



Dundas Little League

Established 1954

Minor and Major Baseball: House League Ground Rules 2018

Many of the Ground Rules below are in the Official Little League Rule Book. If there is any discrepancy between these rules and the rules in the Rule Book, these rules are to be taken as correct.

Base Coaches

- Two adult coaches may be base coaches, but there must be an adult coach in the dugout at all times.

Call-ups

- A Call-up is when you ask a player on another team in the division below yours to join your team for a game.
- Call-ups can be used if you suspect you are going to have less than 10 players at game time.
- Coaches are responsible for finding their own Call-ups in accordance with the League's Call-up Policy.

Score Books

- Score Books shall be used by both teams.
- Once the Playoffs begin, Score Books must be retained by each team in the event the League asks to see them.
- The final score and innings played of all playoff games must be reported to the league by both teams.

Dropped 3rd Strike

- Batters are out on a called 3rd strike regardless of whether the catcher fails to catch the ball.

Warming up pitchers

- Coaches can NOT warm up pitchers at any time.
- A spotter with a batter's helmet on must be used when pitchers are being warmed up in the bullpen.
- A coach may spot a pitcher warming up in the bullpen only if no players are available.
- Catchers must wear a catcher's helmet with face mask and throat guard when warming up pitchers.

Continuous batting order

- All players in attendance at the game shall be in the batting order and every player shall bat in their turn.

Curfew

- No new inning can start 1hr 45min from scheduled start time unless otherwise communicated
- Once the game has reached 2hr in duration, the batter is permitted to complete their at bat. The game is declared over.

Game length

- Games are official after 4 innings, or 3½ if the home team is leading.
- Games are official if the game is out of reach regardless of how many innings are played (Minor Baseball only).
- Games shortened by curfew are official regardless of how many innings are played.
- Games shortened by weather prior to being official are to be replayed from the beginning on a rescheduled date.

Fair Play

- No player sits twice until all have sat once.
- Each player shall have a minimum of 2 innings played per game in an infield position. The positions played are at the discretion of the coach.



- The number of innings that will be used for the determination of Fair Play for games that are shortened due to curfew or by the fact the game is out of reach (Minor Baseball only) is 4 as per the coach's prepared lineup.
- If extra innings are required, each player shall have a minimum of 1 inning on the infield for every 3 extra innings. The positions played are at the discretion of the coach.

Mercy rule

- For both divisions, the first 2 innings are 3 runs per inning. All other innings are four runs per inning.
- Major Baseball: The 6th inning is an open inning and there is no mercy. If the game ends prior to the 6th inning, no open inning is played.
- Minor Baseball: If the game is out of reach, games can continue until curfew if mutually agreed to by both coaches and providing there is no impact to other scheduled games or any other circumstances communicated by the League.

Late arrivals

- Players who are late arriving to a game must be added to the lineup at the end of the batting order regardless of the point in the game at which they arrive.
- The Fair Play requirement of players arriving late is to be prorated to 1 infield inning for every 2 remaining innings.

Injury / Illness

- Players who are removed from a game due to injury, illness or otherwise who have not met their Fair Play requirement, do not violate the game's Fair Play rules.
- Players who are removed but then subsequently return to the lineup, shall have their Fair Play requirement prorated to 1 infield inning for every 2 remaining innings.
- Players who are removed from the game which then results in a team having less than 8 players in the lineup does not constitute a forfeit and the game can continue.

Player substitutions

- Once a player takes their position in the field for the beginning of their defensive inning, they may not be substituted out for another player unless for injury, illness or other emergency. The exception is the pitcher's position which can be substituted out for any player in the lineup only once (unless for illness, injury or emergency) per inning.
- A player who is substituted in from the bench or the outfield to the position of pitcher during an inning does not acquire an infield position Fair Play status for that inning.

Minimum lineup size

- Teams must have a minimum of 8 players to play a game. A 10 minute grace period is permitted from the scheduled start time.

Pitching restrictions

- 2 innings per game max., and they must be consecutive. Any number of pitches constitutes an inning pitched.
- Call-ups may pitch only if the coach has confirmed at the game that no regular roster players are willing to do so.

Pinch Runner for the Catcher

- If the next inning's catcher is on base at any time, the offensive team may replace the catcher with the last out.

Martino Outfield Wire

- If the ball hits this wire, it is no longer 'in flight'. It cannot be caught for an out, called an infield fly or declared a homerun. Runners may advance at their own peril. The ball is still live and in play. There are no automatic base awards.

Number of outfielders

- In Minor Baseball, 4 outfielders are permitted. In Major Baseball, the number of outfielders permitted remains at 3.