

**Foothills Little League**  
**2024 Spring Rules**  
Minors Tier 'AA'



## FOOTHILLS LITTLE LEAGUE 2024 'AA' MINORS RULES

### Hybrid Coach/Player Pitch vs. Player Pitch

In order to develop pitching and increase the pace of play, hybrid coach pitch/player pitch rules will be put in place for the Minors AA

*After the first six games the coordinator will request feedback from the head coaches to determine if hybrid pitching will remain in place for the remainder of the season or if we will switch to full player pitch rules.*

### Hybrid coach pitch / player pitch rules:

1. All at bats will start with a player pitcher.
2. The player will continue to pitch to the batter until one of the following occurs:
  - i. strike out
  - ii. batted ball in play
  - iii. batter reaches four balls
3. In the event of a strike out or a batted ball in play the pitcher will continue to pitch to the next batter
4. In the event the batter reaches four balls the runner **WILL NOT** walk. The batter will instead be granted pitches from his own coach. The number of pitches the batter receives will be determined by the count:
  - i. 4-0, granted up to 3 pitches
  - ii. 4-1, granted up to 2 pitches
  - iii. 4-2, granted one pitch

5. All pitches thrown by the coach will be called strikes regardless of location. It is highly recommended to have a coach pitcher that can deliver consistent strikes to their batter. A batter can not strike out on a foul ball. The player pitcher remains on the field as a defender while the coach pitches.

6. A ball that hits the coach pitcher is considered dead and the batter will advance to first base.

7. Base stealing is not permitted when hybrid player coach pitch rules are in effect. *Base stealing will be considered if we switch to full player pitch after six weeks.*

8. Player pitch counts are required.

### **General Rules**

1. Except as may be varied below, Little League Official playing rules are to be observed.

2. All players must wear a protective cup and have a CSA or NOCSAE-approved helmet containing a SECURE chin strap.

3. All weekday games are scheduled to commence at 6:30pm, with the exception of any weekend games. No innings shall begin after 8:15pm. In the event of a tie, the game is recorded as a tie.

*Rule Clarification: Inning time shall be the time at which 3<sup>rd</sup> out is recorded in the bottom of the inning. If that time is after 8:15 the umpire shall declare the game over regardless of score.*

4. The home team is responsible for supplying two new game balls and for field preparation. Both teams are responsible for score keeping and

pitch counting. Home team is the official scorekeeper and the visiting team is the official pitch counter.

5. Two umpires will be provided by Foothills Little League on most occasions. In the event that two umpires cannot be provided, the home team is responsible for providing the first required replacement umpire (a coach or parent) and the visiting team is responsible for providing the second required replacement umpire.

6. The head coach and up to 3 assistant coaches are the only adults allowed in the bench area. A coach may warm up a pitcher at the start of an inning if the catcher is not ready. A catcher's mask must be worn.

7. There will be no substitutions in the batting order. All players in the lineup will bat in a continuous batting order, which shall remain constant throughout the game.

8. All players must wear their batting helmet while on the bench. The only player to have a bat in their hands is the actual batter. There is no on-deck circle, no practice swings until they are the batter (once the play has stopped) and on the playing field.

9. Bunting is allowed.

10. Although Rule 1.01 stipulates that there should be two teams of nine players, teams will be allowed to play with less than nine players. If a team has less than nine players, there will not be automatic outs for missing players. It is encouraged that coaches will balance out the teams prior to game start. The coach with the higher number of players will select which player(s) will move the team with the lower number of players.

*Noteworthy: - Umpires get paid when a game is forfeited, unless it is known prior to the game and with sufficient prior notice umpires are cancelled. Umpires are not obliged to stay. Whenever a game is called due to weather or conditions, the umpires must be informed with sufficient prior notice to arriving at the diamond. If the umpire is not informed, and shows up to the diamond, the umpires are paid half of the fee. If the game is called (weather or conditions) 15 minutes after the scheduled start time (everyone's at the diamond and water covers the diamond from an earlier flood), the protocol is to pay the full fee to the umpire. If a game is called and umpires have been notified with sufficient notice, no fee is required to be paid.*

11. Defensive substitutions are allowed openly throughout the game and recommended at the end of each inning, with exception of pitchers (see guideline #13 below).

12. Base runner substitutions may be made only in the case of injury, and the player who was the last recorded out shall be put in for the substitution.

13. The Little League Pitch Count Regulation Guide for pitchers must be followed. The coach must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted in the Official Regulations and Playing Rules (page 39 – see Schedule “A” below). Please note that all regulations from section VI will apply. They must also observe the days of rest between pitching assignments.

### **Pitching:**

a. Any player on a team may pitch (and coaches are encouraged to have all players pitch to help develop this skill). **Exception:** Any player who has played the position of catcher in 4 or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day. [Note: catching 1 pitch in the 4th inning constitutes the “4th inning”]

- b. There is no limit to the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.
- c. A pitcher once removed from the mound, cannot return as a pitcher.
- d. The coach must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position.

**League Age (see league age chart)**

9-10 (75) Pitches per day

7-8 (50) Pitches per day

**EXCEPTION:** If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed above for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: 1. that batter reaches base; 2. that batter is retired; 3. the third out is made to complete the half-inning. The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he/she reached during that at-bat, provided that pitcher is removed before delivering a pitch to another batter. NOTE 1: A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day. For further clarification, coaches do not need to remove a pitcher midway of an at-bat.

**Days of Rest:** Pitchers league age 14 and under must adhere to the following rest requirements:

If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 51 - 65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 36 - 50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 21 - 35 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 is required.

Example of Days of Rest: For example if a pitcher is to observe 2 calendar days of rest (after pitching 36 – 50 pitches) on a Tuesday, the days of rest would be Wednesday and Thursday and they would then be eligible to pitch on the Friday.

14. Pitches shall all be delivered from **40 feet** with at least one foot in contact with the pitching rubber at the start of the windup. No exceptions.

15. As there are no lead offs, and therefore no pickoffs, there will be no balks called against pitchers. However illegal pitches as defined in the rule book will be called.

16. Pitchers will be allowed a maximum 5 warm up pitches at the start of an inning or during a pitcher change.

17. If any team reaches a total of five runs in one inning, their at bat will end and they will not be permitted to count any further runs in that inning. There is no mercy rule nor is there an open final inning.

18. On close plays at 2<sup>nd</sup> base, 3<sup>rd</sup> base and home plate, the runner must attempt to slide for reasons of safety. Contact between the runner and the defensive player should be avoided. For reasons of ensuring player safety, head first slides are only permitted when sliding back to a base.

19. Infield fly rules will be observed as defined in the Little League Rule Book

*Noteworthy: Umpires will be instructed to call Infield fly as outlined in the rule book however if the umpire does not declare it to be an infield*

*fly the play shall progress as if it is a normal fly ball. The intent of the infield fly rule is to eliminate the intentional non-fielding of a fly ball to set up a double play. Please do not encourage this strategy and rather focus on making a baseball play on the ball.*

20. The batter is declared out after the third strike even if the catcher misses the pitch. However, the play is still live for base runners, provided there are less than two outs.

21. The home team will forward the score to Minors Coordinator following each game. Each team is responsible for entering their pitch counts into google sheets.

22. As a general rule, recognizing that weather conditions can vary in different parts of the city, teams should show up for games and be ready to play as scheduled. That being said, in cases of clearly inclement weather, the coaches of the opposing teams should consult prior to the game and agree on whether the game should be cancelled. If the game is cancelled please notify either the Umpire in Chief or the Umpire Coordinator 90 minutes before scheduled games start time.

23. Any cancelled games must attempt to be rescheduled. Teams must confirm availability of umpires and field prior to rescheduling a game. Diamonds are available on Saturday's to reschedule games that were rained out during the week.

24. **NEW 2018 Bat RULES:** The bat must be a baseball bat which meets the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat) as adopted by Little League. It shall be a smooth, rounded stick, and made of wood or of material and color tested and proved acceptable to the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat). a. Beginning with the 2018 season, non-wood and laminated bats used in the Little League (Majors) and below, Intermediate (50-70)



Division, Junior League divisions, and Challenger division shall bear the USA Baseball logo signifying that the bat meets the USABat – USA Baseball's Youth Bat Performance Standard. All BPF – 1.15 bats will be prohibited beginning with the 2018 season. Additionally, starting in 2018, the bat diameter shall not exceed  $2\frac{5}{8}$  inches for these divisions of play.

b. It shall not be more than 33 inches in length; nor more than  $2\frac{5}{8}$  inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths ( $\frac{15}{16}$ ) inches in diameter ( $\frac{7}{8}$  inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed sixteen (16) inches from the small end.

NOTE 1: Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo.