



April 2010

Dear League Presidents:

Encino Little League cordially invites you to participate in its annual 9 Year Old & Under Invitational Baseball Tournament. This tournament is pool play, followed by elimination games and a championship game. All teams are guaranteed a minimum of three (3) games. The tournament will be held at Encino Little League, located at 5120 Hayvenhurst Drive, Encino. The tournament will be held on Thursday, July 1 (if necessary), through Monday, July 5, 2010 (semifinals & championship game).

There is a limit of 16 teams to be entered into the tournament (on a "first come-first served" basis), and no limit of entries per league. The entrance fee per team is **\$475.00**. All players must be nine (9) years old or younger as of April 30, 2010. Copies of all players' birth certificates must be available at the manager's meeting and upon request at playing time. Team rosters must include a minimum of 9 players and a maximum of 15 players. Trophies will be awarded to the first and second place teams. All players will receive a gift for participation.

Tournament format, playing rules and game selection draw will be discussed at a managers' meeting to take place on **Monday, June 28, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.** at behind the snack stand at Encino Little League. Birth certificates will be verified against your roster at such time. Please bring your tournament book (i.e. birth certificates, photos, signed roster, proof of insurance, etc). If it is deemed necessary to divide the teams (brackets) based on ability, we will do so. Otherwise, brackets will be determined by random draw. Remember, this tournament is for the kids, and we try to give them the most positive baseball/team experience possible.

We look forward to your participation. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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Tournament Co-Director
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Tournament Co-Director
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ENCINO LITTLE LEAGUE
2009 9 Year Old & Under Invitational Tournament Playing Rules

1. FORMAT

The Tournament will be pool play followed by elimination games and a championship game. If your league has two (2) entries, the teams will automatically be placed into separate pools.

II. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

1. Players must be nine (9) years old or under as of April 30, 2010.
2. The Tournament Directors reserve the right to request a legal document showing proof of all players' ages. Birth Certificates will be verified against rosters at the manager's meeting. These documents must be available upon request, and kept with the participating teams at all games.

III. TEAM INFORMATION

1. *Size:* Teams shall consist of a minimum of nine (9) players and a maximum of 15 players. One (1) manager and up to three (3) coaches may occupy the dugout during the game. If any manager/coach is ejected from a game, no additional coach can replace the ejected manager/coach within the dugout.
2. *Defense:* Nine (9) maximum players consisting of the traditional six (6) infielders and three (3) outfielders. Open substitution.
3. *Line ups:* The respective manager shall submit one (1) copy of the line-up for each game to the official score keeper and opposing team 15 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of each game. An additional copy should be made available to booth announcers.
4. *Home Team:* All fields are considered neutral. Home team will be determined by a coin toss prior to the start of the game. The winner of the coin toss will have the choice of being the Home or Visiting team. The home dugout is on the third base line. In elimination play, the team with the lower (better) seed is given the choice (home/visitors). If only Pool Winners advance to the elimination round, field will be neutral and Home team will be determined by coin toss.

IV. PITCHING ELIGIBILITY

The following rules shall apply to pitching eligibility throughout the tournament:

1. Any player on the team roster may pitch.
2. Delivery of a single pitch constitutes having pitched an inning.



3. Pitchers once removed from the pitcher position may not return as a pitcher in the same game. The pitcher may be inserted into any other position throughout the game.
4. A player may not pitch in more than three (3) innings in one pool game, or a total of six (6) innings in the three (3) pool games. *Pool pitching eligibility may be altered by the tournament director depending on the number of teams in the tournament and the number of pool games (manager's will be notified of the final pool pitching eligibility rules at the managers meeting).* Players may pitch up to three (3) innings in elimination games and the championship game.

V. PLAYING RULES

The basic playing rules shall be those contained in the 2009 Edition: Official Regulation and Playing Rules of Little League Baseball. The following modifications shall apply:

1. Only Encino Little League Tournament Director (or, as applicable, Co-Tournament Director), League President, Chief Umpire or present Encino Little League Executive Board Member shall call a forfeit game with no written report required.
2. A manager or coach may visit one (1) time during one (1) inning to talk with the current pitcher. Upon a second visit during the same inning, the pitcher must be removed. This rule applies to each pitcher that enters a game.
3. Time Limits: No new inning will start after 1 hour and 40 minutes. There is no "drop dead" rule. The maximum innings for a completed game is six (6), unless the game is tied, in which case, the game will continue until there is a winner.
4. There is no time limit for the championship game, with the exception of a Mercy Ruled Game or a game called by darkness.
5. 12 Run Mercy Rule: *Mercy Rule applies to when one team is leading its opposition by 12 or more runs and at least four (4) innings have been played.*
6. There will be a seven (7) run limit per inning (for the first five (5) innings). In the sixth (6th) inning and any extra innings, there is no run cap.
7. Batting line-up. A team may bat round-robin **or** bat nine (9) players. If a team decides to bat nine (9), each rostered player is required to bat at least once. The nonstarters can be inserted into the line-up in the same batting spot multiple times (i.e. – batter #7 hits in the 2nd inning, the substitute player hits in the #7 spot – the original player may re-enter into the batting order in the 7th spot only).
8. If a rostered player does not bat in a non-mercy game, the team will forfeit the game.
9. If a player is removed from the lineup, regardless of cause, the next at bat for the said player will be recorded as an out if there is not a replacement. Any additional at bats thereafter for the



said player will be bypassed in the lineup and no out recorded.

10. No leadoffs (A runner may leave his/her base once the pitched ball crosses home plate. Base stealing is allowed on all bases (including home). To help avoid the possibility of injury, base sliding will be enforced. For plays made at any base, where the base runner fails to slide, the runner may be called out based on the adjudged call of the umpires. The umpires will have the discretion of what is a close play. Headfirst slides are only allowed when returning to a base. If a player slides headfirst into a base, the runner will be called out and the play will be called dead at that point.

11. All protests will be handled by the Tournament Directors, Assistant Tournament Director, Chief Umpire, League President or a present Encino Little League Executive Board Member. All protests will be decided at the field of play prior to resumption of the game, and will be deemed as final.

12. No harassment or razzing any team or fans will be tolerated. Each manager will be held accountable for the behavior of his team, coaches, spectators as well as himself. A single warning will be given by the home plate umpire. Rooting in unison or chanting as a group is permissible at any time prior to the pitcher becoming set to start the delivery of the pitch. If a second incidence occurs, the manager may be removed from the game.

13. Ground rules for the conduct of the games will be discussed with both managers during the coin flip at the onset of each game.

14. Bunting is allowed. A missed bunt or bunt foul on a third strike is considered strike three (3).

15. The distance of the pitching mound is 46' and the bases are 60'.

16. The balk rule will not be enforced.

17. The dropped third strike rule will not be enforced.

18. There will be free defensive substitution except for the pitcher as described earlier.

19. When the catcher for the next defensive inning is on base and there are two (2) outs, the catcher must be replaced on the base by the last out.

20. Infield fly rules exist.

21. Tagging up is allowed.

22. Little League approved bats ONLY. No big barrels bats.



VI. GAME TIMES

Pool Play and Elimination Games: No new inning after 1:40. No drop dead.

Semi-Finals and Championship: No time limit.

VII. POOL PLAY TIE BREAKERS

1. Head to head play (only with 2-way tie).
2. Fewest runs allowed.
3. Greatest run differential (8 max per game).
4. Coin flip.

VIII. PLAYER UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT

1. Each member of competing teams must wear complete uniforms, including hats, jerseys with numbers, pants and socks.
2. Baseball shoes with metal spikes or cleats are not permitted.
3. Batting helmets must include ear flaps.
4. Catching equipment must consist of a full helmet, face mask, throat guard, chest protector and shin guards.
5. All players must wear athletic cup supporters.

IX. UMPIRING

Two umpires will be scheduled for all games. Only in emergencies will a game be covered by one umpire. It is expected that managers, coaches, parents, fans, and players treat umpires with total respect since they are the authority figures.

X. APPLICATION OF RULES.

If: (i) a circumstance develops that is not covered by these rules; or (ii) a dispute arises concerning the interpretation, enforceability or application of these rules; or (iii) a change to any of these rules is deemed necessary or desirable, only the League President or Tournament Directors will have authority to make any such decisions. The decision of the League President or Tournament Directors will be deemed final.



XI. SNACK BAR

The snack bar will be opened during the duration of the tournament, closing just after the ending of the last game of the day.

If you have any questions, please contact either Eric Bernt (ebbernt@gmail.com; 818-233-0880) or Brad Billik (bbillik@aol.com; 323-646-4011).



**ENCINO LITTLE LEAGUE
9 YEAR OLD & UNDER
BASEBALL TOURNAMENT**

Applications and fees must be received by June 18, 2010. Entries will be on a “first come-first served” basis. Our tournaments always fill up quickly, so please return your entries ASAP.

League Name: _____

President's Name _____

Phone Number: _____

Team Name: _____

Managers Name _____

Phone Number _____

Fee: \$475.00 per team

Make Check Payable To: **Encino Little League.**

Insurance Company: _____

Policy Number: _____

Insurance Phone Number: _____

Mail Application and fees to:

Eric Bernt
Rogue Productions, inc.
3900 Ethel Avenue
Studio City, CA 91604

