

Foothills Little League
2025 Spring Rules
Minors Tier 1



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 3rd 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 preparing the field. 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 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 eight players. If a team has only eight players, the ninth position in the batting order is not an automatic out. If a team has less than eight players, the game will be forfeited. For purposes of playing the game and with the agreement of the coaches, extra players may be used to balance out the offending team for an exhibition game.

Tier 1 coaches are encouraged to "call-up" players from the Tier 2 teams if they know they are going to be short players. Contact the Minors Coordinator to get the call up list.

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 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 in the case of injury or for the catcher when there are two outs. 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 46 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. The final innings is NOT an open inning.

18. On close plays at 2nd base, 3rd 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. Modified stealing rule. This rule only applies to a non-batted live ball as defined in the Little League Rule.

- To encourage catchers to throw the ball, all runners can only advance one base on a steal attempt, regardless of whether a ball is overthrown, and regardless of which base the catcher is throwing to.

- Additionally, in the case of a catcher's overthrow, all other runners are also frozen at their bases, or may occupy the base they are advancing to at the time of the catcher's throw. The intent is to not award other runners with additional bases for a catcher's throw to another base.

Noteworthy: For clarification purposes Rule 19 is only applicable to non-batted balls. For live balls as a result of a batted ball, passed balls, or base on balls, normal Little League rules apply. The ball shall be considered live until ruled dead by an umpire. Runners are not awarded additional bases on overthrows where the ball remains in play.

20. 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.

21. 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.

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

23. 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.

24. Any cancelled games must attempt to be rescheduled. Teams must confirm availability of umpires and field prior to rescheduling a game.

25. 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 ($15/16$) inches in diameter ($7/8$ 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.