

Little Mountain Baseball Minors B Division House Rules

NOTE: The Official Regulations and Playing Rules of the Instructional Divisions of Little League Canada will apply with the following modifications

Fair Play Rules:

- **LMB's Minors Division is the first division where live pitching is introduced. For most players, this will also be the first time that they have pitched in a live game.**
- **For this reason, it is important that all players be encouraged to pitch. Run limits are set low in the first 2 innings with gradual increases for the express purpose of allowing players of different skill levels to pitch.**
- **No player may play the same position more than 2 innings in every game.**
- **Every player must play at least 2 innings in the infield and one in the outfield per game.**
- **No player is to sit out 2 innings until every other player has sat at least one inning.**

Try and be competitive but also look at developing all your players and not a select few. Try to get your players to play as many positions as possible. Outfield is an important position as well, so work on their footwork and tracking of fly balls.

Pitching

Pitcher Eligibility:

- **Rookie Pitchers.** All players new the Minors Division, or returning players who pitched 6 or fewer innings in the Minors B Division the previous year are considered "rookie pitchers." Innings pitched in a summer baseball league do not count against the 6-inning limit.
- All players who are a baseball age 10 or younger are eligible to pitch in the Minors B Division. 11 and 12 yr olds are not eligible to pitch in the Minors B Division.
- Only rookie pitchers may pitch in the first 2 innings of each game.
- Rookie pitchers may pitch from a distance of 42 feet, except as noted below.
- **After May 1st, all pitchers in the fifth and sixth innings, and any extra innings, must pitch from the pitcher's plate (46 feet) even if they are rookie pitchers.**
- A pitcher must be removed if he/she hits 3 batters in the same inning or 4 batters in one game

Innings Limits:

- Pitchers are limited to 2 innings per game, or 3 innings over two days consecutive calendar days. Pitch counts are not used in the Minors B Division.
 - Example: If player pitches 2 innings on Saturday, that player may only pitch one inning on Sunday, and vice versa.
- One pitch thrown constitutes an inning pitched.
- Each team is required to submit an Innings Pitched Log for their team by 12 o'clock (noon) of the day after their game. The Innings Pitched Log is to be uploaded to each team's Innings Pitched Log google drive folder.
- Any pitcher that hits 3 batters in the same inning, or 4 in a game, must be removed.
- Pitchers may not reenter a game unless the game goes to extra innings. If a game goes to extra innings, a pitcher may reenter the game provided that the player does not exceed the innings limit above.

- Example 1: A pitcher has pitched 1 inning on Saturday. On Sunday, the same pitcher has pitched 1 inning and been removed. If the Sunday game goes to extra innings, that pitcher may return for 1 additional inning (but after May 1, must pitch from 46 feet).
- Example 2: A pitcher has pitched 2 innings on Saturday. On Sunday, the same pitcher has pitched 1 inning and been removed. If the Sunday game goes to extra innings, that pitcher may not return.
- **Base On Balls**
When a player pitcher issues a base on balls then the at bat will proceed with a coach pitching. The strike count will remain the same and a player will be able to strike out on the coach pitches but there will be no base on balls issued. The at-bat will continue until the player puts the ball in play or strikes out. Coach pitched balls and hit by pitches will be ignored.
Strikes will be called on coach-pitched balls, therefore the coach must pitch from somewhere inside 42 feet in line with the mound (i.e. not a side-toss). Coach can pitch either overhand or underhand as preferred. If the coach must field the ball to protect themselves, then the ball should be passed to the player pitcher to complete the play.
- Balks will not be called in the Minors B Division, but please talk to your pitcher if they are continually stopping their pitching motion & re-starting.

Batting:

- There is no bunting in the Minors B Division (we want to encourage kids to swing the bat).
- Teams will bat through their entire lineup, even if a player has not played in the field that inning.
- **All bats used in games must have the USA Baseball logo on them (see below image). Each team will be provided with approved bats in their equipment bag.**



Base Running:

- Stealing 2nd & 3rd is allowed. Runners may not advance on an overthrow by the defence on a steal attempt (this is to promote throws from the catcher).
- Players may not steal home or take home on a passed ball, wild pitch or errant throw back to the pitcher.
- Lead offs are not permitted in Little League. Runners may not leave the base until the ball crosses the plate.

Overthrows:

- Runners can only advance one base on an overthrow. If the runner tries to take another base, the runner can be put out by the defence, but if the runner is safe he/she is to be returned to the previous base.
- Runners cannot advance on a second overthrow. If the runner tries to take a base on the second overthrow, the runner can be put out by the defence, but if the runner is safe he/she is to be returned to the previous base.
- Example 1: A runner on 2nd may score on an infield hit followed by an overthrow (ie. advancing to 3rd on the hit, and advancing home on the overthrow).
- Example 2: A runner on 1st may not score on an infield hit followed by an overthrow. The runner from 1st can only advance as far as 3rd on an infield hit followed by an overthrow (ie. advancing to 2nd on the hit, and advancing to 3rd on the overthrow).
- Runners may advance at will on any batted ball (eg. doubles or triples).

Courtesy Runner:

- A courtesy runner for the catcher and/or pitcher when there are two outs is permitted. This courtesy runner rule only applies to House League.

Game duration/Run Limits:

- The game is 6 innings.
- Run limits are 2, 2, 3, 3, 5, & open.
- A new inning cannot be started after 2 hours and 15 minutes from the scheduled start time (unless you are the last game of the day, no game is starting after yours, and daylight permits safe play – to be determined by the umpires).

- Coaches, in consultation with the umpire, should discuss calling the open inning if you are getting close to the time limit.
- There are no extra innings in the Minors B Division during the regular season. Games may end in a tie. During the playoffs, extra innings will be played until a winner is determined.

Other Rules:

- There is no infield fly rule
- There are no dropped 3rd strikes
- A team must have a minimum of 8 players to start a game. If a team starts a game with 8 players, the 9th spot in the batting order will be an automatic out. If a game has started and a player leaves or is injured leaving a team with 8 or less players, the umpire and scorekeeper must be notified, and the missing player's spot in the batting order becomes an automatic out. If the player returns, the umpire and scorekeeper must be notified, and the player is to be re-inserted in his/her original spot in the batting order and is no longer an automatic out. If a new player arrives after the start of the game, the umpire and scorekeeper must be notified, and the player will be inserted at the bottom of the batting order. If the new player brings the team back up to 9 players, there will no longer be an automatic out. If the team still has less than 9 players after the new player arrives, the spot in the batting order where the first player left or was injured will no longer be an automatic out.
- If a player is injured or leaves and the team still has 9 or more players, there is no automatic out and the player will be skipped in the batting order. If the player returns, the player is to be re-inserted in his/her original spot in the batting order.

Umpires

- They are youths (they could be your kid one day) so please treat them with respect. This includes teaching your players and parents appropriate behaviour towards umpires. Please have a team discussion about this with your parents and players. At the conclusion of each game, the umpires will stand at home plate. Please have your team line-up and shake their hands with a "thank you". If you have positive or negative feedback feel free to pass it along to our Umpire in Chief (uic@littlemountainbaseball.com). An additional email will follow regarding umpires.

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Adult Game Coordinators (AGC)

- When both the Plate and Base umpires are youths (as it almost always is in Minors A/Minors B and it sometimes is in Majors A), the home team is to provide an Adult Game Coordinator. This is a non-coaching parent who will be in the stands for the duration of the game.
- **The role of the AGC is to protect the youth umpires from intimidation by spectators and/or coaches. The AGC is not to advocate for one team or one coach over another.**
- **The AGC needs to be identified at the pre-game home plate meeting where the lineup cards are exchanged and may participate in that meeting. Team Managers have been asked to assign a parent as AGC if they are the home team.**

Game balls

- The home team is to supply the home plate umpire with 2 new game balls every game. In the event you need extra game balls near the end of the season, please contact your Division Coordinator.

Reporting scores & Innings Pitched Log

- The home team is responsible for entering the score on SportsEngine. Each team is required to submit an Innings Pitched Log for their team by 12 o'clock (noon) of the day after their game. The Innings Pitched Log is to be uploaded to each team's Innings Pitched Log google drive folder.

Field prep

- The home team is responsible for this before and after every game. There is significantly less field maintenance at Challenger. If on other diamonds, if the previous home team's parents or the next game's home teams parents are raking etc, please have your field prep crew jump in to help as this only speeds up the time in between games.

Good luck with your season, have fun, and remember it's about the kids.

Let's Play Ball!!!