



2011 SPRING SEASON – JUNIOR DIVISION RULES

Official Game:	7 innings or Time Limit (whichever comes first).
Time Limit:	No new inning can start after 1 hour, 55 minutes.
Pitching:	SEE PITCH LIMITS BELOW.
Batting:	Everyone bats in pre and regular season. There are special batting rules for playoffs
Substitution:	Nine defensive players. No child sits more than 1 inning in a row, 3 innings max per game.
Mercy Rule:	12 runs after 3 ½ (visitor) or 4 (home) innings.
Minimum Players:	8 rostered players needed to start game. A player may be borrowed from another ELL Junior team to make 9. Borrowed players must bat last and can play anywhere but pitcher or catcher. During the regular season, a team may borrow the same player twice. There are no borrowed players during the playoffs.
Forfeits	Even with less than 8 rostered players, the game shall be played with borrowed players. The borrowed players will not count as playing that day
Scoring:	Each team has a scorekeeper. Verify scores and pitch counts with the umpire after each half-inning.
Post Game:	Managers must submit scores and pitching logs to the Commissioner within 24 hours of the game.
Field Maintenance:	Both teams are responsible for raking the infield, mound, home plate area and base paths.
Field Size:	The season will begin playing 54' mound and 80' bases. In early May (date to be determined, the field will change to 60'6" mound and 90' bases.

Offense

- If there are two outs and the catcher is on base, he/she **MUST** be substituted for by the player who made the last previous out to speed up play.
- One offensive time-out per inning to be strictly enforced.
- If a player leaves for any reason other than a legitimate injury during the game, the next time up in the batting order, he/she shall be considered out. If that player's turn in the order comes up a second time, it will NOT be considered an out.

Defense

- Maximum of 9 players. No player may sit 1 consecutive inning and no more than 3 innings per game.
- The catcher is NOT allowed to block home plate without the ball. There is no mandatory slide rule. If the catcher does not have the ball and is not blocking the plate, the runner does not have to slide.

Coaches

- Up to three (3) approved adult coaches at least 18 years old are allowed in the dugout.
- Only managers may talk to the umpires. Managers may not argue or question an umpire's judgment call but may ask for time to discuss a rule interpretation. A ZERO tolerance policy exists in manager interactions with the umpire. Do not raise your voice in speaking with them.
- At the conclusion of the game, please gather your equipment and clean and vacate the dugout immediately. Prepare the field for the next game. If you choose to hold a post-game team meeting, please do so off the field so the next teams can get ready for their game.



Safety

- No child may hold a bat unless he/she is at the plate or in the on-deck circle.
- All batters, on-deck batters, runners and player base coaches must wear a batting helmet
- **Players must use a 2011 Little League (Juniors) approved bat. Only ELL certified bats are permitted to be used.**

Pitching

- Pitch limit during pre-season games = **MAX OF 50 PITCHES** or **THREE** innings per pitcher per game, whichever comes first.
- The National Pitch Count rule will be followed. Every effort was made to maintain a balanced schedule (days between games).
 - 95 Pitches per game MAX
 - 61+ in a day, **THREE (3)** calendar days of rest required
 - 41 – 60 pitches in a day, **TWO (2)** calendar days of rest required
 - 21 – 40 pitches in a day, **ONE (1)** calendar days of rest required
 - 1 – 20 pitches in a day, **ZERO (0)** calendar days of rest required
- Base umpire to keep track of pitch limit. Each manager should verify pitch counts at the end of each half-inning but, in case of a dispute, the umpire's count is official, whether right or wrong. The managers are required to turn in the pitching records with the game score to the commissioner within 24 hours of the game
- Intentional walks. If at any time during the count a manager wishes to intentionally walk a player, then the batter is immediately awarded the base. However, the number of balls remaining until ball four will count toward the pitch limit.
- If a pitcher pitches 41+ pitches in a game, the said player may **NOT** play catcher in that game.
- A pitcher **MAY** re-enter the game as a pitcher and his pitch count will be cumulative for the game.
- A pitcher must be removed on the second visit in an inning or a third combined visit in the game.
- Balks – there will be one warning per pitcher per game in the pre-season. Balks will be called in the regular and post season.
- Eight (8) warm up pitches prior to each inning or for a relief pitcher during an inning. Warm up pitches **DO NOT** count toward the pitch limit.

Last updated: March 17, 2011