**TCLL Minor League Local Rules**

(updated 02/17/2024 8pm)

Minor LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS: All games will be played in accordance with the current year Little League Regulations and Playing Rules with the following local exceptions and rules.

**GENERAL**

1. Team Standings after regular season play will determine seed position in the end of season City Championship tournament.

2. The 3rd base side dugout will be considered the “Home Team” dugout.

3. The Home team will keep the official scorebook and track Pitch Count.

4. The Visiting Team will run the scoreboard.

LITTLE LEAGUE REGULATIONS SECTION IV – THE PLAYERS

5.1. The provisions of Regulation IV (i) will be in effect. MANDATORY PLAY TIME: Replaces the previous mandatory play rule with a continuous batting order requirement for all divisions of play except for the Senior Division.

5.1.1. Failure by a Manager to comply with this regulation WILL result in disciplinary action. Managers will submit a game report after every regular season game to verify compliance with this rule. It is the **MANAGER’S** responsibility to keep track of their players’ play time and pitch count.

**OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES**

1. RULE 2.00 – Definition of Terms.

1.1. The INFIELD FLY rule **is in effect**.

1.2. BENCH OR DUGOUT is the seating facilities reserved for players, substitutes, one manager and two coaches when they are not actively engaged on the playing field. Only three adults may be within the confines of the field fence per team at any time.

2. RULE 4.00 STARTING AND ENDING THE GAME

2.1. RULE 4.04 Continuous batting order will be in effect.

2.2. NOTE: Rule 4.10(e) (10 / 15-run mercy rule) will be in effect.

2.3. RULE 4.10(g) is adopted as follows: (1) The umpire shall call the game upon completion of any inning (or half inning if the home team is ahead) after 1 hour 30 minutes of game time has expired or the end of any inning after curfew is reached. Tie games will not be completed to determine a winner, except in tournament play. The home team batter will complete his time at bat if time expires while at bat and their side is behind. (2) When game time expires and there is no possibility of the trailing team to win by completing the current inning, the umpire shall end the game.

3. RULE 5.00 - PUTTING THE BALL IN PLAY - LIVE BALL

3.1. RULE 5.07 shall be modified to read: During the entire game, the side shall be retired if three outs occur, or the offense scores 5 runs.

**Pick-up Players**

The Division Player Agent will create and run a pool. This pool will be used to assign players to teams that are short of players on a rotating basis. These players position and batting position will be as followed: 1 player – Play right field, bat last…2 players – Play right field and left field, bat the last 2 places...3 players – Play the outfield, bat the last 3 places…teams will not be allowed to pick up 4 players. In this instance, the game will be rescheduled.

**RULE 6.00 - THE BATTER**

6.1. RULE 6.05(b) (batter is out when) is adopted as follows: A third strike is caught by the catcher or **not** caught by the catcher.

6.2. RULE 6.06(e) (batter is out when) is adopted as follows: offering to bunt at a pitch then pulling back and swinging at the pitch. Violation of this rule will cause the ball to be dead and no runners may advance on the play. The batter is prohibited from waving or shaking the bat in an attempt to distract the catcher.

**RULE 7.00 - THE RUNNER**

7.1. Runners must stay on base until the ball has been pitched and it reaches the batter. If a runner leaves the base too soon, the play continues. If a play is made on the runner, the runner is out. If no play is made, the runner / runners must return to the base occupied before the pitch was made, and no out is recorded.

7.2. Unless the runner has made a FULL COMMITMENT to running to the next base prior to the pitcher returning to the rubber with control of the ball, he will be required to return to the previous base. A FULL COMMITMENT IS CONSIDERED FACING THE NEXT BASE AND RUNNING FULL SPEED IN THAT DIRECTION. Side stepping and or walking is not considered full commitment and the runner will be required to return to the previous base.

**Intentional Walk**

Rule 6.06 (a)(2) The Defense elects to “Intentionally Walk” the batter by announcing such decision to the plate umpire. The request may be made prior to or during the at-bat. A player may only be intentionally walked by announcing such decision to the home plate umpire one time during the game. Such notification must be made by the defensive manager. The ball is dead, and no other runner may advance unless forced by the batter’s award. The appropriate number of “balls” needed based on the count on the batter is added to the pitch count.

**BATTER and BATTER’S BOX**

Rule 6.08 (c) Local League Option: After entering the batter’s box, the batter **must remain** in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat.

Exceptions:

1. On a swing, slap, or check swing.

2. When forced out of the box by a pitch.

3. When the batter attempts a “drag bunt”.

4. When the catcher does not catch the pitched ball.

5. When a play has been attempted.

6. When time has been called.

7. When the pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher’s plate after receiving the ball or the catcher leaves the catcher’s box.

8. On a three ball count pitch that is a strike that the batter thinks is a ball.

**Penalty:**

If the batter leaves the batter’s box or delays play and none of the exceptions apply, the umpire shall warn the batter. After one warning on a batter, the umpire shall call a strike. Any number of strikes can be called on each batter. Minor/Major Division Baseball and All Softball Divisions: No pitch has to be thrown, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

**Game Protest**

Game Protests at the local Little League during the regular season are entirely under the jurisdiction of the local **Texas City Little League Protest Committee**. Texas City Little League WILL NOT allow protests in the Minor Division. If a situation arises in which a manager feels the need to protest, a Texas City Board Member shall be consulted immediately, and a decision will be made at that time. Games will not be replayed, nor will time be added to the game clock due to this stoppage.

**Pitchers**

1. (Regular Season and Tournament Play) – Rule 6.08(a)(2): This revises the intentional walk rule so that a player may only be intentionally walked by announcing such decision to the plate umpire one time during the course of the game. This would not restrict a team from throwing four balls outside of the strike zone to this batter at another time during the game.

2. (Regular Season) – Rule 3.09: This would aid in efforts to improve the pace of play by allowing adult coaches to warm up pitchers for regular season only. • Managers or coaches are permitted to warm up a pitcher at home plate or in the bullpen or elsewhere at any time including in-game warm-up, pre-game warm-up, and in other instances. They may also stand by to observe a pitcher during warm-up in the bullpen.

3. Any player on a regular season team may pitch.

Exceptions:

Any player who has played the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.

A player who played the position of catcher for three (3) innings or less, moves to the pitcher position, and delivers 21 pitches or more in the same day, may not return to the catcher position on that calendar day. EXCEPTION: If the pitcher reaches the 20-pitch limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to return to the catcher position, until any one of the following conditions occur: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game; or (4) the pitcher is removed from the mound prior to the batter completing his/her at-bat.

A pitcher once removed from the mound cannot return as a pitcher.

League Age:

11 – 85 pitches per day

9-10 – 75 pitches per day

6-8 – 50 pitches per day

**TOBACCO USE:**

There will be no tobacco products of any kind allowed on the field, in the dugouts, in the stands area or near the field. All tobacco product use (smoking, dipping, chewing, e-cigarettes, or the like must take place near the street and away from the fields). Anyone who doesn't adhere to a warning regarding this use will be asked to leave.

**EJECTIONS DURING GAMES**

Managers, Coaches, and / or Players that are ejected by an UMPIRE at any time **BEFORE, DURING, OR AFTER** a game being played will result in immediate removal from that game **AND DISQUALIFICATION** for the **NEXT** game. The ejected person **MUST** meet with the Texas City Protest Committee **BEFORE** they can resume baseball activities with the team. If a player is ejected, the player’s parents and the Manager must also attend this meeting. Upon the conclusion of the meeting, the Ejection can result in additional penalties including up to removal from the Team.