

**2024 SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN BASEBALL LEAGUE  
9-10 YEAR OLD BOYS**

*OHSAA Baseball Rules apply, except as amended herein*

***RULE 1.00 PHILOSOPHY & OBJECTIVES***

- 1.01** The Program is designed to provide wholesome recreational activity for residents of our communities. In addition, such a program should teach basic skills, most important of which is sportsmanship.
- 1.02** Objectives of the Little League Program include the following: to familiarize its participants with the rules and fundamentals of the game; to assist them in development of baseball skills, and most importantly to have fun.
- 1.03** Each community is responsible for any disciplinary action necessary within their own teams. Any issues arising between cities will be dealt with by other cities in the league not involved in the dispute. All away teams must respect and follow all rules when playing as the visitor. Each community has the authority to remove spectators/coaches/players from visiting teams.

***RULE 2.00 UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENT, & THE PLAYING FIELD***

- 2.01** Jerseys and caps are provided by the Recreation Department and must be worn by each player during the game. *Jerseys cannot be altered, and must be tucked in.* White pants are preferred but not required. **PLAYERS MAY NOT WEAR SHORTS DURING GAMES.**
- 2.02** Metal spikes are not permitted.  
**PENALTY:** First Infraction in the game: a team warning is issued, all players must change their spikes and all coaches are restricted to the dugout.  
Additional Infractions in the game: players caught wearing metal spikes are ejected
- 2.03** Bats with barrels that are 2 ¼” in diameter do not have a drop limit. Bats with barrels that are 2 ⅝” in diameter must have at most a drop -10 (E.g. a bat with a length of 30” has to weigh at least 20 ounces). Minimum barrel size is 2 ¼” and maximum barrel size is 2 ⅝”. **“USA Baseball” Stamp required.**
- 2.04** The batter, on-deck batter, all base runners and batboy must wear a protective helmet when on the field.  
**PENALTY:** *A base runner that deliberately removes his helmet while the ball is in play shall be declared out. The ball would remain alive and in play.*
- 2.05** Bases will be a distance of **65’**, the pitching distance **46’**
- 2.06** A safety base will be used at 1<sup>st</sup> base whenever possible.
- 2.07** The official game ball will be the MacGregor 76 OR equivalent provided by the home team.
- 2.08** School and travel players are permitted. These players must be distributed evenly amongst all teams in the city they are participating for.

***RULE 3.00 GAME PRELIMINARIES & GROUND RULES***

- 3.01** RUN RULE – If a team is losing by **thirteen (13) or more** runs **after four (4) innings**, or **seven (7) or more** after **five (5) innings**, the game is over and official.
- 3.02** TIME LIMIT – No new inning after **one (1) hour and 30 minutes**. If the time limit is not reached prior to the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> inning and the score is tied, an extra inning will be played.  
**NOTE:** Official starting time begins with the first pitch and is kept by the umpire. Once the time limit has been reached, tied official games will remain tied. Official tie games will **not** be continued at a later date
- 3.03** There is a 6 run limit per ½ inning, **THIS INCLUDES THE LAST INNING**
- 3.04** The infield fly rule will not be in effect.
- 3.05** Only a Head Coach, 3 assistants, players in uniform, and bat boy are permitted in the dugout.
- 3.06** The defensive players presently in the game, the batter, one (1) on-deck batter, and two (2) base coaches are the only personnel permitted on the field. Coaches and players must remain in the dugout.
- 3.07** Two (2) adult coaches may coach the bases. They need not be in uniform.
- 3.08** **OVERTHROWS-** Base runners may not advance on overthrows that leave the fair play area. That is, any ball leaving the inside of the foul lines is a dead ball and runners may not advance any further than the base they are headed to. It will be the umpire’s judgement if the runner was making an attempt to advance when the ball becomes dead. Any ball overthrown from the infield to the fair play area is a live ball.
- 3.09** There is no overthrow rule at home plate. Base runners may advance at their own risk.
- 3.10** A batted ball, which bounces fair passed first or third base, and then out of play, is a ground rule double.

***RULE 4.00 STARTING & PLAYING THE GAME***

- 4.01** A regulation game consists of six (6) innings unless extended because of a tie score, or shortened because the home team needs none or only a fraction if it’s half of the final inning; or because of weather, curfew, run rule, or time limit.
- 4.02** The league follows the OHSAA rule on a delay due to lightning, 30 minutes. This will be at the discretion of the umpire and league director on site.
- 4.03** Teams have a ten (10) minute grace period *FROM THE SCHEDULED STARTING TIME* to have the legal number of players (minimum of 8) present to start the game.  
**CALL UP PLAYERS:** If a coach knows ahead of time they will not have enough players they can use players from the next age group down. Call up players must be registered in the program and wear their original team uniform, not a jersey for the team they are playing up

on. They must play the outfield and bat last in the order. Call up player(s) CAN play even if enough players on the original team roster show up.

- 4.04** When a game is called, it is regulation and considered complete:  
A. If four (4) innings have been completed and 1 team has the lead.  
B. If the home team is ahead after three and one half (3 ½) innings have been completed.  
**NOTE:** If the game is called and the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning is complete but neither A or B are reached, or if 4 or more innings have been completed and the game is tied with time remaining in the time limit, the game will be continued at a later date from the exact point at which the game was stopped. If the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning has not been completed (6 outs recorded per team) the game will be rescheduled and started over.
- 4.05** Teams will field **ten (10)** defensive players; 4 players must play on the grass in the outfield until the ball is hit. If a team has 8 or 9 players, they must play 2 or 3 players on the grass in the outfield.
- 4.06** Free substitution will be allowed throughout the game. Late arrivals playing time may be reduced proportionately. Players arriving on time must play at least three (3) innings defensively (9 outs) prior to the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> inning. **Penalty:** Forfeit of the game if determined to be intentional. Late arrivals should be added to the bottom of the batting order.
- 4.07** All players bat in a continuous order throughout the game, regardless of who is in the game defensively.
- 4.08** Any player who does not get his mandatory three (3) innings defensively because the 6<sup>th</sup> inning is not played, **MUST START** the next game in which he participates, and play a minimum of 3 innings.
- 4.09** Every player must play at least one entire game defensively for every three games in which he participates during the regular season.
- 4.10** Should a player leave the game due to injury, illness, or any other legitimate reason, his at bats are bypassed with **NO OUTS RECORDED**. If a player is disqualified (ejected from the game) an **OUT WILL BE RECORDED** when his turn to bat comes up.
- 4.10** The Recreation Department reserves the right to place late registrants on teams after the teams are assembled. Late registrants will not be assigned to teams if it is determined that player will negatively affect the balance of the league.
- 4.11** The home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook of the game. In the event that the home team cannot provide an official scorebook the visiting scorebook will be official. Both teams are encouraged to keep a scorebook and compare several times throughout the game.
- 4.12** The manager, ten minutes prior to the start of each game, shall present a lineup card with names & numbers in batting order. Players not on site should be left off the lineup card until they arrive.

### ***RULE 5.00 THE BATTER***

- 5.01** Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> Strike – The batter is out but base runners may NOT advance

5.02 Bunting is permitted except with a runner on third base

### ***RULE 6.00 THE RUNNER***

6.01 Stealing bases and leadoffs are NOT permitted. Each team gets 1 warning, then any others result in an out.

6.02 Runner may NOT advance on passed balls/wild pitches.

6.03 When the ball is in control of an infielder, in the infield, the play is considered dead. Runners may advance to the next base if they were halfway to the base when the play is called dead. This is the judgement of umpire, both when the play is dead and what base the runner gets.

6.04 The High School rule will apply for failure to touch a base, or failure to properly tag up after a caught fly ball.

6.05 **(Optional) Speed Up Rule:** with two (2) outs and the catcher on base, the manager is encouraged to use a courtesy runner. The courtesy runner would be the person charged with the last out.

6.06 A legal slide must be feet first. A runner will be called out for attempting a head first slide while advancing to a base. A head first slide is legal when attempting to return to a base.

### ***RULE 7.00 PITCHING***

7.01 Pitchers may pitch a maximum of **6 innings in one week** and only pitch a maximum of **4 innings in one day**. A week is defined as Monday through Sunday. Once a pitcher throws a pitch in an inning, that counts as a full innings pitched. It is the coach's responsibility to accurately track and document the team's innings pitched.

**PENALTY** for violation of this rule is forfeiture of that game. In addition, the Head Coach may be suspended if it is determined that violation of the rule was intentional.

7.02 Once a pitcher is removed from the pitching position, he may not pitch again in that same game.

7.03 Games called prior to becoming official due to rain, time limit, or other such causes will count as innings pitched for each pitcher in that week.

7.04 Pitchers may issue an intentional walk by informing the umpire, who will direct the batter to proceed to first base. No batter may be intentionally walked more than once in a game.

7.05 The pitcher must be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game by the coach:  
a. On the 4<sup>th</sup> visit and any subsequent visits to the mound  
b. If the same pitcher has hit 3 batters in the same inning or 4 batters in the game.  
c. Umpires may remove a pitcher if they feel there is a lack of control endangering the hitter.

7.06 Balks will not be enforced.

### ***RULE 8.00 PROTESTS***

Berea, Brooklyn, Brook Park, Columbia, Fairview Park, Middleburg Hts., North Olmsted, Olmsted Falls, Parma Hts., Rocky River, & Strongsville

- 8.01** Protests must be declared at the time of the occurrence, and before the next pitch. Protests cannot be submitted over judgement calls (safe/out, ball/strike, etc.). Protests will be ruled on at the field by the field supervisor prior to the next pitch being made.