



# Plymouth-Canton Little League

## 2025 Local Playing Rules

### Little League Baseball/Softball (Major/Minor Division)

#### 1. Introduction

1.1. These rules restate or supplement the Little League 2025 Official Regulations and Playing Rules. It is the Manager's responsibility to read and understand all Rules. Any questions or clarifications should be referred to the PCLL VP of Baseball.

**1.2. Player and Coach's Safety** • Each team is responsible for cleaning their dugout of trash after each game and practice.

- No jewelry shall be worn during practices or games. The only exception to this rule will be medic alert jewelry or certain religious jewelry.
- No one wearing a hard cast may participate in the game outside the dugout.
- During a game, all players shall remain in the dugout or designated bullpen unless they are playing a defensive position, coaching a base, batting or a base runner, pitchers may warm up outside the fence only if supervised by a league-approved volunteer
- A player in the squatted position behind the plate, on a field or bullpen, shall wear a chest protector, facemask with throat protector, helmet and athletic protector (cup) during warmups (cup not required for female players). Shin guards must be added during gameplay.
- Teams are provided heart guards for pitchers. They are not mandatory but recommended.
- Games will be cancelled if the temperatures and heat index are below 40°F or above 100°F.
- NO swinging bats in the dugout...rule of thumb, the only player who has a bat in their hand is the one at the plate batting or coming or going to home plate.

#### 2. Overall Game Play

##### 2.1. Time Limit

- The Plate Umpire will announce the start time and keep the game time.
- No new inning may start after 1 hour 40 minutes.
- All games will have a 2-hour time limit from the first pitch thrown.
  - If after the 2-hour limit, the game is not yet decided, the game ends and the score reverts back to the last completed inning.
- **The 5-run rule for Minors applies to post-season games.**

In the event of a postponement, the following shall be followed:

- Assistant Coaches will clear players off the field & benches in order for the other teams to begin.
- The Managers, Scorekeepers and Umpires shall convene off the field.
- The Home Team Scorekeeper shall document the situation at the time of postponement on the scoresheet upon agreement.
- The Managers and Umpires shall sign the score sheet.
- The Umpire shall photograph the sheet and send to the PCLL Umpire in Chief.

##### 2.2. Team Standings

- Scores will be kept for all games.
- Team standings will be maintained. Standings will be used to determine end-of-season seeding for divisional playoffs.
- At the end of the season, division standings will be determined by win-loss percentage.
- Tie breaker sequence: head-to-head standings; run differential (runs for less runs against). If a tie remains, both teams will share standing.

##### 2.3. Coaching Staff

- Only League approved volunteers for that team shall be allowed on the field or in the dugout.
- If a player remains in the dugout, a League approved adult must remain in the dugout with him/her.
- All volunteers must be approved by the league prior to working with any player.
- Managers or coaches must not warm up a pitcher at home plate, bullpen or elsewhere. They may stand by and observe. See LL Baseball or LL Softball Rule 3.09.

##### 2.4. Make-up Games

- All games (rain-outs, suspensions, missed games, etc.) must be played.
- Make-up games, suspended, and rain games shall be played as soon as possible.
- Both managers must contact the league scheduling committee to reschedule a game.
- If either team will not reschedule the game, they will receive a loss towards league standings. The other

team will not receive a win or a loss.

- **Baseball/Softball Major Division only.** A team may play 1 regular-season doubleheader per week.

## 2.5. Umpires

- Each team shall present a completed line-up card to the umpire prior to the start of the game.
- Umpires are limited to a League approved umpire or a coach approved by the umpire.
- There will be two umpires to each game, a fielding umpire and a plate umpire.
- Umpires will inspect batting/catching equipment before games.

## 3. Defensive Rules

### 3.1. Pitching

- **Softball Only.** Any player on a regular season team may pitch, however not more than 5 pitchers per team shall be used in 1 game. Exception see LL Softball Regulation VI(d).
- **Baseball Only.** Any player on a regular season team may pitch. **Exception:** Any player who has played the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings in a game, is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day. LL Baseball Regulation VI(a).
- No intentional walks allowed. If a pitcher is found, by the umpire, to be intentionally pitching around a batter (either on their own or instructed by manager/coach), the manager, on the first occurrence, shall receive a warning. Any recurrence will result in ejection of the manager.
- At change of pitcher, pitcher shall be allowed no more than 6 warm-up pitches or 1 minute.
- At change of an inning the pitcher shall be allowed no more than 3 warm-up pitches.

### 3.2. Catchers

- **Baseball Only.** Any player who has pitched 41 or more pitches in that game, is not eligible to play catcher on that calendar day. See LL Baseball Regulation VI(c).
- **Baseball Only.** The catcher must wear a catcher's mitt (not a first baseman's mitt or a fielder's glove) only, See LL Baseball Rule 1.12.
- **Softball Only.** The catcher must wear a mitt of any shape. This may be a first baseman's mitt or a fielder's glove. See LL Softball Rule 1.12.
- At the change of inning, the catcher must be ready to play when ordered by the Home Plate Umpire. • If the catcher is not ready, the Umpire will issue a 30-second warning.
- If the catcher is not ready after the 30-second warning, the batter up will be awarded a ball. • Any player or manager deemed stalling by the umpire will be issued one warning by the Umpire. If continued, the team manager will be subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

### 3.3. Fielding

- No game shall start with less than 9 players on each team.
- If a team cannot field 9 players within 10 minutes of the scheduled game time, this will be considered a missed game for both teams and will be rescheduled.
- Mandatory 6 defensive outs of play for each player per game.

## 4. Offensive Rules

### 4.1. Batting

- There shall be no on-deck circle and no batter warm-up (including soft toss).
- Every player must appear on the batting roster.
- Bunting is allowed.

### 4.2. Scoring

- Minor Division only. There is a 5 run limit per inning.
- Mercy rule is 15 runs after 3 innings or 10 runs after 4 innings.

### 4.3. Runners

- Base stealing is allowed.
- Minor Division Only. The 5<sup>th</sup> run of any inning may not be scored on a wild pitch. If a ball is thrown wild any player other than the pitcher, the runners may advance and score.