

LOS GATOS LITTLE LEAGUE 2008 AA 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. Certain rules, such as the pitch count rules, are critical for every game.

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 AA 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 AA 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 AA Commissioner. Usually these issues 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. AA is an instructional league – we will not be keeping game scores or standings. Coaches/teams are welcome to keep an informal score. However, only five runs may be scored in each half inning, although runners may continue to advance in accordance with these policies until play is stopped.
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, 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. Coaches should not be in the field of play when their team is on defense. All equipment is to be kept in the dugout. On fields with a bench and no dugout, a designated parent may assist the coaches with keeping order on the bench.
4. 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 umpire, player or coach by anyone (player, coach or spectator). Players, coaches and parents must refrain from making any calls that are the responsibility of the umpire (ball, strike, safe, out, balk, etc.). We use youth umpires in AA and they can be become influenced or intimidated by players, coaches and spectators making calls. Coaches may calmly discuss rules or calls with the umpire in the presence of the opposing coach and outside the presence of any player or spectator. This discussion should occur between innings unless

the activity must be stopped immediately. Please think of a blown call as a teachable moment, showing your team how to handle the issue in a constructive manner. It is the manager's responsibility to ensure this rule is followed by all of the team's coaches, players and spectators. For example, if you have parents yelling "strike" or "safe" before the umpire makes a call, please ask them to stop. Here is a useful link you may want to share with your families:

<http://www.positivecoach.org/parents/guidelines.html>

5. 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").
6. **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 AA 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. To ensure that players develop well-rounded baseball skills, please limit bunting to one time per player per game. Also, players should not bunt when a coach is pitching.
3. Only adults should be base coaches to ensure proper instruction is given to baserunners.
4. In order to develop our catchers and ensure that fielders learn to make force outs and double plays, base stealing should not occur until midway through the season. The AA Commissioner will notify coaches when stealing should begin. Continuous action stealing (stealing second when achieving first on a walk) should not be used in AA. In order to encourage our catchers to develop their throws, a runner should not advance on an overthrow during a steal.

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.
2. Free substitutions are allowed on defense. Except for pitching changes and injuries, however, players should play the entire inning in which they start. Pitching changes during an inning should only occur if the pitcher is struggling to throw strikes or is in risk of an injury.
3. No player should play one position more than two consecutive innings, including the pitcher. 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. Coaches may consider safety (primarily at pitcher, catcher, and first base) when rotating players.
4. No player may play a third inning in the infield until all players have played at least one inning in the infield. Because many games will end prior to six innings being played, it may not be possible to play every player in the infield and the outfield in every game. Players who do not play in the infield or outfield in one game should be placed in those positions early in the next game.
5. 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.

6. Following a hit to the outfield, play should stop when the ball is controlled in the infield. Runners may continue to advance to a base to which they are already advancing prior to return of the ball to the infield or may return to the previous base. Please do not have a player start running to the next base after the ball has been controlled in the infield.

Pitching.

1. Pitchers who are 9 or 10 years old should pitch from the far pitching rubber (46'). Pitchers who are 8 years old may pitch from the near rubber (42') or far rubber. Any pitcher may pitch from the near rubber if both managers agree that velocity does not pose a safety issue.
2. All players with an expressed desire to pitch **and good throwing ability** should be given the opportunity to pitch early in the season unless there is an overriding safety concern. After the midpoint of the season, however, you should concentrate on developing pitchers that have a demonstrated ability to consistently throw hittable pitches. The only exception to the previous sentence should be when a team does not have an available pitcher that has such ability and can meet the other requirements of the rules (such as maximum pitches thrown).
3. If a pitcher hits two batters in an inning, another pitcher should be brought in or the inning may be finished with coach pitching in accordance with the rules.
4. Consistent with LL philosophy and for the protection of young arms, no pitcher should throw breaking balls of any kind.

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.

LOS GATOS LITTLE LEAGUE 2008 AA 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 AA 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 six (6) innings, even in the event of a "tie" (since no official score is kept). 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 the third out is recorded in the second half of any inning. The umpire will be the official time keeper but may delegate this duty to the home team scorekeeper.
2. A continuous batting order will be employed. A batting order reflecting all players must be provided to the umpire prior to each game and batters must appear in that order through continuous batting. The term continuous batting means that each player bats in the order of the line-up handed to the umpire at the beginning of the game, regardless of whether the player has played in the field during the particular inning. A player joining the game after the game has begun is added to the end of the lineup. A player is only removed from the lineup when no longer playing in the game (i.e., they have left or are injured).

Continuous batting does not mean that every batter bats in every inning. Three outs ends the inning regardless of how many players have batted.

3. At the start of the season there are no walks. After four (4) called "balls" the offensive coach will pitch to the batter. The coach must pitch from the pitching rubber or immediately in front of the portable mound. The hitter retains the number of strikes from the player pitcher. The umpire will not call balls and strikes when the coach is pitching, but swinging strikes will be counted and a player may strike out. A player will be called out if the player does not hit after four (4) additional pitches from the coach (six (6) pitches from the coach if a coach is the initial pitcher for that batter following two hit batters in the inning). A player hit by a coach's pitch is not awarded a base (it is simply counted as a pitch). EXCEPTION: The at-bat does not end on a foul ball or batter hit by a coach's pitch. Coaches should throw flat strikes at approximately the same speed as average pitchers. Do not lob balls to the batter.
4. Midway through the season, walks shall be awarded to the first two batters in each half inning that receive four called "balls," as long as the walk will not result in walking in a run. After the first two batters, or if the walk would result in walking in a run, coaches will pitch to the batter in accordance with the above rules. A batter being hit by a pitch and proceeding to first base is not considered a walk.