

LOS GATOS LITTLE LEAGUE 2008 SINGLE A (MACHINE PITCH) POLICIES

The following are policies developed by Los Gatos Little League over the years to ensure a safe, valuable and enjoyable season for all participants consistent with our mission statement: ***Los Gatos Little League's mission is to develop fundamental baseball skills while positively reinforcing lessons in teamwork, respect and sportsmanship, both in victory and in defeat.*** These policies have been approved by the Board of Directors and are to be followed by all managers, coaches, players and spectators. Managers are expected to ensure that all coaches, players and spectators associated with their team follow these policies.

As a manager or coach it is your responsibility to be knowledgeable about the rules of play of Little League baseball. Each team is provided with an official rule book. We know managers and coaches are often busy professionals, juggling jobs, family, baseball and other responsibilities. Please read the official rule book at least once, however, to familiarize yourself with all rules of play.

Managers may not agree to change these policies or any local or Little League rule at any time. If a manager would like to deviate from these policies in any given circumstance, the manager must obtain prior approval from the Single A Commissioner.

If you believe that someone has not followed these policies, including issues you are having as a manager or coach with your players, their parents or spectators, you should report the issue to the Single A Commissioner. Managers that believe these policies are not being followed by the opposing team should discuss the issue with the opposing manager. Parents that believe these policies are not being followed by their child's manager or coach should discuss the issue with the manager. If the issue cannot be resolved in this manner, please report it immediately to the Commissioner. Usually these are misunderstandings that are best resolved when they occur so that we can ensure a good experience for all involved.

A manager's or coach's failure to ensure that these policies are followed may impact their future selection as a manager or coach. If necessary, the Board of Directors may also remove a manager or coach during the season if it is in the best interests of the league.

Game Logistics.

1. Single A (Machine Pitch) is an instructional league with a focus on teaching fundamentals:

Batting	Fielding	Throwing	Base-running
Positioning	Rules of the game	Sportsmanship	

As a result, there are no scorebooks (the kids will know if they won or lost, although they always think they won or tied!).

2. The manager for each team should prepare a batting order chart and fielding chart for each inning prior to the game. This helps with organization, keeping things moving, and helps ensure each player has a fair chance at batting and fielding the different positions during the season. The manager should also identify the coach who will come on to pitch in the event of difficulties with the pitching machine and ensure he or she is ready to go before the game starts. Have a dugout coach during the game to prepare batters (i.e., helmets on, shoes tied, batting gloves, etc.). If possible, you should have another dugout coach designated to ensuring that the players are behaving appropriately. All players must remain on the bench when not batting, on base or in the field.
3. Only players and coaches are allowed in the dugouts and in the field of play. All equipment is to be kept behind or to the side of the bench area. Keep pathways clear. A designated parent may assist the coaches with keeping order on the bench however.

4. The home team is responsible for setting up any necessary equipment (pitching machine, bases, etc.) and for ensuring that the equipment is torn down and put away post-game. The home team for the first game on Saturday should arrive early to prep the field and set up the equipment. The home team for the last game on Saturday is responsible for the tear down and storage.
5. The Los Gatos Little League has partnered with the Positive Coaching Alliance. We Honor the Game. As a result, there must be absolutely no negative comments made to any player or coach by anyone (player, coach or spectator). Here is a useful link you may want to share with your families: <http://www.positivecoach.org/parents/guidelines.html>
6. At the conclusion of the game, players and managers must line up to shake hands with the opposing team. Remind your players that this is a time to congratulate the other team for a game well played, and not a time to joke or be abusive (such as saying "bad game").
7. Before distributing the snacks or snack shack tickets or dismissing the players, the teams **must** clean up the field, dugout **and spectator areas**, making sure all trash is placed in appropriate receptacles, even if it is not from your team. This rule also applies following practices too. The league has invested heavily in its fields. **We must build a culture of caring for our fields.** We suggest that players be required to clear all debris from these areas prior to receiving snack shack tickets. Managers may choose another method (such as assigning one or a group of players or parents to accomplish the task) as long as **all** debris is removed. Managers or coaches that arrive to a field of play, dugout or spectator area that is not completely free of debris should report the situation to the Single A Commissioner.

Offense.

1. Please try to rotate the batting order between games so players later in the order do not consistently miss out on an at-bat.
2. Only adults should be base coaches to ensure proper instruction is given to baserunners. Another coach may help near the batter's box in extreme cases, but we want to avoid having the coach in the batter's box for every batter. Try to offer advice and encouragement from the dugout or from one of the coaching boxes at 1st or 3rd.
3. There is no base stealing.
4. The last batter does not round the bases. It is a normal at bat. Do not even announce that you are sending the last batter to the plate. After this batter has run out their at-bat, the offensive coach should discreetly call the base-runners to the bench. After the base-runners have returned to the bench, the defensive coach can call in his players.

Defense.

1. For each pitch, there should be no more than six (6) players (i.e., catcher, pitcher, first, second, third and shortstop) on the dirt infield before the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. There may not be a buck short. Up to four players may be played in the outfield. The catcher should stand off to the side and collect the balls and should be fully equipped. A player should be placed in the pitching position and this player must wear a helmet.
2. You should rotate players every inning so that they can experience multiple positions, although managers may consider safety when determining which players are placed at first or third base or pitcher. No player should play one position more than two consecutive innings. The intent is to ensure all players get roughly equal opportunity to try different positions, both infield and outfield, and keep the game "interesting" for all.

3. Free substitutions are allowed on defense. Except for injuries, however, players should play the entire inning in which they start.
4. No player should sit out a second inning until all players have sat out one inning. No player should sit out a third inning until all players have sat out two innings.
5. There may be a maximum of 2 defensive coaches allowed on the field. At no time should a coach touch the ball unless there is an obvious safety concern. We want to help the kids anticipate the play by emphasizing where they should be throwing the ball and who should be covering the bases. Outfielders should work on stopping the ball and getting it back to the infield. When the ball is back in the infield and controlled, no runners should advance. Infielders should focus on getting one out, controlling the ball and getting it back to the pitcher.
6. The defensive coaches in the field will act as umpires for the safe or out calls. Please make the call as you see it. There is no leniency on calls, whether they are from dropped balls, feet not on bases, the lack of a tag when there is no force out, or other rule. If the player is out, he/she is out. If the player is safe, he/she is safe. The kids quickly catch on to erroneous calls.
7. The defensive coaches should not call the infield fly rule however as these players are usually too young to understand the rule.
8. Putouts will be acknowledged. If a batter or base-runner is out at a particular base, they must return to the bench. This will allow for more game situations where there are not always force-outs. Also, please emphasize that in some cases, runners need to be tagged out and that a fielder should never throw a ball at a runner as a means to record an out.
9. Following a hit to the outfield, play stops when the ball is in the possession of an infielder in the infield. Runners may continue to advance to a base to which they are already advancing prior to the infielder possessing the ball from the outfield or may return to the previous base. Please do not have a player start running to the next base after the ball has been returned to the infield and is in the possession of an infielder.

Safety.

1. When batting, one batter should be in the batter's box. This should be the only player on the field with a bat in his hands. **THERE WILL NOT BE AN ON DECK BATTER.** You should hand a bat to the hitter as he or she is walking to the batter's box. As a general practice, **NO PLAYER SHOULD BE SWINGING A BAT WITHOUT A COACH'S SUPERVISION.** All other players must remain on the bench and no bats are allowed on the bench.
2. Cups are strongly encouraged for all male players. Cups are mandatory for all male catchers.

LGLL Single A Coaching Philosophy and Tips

- Pick your moments to coach during games and offer mainly encouragement. We are attempting to be instructive while adhering to specific time constraints and making game day **FUN!**
- Coaches are responsible for controlling parent behavior – nip it in the bud before it becomes an issue
- Introduce competition, but teach how to win with class and how to lose with class

**LOS GATOS LITTLE LEAGUE
2008 SINGLE A (MACHINE PITCH) LOCAL RULES**

The following are local rules adopted by Los Gatos Little League as allowed by National Little League rules and operating procedures. These local rules will be enforced by game umpires.

As with the LGLL Single A (Machine Pitch) Policies, managers may not agree to change these local rules at any time. Managers that believe these rules are not being followed should discuss the situation with the umpire in the presence of the opposing team's manager. A manager's or coach's failure to ensure that these rules are followed may impact their future selection as a manager or coach and may be removed by the Board of Directors during the season if it is in the best interests of the league.

1. Games will be a maximum of four (4) innings, even in the event of a "tie" (since no official score is kept). Normally, games do not last more than three or four innings however. No new inning may be started more than 75 minutes after the officially scheduled start time for the game unless the home team manager agrees. No game may continue more than 90 minutes after the officially scheduled start time for the game for any reason. An inning begins when play is stopped following the last batter to hit in the previous inning.
2. Continuous batting will be employed where all players will bat once in each inning. Even if the player is not playing in the defensive alignment for that inning, he/she will bat. A lineup should be established, but the batting team has the option of staggering the leadoff hitter such that it is not always the same two batters leading off and ending each inning.
3. Pitching machines will be employed at 40 mph. In the event that the machines are not available, the offensive coach will pitch from the mound to his batters. Each batter should receive a maximum of 6 good pitches. After this allotment, the player should move to 1st base. There are no strikeouts. The six pitch limit should be strictly enforced in order to maintain a good pace to the game and to be fair to all batters on both teams.