

## 2017 Little League RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Brandon Township Parks & Recreation Baseball & Softball Program is **RECREATIONAL** in nature, not competitive. This program stresses respect and basic rules above all else. Wins, losses and scores **ARE** recorded for Little League. Playoffs will start the week following regular league games in July. We recommend that coaches rotate players through all positions. This is the only opportunity to play league baseball for many of our local youths, so praise each player regularly and sincerely. They will remember their baseball experience for the rest of their lives!

### **MUST-READ for ALL COACHES and Parents...**

ALL UMPIRE RULINGS are considered final. Umpires reserve the right to evict anyone arguing or displaying unsportsmanlike behavior of any kinds. Anyone choosing to disregard the umpires' calls, anyone choosing to show disrespect or argue with the umpire, and anyone choosing to exhibit poor sportsmanship will be immediately excused for the duration of the game and possibly for the duration of the season. Such evictions are at the discretion of the umpire, site director and are enforceable regardless of the correctness (or incorrectness) of the call, judgment or rule interpretation by the umpire. We expect all coaches, parents and spectators to model respect and good sportsmanship under ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. Coaches should address parents or spectators exhibiting poor conduct. Umpires reserve the right to reprimand or evict any coach, parent or spectator exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct or disrespectful behavior. Issues regarding rule interpretations, umpires, coaches, or parents should be directed to Brandon Township Parks & Recreation.

### **OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL RULES SHALL GOVERN ALL LEAGUE PLAY, WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS AND RESTATEMENTS:**

1. The home team will sit on the third base side of the field. The home team is listed first on the schedule.
2. The only persons permitted to sit on the bench are eligible players, coaches and team scorekeepers.
3. Each team should exchange batting orders and have the orders entered in the score books at least five minutes prior to scheduled game time.
4. Umpires must review ground rules with coaches from both teams before each game begins.
5. Batting teams may have one first and one third base coach in their respective coaching boxes.
6. Only one "on deck" player is permitted in the "on deck" circle. Coaches and Assistant Coaches may only instruct their own team members.
7. The home team scorekeeper will be the official game scorekeeper and is responsible for recording the score, the number of innings each pitcher pitched, and the number of innings played by each fielder. Concurrence with the visiting team's scorekeeper should be made after each inning.
8. Weather cancellations are rescheduled by Brandon Township Recreation whenever possible. It is each coach's responsibility to check with the office for rescheduled game times.
9. Failure to show for rescheduled games results in forfeiture. Forfeited games are not rescheduled.
10. The infield fly rule shall apply.
11. Pitcher conferences are allowed once per inning per pitcher without forcing a pitcher substitution. The second pitcher conference in one inning must result in a pitcher substitution.
12. One defensive conference or player move is allowed per half-inning. Pitchers can be moved any time.
13. In the interest of expediting the game, a courtesy runner may be substituted for an on-base catcher if there are two outs.
14. There is a six-run maximum or a three-out limit per half inning with the following exception: All runs produced as the result of an over-the-fence home run will count. **This does not apply to tournament play.**

15. There are NO “mercy” forfeits allowed in any league.

**Player Eligibility for Little League - Male ages 10, 11, or 12 years old as of the preceding December.**

**Uniforms and Equipment**

**A team warning may be issued for noncompliance with the following rules. The absence of a warning does not allow teams to disregard any rules. Umpires may assign an out for noncompliance.**

1. All players must wear league-issued uniforms.
2. All players must wear long pants or baseball pants. **NO SHORTS.**
3. All players must wear socks and shoes. Tennis shoes or other all-purpose shoes with rubber cleats are allowed. Steel-cleats and hard-soled shoes are not allowed.
4. All male catchers must wear a protective cup.
5. It is strongly recommended that players wear mouth protection.
6. All catchers must wear approved Catchers equipment while playing in the catcher position.
7. Batters and base runners must wear protective helmets properly positioned to cover the head, ears, and temples. Chinstraps shall be used and kept snug on the player’s chin. Refusal to wear a helmet by a batter or deliberate removal of the helmet by a base runner while ball is in play will result in the player being declared out. Should this result in the third out, no runs will count resulting from that play.
8. There is no mitt size or type restriction.
9. Uniforms must be tucked in at all times.
10. Metal Jewelry is not allowed. This does not include rope, rubber or friendship type bracelets. Pitchers can not have any bright colored bracelet or arm band on their pitching arm. It will be up to the umpire whether the bracelet should be removed.
11. Intentional throwing of helmets, bats, catching equipment or general equipment abuse will not be tolerated. Violators will be immediately ejected from the game.
12. Equipment must be kept off the playing field.

**Balls:** Little League use a 9” or 9 ¼” official baseballs.

**Player Requirements**

1. Each team must have a minimum of seven players to start an official inning, except the first inning, which uses the guidelines, noted on page three of this document. Little League teams field ten players. There is a maximum of six infield players and four outfield players.
2. Each player that is present and physically able to play shall appear in the batting order. Players arriving late for a game will be placed at the bottom of the batting order. In case of injury, the next batter in order shall replace the injured player and the order resumes from that point. An injured batter is NOT considered out when it is his/her turn to bat again.
3. No player may sit out for two consecutive innings. Violation of this rule will result in **FORFEITURE**. The only exception may be an injury sustained during play of current game. Coaches must play the injured player at the top of the first inning that the player is ready to be admitted. **This rule does not apply to tournament play.**
4. Any player exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct may be removed from the game at the coach or umpire’s discretion. This player is not subject to minimum playing requirements for that game.
5. Free substitution will be permitted for all positions except the pitcher. **Once a player is removed as a pitcher, the player cannot return to the game as a pitcher.** The player may return in a different position.

### Official Game Parameters

1. Each game shall consist of up to seven innings or one hour and forty five minutes unless the game is stopped by the umpire or site director for:
  - a. Thunder, lightning, significant rain: The Brandon Township Weather Policy states that all games are stopped for any thunder or lightning, however distant, and all players must take cover in a building or vehicle, NOT in the DUGOUT (metal fencing). If conditions have not cleared after 15 minutes, either the umpire or the site director per Brandon Township Recreation's current weather policy officially calls the game.
  - b. Unsafe playing conditions
  - c. Darkness
  - d. Forfeiture
2. All games will start at the designated start time. Any team not meeting minimum player requirements as of the scheduled start time will be allowed to play short for one complete inning. After one complete inning, if the minimum number of players has not reached the field, the umpire will call a forfeit.
3. An official game should consist of a minimum of three and a half innings (except tournament play will consist of seven innings). In the event the visiting team is ahead after three and a half innings, the home team will bat in the bottom of the inning until three outs or the winning run is recorded. If, after four innings, the game is called when the teams have not had an equal number of times at bat, the score shall revert to the last complete inning. An exception exists if the home team's half of the incomplete inning exceeds the visitor's score; then the final score shall be as recorded when the game is called.
4. Games cancelled by coaches for any reason will NOT be rescheduled. Games considered forfeits would not be rescheduled.
5. **Game start times are listed on the league schedule. Teams must clear the field promptly if any game is scheduled after them on the same field. SEE YOUR SCHEDULE**  
**Lights will be extinguished on both Community Fields by 10:15 p.m.**

### Playing Field Dimensions

- **Little League**  
Playing field consists of 60-foot baselines.  
Pitching distance shall be 46 feet.

### Player Injuries

**WHEN IN DOUBT, CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.**

**The safety and well being of players takes precedence over all other issues.**

1. In the event a player is injured, the following minimum actions shall be taken:
  - a. Play will be stopped and the coach or his assignee shall immediately go to the aid of the player.
  - b. The player will not be removed from the playing field until it can be determined that it will not jeopardize the player's health or well being.
  - c. If the injured player cannot immediately leave the field, all players on the field shall return to their respective benches and remain there until the situation is over.
2. Play may be resumed under the following conditions:
  - a. A substitute for the injured player will be inserted and play immediately resumes.

- b. The injured player may not return to the game until all bleeding is stopped. All blood on the player, clothing or equipment must be completely cleaned or exchanged. Extra jerseys are sometimes available from the Ball Garage Attendant.
- c. In the event the injured player is a pitcher, he may be reinstated as a pitcher following treatment. The inning of removal will count as complete inning pitched if the pitcher is not reinstated the same inning as the injury.
- d. Players that take a hard blow to the head or body could result in a concussion and may not be entered back into the game. Parent must authorize their child to continue playing.

**Base Running Safety:** If a player deliberately or maliciously runs into a fielder, that player may immediately be ejected from the game, at the discretion of the umpire. Such situations will be reviewed by Brandon Township Parks and Recreation and further action taken if necessary.

## Special Little League Rules

### Base Running

1. Base runners cannot leave the base until the ball has crossed the plate, or runner is declared out.
2. Base stealing is permitted after the ball has crossed the plate. Stealing home is allowed on passed balls.
3. Base runners may advance on a ball missed by the catcher.
4. **“Dead Ball Circle”** will be in effect. Once a throw is attempted back to the pitcher from the catcher only, runners may not advance.

### Pitching

1. Little League players may pitch a maximum of **three** innings per game and **seven** innings per week. **Exception on tournament play, three innings per game no limit on games.**
2. A single pitch in any inning shall constitute an inning pitched. Violation of this rule will result in **forfeiture** of the game.
3. There is no balk rule.
4. Players warming up a pitcher must wear a facemask.
5. Strike Zone will be between the arm pits and the bottom of knees. And a ball width on either side of the plate.
6. A pitcher is to be removed from pitching for the remainder of the inning if two **“hit by pitch”** are called by the umpire. The player may re-enter to pitch following innings. If a third **“hit by pitch”** is called by the umpire, the pitcher will be removed from pitching the remainder of the game. The batters are to make an effort to avoid being hit by the pitch.

### Batting

1. Bunting is permitted.
2. Non-intentional bat throwing will result in an automatic out, as determined by the umpire. A second incident within a single game will result in ejection. Players may carry the bat halfway down the baseline to help control bat throwing.
3. Coaches may not position batters to direct their hits.
4. No **“dropped third strike”** rule. Batter is declared out regardless if the catcher drops the third strike or not.