



2010 LOCAL RULES

## **NORTHERN LITTLE LEAGUE 2010**

Northern Little League's brand of baseball is meant to be a fun and rewarding experience for all involved (players, coaches, umpires, family and friends). To insure the appropriate atmosphere for these activities is achieved, the league has adopted a Zero Tolerance Policy. The following policy has been approved by the Northern Little League Board Members for the 2010 Spring Season.

### **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

In an effort to make Little League a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, Northern Little League has instructed the Umpire Association to adhere to points of emphasis relating to sportsmanship and conduct for managers, coaches, team moms, players and spectators. This campaign is designed to require all players, coaches, parents/spectators, umpires, team moms and Board Members to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all Little League games. Thus, the following points of emphasis will be implemented and monitored by all umpires and board members.

#### **PLAYERS**

A player may be removed from the game for any of the following reasons:

1. Openly disputes or argues any decision made by an umpire.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including swearing, regardless if it is directed at a particular person or not.
3. Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction associated with an official's decision.
4. Conducts himself or herself in an unsportsmanlike fashion.

Any time a player commits any of these actions, they shall be removed from the game and are also required to miss the next game. If a player is removed from a game for the second time, that player may be suspended for the balance of the regular season and post season play following a majority vote by the board members.

#### **MANAGERS/COACHES**

A manager and/or a coach may be removed from the game for any of the following reasons:

1. Openly disputes or argues in an unsportsmanlike or unprofessional manner any decision by an umpire.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including swearing, regardless if it is directed at a particular person or not.
3. Visually displays any sign of dissatisfaction with any umpire decision with the intent of inciting the umpires, players, or spectators.
4. Is unable to control the conduct of their respective team's players and spectators.

Any time a manager and/or coach participates in any of these actions, he will be removed from the game and is also required to miss the next game. If a manager and/or a coach is removed from 2 games, he will be required to appear before the board of directors to explain his actions at which time he/she may be removed from the team pending a board of directors review. Ejection does not automatically disqualify a manager or coach from consideration as an All-Star manager or coach.

## **PARENTS/SPECTATORS / TEAM MOMS**

A game will be stopped by umpires when parents or spectators display inappropriate and disruptive behavior interferes with other spectators or the game. The umpires will place each team in their respective dugouts and communicate in a professional manner to each manager the reason for stoppage of play.

The umpire will identify violators to the manager as well as a board member for the purpose of removing the parents or spectators from the game and park. Should the spectators refuse to adhere, Northern reserves the right to contact local law enforcement to escort the individual(s) from the park.

Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the board of directors. Inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

1. Use of obscene or vulgar language to anyone at anytime.
2. Taunting of players, coaches, managers, umpires, or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or use of physical violence.
3. Throwing any object in the bleachers or playing field directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.
4. Consuming any alcoholic beverages within the park or at **any function** that has the team gathered together as a group. This includes but is not limited to: end of the year parties, out of town tournaments, and celebrations as a team.
5. Any actions that breach the Northern Little League Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct.

If Parents/Spectators are ejected a 2<sup>nd</sup> time, they will be suspended indefinitely from Northern Little League. At such time, the individual(s) reserve the right to appeal their suspension before the board of directors.

# Sport Parent Code of Conduct

We, the \_\_\_Northern\_\_\_\_\_ Little League, have implemented the following Sport Parent Code of Conduct for the important message it holds about the proper role of parents in supporting their child in sports. Parents should read, understand and sign this form prior to their children participating in our league.

Any parent guilty of improper conduct at any game or practice will be asked to leave the sports facility and be suspended from the following game. Repeat violations may cause a multiple game suspension, or the season forfeiture of the privilege of attending all games.

## **Preamble**

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles:

- Trustworthiness,
- Respect,
- Responsibility,
- Fairness,
- Caring, and
- Good Citizenship.

The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."

## **I therefore agree:**

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.

7. I will not encourage any behaviors practices that would endanger the health and well being of the athletes.

8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.

9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.

10. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.

11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.

12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.

13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.

14. I will promote the emotional and physical wellbeing of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.

15. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.

16. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.

17. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

---

Parent/Guardian Signature

## Local Rules

**Rain Outs: All rainouts will be made up on the next open Wednesday or Friday. Sundays may be used as a last resort. If one of the teams is unable to field a team on the make up day and the opposing team will be given a win. The team that is unable to play will not be given a win or a loss in the standings unless it directly impacts a playoff or other post-season competition. The Board reserves the right to declare a forfeit if a team violates the spirit of this rule. NOTE: During the regular season a team will not be scheduled to play more than 3 games in a week.**

**Field Maintenance: It will be the responsibility of both the visiting and home team of each game played to prepare and rake the fields before after their game. The areas that need to be raked are the batter's box, pitcher's mound, the base lines and around the bases. Failure to prepare the field prior to game or to rake the fields after the each game played will result in a one game suspension for both managers. Fields must be raked in the proper manner in order to eliminate deterioration over the course of the season. Both teams are responsible for preparing the field.**

Note: it is strongly recommended that each team recruit at least 2 volunteers to assist with field maintenance while coaches prepare their teams prior to the game and while coaches have team meetings immediately following a game.

**\*Prior to the start of the season and throughout the season, managers and coaches will be REQUIRED to attend work days established for various field maintenance and concession stand projects. Failure to have representation at these work days will result in a one game suspension for each missed session for the manager. Each team must sign the sign in sheet to get credit for each workday.**

**League Championships: Major League championships will be decided upon a first half champion playing the second half champion for the league title. The first half winner will be the team with the most victories after all of the league teams have completed their first half of play. If there is a tie, a one game playoff will take place on the first Sunday after the first half. The second half of the season will end with the last regular season game played. In the event of a tie, there will be a one game playoff to be played on the first Monday after the second half. Where possible, if two teams win the first and second half, a best 2 out of 3 series should be completed no later than five days prior to the city tournament.**

**The number of players necessary to be considered a full roster will be as follows:**

Senior – 14

Junior – 14

Major – 12

Minor – 13

Coach Pitch – 13  
T Ball – 15

\*Little League rules state that there will be no more than 15 players on a team.

**Coaches may be stationed on the field during games as follows:**

**Senior, Junior, and Major Leagues** – Two adult coaches or one adult coach and one player coach may occupy the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base coach's boxes (one each) while their team is batting. There will be no defensive coaches on the field during the game. All player coaches must wear a protective helmet while coaching bases.

**Minor Leagues** – Two coaches (either adult or player) may occupy the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base coach's boxes (one each) while their team is batting. In addition, if the Minor League is utilizing a Coach Pitcher, the defense may station a coach behind the catcher and one each outside the right and left field lines beyond 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bases. The defensive coaches may not go onto the field at any time and the home plate coach must stay clear (10 feet) of any play at the plate. If no Coach Pitcher is being utilized, there will be no defensive coaches on the field. All player coaches must wear a protective helmet while coaching bases.

**T Ball** – Two adult coaches may occupy the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base coach's boxes (one each) while their team is batting. In addition, they may have an adult coach to assist at the plate, but that coach must stay clear (10 feet) of any play. The defense may have 3 adult coaches stationed on the field while their team is on defense: Two in the outfield and one on the infield. No defensive coach may touch the ball or interfere with a play in progress. **One adult must be in the dugout at all times.**

**Batting Order:** In T Ball, a maximum of 10 batters may bat in any one inning and all team members will be in a continuous batting order throughout the game regardless of their position on defense. For Minor League B Ball, a maximum of 5 runs may score in any one inning and all team members will be in a continuous batting order throughout the game regardless of their position on defense. The entire roster bats in the same order regardless of the position on defense. In all other leagues, the number of batters in an inning will be determined by position and substitution as outlined in the Little League Rules. Northern Little League has adopted the option of continuous batting order for leagues below the Major League Division rule 4.04

**Number of Defensive Positions:**

All Leagues – All Players will play defense with a maximum of 6 infielders (C, P, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & SS). All others will be outfielders. (The outfield is defined as the grass area behind the infield dirt)

Coach Pitch & minor league – 3 outfielders may be used with a maximum of 9 defensive players. Teams with only 9 players in attendance at a game will be required to play the game. No team can play with less than 9 players. If a team utilizes the 10-player lineup at

the beginning of a game, they must continue with 10 unless they cannot field but 9 due to illness, injury or expulsion from a game. Only then can they revert to a 9-player lineup. As in years past, Little League will be petitioned to allow 4 outfielders for minor league games. Little League has approved this wavier for the 2010 season.  
Major, Junior & Senior League – 9 Players Maximum.

There will be **no strikeouts in T Ball**.

**Late Arrivals** in T Ball will always be inserted into the game. In all other leagues, late arrivals must be on the book as possible players at the beginning of the game to be eligible to be inserted into the game.

Games halted by Power Failure will be considered as **suspended** games regardless of the number of innings played unless the Mercy Rule, time limits or weather rules take precedence.

At the Senior, Junior, Major and Minor League levels, Northern Little League will recognize the **4 visit rule** invoked in the post season which says that *a manager or coach must replace any pitcher upon the 4<sup>th</sup> visit to the mound in any one game.*

T-Ball Managers can elect to pitch to a player rather than use a Tee. (A total of 5 pitches or three strikes, then the ball must be placed on tee).

All players league age of 9 years old will be restricted to minor Baseball/ Softball.

## **Eligibility Policy**

It is the intent of this policy to define and clarify the eligibility requirements for draft and replacement drafts at Northern Little League. It is not meant to replace or circumvent Official Little League Rules as outlined in the Little League Manuals. (In this document: Draft will refer to the initial draft at the beginning of the season. Replacement drafts will be referred to as replacement draft.)

- A. No player living outside the official boundaries of Northern Little League will be allowed to participate unless approved in writing by Little League International. Post season by League Headquarters.
- B. Players under the age of 10 will not be allowed to participate at the Major League level.
- C. Players wishing to be considered for the Majors, Minors, Senior or Junior draft **must participate in a minimum of 2 Tryout Sessions** held prior to the beginning of the season. Failure to do so may eliminate the player from the

league draft unless a written excuse for the absence is presented to the league president or the appropriate player agent and approved by the Board of Directors prior to the draft. Failure to do so will result in that player participating at the lowest level for which they are age eligible.

- D. Players not attending the required tryouts will be placed into a player pool for the minor league program and may not be eligible for a Major League program.
- E. All players who are playing on a Minor or Junior League team may be eligible for the Replacement Draft Throughout the season as outlined in the Little League Replacement Policy. 15 – 16 year old players who are in a player pool can be drafted directly to a Senior League team as outlined in the Player Replacement Policy.
- F. Players who move into the official boundaries of Northern Little League after the draft will be placed on a Minor or Junior League team (If an opening is available).
- G. All late signups will be drawn from a hat and then placed on teams with an available opening.
- H.

### **Age Eligibility**

Note: The league age for all players for the purpose of this section is the age of the child on May 1, 2010 for baseball and January 1, 2010 for softball.

Note: All baseball players league age 10-12 will be subject to the major league draft. Players not selected for Major Baseball will be drafted to a minor league team.

- A. T Ball Baseball: Players league age 5-6. Seven year olds have the option play T Ball if the parent makes the request.
- B. Coach Pitch Baseball: Players league age 7 & 8. Six year olds have the option to tryout for Coach Pitch if they have played at least one year of T Ball and there is space available in the Coach Pitch League. All six year olds not drafted by a Coach Pitch Team will be placed on a T Ball Team.
- C. Minor League Baseball: Player league ages 8-12, all 10 & 11 year olds not selected in the Major League draft and 12 year olds boys whose parents have requested that they play Minor League Baseball and the request has been approved by the League President and District Administrator. Eight year olds have the option to tryout for the Minor League Baseball if their parents make the request at registration. All eight year olds not drafted into the Minor Leagues will be draft eligible for a C Ball Team. 9 – 11 year old players will be placed first,

and then 8 year olds who are selected for the Minor Leagues will be placed if there is available space.

- D. Major League Baseball: All 12 year players will be assigned to a Major League team unless a parent requests that their 12 year old remain in Minor League Baseball and the request has been approved by the League President. Boy's league ages 10 & 11 who are drafted either from the preseason draft or from a Minor League Team under the Player Replacement policy.
- E. Minor League Softball: Coach Pitch league age 6-8 Minor League Softball league age 9- 10: All Girls league age 10 & 11 not selected in the Major League draft and 12 year old girls whose parents have requested that they play Minor League Ball and the request has been approved by the League President and District Administrator. Eight year olds have the option to try out for Minor League softball if their parents make the request at registration. All eight year olds not drafted into the Minor Leagues will be draft eligible for a C Ball Team 6-8.
- F. Major League Softball: All 12 year old girls will be assigned to a Major League team unless a parent requests that their 12 year old remain in Minor League Softball. Girls ages 10 & 11 who are drafted either from the preseason draft or from a Minor League Team under the Player Replacement policy.
- G. Junior League Softball: Girls 13 -16; All 14 year olds not selected in the Senior League draft and all 13 year olds will go to their traditional league pairing.
- H. Senior League Softball: Girls 14-16: All 15 & 16 year old girls plus any 14 year olds selected in the Senior League draft or the Replacement Draft.
- I. Girls may choose to play Baseball if they so choose at registration. They may not switch after the draft. Boys cannot play softball.

### **SPECIAL NOTE**

The traditional age pairings for our various leagues are as follows:

T Ball	5 and 6
C Ball	7 and 8
B Ball	9, 10, and 11
A Ball	10, 11, and 12

Northern recognizes and allows for our 6, 8, and 10 year olds to play up to the next highest league. It is important for every parent to understand that there are **NO guarantees** that a player will move up to the next highest league.

1. There must be positions available in the league a player is trying to enter after all of the traditional age pairings have been assigned to a team.

2. The player must try out in the league they are attempting to enter.
3. A manager must select the player to that league during the draft process.

Any player who attempts to move up a league and is **not selected** for that league during the draft process will be eligible for draft of their traditional league pairings.

Major League and /or A Ball Notes:

The only players guaranteed to make the Major League and / or A Ball Team are those players who were assigned to the league last year. All other players must tryout and be drafted into A Ball/Majors.

1. All 10 and 11 year olds must try out to be drafted to A Ball.
2. 12 year olds must play A Ball unless requested in writing by the parents and approved in advance by the League President and the District Administrator.

## **2010 Uniform Policy**

In an effort to reduce the cost to parents associated with team uniforms, Northern Little League has adopted the following guidelines. Please note that the costs shown by league are the maximum out of pocket expense that parents will be asked to pay for their child's uniform. This does not prohibit teams from securing sponsors or donations, as well as holding fundraising activities to pay for additional costs associated with uniforms. In addition, team managers and/or coaches do have the option of paying for uniform overages out of their own pocket. Uniforms must be paid for before a player plays ball.

### **Baseball**

A-Ball:	\$100.00
B-Ball:	\$85.00
C-Ball	\$75.00
T-Ball	\$40.00

### **Softball**

Jr. / Sr.:	\$100.00
Major:	\$100.00
Minor B	\$75.00
C-Ball	\$65.00

## Mercy Rule

In accordance with Little League Rule 4.10 (e), Northern Little League will recognize a Mercy Rule in all levels of play.

The rule reads:

If after 4 innings in Major and Minor League or 5 innings in Junior and Senior League, (*3.5/4.5 innings if the home team is ahead*), one team has a lead of ten or more runs, the manager of the team with the least runs **will** concede the victory to the opponent.

Note: If the visiting team has a lead of ten runs or more, the home team must bat in it's half of the inning.

The Minor and Major League levels of **baseball** will operate under a modified Mercy rule that reads as follows:

If after 4 innings (*3.5 innings if the home team is ahead*), one team has a lead of 15 or more runs OR after 4 innings in Maj/Min or 5 innings SR/JR leagues (*4.5/5.5 innings if the home team is ahead*), one team has a lead of 10 or more runs, the manager of the losing team **will** concede victory to the opponent. Note: If the visiting team has a lead of 15/10 runs or more, the home team must bat in it's half of the inning.

### **There is no Mercy Rule in T Ball**

In addition, each league will have a **time limit per game** as follows:

Senior Softball/Baseball – 120 minutes (2 hours)

Junior Softball/Baseball – 120 minutes (2 hours)

Major Baseball – 120 minutes (2 hours)

Major Softball – 120 minutes (2 hours)

Minor Softball – 110 minutes (1 hour 50 minutes) 4 Innings Minimum.

Minor Baseball – 110 minutes (1 Hour 50 minutes) 4 Innings Minimum.

Coach Pitch Baseball – 90 minutes (1 ½ hours)

T Ball – 90 minutes (1 ½ hours)

## 2010 Umpire Policy

Northern Little League strives to provide the most positive and rewarding atmosphere for all of it's participants in baseball and softball. Northern Little League is governed by its elected board of directors and all operations of the league are directed and enforced by the board. It is our desire to provide the best working environment and support to our umpire association. Now more than ever, Northern has a reputation as a leader in District 8 and with your help we will continue and even elevate that tradition.

- 1.) All umpires will wear official umpire uniforms which will include caps, shirts and pants. All umpires will wear a light or dark blue shirt as well as the option of a red shirt. Pants or shorts worn will be gray or khaki in color. Shoes will be black and should be polished. Both umpires will wear the same color uniform when working together. Dark blue shirts will be worn with gray pants or shorts and light blue shirts will be worn with khaki pants or shorts.

Shirts should have numbers on the sleeve and the little league patch is required as well. Each umpire will furnish their own shoes and pants. Uniforms must be neat and pressed for each game.

The purpose of this dress code is to project a professional image.

- 2.) Northern Little League will provide bottled water and PowerAde to working umpires. Each working umpire will be provided one meal on Saturdays and food during weekday games will be at the expense of each umpire.

- 3.) Umpires will have a dressing room provided where lockers are available to store necessary equipment. This designated area will be for dressing only and the board room can still be used between games.

- 4.) Food and drinks will be allowed in the board room unless the problem arises where umpires are not cleaning up after themselves. At that time, all privileges of the board room will be revoked.

- 5.) Northern Little League will use the following pay scale for umpires:

Any kid pitch league - \$30.00 Plate and \$30.00 Field per game  
Coach Pitch Games - \$20.00 per game.

- 6.) Payment of games will be coordinated between the board member in charge of umpires and the umpire in charge. Payment will be paid based on game schedule and signing of scheduled game.

- 7.) Umpire pay will be distributed each Saturday and a time will be determined for payment distribution. Umpire pay period will begin on Saturday and end on Friday of each week. Umpires will only be paid for games called. Payment will not be made out of the concession cash registers.

- 8.) Games involving rain. If an umpire shows up ready to call a game and that game is called due to rain, umpires will be paid in full for that game. If a game is called once the game has started, umpires will be paid in full. Umpires will not be paid for a second game if they were scheduled to call.

- 9.) In case of rain or inclement weather, umpires can call the Northern phone number and a message will be left by 4:30 pm on weekdays and 8:30 am on

Saturdays notifying if games have been canceled or not. We will also place the same announcement on the Northern website at [www.northernlittleleague.org](http://www.northernlittleleague.org).

10.) Protests Ejections: The umpire who ejects any individual will be responsible for writing a full report and turning it in to the league before leaving the park for that day. Northern will strictly enforce its Zero Tolerance Policy with regards to umpires, spectators, managers, coaches and players. Any appeals of suspensions will be brought for review before Northern's Grievance Committee.

Any umpire having issues with parents or spectators in the stands should approach the manager of the team and notify him of the problematic individual. The manager will be responsible for addressing the spectator. If the spectator continues to be a problem, the umpire should place both teams in their respective dugouts and have a board member address the spectator. Spectators may be removed from the park.

Any manager, coach or spectator ejected will have to leave the premises and will be required to serve a one game suspension. They will not be allowed to come to the park during the suspension.

11.) Northern Little League will require each umpire to attend a minimum of 1 training clinic. The league will require each umpire to attend the State Clinic held in Columbus. There will also be a District 8 clinic. It is the desire of the league that all umpires receive as much training as possible.

12.) Northern will implement an evaluation process of all umpires. These evaluations will be administered throughout the season and feedback will be provided by the umpire in charge. This process is intended to help each umpire better themselves not to act as a penalty.

13.) Failure of umpires to report for scheduled games will be addressed by the League President, Umpire Coordinator and the Umpire in Charge at which time necessary action will be implemented.

14.) Schedules will be made by the Umpire Coordinator and the Umpire In Charge. Any requests for changes should be made to the Umpire In Charge a minimum of one day in advance of scheduled game so that arrangements for another umpire can be made.

We are excited about the upcoming season and look forward to working in unity with our umpire association!

## T-Ball

1. Northern Little League has adopted the continuous batting order. All rostered players on each team will bat in order regardless of whether or not they are playing a defensive position at the time. All players must bat in order unless they are too ill or injured to continue.
2. **10 batters maximum per inning. The 10<sup>th</sup> batter may be put out by the defense on a force play at any base ahead of the runner this rule only applies to the 10<sup>th</sup> Batter, any preceding base- runners will have to be put out by the normal rules of baseball. If the 10<sup>th</sup> batter is the 3<sup>rd</sup> out all runs will score unless the 3<sup>rd</sup> out is made by one of the succeeding base runners, or the 3<sup>rd</sup> out is made on the 10<sup>th</sup> batter by the normal rules of Little League Baseball/Softball.**  
Defensive players must stop the play in progress before getting time out or returning the ball to the coach/pitcher.
3. Each Coach/Pitcher should pitch from a point 35 feet from the front of the plate. The pitcher may elect to toss the ball underhand.
4. Each batter will get a maximum of 5 pitches or three swinging strikes per at-bat. Should the batter foul the third pitch, he/she will continue until they either hit the ball fair, strike and miss the pitch or let a pitch go by without swinging. If the batter is unable to hit the pitched ball in the allotted throws, the ball will be placed on the T until the batter hits a fair ball
5. There are no strike outs at this level.
6. There are no walks.
7. There is no stealing of bases on a pitch. Base Runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit or until it reaches the batter. Runners who leave early are subject to the rules governing leaving early in the respective rules books.
8. The offense will be allowed to have 2 adult or player coaches outside their dugout. They are to be positioned, one in the 3<sup>rd</sup> base coach's box and the other in the 1<sup>st</sup> base coach's box. There must always be an adult in the dugout to supervise players.
9. The defensive team will be allowed to have three adult coaches (No Player Coaches) outside their dugout while the opposing team is batting so long as they have another adult in the dugout to supervise the remaining players. Their positions are to be: A. One behind the catcher to assist in retrieving balls missed by the catcher. B. One along the left field foul line beyond third base. C. One along the right field foul line beyond first base. These coaches may not cross the foul line at any time and may not touch a player or live ball or aid the defensive player in any way other than through verbal coaching. Physically helping a player or obstructing the batters or runners in any

way will be deemed by the umpire to be *Obstruction* and the offense will be rewarded according to the situation.

## **Coach Pitch Baseball**

**Coach Pitch Baseball is subject to the rules of Little League baseball except as follows:**

1. Northern Little League has adopted the continuous batting order. All rostered players on each team will bat in order regardless of whether or not they are playing a defensive position at the time. All players must bat in order unless they are too ill or injured to continue. The umpire must approve the removal of such players from the batting order. If a player is approved for removal, their position in the batting order does NOT constitute an out.
2. A maximum of 10 players can bat for a team in one inning. When 10 players complete their at-bat within an inning, the inning will be over regardless of the number of outs at the time. (Play must be stopped by the defense before the 10<sup>th</sup> At-Bat is completed.)
3. Northern Little League will follow the Little League rule by allowing only 5 runs per inning.
4. Each Coach/Pitcher must pitch from a point 35 feet from the front of the plate. Baseball pitchers will throw overhand and softball pitchers underhand.
5. Each batter will get a maximum of 7 pitches or three swinging strikes per at-bat. Should the batter foul the seventh pitch, he/she will continue until they either hit the ball fair, strike and miss the pitch or let a pitch go by without swinging.
6. There are no *called* strikes.
7. There are no walks.
8. There is no stealing of bases on a pitch. Base Runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit or until it reaches the batter. Runners who leave early are subject to the rules governing leaving early in the respective rules books.
9. The offense will be allowed to have 2 adult or player coaches outside their dugout. They are to be positioned, one in the 3<sup>rd</sup> base coach's box and the other in the 1<sup>st</sup> base coach's box. (Player coaches MUST wear helmets.) There must always be an adult coach in the dugout to supervise players.

10. The defensive team will be allowed to have three adult coaches (No Player Coaches) outside their dugout while the opposing team is batting so long as they have another adult in the dugout to supervise the remaining players. Their positions are to be: A. One behind the catcher to assist in retrieving balls missed by the catcher. B. One along the left field foul line beyond third base. C. One along the right field foul line beyond first base. These coaches may not cross the foul line at any time and may not touch a player or live ball or aid the defensive player in any way other than through verbal coaching. Physically helping a player or obstructing the batters or runners in any way will be deemed by the umpire to be *Obstruction* and the offense will be rewarded according to the situation.
11. Lines will be marked halfway between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base and 3<sup>rd</sup> and home plate.
12. **Stopping Play:** Play will stop when the **player** pitcher or **player** catcher controls the baseball within or in front of the pitching circle. At this time the umpire will call time and determine if a runner may advance to the next base or return to the previous touched base. If a runner has passed the halfway marked line before time is called the runner will be allowed to advance. Regular rules of baseball will apply with regards to the stoppage of play.
13. When a throw of any type by an infielder attempting to throw out a batter eludes the first baseman, the batter/runner and or any other runners will only be allowed to advance one additional base. If/when the first baseman or other defensive player retrieves the ball and attempts to throw out a runner and the ball gets by that defensive player, the runner or runners may continue running until stoppage of play is called.
14. The Coach Pitcher is expected to stay out of the way of the defense while the ball is in play. The coach must leave coaching circle and not return until play is over. Failure to attempt to avoid interference will be declared *Interference* and the umpire can call runners *out* according to the situation. If a thrown or hit ball accidentally hits the Coach/Pitcher or pitching machine, the ball is still in play as if it had hit a defensive player. **If a Coach/Pitcher catches a batted ball to avoid being hit, the play is dead and the play must be played over.** The Coach/Pitcher cannot leave the pitchers mound area in an attempt to coach or aid the runners. He can coach the batter while he is batting to include helping him position himself in the box, but can only go to the plate for instruction once per batter.
15. The player/pitcher must position himself within eight foot circle (left or right or behind) while the ball is being pitched but they may never be positioned in front of the coach/pitcher.
16. No Bunting will be allowed. The player must swing the bat.

17. The Infield Fly Rule will not be in effect.

18. All players must play in the field a minimum of three innings in the field. The recommended method is to allow a player on the bench to return to the field every other inning.

## 2010 Player Replacement Policy

Occasionally players are removed from a Minor League Team's roster for reasons such as quitting, moving away, Major League Replacement Draft, discipline etc. When this occurs, it is the responsibility of the Player Agent to coordinate the replacement procedure. No player can be replaced on a team roster until the League Vice President has agreed that a *Legitimate Vacancy* exists and authorizes the PA to contact a replacement. Once the replacement has been secured, under current policy, the Board of Directors will have the authority to review the action and if any violations have occurred, can revoke the replacement and require that the process start over. It is imperative that the Replacement Policy be followed to the letter to protect the player's rights.

A. If a Player Pool has any candidates awaiting placement, Minor League Teams who have any roster vacancies **MUST** fill those vacancies from the Pool immediately (see B below). If the Player Pool is empty, Minor League Teams can only fill vacancies from the Coach Pitch "CP" League players as outlined below. If the Minor League Team has at least 11 active players on their roster, they are not required to draft replacements from the "CP" League. If they have less than 11 active players, they must fill vacancies until they have at least 11 players.

B. Minor League Teams must exhaust any Player Pool that exists before drafting a player from the "CP" League. If more than one player is in the Player Pool, a name will be drawn from a hat. The PA is not restricted to any order based on date of sign up. If only one player is in the Player Pool, then that player automatically becomes the replacement player for the Minor Team. The PA will make contact with the Pool players and parents to inform them of their selection.

C. Drafting replacement players from the Coach Pitch "CP" League is restricted as follows:

- From the time that the League Vice President declares that a *legitimate vacancy* exists, the Minor League Manager will have 3 days to select a Replacement Player from the "CP" League. Once he selects the player by notifying the PA of his choice, the PA must contact the player's parents immediately and notify them of the selection.
- Once notified of the Replacement Draft, the player has 24 hours to respond. Failure of the player or his parents to respond within 24 hours will be interpreted as a rejection of the draft and the Manager will be notified. He will then have 24 hours to make another selection.
- **Any 8-year-old who rejects being drafted to a Minor League Team will not be punished in any way but will not be eligible for draft by any other team for the remainder of the season.**

- No “CP” League team can lose more than one player to the replacement draft in one season.

D. Teams with a *legitimate vacancy* (that requires filling) must fill that place on the roster within 3 days (if there are at least 2 weeks or 4 games remaining in the regular season). No team may replace a player through draft if there are less than 2 weeks or 4 games remaining in the regular season. If a manager does not select a replacement and notify the PA within 3 days after the League VP declares the *legitimate vacancy* or 24 hours after a rejected draft, the PA will select a replacement for the team.

E. As soon as a Minor League Manager identifies that a potential roster change may be necessary (i.e. unexcused absences from games or practices, discipline problems, Major League Replacement Draft etc.), he should notify the League PA or VP in writing. The PA will then investigate to determine if a vacancy is legitimate and get approval from the VP to begin the Replacement Procedure. Failure of a manager to notify the PA within a *reasonable time* (2 weeks maximum) can result in suspension for 2 games. *The intent of this rule is to prevent a manager from hiding a legitimate opening in his/her roster to avoid having to select a replacement player.*

F. If a player approves a draft to a Minor League Team as a replacement, he will join the new team on the following Monday. Until then he/she will remain an active player on the “CP” League Team. The League will provide players approving a replacement draft with a team jersey, pants, cap and socks for the new team. Until the new uniform is available, the replacement player will be allowed to participate on his new team wearing a suitable substitute to include his “CP” League uniform.

G. No Minor League Manager or Coach may contact any potential replacement player *to discuss a possible draft* unless the PA or his designated substitute (another Board Member) is present. *Any manager who violates this rule may be suspended by the Board for 2 games.*

Note: “CP” League players declaring their intent to play baseball cannot be drafted onto a softball team. “CP” League players declaring their intent to play softball cannot be drafted onto a baseball team.

## **Major/Senior Little League Player Replacement Policy**

Occasionally players are removed from a team’s roster for reasons such as quitting, moving away, discipline etc. When this occurs, it is the responsibility of the Player Agent (PA) to coordinate the replacement procedure. No player can be replaced on a team roster until the League Vice President has agreed that a *legitimate vacancy* exists and authorizes the PA to contact a replacement. Once the replacement has been secured, under the current policy, the Board of Directors will have the authority to review the action and if any violations have occurred, can revoke the replacement and require that the process start over. **It is imperative that the Replacement Policy be followed to the letter to protect the player’s rights.**

A. Major Teams may draft replacements only from *draft eligible* Minor League players. Seniors must fill vacancies by drafting from any existing 15 – 16 year old Player Pool if one exists or if not, the 14 year old Junior League players. If only one player is in the Pool, they become the replacement. If more than one exists, the Senior Manager can draft his/her choice from the available candidates. The Player Pool must be exhausted before a Senior Team can select a Junior League player. Major managers will identify the players comprising the pool and these players names will be communicated to Minor Managers as possible replacements on draft day.

B. As soon as a Major/Senior Manager identifies that a potential roster change may be necessary (i.e. **player not attending 2 games** and/or practices, discipline problems etc) he should notify the League Player Agent or VP in writing, of that age group. The PA will then contact the player and his/her parents to clarify their intentions with regards to remaining on the team. Failure of a manager to notify the VP or PA within a *reasonable time* (2 weeks maximum) can result in disciplinary action against the manager. *The intent of this rule is to prevent a manager from hiding a legitimate opening in his/her roster to avoid having to select a new player. Failure of a manager to follow this rule will result in an automatic indefinite suspension.*

C. Teams with a *legitimate vacancy* must fill that vacancy within 3 days (if there are at least two weeks or 4 games left in the regular season). No team may replace a player unless at least 2 weeks or 4 regular season games remain on the schedule. A **legitimate vacancy** is defined as one approved by the League Vice President. If a Manager does not select a replacement and notify the PA within 3 days after the vacancy is approved, the PA will select a replacement. (Any player who quits during the last 2 weeks of the season will be reserved for his original Major/Senior League Team for the next season, should he elect to return to the league.)

D. The Manager of any team with a *Legitimate Vacancy* must work through the League Player Agent in securing replacement players. No direct contact between the Major/Senior Manager and the Minor/Junior League players or his/her parents should occur regarding a possible draft without the PA or his designated substitute (another Board Member) being present. Any manager who violates this rule will be suspended for 3 games. (Replacement drafts will be made in the order that *legitimate vacancies* occur.)

E. Once the Major/Senior League Manager has drafted a replacement, the PA will contact the drafted player and his/her parents and notify them of the draft. The player must respond to the draft within 24 hours with respect to his/her willingness to be drafted to that team. Failure of the player to respond will be viewed as a rejection of the draft. (See #2 below.)

- If the player *accepts* the draft, they will join their new team on the following Monday. Until that time, the player will remain on his/her original team and can participate in any league games played during that time.
- **If a player rejects the replacement draft, the player will be ineligible for replacement draft by any team for the remainder of the season.**

F. Any Minor/Junior League player who is drafted up to the Majors/Seniors during the season will be provided by the League with a new team jersey, pants, cap and socks. Until the new uniform is

secured, the player may play games for his/her new team wearing suitable substitute attire to include his/her current league uniform.

- G. Any replacement player drafted during the season will become a member of that Major/Senior Team throughout his/her remaining Little League eligibility as outlined in the Little League Rule Book.
- H. There will be a list of pool players made after Major / Senior draft from which the player maybe pulled.

## **Softball Major -A League**

---

1. Major-A League softball will use a continuous batting order that will include all players on the team roster present for the game batting in order. If a child arrives late to a game the manager must enter her at the end of the current line up. All players must be listed on the official lineup. If they are not present at game time, they must be marked as absent.
2. Each player pitcher must pitch from a point 40 feet from home plate (measurement is from the front of the pitchers plate to the back point of home plate). *Note:* The pitchers circle is an 8 ft radius circle from the center of the front side of the pitchers plate.
3. The infield fly rule will be observed. See rule 2.0 (page 49).
4. A player may pitch in a maximum of 9 innings in a calendar week, Sunday through Saturday. (This is a local rule; the Little League rule is 18 innings per week). A player may pitch in a maximum of 9 innings in a game. (Section VI, page 33)
5. An approved helmet face mask must be attached to all batters helmets and worn by players when batting and running bases.
6. If after 4 or more innings, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If the visiting team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the home team must bat in its half of the inning. If after 5 or more innings, one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If the visiting team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the home team must bat in its half of the inning.
7. There is a 2 hour time limit for all games. No inning may start after 2 hours have expired if 4 innings have been completed. (Local Rule)

8. **Inter-league games.** With the exception of Local Rule #8 (time limit), Inter-league games will be governed by the regular little league rules for Major softball. Other local rules may be observed if agreed by both managers and the umpire prior to the start of the game.
9. Junior/Senior League softball will use a continuous batting order that will include all players on the team roster present for the game batting in order. If a child arrives late to a game the manager must enter her at the end of the current line up. All players must be listed on the official lineup. If they are not present at game time, they must be marked as absent.
10. An approved helmet face mask must be attached to all batters helmets and worn by players when batting and running bases.
11. There is a 2 hour time limit for all games. No inning may start after 2 hours have expired if 5 innings have been completed. (Local Rule)
12. **Inter-league games.** With the exception of Local Rule #5 (time limit), inter-league games will be governed by the regular little league rules for Jr/Sr softball. Other local rules may be observed if agreed by both managers and the umpire prior to the start of the game.
13. A player pool will be created from existing regular season teams with players that are willing to participate in extra games during the regular season when teams face a shortage of rostered players for a regular season game. (See section V (c) pg. 34) **NOTE 1:** Players may not be “borrowed” from an opponent; **They must be assigned by the player agent.** **NOTE 2:** Each team is asked to have 3 players to participate. **NOTE 3:** No more than 2 pool players may be requested by a team for a game.
14. If after 4 or more innings, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If the visiting team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the home team must bat in its half of the inning. If after 6 or more innings, one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If the visiting team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the home team must bat in its half of the inning.

## Softball

### Minor – B (Player Pitch) League

---

1. Minor-B (player pitch) League softball will use a continuous batting order that will include all players on the team roster present for the game batting in order. If a child arrives late to a game the manager must enter her at the end of the current line up.

All players must be listed on the official lineup. If they are not present at game time, they must be marked as absent.

2. A maximum of 5 runs can be scored each inning (per team). Until the 6<sup>th</sup> inning when no restrictions will be placed on runs scored by either team.
3. Each player pitcher must pitch from a point 35 feet from home plate (measurement is from the front of the pitchers plate to the back point of home plate). Note: The pitchers circle is an 8 ft radius circle from the center of the front side of the pitchers plate.
4. There will be no walks allowed. If a batter reaches the count of 4 balls a coach will be allowed to come in and pitch up to 3 pitches to the batter. After the third pitch if the ball has not been put into play the batter will be called out. If the ball hits the coach and in the umpires judgment it's intentional interference the pitch will be redone. After the ball is hit the coach must immediately leave the field. All coaching must be done outside the baselines.
  - After ball 4 is called the pitching coach must remain off the field of play until the umpire has called time.
  - The coach will only be allowed to pitch 3 pitches regardless of bad pitches. If the batter fouls the 3<sup>rd</sup> pitch they can continue with another pitch.
  - Overthrows or passed balls by the coach pitcher will not allow base runners to advance.
  - No steals are allowed while the coach is pitching.
5. **THIS RULE WILL BE OMITTED AT THE HALFWAY POINT OF THE SEASON.** Base runners cannot advance to home on a steal, passed ball or if the pitcher has control of the ball inside the pitcher's circle. If the throwback to the pitcher is an overthrow or is dropped, the runner may advance to home at their own risk.
6. **THIS RULE WILL BE OMITTED AT THE HALFWAY POINT OF THE SEASON.** When there is an overthrow at 2<sup>nd</sup> base by the catcher on an attempted steal, the base runner may advance at their risk but will be allowed only one additional base due to the overthrow.
7. A maximum of 4 outfielders will be allowed on defense.
8. The offensive team will be allowed to have up to 2 adult coaches outside their dugout. Their positions are to be: A. Third base coaches box. B. First base coaches box. You may position a player in one of the coaches box if you choose (with batting helmet). Rule 4.05. One adult coach must remain in the dugout at all times.
9. A player may pitch in a maximum of 6 innings in a calendar week, Sunday through Saturday. A player may pitch in a maximum of 6 innings in a game.

10. If a pitcher fails to complete a pitch after starting her motion, it shall be called an illegal pitch. See 8.05 in the rules book for minor league. There is no balk in softball.
11. **Stopping Play:** Regular rules of softball will apply with regards to the stoppage of play.
12. The infield fly rule will be observed. See 2.0 (page 49).
13. An approved helmet facemask must be attached to all batters helmets and worn by players when batting and running bases.
14. If after 4 or more innings, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If the visiting team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the home team must bat in its half of the inning. If after 5 or more innings, one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If the visiting team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the home team must bat in its half of the inning.
15. There is a 1 hour and 40 minute time limit for all games. No inning may start after 1 hour and 40 minutes has expired if 4 innings have been completed. If the score is tied, the game will end in a tie. (Local Rule)

## **Softball Minor – C (Coach Pitch) League**


---

1. Minor C (Coach Pitch) League softball will use a continuous batting order that will include all players on the team roster present for the game batting in order. If a child arrives late to a game the manager must enter her at the end of the current line up. All players must be listed on the official lineup. If they are not present at game time, they must be marked as absent.
2. A maximum of 5 runs can be scored in one inning. Except the 6<sup>th</sup> inning where no limit will be placed on runs scored.
3. The pitchers plate will be 35 feet from home plate. Each coach pitcher should have at least one foot inside the pitchers circle (8 ft radius circle from center of the front side of the pitchers plate).
4. Each batter will get a maximum of 7 pitches or three swinging strikes per at-bat. Should the batter foul the seventh pitch, she will continue until they either hit the ball fair, strike and miss the pitch or let a pitch go by without swinging.

5. There are no called strikes. There are no walks.
6. No bunting will be allowed. The player must swing the bat.
7. No base stealing may occur. Base runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit or until it reaches the batter. Runners who leave early are subject to the rules governing leaving early in the respective rules book.
8. All players are allowed to play in the field / defense. All teams will play defense with a maximum of 6 infielders. All others will be outfielders (outfield is defined as the grass area behind the infield dirt).
9. The defensive team will be allowed to have up to 3 adult coaches outside their dugout while the opposing team is batting. Their positions are to be: A. One along the left field foul line beyond third base. B. One along the right field foul lines beyond first base. C. One behind the catcher to retrieve passed balls and throw back to the coach pitcher. These coaches may not cross the foul line at any time and may not touch a player or live ball or aid the defensive player in any way other than through verbal coaching.
- 10.** The offensive team will be allowed to have up to 3 adult coaches outside their dugout. Their positions are to be: A. Coach pitcher. B. Third base coaches box. C. First base coaches box. One adult coach must remain in the dugout at all times.**Softball**
- 11. Stopping Play:** Play will stop when the player pitcher controls the softball within or in front of the circle. At this time the umpire will call time and determine if a runner may advance to the next base or return to the previous touched base. If a runner has passed the halfway point between the bases before time is called, the runner will be allowed to advance.
12. When there is an over throw at first base by a fielder attempting to throw out a batter, the batter/runner and or any other runners will only be allowed to advance one additional base on the over throw.
13. The Coach Pitcher is expected to stay out of the way of the defense while the ball is in play. Failure to attempt to avoid interference will be declared *Interference* and the umpire can call runners *out* according to the situation. If a thrown or hit ball accidentally hits the Coach Pitcher, the ball is still in play as if it had hit a defensive player. If a Coach Pitcher catches a batted ball to avoid being hit, the play is dead and the play must be played over. The Coach Pitcher cannot leave the pitchers mound area in an **attempt to coach or aid the runners**. He/She can coach the batter while she is batting to include helping her position herself in the batters box.

14. The player/pitcher must position herself within the eight foot circle (left or right of the Coach Pitcher) while the ball is being pitched. They may never be positioned in front of or directly behind the Coach Pitcher.
15. The infield fly rule will not be in effect.
16. The Injury Reduced Ball (IRB softball) will be used.
17. An approved helmet face mask must be attached to all batters helmets and worn by players when batting and running bases.
18. There is a 1 hour and 30 minute time limit for all games. No inning may start after 1 hour and 30 minutes has expired. (Local Rule)

Board Approved: November 17, 2009

President:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary: Rhonda Sheppard