

# Spring '12 Majors Division PLAYING RULES

## Chino Hills Little League

### AAA Division Local Rules

Revised 01/20/12

The 2012 Little League Baseball Official Rule Book shall be used as the official rules guidelines. Some rules have been modified to meet the needs of our local league. Final interpretation of any rule(s) shall be the responsibility of the Chino Hills Board of Directors:

1. PITCH COUNT: During the regular season, the manager must remove the team's pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position.

Little League Age	Max Pitches (per game)	Required Rest 1-20 Pitches	Required Rest 21-35 Pitches	Required Rest 36-50 Pitches	Required Rest 51-65 Pitches	Required Rest 65+ Pitches
11-12	85	0 days	1 day	2 days	3 days + 1 game	4 days + 1 game
9-10	75	0 days	1 day	2 days	3 days + 1 game	4 days + 1 game

Rest is defined as – cannot pitch calendar days.

a. A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.

b. A player may not pitch in consecutive games unless 50 or less pitches were delivered in the previous game.

c. A game is considered to be a schedule game. If something prohibits a scheduled game of from occurring, then that scheduled game is considered to be a game of rest.

**EXCEPTION: 4.10 (d) if a game is called before it has become a regulation game, but after 1 or more innings have been played, it shall be resumed exactly where it was left off. NOTE: All records including pitching shall be counted. Therefore this game is counted as postponed or suspended game and would count as a game for the purposes of enforcing the consecutive game pitching rule. NOTE: An inning is defined as that portion of a game within which the teams alternate on offense and defense and in which there are three putouts for each team. Each team's time at bat is a half-inning. NOTE: A contest decided by forfeit does not constitute a "game" for the purposes of this rule unless one complete inning was physically played before the game was forfeited. Therefore if a game is forfeited without physically playing a complete inning, the pitcher from the previous game still needs to meet the consecutive game rest rule if he/she pitches 51 pitches or more.**

d. For games that are separated by a week or more of no scheduled games, the game of rest duration is reset. For example, if a game is played on Saturday, and the pitcher pitches 51+ pitches, and there is a week off for spring break, the following Saturday, the pitcher may pitch again.

e. A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day. (Players playing in multiple leagues shall not pitch in more than one game in a day) Little League cannot enforce this rule if the second game is

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**another league. If a player(s) pitched in another league's game on the same day prior to pitching in a Little League game the manager must disclose this, league officials will consult with the parents of the player to discuss the safety of the child's arm. The league will encourage the parents to avoid this at all cost. Managers please use good judgment on these types of situations and avoid pitching a player that has already pitched earlier in the day at another league.**

f. Each team is allowed 2 visits each inning per pitcher and 4 visits each game per pitcher, 3rd visit in an inning or 5 visits in a game shall result in said pitcher being removed from the position of pitcher. A visit is deemed as any time a coach or manager is allowed a time out to confer with defensive player(s). EXCEPTION: a coach or manager may confer with any player who is injured without penalty. If during injury timeout manager or coach discusses game strategy, umpire may charge the timeout as a defensive visit.

g. Each team is permitted only **one** offensive time out per inning, i.e. confer with batter. Note: Because of the tight game time schedules, umpires will be asked to enforce this rule. If umpire fails to enforce the rule, the on duty League Official can confine managers/coaches to the dugout for abuse of this rule.

h. The "automatic" intentional walk has been removed. If a pitcher wishes to intentionally walk a batter, he/she must do so by pitching four pitches intentionally outside the strike zone that are not struck at by the batter, and are called "balls" by the umpire. All such pitches will count in determining that pitcher's pitch count. Catchers may position themselves anywhere around the batter's box to receive the pitches. Managers are reminded that these are little league games and they should avoid using intentional walks if at all possible. The league highly discourages managers from using intentional walks. If a manager decides to use an intentional walk it should be limited to critical situations in the latter part of a playoff game or game of major significance.

i. Managers are responsible for keeping the pitch count and knowing the official count kept by the scorekeeper. Each team will designate a person to keep the pitch count. The scorekeeper will keep the official pitch count if there is any dispute. To avoid disputes, managers/coaches or scorekeepers should confer at the end of each half inning to ensure pitch count is accurate. **Pitch count totals are to be updated in the pitch count log after each game. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.**

j. If a game is called for any reason prior to one completed inning any pitches delivered will **not** be counted. All pitches delivered in the last inning of a game, but the outcome of the game reverts back to the previous inning under rule 4.11d count towards a pitcher's total for that game.

k. Year End Double Elimination Tournament: The game of rest for pitchers that pitch 51+ pitches resets at the conclusion of the regular season. All pitchers are eligible to pitch in the 1<sup>st</sup> tournament game as long as they have received the required number of days rest. Games of rest are not required in the tournament play.

2. Managers and coaches are required to stay in the dugout and or designated area. Managers/coaches may coach 1st and 3rd bases on offense. Only three adults may be in the dugout and or designated area.

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3. There shall be a drop-dead time limit of 2 hours **from the start time of the game** or 6 innings. No new inning shall be started more than 1 hour 45 minutes beyond the started game time. ***Use common sense when time limit is reached. We want to avoid ties and incomplete games (less than 4 innings). Refrain from stalling tactics, blatant stalling may result in disciplinary action.***

- a. If there is no regularly scheduled game following the involved game no inning will begin after 2 hours and 2 hours 15 minutes will be the drop dead time limit. In addition, no new inning will begin past 10:00 PM.
- b. Managers are obligated to play for the entire allotted time period and or inning limit.
- c. NOTE: Per rule 4.02 the player of the home team shall take their defensive positions, the first batter of the visiting team shall take a position of the batter's box, the umpire shall call "play" game will start. At this point the official score keeper will note the official start time in the official score book.

4. If a manager or coach gets ejected from the game, he/she must leave the park property.

5. There is a 5-run per inning mercy or 3 outs per inning, whichever comes first. Continue/finish the play even though the fifth batter crosses the plate (only 5 count officially.) Play the last inning as time permits even if the home team is trailing by more than 5.

6. No food, gum, sunflower seeds or beverages (other than a sports drink or water) are allowed in the dugout and no food, gum, sunflower seeds or beverages are allowed on the playing field.

7. Dugouts are to be kept clear of cans, glass bottles, food, candy, etc. And must be cleaned after each game.

8. After the last practice at the Los Serranos field, the manager is responsible for turning off all lights and seeing that the field is locked and secured.

9. Line-up cards must be given to the official scorekeeper at least 10 minutes before game time. Any substitutions made between innings must be given to the official scorekeeper prior to the start of the next half inning. Late players (after game begins) are added to the bottom of the order. If a player is injured and has to leave the game, his/her line up position gets passed over without penalty. If the player recovers and returns later, he/she shall be inserted into their original spot in the lineup. Managers shall advise the official scorekeeper of all offensive and defensive substitutions each inning. Please ensure the official scorekeeper is documenting the substitutions in the scorebook. Home team provides the official scorekeeper.

10. A runner is out if he/she slides head first while **advancing**. A runner is out if he/she does not slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag (There is no "must slide rule." The rule is "slide or attempt to get around." The key in this situation is "fielder has the ball and is waiting to make a tag." If the fielder, any fielder, not just the catcher does not have the ball and there is a collision, you CANNOT call the runner out. However, if the umpire determines that the runner

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*deliberately attempted to injure the fielder, the umpire could eject the runner for unsportsmanlike conduct. (Reference Rule: 7.08 Little League Manual "The right Call, 2009.")* If the impact of a runner breaks a base loose from its position, no play can be made on that runner at the base if the runner had reached the base safely.

11. - A batter is out when -

- (1) a third strike is legally caught by the catcher;
  - (2) a third strike is not caught by the catcher when first base is occupied before two are out. Players may advance on a third strike that is not caught in flight by the catcher.
- This rule applies only in games starting at the half way point in the season.

12. Pitching affidavits must be turned in to the official scorekeeper. Failure to follow the pitching rules is considered a major rule violation and may result in a forfeit and suspension of the manager.

- a. During the game, managers and/or coaches may not warm up their pitchers on or off the field. **NOTE: ONLY PLAYERS MAY WARM UP PITCHERS IN AND ON THE FIELD. NO ADULTS WARMING UP PITCHERS ANYWHERE ON OR OFF THE FIELD.**
- b. If the catcher is on base with 2 outs, the last player out may be substituted as a pinch runner to allow the catcher to get gear on). Offense must hold catcher to warm up pitcher of opposing team.
- c. If last out is injured, the player making the previous out may be used.

13. Judgment calls made by the umpires are not to be disputed.

14. The home team is responsible for providing the official scorekeeper and supplying two (2) game balls.

15. First and third base coaches may be comprised of two adults or one adult coach and one player coach. The player coach must wear a batting helmet. Two player coaches are allowed in order to keep an adult in the dugout. There must always be an authorized coach or adult (Volunteer Form completed and approved) in the dugout during games.

16. First aid kits must be kept in the dugouts at all times during games and practice.

17. Post-game meetings must be held outside of the dugouts so as to allow the next game to begin on time.

18. Emergency cards/medical release must be present at all team functions. Random audits will be conducted to ensure compliance.

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19. All male players are required to wear athletic supporters. All catchers are required to wear a fiber or plastic cup, mask with apple/throat guard, shin guards, and chest protector during games. (Hockey style catcher's masks also require the additional hanging throat guard).

20. Players must be in full uniform to play. The uniform consists of baseball hat, jersey and pants. No jewelry of any kind will be worn during practice or games. Pins on hats are also prohibited. Jersey must be CHLL and be correct color. Player cannot play in another **league's uniform**. Pitchers may not wear batting gloves unless they are completely dark in color and only on their glove hand. If a pitcher's pitching hand is injured they may not pitch if the hand has any kind of medical bandaging or device on it. Exception: Small brown band aids are allowed for blisters or minor scrapes or abrasions. Prescription Glasses are allowed and regular non-metal sunglasses are permitted.

21. All offensive players on the field of play (including player base coaches) are required to wear a batting helmet.

22. The official score book will be kept in the storage shed at Community Park. All official scorebooks are to be returned after the game and are not to be removed by anyone except the Score Master or authorized Board Member.

23. A \$50 fee will be required in order for a protest to be heard. If you win the protest the \$50 will be refunded. If you lose the protest you will forfeit the \$50 protest fee. Protest are highly discouraged, you shall comply with the protest procedures outlined in 2010 Little League Baseball Official Rule Book in order for any protest to be heard.

24. All players present for the game will bat in a continuous order with no offensive substitutions allowed. In the case of an injury to a base runner, the last player to be put out can be used as a substitute.

25. No player shall sit more than one (1) consecutive inning. Open substitution. Ensure you report and have the Official Scorekeeper document substitutions each inning!

26. **Rainy Day Procedures:** Fields at Community Park cannot be used for practices or games until the City of Chino Hills gives their approval. The field at Los Serranos must have the approval of the League President or his/her designee. The Field Maintenance Officer will provide a report to the President. If the Field Maintenance Officer is unavailable, the Safety Officer and then the Umpire in Chief will make a recommendation to the league president. If a team practices and/or plays without approval, the manager may be suspended for one game. LS is closed when Community Park is closed unless you receive approval from the President to use LS. A scheduled game is considered a rainout only if the city has closed the fields. Every attempt will be made to reschedule all rained out games. If an additional date is not identified a future nonconference game between the two teams will become a conference game. If the two teams involved have already played their non-conference game and an additional date cannot be acquired the game will result in a 6-6 tie. In the event one of the teams involved already has two (2) "rainout ties" the league will make an extreme effort to reschedule, to include delaying the start of playoffs if necessary. In all cases a re-scheduled game is not considered optional, failure to play may

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result in forfeiture. All forfeitures are considered and voted upon by our board of directors. If both teams fail to fill at least 9 players for the make-up game, it could be considered a double forfeit.

Field Conditions Hotline: 909 364-2738 - Website address: <http://www.chinohillsl.com>

#### **Composite Bats**

The moratorium on composite-barreled baseball bats remains in effect. However, some composite-barreled baseball bats that have been proven in laboratory testing to meet the BPF (Bat Performance Factor) standard throughout the life of the bat, through the Accelerated Break-In (ABI) process, have received waivers. The approved bats can be found at:

<http://www.littleleague.org/learn/equipment/approvedcompbatssmall.htm>

#### **NON-CONFERENCE GAME RULES PURPOSE:**

**The purpose of Non-Conference games are to develop players and give players opportunities to pitch and play positions not normally afforded to them during competitive games. These games will give potential All-Stars the opportunity show case themselves and play positions they may be asked to play during the All-Star Tournament. There will be approximately five Non-Conference games this season. Rained out games may be scheduled in lieu of the scheduled Non-Conference game. Non-Conference games will not count toward the standings and official score shall not be kept.**

- 1. All Pitch count rules and pitcher rest period will apply to these games**
- 2. All rules and time limits not described apply to games.**
- 3. Umpires shall be instructed that the game is a Non-Conference game and he/should use discretion in enforcing rules, such as balks etc. New pitchers should be warned and instructed prior to being penalized. This will remain at the discretion of the umpire.**
- 4. There is a 5-run per inning mercy or 3 outs per inning, whichever comes first. Continue/finish the play even though the fifth batter crosses the plate (only 5 count officially.) Play the last inning as time permits even if the home team is trailing by more than 5.**
- 5. Pitchers are allowed to pitch a maximum of two innings.**
- 6. Infield players shall be rotated each inning; (Exception: pitcher and catcher positions) 7. Players not normally pitching during the season due to age or skill level shall be given the opportunity to pitch and play key infield positions. Please try to give the younger players opportunities to pitch.**
- 8. Reverse your line ups for Non-Conference games. Do not use regular season lineups.**

**Managers please remember these games don't count and you should make every effort to give players opportunities. Managers not complying with these rules and mandates may be subjected to**

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**disciplinary action up to and including suspension of regular season game(s). Note: Managers shall not modify these rules at game time. These rules are in place for safety and fair play. The Division Vice President shall approve any modification of these rules. If you have any questions regarding these rules please contact the Division VP, the Division Player Agent and or the Umpire in Chief.**