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Policies/general LBL rules

The Longmont Baseball League (LBL) policies/general rules are in addition to the [Official LBL rules](#) (OLBLR). OLBRL will take precedents over the policies/general LBL rules, [Competitive AA & A](#), [Recreational rules and Fall Ball rules](#) when in conflict.

Playing rules not specifically covered shall be governed by The Official MLB Rules of Baseball – National League.

Coaches are responsible to inform players and parents of LBL rules. (With copies if necessary.)

For clarification, the following definitions will be used:

Baseball grounds:

Will consist of any and all areas for spectators and baseball personnel.

Playing field:

Will consist of all areas inside the fenced area or designated boundaries to include fair territory of playing area, foul territory where playing is permitted and the bench area of the teams.

Sportsmanship/Misconduct/Ejections

Parent Code of Conduct

At the **Longmont Baseball League (LBL)**, our goal is to provide a fun, safe, and positive environment where players can learn and enjoy the game of baseball. We value sportsmanship, teamwork, and respect — both on and off the field.

As a parent, your attitude and behavior set an example for every player and help create a positive experience for all families. By participating in LBL, you agree to uphold the following standards:

Respect and Sportsmanship

- I will treat all players, coaches, umpires, league officials, and spectators with **respect and dignity** at all times.
- I will demonstrate **good sportsmanship** and encourage it in my child and others.
- I will not engage in behavior that undermines learning, enjoyment, or safety during LBL activities.

Positive Communication

- I will focus on **praise, encouragement, and support**, not criticism.
- I will not use **profanity**, insults, or hostile language toward anyone at LBL events.
- I will respect the authority of **umpires and league personnel** and support their efforts to maintain a fair and safe game.

Safety and Responsibility

- I will not engage in **fighting, physical contact, or poor sportsmanship** of any kind.
- I will not use or possess **alcohol within 1,000 feet** of the playing field.
- I will not arrive at the field under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- I will not use **illegal drugs, marijuana, tobacco, or vaping products** within 1,000 feet of the playing field.
- I understand that **parents are not allowed on the field** during games, except after games for photos or ceremonies.

Commitment to Learning

- I will make an effort to **learn and understand the rules** of baseball and those specific to my child's age division.
- I will support the league's mission to provide a positive, safe, and educational baseball experience for all participants.

Consequences for Violations

Failure to follow this Parent Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, including **suspension or removal** from LBL activities.

Parents have the right to appeal such actions in writing within **two weeks**. The LBL Board of Directors will convene a hearing within two weeks of receiving the appeal, and all decisions made by the Board are **final**.

LBL may share information about serious conduct violations with other local youth sports organizations, including the **City of Longmont, Niwot Youth Sports, Loveland Baseball Association, Town of Windsor, and Fort Collins Baseball Club.**

Coaches Code of Conduct(ABCA)

- The LBL adopts the code of conduct from the American Baseball Coaches Association that can be referenced [here](#).

PRINCIPLE I: Responsibility to Players; Officials; Parents; Fans

- ARTICLE A: Players:
 - Always place the academic, emotional, physical and moral well-being of your players above desires and pressures to win.
 - The rules of baseball are clear. Any attempt to circumvent these rules to take unfair advantage of an opponent, or teach deliberate unsportsmanlike conduct has no place in coaching baseball.
- ARTICLE B: Officials:
 - The coach shall respect and support the umpires, scorers, public address announcers and others charged with conducting the game. On and off the record criticism of officials to players of the public is unethical.
 - The coach shall not permit anyone on his team to address uncomplimentary remarks to any official during a game, or to indulge in conduct which might incite players or spectators against the officials.
- ARTICLE C: Parents
 - The coach shall treat the parents and family of his players with respect; be clear about your expectations, goals and policies and maintain open communication.
 - The coach shall be candid with players and parents about the likelihood of getting a scholarship or playing on a professional level.
- ARTICLE D: Fans
 - The coach shall strive to educate the home fans to be respectful and courteous to the opponents while still maintaining enthusiasm and support for their team.
 - The coach shall be responsible, within reason, for the conduct of his team's fans and refrain from arousing the crowd by his conduct.

PRINCIPLE II: Responsibility to the Institution

- ARTICLE A: Institutional Integrity
 - The coach shall conduct himself so as to uphold and maintain the integrity and dignity of his institution.
 - The coach shall discuss problems with his athletic director and/or other superiors in a professional manner, and then accept and support decisions that have been reached.

PRINCIPLE III: Responsibility to the Rules and Integrity of Baseball

- ARTICLE A: Rules
 - The coach shall maintain a thorough knowledge of the rules of the game and assure that his players know and understand the rules.
 - The coach shall require his players to know and abide by the letter and the spirit of all baseball rules and those relating to eligibility, recruitment, transfers, practices and other provisions regulating their competition.
- ARTICLE B: Integrity of the Game
 - The coach shall communicate to his players a respect and reverence for the grand history of baseball and instruct them never to knowingly bring shame or dishonor to the game.
 - The coach shall not allow himself, or his players, to gamble on professional or intercollegiate baseball games.

PRINCIPLE IV: Professional Responsibility

- ARTICLE B: Relationships
 - The coach shall maintain appropriate professional relationships with student/athletes, managers, and trainers and respect proper coach/player boundaries.
 - The coach shall instruct his players that any disciplinary, academic, or personal problems are "family affairs" and not to be made public.
 - The coach shall act toward other coaches in a manner characterized by courtesy, good faith, and respect.
 - The coach shall help develop the baseball coaching profession by exchanging knowledge and experiences with colleagues, athletes and students while being a participant, course facilitator or master coach in courses and internships.
 - The coach shall uphold his or her responsibility to coaching by bringing inconsistent or unethical behavior of others to the attention of appropriate regulatory committees in a manner consistent with this code, but only if informal resolution or correcting the situation is not appropriate or possible.

PRINCIPLE V: Personal Responsibility

- ARTICLE A: Trustworthiness
 - The coach shall model high ideals of sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor while teaching and advocating good character.
 - The coach shall strive to be himself worthy of trust while teaching his players the importance of integrity, honesty, reliability, and loyalty.
- ARTICLE B: Respect
 - The coach shall treat all people with respect at all times and require the same of the players.

- The coach shall not engage in, or permit, profanity, vulgarities, obscene gestures, trash talking, taunting, boastful celebration, or other actions that demean individuals, or the sport of baseball, or reflect badly on the team and institution.
- The coach shall use positive coaching methods to increase players' self-esteem and enjoyment, and to foster a love and appreciation for baseball. He shall refrain from physical or psychological intimidation, verbal abuse, and any conduct that is demeaning to players.
- ARTICLE C: Conduct
 - The coach shall refrain from the use of tobacco and alcohol in front of his players.
 - The coach shall be mindful that he is a role model with high visibility great influence, and consistently conduct himself in private and coaching situations in a manner that exemplifies what he expects from his players.
 - The coach shall accurately represent his academic and coaching qualifications, experience, and past affiliations.
- ARTICLE D: Fairness and Caring
 - The coach shall be fair in selecting a team, competitive situations, disciplinary issues, and all other matters, and be open-minded and willing to listen and learn.
 - The coach shall consistently demonstrate concern for his players as individuals and encourage them to look out for one another.
 - The coach shall put safety and health considerations above the desire to win, and never permit players to intentionally injure an opponent or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to themselves or others.

**The ABCA Code of Ethics was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors on June 18, 2005, in Omaha, Nebraska. Failure to adhere to the above Standards of Conduct can result in a disciplinary action being taken, based on LBL's Disciplinary Guidelines, including, but not limited to, suspension or removal from the program. Any such action may be appealed, in writing, within two weeks. In such a case, a hearing will be convened within two weeks of receiving such appeal. All decisions made by the LBL board of directors at the hearing are final. LBL in a joint effort with other youth organizations, shares information pertaining to coach/parent suspensions. Such organizations include, but are not limited to, the City of Longmont, Niwot Youth Sports, Loveland Baseball Association, Town of Windsor and Ft. Collins Baseball Club.

Ejections/Suspensions:

The following league ejection and suspension policies will be in effect for all League games and Tournaments, including the End-of-Season Playoff:

- Definition of terms:
 - **Ejection:** A penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct or other violation penalized by ejection by an umpire or league official. An ejection is served during the game in which the ejection occurred.
 - **Suspension:** A penalty for unsportsmanlike or other inappropriate conduct. The Longmont Baseball League governs suspensions. A suspension is additional punishment to an ejection.

Forfeiting a Game

Umpires have the full authority to **end a game at any time** if players, coaches, managers, parents, or spectators engage in **unsportsmanlike conduct** toward officials or others involved in the game.

Procedure

- **First Offense:** The umpire will issue a **warning** to the *Head Coach* of the offending team. The coach is responsible for ensuring that the inappropriate behavior from any player, coach, manager, parent, or spectator **stops immediately**.
- **Second Offense:** If the misconduct continues, the umpire has the right to **end the game immediately**.
- **Severe Misconduct:** In cases of extreme or threatening behavior, the umpire may **forfeit the game without warning**.

When a game is forfeited due to misconduct, the **final score** will be recorded as:

- **6–0** for teams in **9U–12U divisions**
- **7–0** for teams in **13U–High School divisions**

If both teams have to forfeit the game. Each team will be recorded as a 6-0 loss vs “LBL” or 7-0 loss vs “LBL”

Further Disciplinary Action

Any misconduct not specifically covered by another rule will be **investigated by the LBL Director**. All involved parties will receive **written notification** of the findings.

Disciplinary actions may include **suspension or removal** from LBL activities. Any individual receiving disciplinary action may **appeal in writing** within **two weeks** of notification. Upon receipt of the appeal, the **LBL Board of Directors** will hold a hearing within two weeks. All Board decisions are **final**.

LBL may share information regarding conduct violations with other local youth sports organizations, including but not limited to:

City of Longmont, Niwot Youth Sports, Loveland Baseball Association, Town of Windsor, and Fort Collins Baseball Club.

Walk up songs/Music

The Longmont Baseball League allows having walk-up songs to create a fun environment for players & families during the game. However, it is not necessary to play the game. Coaches must monitor song selections to ensure songs are appropriate. Songs shall not have explicit lyrics, references to drugs or sex. Songs shall be played at moderate volume. **Any violation that is deemed by the LBL board of directors to be an inappropriate song selection or an unreasonable volume will result in possible forfeit and immediate termination of the ability to play music.**

There is an etiquette that must be followed so that umpires, players/coaches can communicate and run the game efficiently. Or so the music doesn't cause animosity between opposing teams or fans.

If at any time during the game the umpires feel that they cannot run an efficient game, feel that coaches cannot communicate properly with their players or fans are becoming hostile the umpires will ask the coaches to have their team stop playing the music. Non compliance may result in a forfeit of the game.

Please follow the below etiquette:

1. Play songs at a medium volume. Ask the umpire if you can turn up or need to turn down.
2. No explicit songs. Edited versions of those songs are permitted.
3. When to play:
 - a. **Your team is doing warm-up pitches.**
 - i. Turn off the music when the catcher throws the ball to 2nd base.
 - ii. When your opponent is doing warm up pitches in the field let them play their music or no music.
 - b. **Your team is at bat:**
 - i. As the batter is walking to the plate you may play their song.
 - ii. When the batter has one foot in the box, the music needs to be turned off.
 1. Playing music while the pitcher is in their wind-up is not appropriate.
 - iii. Kids sometimes wait for their song to be played and keep themselves out of the box. This delays the game. The person running the music has to be paying attention or the umpire may ask you to stop.

Equipment/Uniform

- Players in all age groups will wear the uniform assigned by the league or club at all times while participating in league play. Uniform caps will be worn with the bill to the front and shirts tucked in while on the playing field. Uniforms will not be modified. Players shall wear no jewelry of any type.
- All batters and base runners must wear batting helmets. Players used as base coaches or base coaches under 18 years of age must wear helmets. Players warming up pitchers, on or off the field, must wear a facemask if in the down position. Skull caps are not allowed.
- No metal spiked footwear may be worn by the 12 and under age groups.
- Baseballs are the property of the Longmont Baseball League. New balls are to be used at games. After the game, new balls become practice balls and should be kept with other league equipment. Game balls are not to be given to players.

Rosters

The **Longmont Baseball League (LBL)** is committed to maintaining fair play, safety, and organization across all divisions. To ensure consistency and eligibility, all rosters, coaches, and officials must be approved and registered through the LBL.

Roster Approval and Changes

- All **team rosters, head coaches, assistant coaches, and umpires** must be approved by the LBL before participating in league play.
 - Any **replacement or addition** of a coach or player must be coordinated and approved by the LBL prior to participation.
 - All players, coaches, managers, and umpires must be **officially registered** with the LBL, and all required forms must be completed.
 - In games without official umpires, those agreed upon by both coaches to officiate will be considered **registered and approved** by the LBL for that game.
-

Minimum Player Requirement

- Teams must have a **minimum of eight (8) rostered players** to begin and continue a game.
 - If a team does not have at least eight players **within ten minutes** of the scheduled start time, the game will be declared a **forfeit**.
-

Injured Player Procedures

- If a player must leave a game due to **injury or illness**, an **automatic out will not be charged** in the batting order.

- If a player is injured while the team is **on offense**, the player who made the previous out will act as a **courtesy runner**.
 - Any player removed from a game due to injury must provide **written permission from a parent or legal guardian** before resuming play in a future game.
-

Forfeited Games

- In the event of a forfeit:
 - **6-inning games** will be recorded as a **6–0 forfeit**.
 - **7-inning games** will be recorded as a **7–0 forfeit**.
- Teams may choose to **play a scrimmage game** following a forfeit. In this case:
 - Teams may “loan” players to the short-handed team.
 - The scrimmage will continue until the original scheduled end time, and **no score will be kept**.
 - Only **LBL-registered players** within the same age division may participate.

Game Length

The **Longmont Baseball League (LBL)** establishes game time limits to ensure fairness, safety, and timely scheduling for all teams. Time limits apply to all regular-season games and are based on age divisions and field availability.

Standard Game Time Limits

- **5–6 Year Olds:** No new inning shall begin after **1 hour** of play.
 - **7–8 Year Olds:** No new inning shall begin after **1 hour and 30 minutes** of play.
 - **9U–14U Divisions:** No new inning shall begin after **1 hour and 45 minutes** of play.
-

Games on Fields with Lights

When two games are scheduled on the same lighted field:

- **First Game:** No new inning may begin after **7:30 p.m.**
 - If the game is tied at the end of that inning, it will **end in a tie**.
- **Second Game:** No new inning may begin after **10:00 p.m.**
 - If the game is tied at the end of that inning, it will also **end in a tie**.
- For **5:30 p.m. games** followed by a second scheduled game:
 - If the first game extends beyond **7:30 p.m.**, the next game will **begin within 10 minutes** of the previous game's completion.

Scorekeeping

- **6U-8U:** Rec.
 - Scores will not officially be kept
- **9U-18U:** All Comp and Rec.
 - Scores and standings will be kept with the Gamechanger app at all times. The home team will keep the official scorebook. Both teams should score the game on the app.
 - *When there is a discrepancy between home and visitors book/gamechanger the **Umpires or field supervisor(if present)** have the final say /determination on the score.*
 - *In the event the umpire or field supervisor are unable to report or make a determination of the score and the home team/ visitors team cannot come to an agreement, LBL will default to the home scorebook. **Revised 2/2025*
- **Game ties**
 - Regular season games can end in a tie.
 - End of season tournaments where a team must move on in the bracket a winner will be determined by the California rule.
 - The last batted out will be placed on 2nd base with 0 outs. Play each half inning in this manner until a winner is determined.
 - Championship games in bracket play will not have a California rule. Play standard rules until a winner is determined.

Pitching Rules

- **Innings Limits Rules**

- Implemented for multiple player participation at the position.

- **AA/A & Fall League and Competitive Tournaments**

- **9-12U**

- League or Tournament per Day: 6 innings
- League play/week: 6 innings
 - Sunday through Saturday.
- Tournament/event: 6 innings
 - For the duration of the tournament

- **13U-18U**

- League or Tournament per Day: 7 innings
- League play/week: 7 innings
 - Sunday through Saturday.
- Tournament/event: 7 innings
 - For the duration of the tournament.

- **Recreational Leagues**

- **9/10U Rec.**

- Inning Limit Rule
 - All pitchers will be limited to two (2) innings per game, 6 innings total during a week and/or the duration of tournament.
- Pitch count limit guidelines:
 - Per day max = 75 pitches.
 - Per week max = 90 pitches. Week starts on Sunday.

- **11/12U Rec.**

- Inning Limit Rule
 - All pitchers will be limited to three (3) innings per game, 6 innings total during a week and/or the duration of tournament.
- Pitch count limit guidelines:
 - Per day max = 85 pitches.

- Per week max = 100 pitches. Week starts on Sunday.
- **13/14U Rec.**
 - Inning Limit Rule
 - All pitchers will be limited to three (3) innings per game, 7 innings total during a week and/or the duration of a tournament.
 - Pitch count limit guidelines:
 - Per day max = 95 pitches.
 - Per week max = 110 pitches. Week starts on Sunday.
- Pitch Smart Rest Guidelines: All 9U -14U Days of Rest
 - 1-34 = 0 days
 - 35-44 pitches= 1 day
 - 45-54 pitches=2 days
 - 55-65 pitches= 3 days
 - 66+ pitches= 4 days

Weather

Make Up Games: LBL will make a reasonable attempt to reschedule games due to weather but holds the right to the below statements.

Recreational Games: No games will be made up due to weather, unless the total number of games played falls below 6.

Comp Games: No games will be made up due to weather, unless the total number of games played falls below 8.

Cancellations

Decisions to cancel games due to unfavorable weather conditions will be determined by league officials and/or umpires, with input from coaches **prior to 3pm.**

After 3pm: If there has not been a decision reported to the coach/team/parents, the decision will be made at the field at game time between umpires and coaches. Both coaches and team members should show up, or risk forfeit. This could be a double forfeit if officials decide the game can be played and neither team has enough players to play.

Lightning

Follow the link to see the lightning policy and procedure.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1e-E81XA3OEp82ALQpFLjlyCo7aqh_Y1a/view?usp=drive_link

- The Longmont Baseball League will follow rule 3d highlighted above. Using lightning detecting device applications when available.
- Common sense or seeing or hearing lightning/thunder will always take precedence over the phone applications.
- When using the applications on your phone the game may resume as soon as the last lightning strike is farther than 10 miles. You do not need to wait for 30 minutes.
- **When applications are not available** by an umpire or coach, default to the 30 minute rule 3b.
- Teams must be in the dugout, go to the safety of their cars, or a facility bathroom. They cannot be out on the field during a lightning delay at any time.

- Games under the 30 minute rule or 10 mile rule will not be resumed if the game time of 1 hour and 45 minutes has expired. If the game time has been reached, the rules for a complete game are followed.

Completed Game:

If a game is called due to rain, Weather, light failure, or other acts of Nature and cannot be resumed it is a regulation game if:

- For a **six (6) inning game**, one of 3 things may occur to be a complete game.
 - If three (3) innings have been played
 - If the home team has scored more runs after two and one half (2 1/2) innings the game shall be declared a complete game.
 - If one hour of game time has occurred
 - If for any reason the game cannot be rescheduled or resumed it will be recorded as a 0-0 game. Each team will be awarded 1.5 points.
- For a **seven (7) inning game**, or the game shall be declared a complete game.
 - If four (4) innings have been played
 - If the home team has scored more runs after three and one half (3 1/2) innings
 - If one hour of game time has occurred.
- All games that for any reason cannot be declared a regulation game shall be a suspended game. A suspended game when resumed, shall resume from the exact point of suspension.
- If for any reason the game cannot be rescheduled or resumed it will be recorded as a 0-0 game. Each team will be awarded 1.5 points.

Extra games played:

During the Spring, Summer or fall season, schedules are packed with other activities during the week. At times we need other teams to step in and play a team that needs a make up game to be counted towards their original scheduled games.

If your team is willing to play an extra game that would exceed your original scheduled games, those wins/losses and all the stats will not count toward the final standings.

Refund Policy

Recreational Baseball

-A refund less a \$75 administrative fee if registration is canceled before the regular registration deadline or after 1 game played.

-No refunds after a child has participated in two sanctioned games. Once the season starts the Longmont Baseball League will only offer a prorated refund for out-of-state job related transfers, or injuries or illnesses documented by a physician. In the event of an injury any refund request must be received in our office within two weeks of the injury illness and be accompanied by a doctor's note, no exceptions.

-Registration fees shall not be refunded in the event of suspension of a player for disciplinary reasons.

Competitive Baseball(A, AA, AAA or HS)-Spring and Fall

Full Refund: If cancellation occurs before the registration deadline for season & no fees. If cancellation occurs after the registration deadline but before being scheduled, full refund minus a \$200 processing fee.

75% Refund: If cancellation occurs after the team is scheduled but before the first game, less a \$200 processing fee.

25% Refund: If a team plays 5 or less games during the season due to weather related cancellations, \$200 processing fee.

No Refund: If a team plays 6 or more games in the league.

More than two cancellations due to the inability to fill a roster of 8 or more the team will not be refunded for those games.

Registration fees shall not be refunded in the event of suspension of a coach, fan or player for disciplinary reasons.

Special Circumstances: In cases of acts of God and or community health concerns leading to program cancellation, a prorated refund up to the full amount may be issued, less a \$200 admin fee.

Umpiring

- Umpire judgment calls cannot be appealed.
- Rule calls, on appeal -request, will be reviewed by both umpires and a final decision will be reached by the umpires.
- Under no circumstances will taunting, ridiculing, or in any way harassing the umpire be permitted.
- If coaches or spectators are not satisfied with the rule decision, please call or email the head umpire or director, and the rule will be clarified and the explanation will be given to both coaches and umpires.
- **Balk Calls**
 - **9U/10U:**
 - 2 warnings.
 - **11/12U:**
 - 1 warning
 - **13/14U**
 - No warnings
- **Strike Zones** for player pitch leagues is as follows:
 - **9U/10U:**
 - Cross over the plate at a height from the armpit to the shins.
 - Two baseball widths off the corners of the plate.
 - **11/12U:**
 - Cross over the plate at a height from the armpit to the knees
 - One baseball width off the corners of the plate.
 - **13/14U**
 - Cross over the plate at a height from the armpit to the knees
 - Any part of the ball crosses the black corner of the plate.