancelled.
- If the first game is cancelled (5:45PM), the second game does not necessarily have to be cancelled. The decision to cancel the second game will be made based on weather predictions and field readiness. The second game cancellation also may not be announced until closer to the start time of the second game.

3. **LIGHTNING:** Lightning can travel up to 10 miles from the storm’s edge, so if it is seen or heard, the fields should be cleared and the game paused to wait for lightning to pass. If lightning is not seen for 30 minutes, the game can continue.

- Anybody who sees lightning should report it to the official on the field or to a park employee.
- The fields should be cleared, and the game paused to wait for lightning to pass (30 minutes).
- If an umpire sees lightning, the umpire should report the sighting to the park employees who will notify the official on every field of the decision to delay the game.

- The umpires and park employees should remain in contact with each other during the game delay. Together the park employees and umpires will make the decision to resume play or cancel based on weather and field conditions.
- If play resumes, the game should continue with the inning/time limit requirements outlined in the league rules. The delay of game does not count against the time limit.
- If the coaches decide not to wait out a delay of game, the game will be considered a forfeit and will not be made up.