

## 2021 Fall Ball Local Rules

This league plays by the **Green Book** except as noted below. See also "LL Rule Reminders" page if you are not familiar with LL rules.

1. In addition to standard pitch count rules, no pitcher may throw more than 70 pitches per game. Carry-over is permitted. (AA: 50 pitch max; Juniors: This rule is lifted for the tournament.)
  2. All teams must use roster (continuous) batting.
  3. **Majors and Juniors:** Uncaught Third Strike rule is enforced.
  4. **Juniors only:** Each pitcher will receive one balk warning per game. A balk results in a dead ball. The second balk will be enforced.
  5. **AA/AAA only:** Except in the last declared inning, a maximum of 5 runs may be scored per inning.
  6. Mercy rule: 15 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings. (Juniors: 15 after 4, 10 after 5.)
  7. No forfeits! If a team shows up with less than 9 player, please borrow players to continue. Borrowed players are chosen by the manager lending players and play defense only.
  8. No protests. Umpire's decisions are final.
  9. Minimum play is 3 innings of defense in a complete game. Games shorted by mercy rule, time limit or weather are not subject to this rule.
  10. Games are played under a time limit. No new inning after 1:45 hours (Juniors: 2:00). Game must end prior to next game's start time, no matter what.
  11. Due to time limits, a courtesy runner will be allowed for the pitcher or catcher at any time. It will be the last batter out prior to reaching base (strike out or put out after putting the ball in play). If no batter out has been recorded, it will be the last player in your line-up.
  12. There are no league standings.
  13. For AAA/Majors, the home league will provide at least one umpire. For Juniors, D52 will provide umpires.
  14. The home team should be prepared to provide the umpire with two new baseballs, and two gently used game balls. Managers who wish to rub up baseballs are more than welcome to do so.
  15. Scorekeepers: The home team is responsible for providing an official scorekeeper. This scorekeeper should be accessible to umpires at all times.
- 16. AA will be Coach Pitch.. See Coach Pitch Rules for more.**

### Air Quality Policy

While fall offers some of our best baseball weather, it's become increasingly common to have to deal with air quality issues due to nearby fires. Air quality issues are highly localized, so we will not be doing any blanket cancellation of games, outside of obvious extreme situations. Instead, we ask home team managers to consult the AQI readings and make game-day calls. If a game is going to be cancelled, the home team manager should notify the opposing manager by phone/text. If the game is Juniors, please also notify Jono Gibbs and Mike Wraa so we can notify umpires.

The preferred source of data is: <https://fire.airnow.gov>. This is run by the EPA and include a curated set of personal sensors (like "PurpleAir") using mappings appropriate for forest fires and to avoid misleading small fluctuations.

If AQI is under 100 (Green/Good or Moderate/Yellow) games should be good to play.

If AQI is 101 - 150 (Orange/Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups), managers should expect to make a call at the field shortly before game time. In this range in particular we've seen radically different situations on different fields at the same time.

An AQI over 150 (Red/Unhealthy, Purple/Very Unhealthy or Maroon/Hazardous) should result in a cancelled game..

As with rain, once the game starts it will be the umpires decision if the game should stop. Winds can change conditions fairly rapidly.

We encourage teams to use this same guidance for practices too.

## **Coach Pitch Rules**

### **Pitching:**

1. A coach for the team at bat will throw all pitches. The coach must pitch from the pitching rubber.
2. The kid "pitcher" must stand anywhere behind the coach pitcher in the circle with a clear view of the batter..
3. Any pitch swung at and missed or fouled off with less than two strikes is a strike. Three strikes puts the batter out.
4. If the ball has not been hit into play after 5 pitches the batter is out. The at-bat cannot end on a foul ball.
5. A batted ball that hits the coach pitcher is a live ball.
6. A batted ball that is caught by the coach pitcher (for self defense) puts the batter out and is an immediate dead ball.

### **Defense:**

7. Ten players will play on defense, with four outfielders.
8. Outfielders must play at least 10 feet back off the edge of the infield.
9. Play is stopped when the ball is returned to the kid pitcher who must have control of the ball with both feet inside the Pitcher's Circle. A 10' diameter Pitcher's Circle will be drawn around the pitcher's mound. If a pitcher's circle is not available on the field, then best judgement should be used to determine the approximate area during game play.

### **Offense:**

10. No stealing, bunting, infield fly rule. Baserunners can only run on contact made by the batter.
11. Depending on the field, a half-way line will be drawn between 1st and 2nd, 2nd and 3rd, and 3rd and Home Plate. Coaches will make an assessment at the time that the ball is controlled by the kid pitcher in the circle. If runner has fully crossed the half-way line they are given the base they are advancing too, if open. The defensive team is free to make plays on runners but once the ball reaches the kid pitcher who has both feet inside the Pitcher's Circle and control of the ball, the play is dead. In the event a kid pitcher fields a batted ball inside the Pitcher's Circle and shows intent to make a play on a runner, the ball will not be considered dead. Once the pitcher steps out of the circle with an attempt to make a play, the play will not be considered dead.

### **Umpires:**

There are no official umpires in AA Fall Ball. Each team is responsible for supplying field umpires for the games. In a pitch team coaches can act as umpires but we prefer a parent volunteer.

## **General Little League Rule Reminders from Your League Coordinators...and Umpires**

These are a few reminders -- the Green Book has everything!

No Bat Boys/Girls

No On-Deck Circle (except in Juniors)

Little League Rule 1.17: All players must wear a one piece mask with dangling throat guard extension.

Little League Rule 7.08: Any runner is out when – (a) (3) the runner does not slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag; . . . (b) intentionally interferes with a thrown ball; or hinders a fielder attempting to make a play on a batted ball (NOTE: A runner who is adjudged to have hindered a fielder who is attempting to make a play on a ball is out whether it was intentional or not)."

Little League Rule 6.06 (d): A batter is out for illegal action when - (d) The batter enters the batter's box with one or both feet entirely on the ground with an illegal bat (see bat specifications rule 1.10) or is discovered having used an illegal bat prior to the next player entering the batter's box. Note: If the infraction is discovered before the next player enters the batter's box following the turn at bat of the player who used an illegal bat: 1) The manager of the defense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline the penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play. 2) For the first violation, the offensive team will lose one eligible adult base coach for the duration of the game. 3) For the second violation, the manager of the team will be ejected from the game. Any subsequent violation will result in the newly designated manager being ejected.

## Little League Pitching Regulations

Little League enforces strict pitching regulations with player safety in mind. A player may only pitch once per game and may not return to the pitching position once removed. (Juniors: Player may return once provided he has not left the game inbetween pitching appearances.)

7-8 Years Old 50 Pitches Per Day

9-10 Years Old 75 Pitches Per Day

11-12 Years Old 85 Pitches Per Day

13-14 Years Old. 95 Pitches Per Day

- But for Fall we don't want anyone over 70.
- If a pitcher reaches a threshold mid at-bat, the pitcher may finish throwing to that batter
- A catcher who catches any part of four innings may not move to the pitching position.
- A pitcher who throws 41 or more pitches may not play catcher at any point during that day.

Pitching days of rest generally doesn't come into play in fall because games are only once per week, but it is enforced!

Little League rules pertaining to bats will be enforced! USABats or solid wood only. Juniors may use BBCOR.

Please no buckets on the field of play during the game. Coaches will be allowed outside against the fence of the dugout for coaching and developmental purposes in AA/AAA.

One coach must be in the dugout at all times when a player is in the dugout.

There are no rules against bunting or "slash" bunting in AAA and above.