



## **GENERAL RULES OF DISCIPLINE AND CONDUCT**

The following General rules are excerpts from the Little League:

Rule Book Rule Number

3:14 No equipment shall be left on the field either in fair or foul territory.

4:05 The offensive team shall station two coaches on the field during its time at bat, one near first base and one near third base. Coaches' shall-

- (1) be eligible players in the uniform of their team; or adult manager or coach;
- (2) remain within the coaches' boxes at all times;
- (3) talk to members of their own team only.

An offending coach shall be removed from the coaches' box.

4:06 No manager, coach or player, shall at any time, whether from the bench or the playing field or elsewhere –

- (2) use language which will in any manner refer to or reflect upon opposing players, manager, coach, an umpire or spectators. The offender shall be removed from the game.

4:07 When a manager, coach or player is ejected from a game, they shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in that game. They may not sit in the stands and may not be recalled.

4:08 When the occupants of a player's bench show violent disapproval of the umpire's decision, the umpire shall first give warning that such disapproval shall cease. If such action continues – the umpire shall order the offender out of the game and away from the spectator's area. If the umpire is unable to detect the offender or offenders, the bench may be cleared of all players. The manager of the offending team shall have the privilege of recalling to the playing field only those players needed for substitution in the game.

6:02 Stepping out of the batter's box after each pitch is discouraged and could be called by the umpire as a delay of the game.

9:01 No Player/Manager/Coach shall object to any judgment decision made by the umpire – Ball/Strike/Fair/Foul/Safe/Out etc. However, if there is a rule conflict, the appeal should be made to the umpire who made the call.

## BPRBA LOCAL RULES

- Any Player/Manager/Coach/Parent who, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, flagrantly violates the above rules (especially 4:06 and 4:08) will be reviewed by a committee appointed by the Board of Directors and issued a Warning. If the same person commits violations subsequent to the Warning, that individual, upon a decision by the Board of Directors, will be banned from participating in all Little League activities.
- Spectators at Minor, Major and Senior League games will not be allowed to view the game from any location between the dugouts or behind the backstop. Appropriate viewing locations would be in the stands provided or behind fences that run from the dugouts down the right or left field foul line.
- Clean dugouts after each game.
- Home team responsible for field readiness and putting away equipment (rakes etc.).
- Helmets are located at each field in the equipment box or closet. Each team should get their own helmets prior to the game and return them after the game.
- Players and coaches are the only people allowed in the dugout. 2 adults and 1 designated scorekeeper. No siblings, parents or friends allowed.
- Each team should have a team meeting with the parents before the 1st game to discuss discipline and conduct, including spectators.
- No smoking allowed in dugout/field areas.

## SAFETY

**USA stamped bats are only bats allowed for practices and games.**

Link: <https://www.usabaseball.com/bats/>

Be prepared for any emergency in advance of all games and practices.

Emergency medical services are available in the Village of Bedford and the Town of Pound Ridge.

Safety is a matter of ongoing concern for all Little League Volunteers. This requires vigilance and firm discipline applied through positive reinforcement.

At the team level it starts with the manager and includes the coaches and parents. It may require a meeting with parents if there is a discipline problem. Certainly, the manager should stress with the players and parents what he expects when it comes to safety. This should include ongoing meetings and discussions with the team.

The Little League Code and rule book sets forth specific rules regarding safety. A few moments of review periodically will be of enormous benefit to the Little League Volunteers.

The Safety Code is set forth inside the cover page at the rear of the rule book.

All accidents should be reported to the league safety officer and the family should be supplied with a medical claim form. All league members are covered by medical insurance which is excess to the family's personal policy.

The rules of Safety which follow are for the benefit of the entire league. They should be enforced as they are in place for the protection of everyone. By

following them, the managers' job becomes easier and players will develop good habits.

1. As per Little League Rules, **the swinging of bats in on-deck area (or any area around the dugout) is prohibited in all divisions.** Bats should be kept out of the hands of all players **except for the hitter.** (Exception may be made during practice or instruction if there is direct supervision of each hitter such as in drills involving soft toss or a batting tee.)
2. No manager, coach or spectator may stand within the field of play, except if occupying a coach's box for the hitting team. The on deck batter is not permitted. (Rule 1.08)
3. All players, coaches and spectators should be alert for batted and thrown balls and be faced towards the area of play.
4. All equipment must be off the field while a team is at bat. Any area within the fence line is considered the field of play whether fair or foul. (Rule 3.14)
5. Helmets with face masks are required by all leagues at practice and games.
6. Periodical inspection should be made of the medical supplies located in the storage boxes at end of field. A medical kit and ice packs should be available there.
7. Each field will have rakes available to smooth surfaces and fill holes during the season. Regular inspection and repairs should be given by managers and coaches.
8. Managers are responsible to take precaution to avoid injury to batters being hit by pitch. Batters should be taught how to get hit by a pitch by turning away rather than opening up to face the pitch. Managers should remove pitchers who are excessively wild or who present a danger to the batter. Ultimately it is the umpire's discretion when to mandate that a pitcher be removed for wild pitches / hitting batters. There is no set number.
9. Injuries during games and practices from thrown and batted balls will be minimized if each player learns that there is "always something to do" during games and practices. Coaches should be sure the rule is followed.
10. Equipment inspection is essential. Broken equipment may be replaced by contacting the league equipment manager. All male players must wear athletic supporters. Metal cleats are not permitted.
11. Periodic inspection of dugouts, fences and bleachers should be done to repair hazards that may develop.

12. Players in the field should be taught to avoid collision by calling for the ball and learning which position has priority where more than one fielder is calling for the fly ball. Example; shortstop catches pop ups behind third, first base man catches pop ups in front of home plate on first base side; an outfielder has priority over infielder.
13. Misjudging fly balls can be a cause of injury. It can be corrected with practice and drills such as pointing to the ball with the throwing hand when it is in the air and catching the ball with two hands when possible.
14. Ball handling skills should be taught with drills to minimize injuries. Ground ball skills should be taught to all players utilizing proper technique to minimize injuries.
15. Umpires will call games due to inclement weather. Managers should confer with the umpire and no practice or game should take place in a field that may be considered unsafe. Certainly, at the first sign of lightning the field should be cleared and appropriate decisions made.
16. Players should be taught the importance of warm up before practice and games. Drills and warm up routines are available and should be utilized to prevent injuries and to develop good habits in a player.
17. Sliding should be practiced and taught using half speed drills, grassy areas and non-fixed bases. Sliding pads are recommended. Head first slides are not permitted, except returning to a base.
18. Injuries can be avoided to the batter by proper technique. Batters should be taught to stay in the batter's box and not lean into the strike zone. Proper grip when bunting and staying in the batter's box will reduce finger injuries. When the batter becomes a base runner, he should be taught to run in foul territory to reduce the chance of being hit by a thrown or batted ball.
19. The catcher has the most accidents and time should be spent separately with the catchers to teach safe technique. The throwing hand should be protected by keeping fingers closed and keeping the glove between the ball and hand. Some little league catchers prefer using one hand and keeping the throwing hand behind the back. He should be taught how to judge the proper distance behind the batter by positioning himself after the batter takes his stance and not reaching into the swing area. Catchers must wear helmets, face mask and throat guard during warm-ups. Catchers should be instructed to wear protective cups.
20. All runners should have an unobstructed path to a base (including home plate). Defensive players are not allowed to block a base. However, an umpire can determine that a defensive player could not have fielded the ball without blocking the pathway of the runner and that contact was unavoidable.

## **EQUIPMENT BOXES**

Each field has an equipment box which contains, first aid kits, ice packs, batting helmets, and umpire equipment. The home team manager is responsible for making sure that the field equipment is put away and the equipment box is locked at the end of the game. Each team has the responsibility to get the teams batting helmets from the equipment box and return them to the box after the game. Please make sure that the equipment boxes/storage closets are locked before leaving the field.

## **SPECTATORS**

Spectators at Minor, Major & Senior League games will not be allowed to view the game from any location between the dugouts or behind the backstop. Appropriate viewing locations would be in the stands provided or behind Fences that run from the dugouts down the right or left field foul line.

## **TRAVEL BASEBALL**

- 1) All Travel Teams must have a minimum roster size of at least 12 players. (or all available)
- 2) Sit Schedules are permitted during the regular season assuming they are 'fair'.
- 3) All Travel Teams must dress at least 12 players (or all available) for post season games AND each dressed player must play at least two innings in the field and receive one at-bat. (This takes precedence over any less stringent league rules if necessary)
- 4) Any dressed player must play at least two innings in the field and receive one at- bat for regular season games as well. (This takes precedence over less stringent league rules if necessary)
- 5) Coaches will receive leniency if they do not get all their dressed players 'minimum play' during 'mercy' games but this should not be a consistent occurrence.
- 6) Players who meet the 6-travel eligibility requirement shall be permitted to try out for BPR travel baseball teams.



## BEDFORD POUND RIDGE MINOR LEAGUE RULES

All Little League Rules as set forth in the Little League Rule Book apply unless in conflict with the Rules set forth herein. This is an instructional league and coaches should insure all players get equal playing time during each game and at multiple positions. The grades for this league are 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be practices prior to the start of the season. The season will be made up of 2 official games per week - one on the weekend and one during the week.

1. Pitching Rules:
  - A. For purposes of pitching restrictions, the week will start on Monday and end on Sunday.
  - B. Pitching Restrictions: Maximum of **2 innings per game**, 6 innings per week. There is no reentry to the pitching position. A pitcher must have 1 calendar day of rest regardless if it carries into the next week. Rules are not suspended for the playoffs.
  - C. 1 pitch constitutes 1 full inning pitched. Innings shall be recorded as whole innings
  - D. In the Minor League, there are no restrictions on the amount of innings or order in which a player can assume the catcher's position.
2. Lineup – The batting lineup shall include all available players at the start of the game. All players must play at least half the game in the field.
3. The 10-run rule shall not apply. Each team shall be limited to ten batters per inning. For the first 5 innings in a game (or in case of time, any inning prior to the “last” inning) the 10<sup>th</sup> batter is treated like any other player (can walk, hit, strike out, etc.) In the sixth (or last) inning, there will be no 10-batter rule. The inning will continue until the 3<sup>rd</sup> out is made or the winning run is scored, with the provision that if at any point in the last inning one team is ahead by 15 runs or more, the game is over.
4. The game must start on time. The game shall be limited to two hours from the starting time and no inning may start after two hours have been completed or 8:00 PM.
5. There shall be no stealing. If the pitcher a) has the ball, and b) is within the “circle” defined by the mound area, runners may not advance past the base to which they were headed when the pitcher gained control of the ball within the circle. If the pitcher decides to make a play on the runner, the ball is again live –

the runner may be tagged out, and may continue to proceed at his own risk.

6. The infield fly rule shall not apply.
7. A catcher is not required to wear a catcher's mitt. With two outs, it is optional to pinch run for the catcher if he is a baserunner. The last out made in that inning will be the pinch runner.
8. On a tag play the runner must slide or avoid contact. Head first slides are not permitted (except when returning to a base which he or she had already occupied). A runner who slides headfirst into a base is automatically out
9. The visiting team gets the field 30 minutes prior to the game. The home team shall get the field 15 minutes prior to the game, regardless of how long the visiting team has been on the field (in other words, if the visiting team gets to the field late, they must still vacate the field 15 minutes prior to game time.)
10. The only coaches allowed on the field during play are the 1st and 3rd base coaches. No defensive coaches may be on the field at any time, other than to visit the pitcher. A coach may visit a pitcher 2 times in an inning or a total of 3 times in a game, before having to remove that pitcher (on the 3rd visit in an inning or 4th visit in the game, that pitcher must be removed.) Any player coaching 1st or 3rd base must wear a batting helmet.
11. Bunting is allowed; however, slash bunting is not. Slash bunting is when a batter shows intent to bunt, then draws his bat back and takes a swing at the pitch. This has the potential to be a very dangerous play. If in the umpire's judgment, a batter tries to slash bunt (whether there is contact or not), the ball will be declared dead, and the batter will be called out. There is no warning for this rule. A batter who shows bunt must either bunt the ball or take the pitch.
12. A 2nd offense by a team in the same game will result in that player, as well as the team manager, being ejected.
13. Intentional walks are not allowed and there is no dropped third strike rule.
14. Playoff and Travel Eligibility. A player must have played in at least one-half (50% or more) of the regular season games in order to be eligible to play in the post-season playoff tournament or on a BPR sponsored travel team. Injured players or players with extraordinary circumstances may petition the BPRBA Board to waive this requirement. The Board may grant or withhold such a waiver in its sole discretion.
15. Calling up players. If you are short players for a game, you may pick up players who are registered and playing in the BPRBA Rookies league.
  - You cannot use these players as pitchers.

- A “call up” player must bat last in your batting order.
- You may only pick up players from a lower league in order to get to NINE players (so you can have two (2) rookie players if you only have seven of your own players show up). You may not use these players as a 10th player. You may start a game with 8 players, but 7 of those players must be from your team roster. If you have less than 8 players, the game is a forfeit, but you may proceed as a practice game. Also, if you have less than 7 of your own team players, that is also considered a forfeit.
- You may not use a specific “call up” player more than twice in the regular season.
- A called-up player may not be removed from the batting order and must play at least half the game in the field, even if a roster player arrives in the middle of the game.
- For playoff games, you will need the prior approval of the BPR Commissioner and the Minor League Director if you need to use a player who is not on your roster.