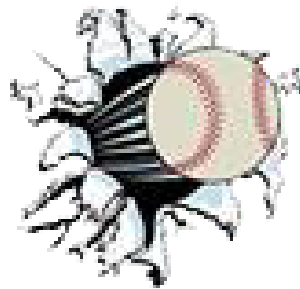




Ground Rules

Rookie Division



LAMAR LITTLE LEAGUE

ROOKIE BALL DIVISION GROUND RULES

Rookie Ball is purely an instructional league and will play under the following guidelines:

All competition is to be conducted under the latest version of the Official Little League Rules. Refer to the Minor League Official Regulations and Playing Rules. The following are Lamar Little League local rules for this division. They are intended only as additions to the official Little League rules.

- 1) Teams will provide their own adult pitcher (approved by Lamar Little League) to pitch three pitches to the batter. After the third pitch, if the player has not hit the ball, a tee will be used (two attempts) for the player to put the ball into play. No balls or strikes will be called. After two unsuccessful swings off the tee, the hitter will be out. The coach or manager can position the tee and batter as long as the tee remains in contact with home plate.
- 2) Each team will bat until 3 outs are made or 5 runs are scored in an inning, whichever comes first. The score will be kept each inning to keep track of when a team reaches 5 runs in an inning, as 5 runs will be the maximum allowed in any inning.
- 3) No inning shall start after 1 hour and 10 minutes.
- 4) League provided Tee Balls will be used.
- 5) Any batted ball that hits the coach pitching will result in a dead ball and the hitter will be awarded first base and each base runner may advance one base. Coach pitching shall make reasonable effort to avoid contact with the batted ball.
- 6) The play is considered dead or over when; a) a ball hit into the outfield is returned to the infield. Once the ball breaks the plane of the base path, it is considered in the infield. b) a ball fielded in the infield, once the pitcher has control of the ball within the pitchers circle or the lead runner has stopped at a base. All runners that reached a halfway mark will be allowed to obtain the next base if that base is empty. If the ball is live and a play is made on a runner who has reached the halfway mark, runner is at risk of being out.
- 7) There will be no advancing on overthrows.
- 8) Bunting or fake bunting is not permitted.

- 9) Base stealing or leading off is not permitted.
- 10) Each team will keep their batting order.
- 11) All players on a roster are played in the field defensively every inning. The infield consists of a pitcher, catcher, first baseman, second baseman, third baseman, and shortstop. The remaining players are positioned in the outfield as described in number 14 below. Each player may only play a maximum of 2 innings at each position during each game. All players must play a minimum of 2 innings in the infield by the end of the fourth inning.
- 12) Defensively, the pitcher cannot make an unassisted put-out at first base but must throw the ball to the first baseman. The pitcher can, however, make plays unassisted at any other base including home.
- 13) Infielders may not play in front of an imaginary line extending from first base to third base until the ball has been put into play. The pitcher must stay behind the pitching rubber, and have at least one foot on the dirt and one on the grass.
- 14) Outfielders must play at least fifteen (15) feet behind the base lines at all times unless assisting on a play. They cannot interfere with base runners.
- 15) Defensively, each team is allowed to have two coaches on the field but they shall remain in the outfield (behind the fielders) while the ball is in play. Coaches may not interfere with any play in progress.
- 16) No umpires will be provided. It will be the responsibility of each team to provide an umpire OR if both coaches agree, the base coaches may serve as umpires.
- 17) **BOTH teams are responsible for field maintenance.** Both teams should assist in setting up the fields for play (getting bases, tee, rakes, chalking the field, etc.) and raking after each game. Teams playing the last game of the day should return all equipment and rakes to the shed. **DO NOT** leave rakes on top of the dugouts.
- 18) **BOTH teams are responsible for the cleanliness of the dugout and the field.** No food, gum, or carbonated drinks are allowed in the dugouts. Only non-carbonated drinks are allowed in the dugout.
- 19) Managers are responsible for the conduct of their coaches, players and parents before, during and after the game.

20) Smoking is not allowed at Lamar Little League including by the dugouts, grandstands, or field fence lines. In addition, alcohol is not allowed in the park and will be enforced by the Richmond Police.

21) All Managers, Coaches, Volunteers and/or hired workers who have repetitive access to, or contact with, players, teams or league activities must have annually completed and submitted to the President a Little League Volunteer Application prior to the applicant assuming his/her duties. The Little League Volunteer Application is located on the Lamar Little League website.

22) For rain out information, call 281-723-6662 or check the web site. Rain out games will be rescheduled by the league VP.

23) MANAGER AND FAN CONDUCT DURING THE GAME: The following ground rules are in effect and will be enforced at all times. Managers and coaches are expected to fulfill those duties with objective integrity.ⁱ

- a.) Any manager or coach guilty of swearing at a junior umpire (or any umpire) or otherwise using inappropriate language during the course of a game results in automatic ejection and a suspension from the team's next game. The second such offense will result in a three game suspension. If it happens a third time, that manager is indefinitely banned from managing or coaching at Lamar Little League ever again. The umpire is always deserving of respect and his decision is always final.
- b.) Any sort of physical altercation or inappropriate contact between two participants, be they managers, coaches, spectators, players or anyone else, both during and before and after a game, will result in an automatic two game suspension. The penalty for a second such offense is an indefinite ban from participating in future baseball activities at Lamar Little League.
- c.) All participants are required at all times to immediately follow the instructions of any board member who is present.

Umpires (or parents/coaches participating as umpires) are instructed to report inappropriate behavior to the Umpire in Chief and the Division VP and sanctions can be levied after the fact and the board of directors reserves the right to levy similar sanctions against spectators and other participants if appropriate.

ⁱ 2019 – Rule #25 – added “Manager and Fan conduct during the game” section. Reason: section provided for added clarity of expectations and consequences for conduct unbecoming of a manager, coach, or parent.