



Rookie Ball-American Division Local Rules

Woodland Hills Sunrise Little League is bound by the Little League Baseball Rulebook (the “Rulebook”). Please read and be familiar with the current edition (2021) of the Rulebook, **which can be downloaded and accessed on any smart device**. Local rules exist only to clarify issues pertaining to our league; questions and requests for interpretation of the rules should be forwarded to the league president for discussion with the Board of Directors, as appropriate.

Section 1. General Game Rules

- Time Limit:** **Weekends:** No new inning may start after 1 hour and 40 minutes; however, the last scheduled game of the day is subject only to the sunset time as listed on the game schedule.
- Weekdays:** Games will be played without a fixed time limit, but games must end by sunset time as listed on the game schedule.
- Batting:** Continuous batting order (every player bats).
- Substitution:** Nine (9) defensive players. No player may sit a second defensive inning until every player has sat a minimum of one defensive inning.
- Minimum Players:** **Eight (8)** players are needed to start the game. Players may be borrowed from the opposing team or from another team in the **Rookie Ball-American** Division with approval from the Minor Player Agent to make a team of **eight (8)** players. **If a game is started with eight (8) players, an out shall be called for the ninth (9th) position in the batting lineup for each turn at bat. A game cannot continue with less than eight (8) players and a team resulting with less than eight (8) players at any point in the game, for any reason shall forfeit.**
- Run Rule:** See Rule 4.10(e) in the Rulebook.

Section 2. Special Coach Pitch Consideration for the first **six (6) games:**

- After the pitcher has thrown four balls, the batter will receive pitches thrown by a manager or coach standing with at least one foot on the dirt portion of the pitcher’s mound directly in front of the pitching rubber. Each coach pitched ball is considered a strike.
- With a coach pitch, the batter will be allowed as many pitches as strikes remain in the count.
- With two strikes in the count, the batter must make contact with the coach pitch or they will be out.
- Bunting is not allowed from a coach pitch.
- During a coach pitch, the pitcher must take a defensive position with at least one foot on the dirt of the mound and may not make an imaginary pitch.
- Stealing is not allowed during coach pitch.
- A coach pitch that results in a batter being hit by the pitch is a “dead” ball and will be re-pitched.



Rookie-Ball-American Baseball Local Rules Spring 2021

Section 3. All remaining games:

- There will be no coach pitch and traditional baseball rules will apply to all pitch counts.

Section 4. Offense:

- Tees are never used in this division.
- There is a four-run (4) limit per half inning. Teams may bat until all players have batted once in the half-inning.
- The four-run limit does not apply in the sixth inning, although each player may only bat once in the half inning.
- On a batted ball, only one extra base shall be allowed on an overthrow. Additional bases may NOT be taken in the event of a subsequent attempt made on any runner.
- Base runners may not advance on an overthrow from the catcher to the pitcher after a pitched ball.
- Base runners on first and/or second base are allowed to advance a maximum of one base as a result of a wild pitch, passed ball or catcher's throw on a base runner that stays in the field of play.
- Stealing of second and third base is allowed on any pitch from a player to a catcher. Stealing home is not allowed at any time. A runner starting on third may not score on a wild pitch, passed ball or any catcher's throw.
- With either three runs scored in a half-inning prior to the sixth inning or two outs, a team must pinch run for its next defensive catcher by using the player who made the last out.

Section 5. Defense:

- There are no intentional walks.
- All players must play one infield position (catcher is an infield position) by the third inning and a minimum of two innings in the infield by the completion of the fifth inning. If a manager is not able to satisfy this defensive rule, then the Manager must notify the Player Agent via email, and those players who were unable to play twice in the infield must play two innings in the infield by the fourth inning in the next game.
- **After an outfielder fields batted ball, a runner may not be put out unless the outfielder throws the ball to an infielder.**
- Managers must do their best to rotate all of their players fairly to different areas of the field.
- Players who were not defensive starters in a game must start defensively in the next game.

Section 6. Coaches:

- **A Manager and no more than three (3) coaches approved by the** Board of Directors are allowed on the field **and** in the dugout.
- A Manager is limited to one request per game to confer with the umpires on a disputed call or rule interpretation.



Rookie-Ball-American Baseball Local Rules Spring 2021

Section 7. Pitching:

- All Rulebook pitching rules and days rest must be followed. Pitch count logs and eligibility forms must be completed at the end of every game and signed by both Managers **and submitted to Sunrise via the website.**
- There is no limit to the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.
- Managers are required to pitch every player on their roster for at least one (1) inning of a game and are encouraged to develop as many pitchers as possible throughout the course of the season.
- **Pitcher eligibility:**
 - One pitch thrown during play constitutes an inning pitched.
 - Any player pitching a single inning in a game may pitch a single inning in the next game.
 - Any player pitching two innings in a game is ineligible to pitch in that team's next game.
 - Any player pitching two innings across two games is ineligible to pitch in the third game.

Example 1: Pitcher throwing 1 inning in Game A may pitch only 1 inning in Game B. They are ineligible to pitch in Game C.

Example 2: Pitcher throwing 2 innings in Game A is ineligible to pitch in Game B.

- **Mound Visits:**
 - A manager or coach may visit the same pitcher on the mound three times in a game, but the player must be removed as a pitcher on the third visit.

Section 8. Umpiring:

- Unless otherwise scheduled by the Umpire in Chief ("UIC"), games will be umpired by volunteer parents as assigned on the official game schedule. The UIC may prohibit an umpire from working a specific game.
- Plate umpires must wear a face mask and closed-toed shoes. A protective cup, shin guards, and a chest protector are highly encouraged.
- ***Plate umpires must use a "developmental" strike-zone reasonably designed to develop pitcher confidence and encourage the batter to swing. A "developmental" strike-zone is the area between the inside lines of the batter's boxes from the top of the batter's shoulders to the batter's knees.***
- If an umpire is not present five minutes prior to the start time, the managers must agree upon a substitute umpire.
- A game canceled because no volunteer umpire was available will not be rescheduled.

Section 9. Covid-19 Protocols

- **All Covid-19 Protocols as set forth on the Sunrise website must be followed, including mask wearing and social distancing in all areas, including the dugout.**
- **Handshakes at the end of the game are not permitted.**

Unless otherwise specified in these local Rules, all rules found in the Rulebook apply.