

2011 3rd-4th Grade Baseball League Rules and Regulations

1. Weekday games begin at 6:15 pm. Saturday games begin at various times.
2. 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th/6th Grades: Bases: 60' Pitcher: 42'
7th/8th Graders Bases: 80' Pitcher: 60'6"
3. The visiting team has infield practice from 30 minutes before game time to 15 minutes before game time. Home team has the field 15 minutes before game time.
4. Number of innings:
 - A regulation game is 6 innings.
 - Four full innings will constitute a complete game (3 ½ if home is ahead) for rainout or darkness purposes.
 - If a complete game is not played before rainout, darkness or length of game, the game will be stopped. The game will be rescheduled by the league coordinator if possible
5. Length of game:
 - Where there is a game following on the same field: no inning may start after the game has run 1 ½ hours.
 - Where there is no game following on the same field: no inning may start after the game has run 2 hours, unless the game is tied and both coaches agree to continue the game.
6. The WINNING team MUST call in the score after the game or on the following day to the message phone at 354-OLYS (0597). If no score is received, the game will be recorded as a 0-0 tie.
7. All players bat regardless of whether they play defense in that inning. All players present must play at least three innings on defense per game.
8. The first three innings will be played using a pitching machine. Pitching machines will be set at 55 MPH. Pitching machines should be positioned at 42' from home plate. The last three innings are regular player pitch. Pitchers are limited to 1 inning per game and 2 innings per week. Once a pitcher is removed from the game he may not re-enter the game to pitch again.
9. Number of players:
 - 3rd and 4th grade teams will field 10 players with 4 players in the outfield (no "short-field").
 - If a team has only 9 players, they play with 9 players. The team with 10 players can still field all 10.
 - If a team has 8 players, the coaches can agree to play 9 vs. 9 or 9 vs. 10. The opponent will supply one player who will play in the outfield.

The “borrowing” team will field 9 players. The player to be loaned is the last batter in his team’s lineup for their next time at bat. The loaned player bats for his original team only.

- If a team has only 7 players or less, they forfeit the game.
- 10.If both coaches agree to reschedule a game, they must make all arrangements, including getting a field and an umpire. BOTH coaches must advise the league coordinator, Debbie Dunnigan (354-3552) prior to the original game date so the field can be used by someone else.
 - 11.If one team wishes to reschedule a game and the opposing team does not, the team that cannot make the originally scheduled date forfeits the game.
 - 12.Lynden Parks Department will determine rainouts. Coaches can call 354-0597 after 3pm weekdays, or 8am weekends for the rainout report. The league coordinator will schedule make-up games if possible.
 - 13.Player’s shirt must be tucked in during play.
 - 14.All players must wear their baseball cap under the batting helmet (for health reasons). Wearing of a cup is encouraged.
 - 15.Only the batter, the on-deck batter and the coaches will be allowed outside the dugout. No one except team members, coaches and scorekeepers are allowed in the dugout.
 - 16.An adult or LYS player may coach at first and/or third base. All players coaching bases are required to wear a batting helmet.
 - 17.The on-deck batter is required to wear a batting helmet.
 - 18.Catchers are required to wear full gear, including shin guards, when warming up a pitcher between innings and during the game.
 - 19.Players may be interchanged at defensive positions.
 - 20.The infield fly rule is not in effect.
 - 21.Bunting is allowed.
 - 22.Players on base may not lead off until the ball crosses the plate.
 - 23.Base stealing is allowed on all bases EXCEPT HOME PLATE. “Delayed” steals are not allowed. Once the catcher or other fielder makes a move to throw to the pitcher, no runner can advance unless already in motion toward the next base.

24. Sliding is legal.

25. A runner will be called out and ejected from the game if he runs over a fielder who has possession of the ball with the deliberate intent to injure that fielder.

26. Overthrow Rule

- If the ball goes out of play, the ball is dead. (Note, there is a difference between the ball going out of play and ball going past the foul line).
- If the throw is the initial play by a fielder, the awarding of bases shall be governed by the position of the runners at the time of the pitch.
- In all other cases, the awarding of the bases shall be governed by the position of the runners at the time of the overthrow by the fielder.

27. Inning Run Rule

- All innings, EXCEPT THE LAST INNING, have a five run rule. Once the fifth run crosses the plate, the inning is over unless the batting team is still behind. The batting team may score as many runs as needed to TIE the score before the inning is terminated with less than 3 outs.
- The last inning has no run limit.

28. No harassing of opponents or umpires will be allowed.

29. Two turnouts per week are allowed before the games start. During spring break additional practices are allowed. One turnout per week is allowed when the games begin. Any field at any park can be used on a first-come, first-served basis.

30. No wooden bats are allowed. The use of personal bats is allowed, but the coach is encouraged to communicate to the player and parents that LYS assumes no responsibility for damage or loss.

31. Please encourage players to take proper care of the equipment and fields. Do not let players throw helmets or drag equipment bags. Please do not let players dig holes in the field.

32. Lost items are always a problem. Please encourage your players to pick up their belongings after the game. Items found left on the field are placed on the green electrical box outside of the boy's restroom. If a lost item is not there, it is most likely permanently lost.

33. Tie Breaker Rules

In the event there is a tie in the standings at the end of this season, a tie-breaker will be used to determine the league champion:

- The team with the best record between the tied teams will be declared the winner
- If the tie is not broken by 1., then the team with the most runs scored in all league games against each other for the entire season, will be the winner.
- If the tie is not broken by 2., the teams will be declared co-champions.

34. If you have any questions or equipment needs, please contact the baseball coordinator, Debbie Dunnigan at 354-3552.