

London Youth Baseball League (LYBL)

Baseball - Majors League Description and Rules

Updated – January 2011

Description

This Majors League is for children aged 11 or 12 on or before April 30 **. The games are played on a 60' diamond. Games consist of six innings and follow Little League rules with some local exceptions. At this level, players pitch and focus on continued development of higher-level skills and team play. There is a post-season tournament team selected from this league.

Rules & Instructions

The rules for the Majors are essentially those of Little League baseball, with some local exceptions. The league is competitive, scores are kept and official umpires are used.

Some Specific Little League Rules

1. The distance between bases is 60 feet and the pitching distance is 46 feet (front of rubber to back of plate).
2. Base stealing is permitted, including home. The base runner cannot lead off. The base runner can leave the base when the ball reaches the batter. See the official rulebook for a description of the actions that are taken when a base runner leaves too early. Also, see the local rules below.
3. The batter is out on a third strike, even if the catcher drops the ball.
4. Each game, every player shall play at least two innings in the field. Players that are substituted in the field can re-enter the field. See local rules.
5. Games are six innings long. A game called because of rain is official after four innings, or, 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead. See local rules.
6. The maximum length of the bat is 33 inches. The maximum diameter of the barrel is 2 ¼ inches.
7. The infield fly rule applies.
8. Pitching rules:
 - a. 11-12 year-olds on May 1 are limited to 85 pitches in a day.
 - b. 10 year olds are limited to 75 pitches in a day.
 - c. A pitcher may finish pitching to a batter if the limit is reached during an at-bat.

- d. A catcher can no longer call an intentional walk, he/she must throw at least the 4 pitches for intentional walks, and this will count as pitches pitched.
- e. The following pitching rules apply. If a pitcher pitches...:
 - 66 or more pitches in a day, 4 calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - 51-65 pitches in a day → 3 calendar days of rest, must be observed
 - 36-50 pitches in a day → 2 calendar day or rest.
 - 21-35 pitches in a day → 1 calendar day or rest.
 - 1-20 pitches in a day → no calendar days of rest required.
- f. A player may not pitch in consecutive games, exception – A player may pitch in consecutive games if 20 or less pitches were delivered in the previous game. The 85 pitch count (for 11-12 yr olds) is for the day of games played.
- g. A pitcher once removed from the mound cannot return as a pitcher in the same game.
- h. A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of the day.

Note: If you have a game on Saturday and Sunday, a pitcher can pitch up to 20 pitches on Saturday and still be able to pitch an additional 65 pitches on Sunday.

Local Rules

1. During the regular season, each team shall bat through the entire roster (including players not currently occupying a defensive position). A player arriving late shall be added to the end of the batting lineup. A player injured, sick, or required to leave the site early shall have his/her position in the batting lineup skipped without penalty. If the player is later able to resume play, he/she shall be placed back in his/her original batting position.
2. Borrowed players can be used from other teams (including the opposition) if a team does not have nine players available. Borrowed players can only play the outfield position and will be placed at the bottom of the batting order. Players aged 9 or 10 as of April 30 may be borrowed from the LYBL Minors league. You can borrow players only when your team has less than 9 players present at a game
3. A team may start a game with as few as seven players. The eight and nine positions in the batting order would be automatic outs.
4. A player may re-enter a game (in the field) an unlimited number of times.
5. Only one intentional walk per game is allowed.
6. A complete game consists of six innings with the following additional limits:
 - a. Games are limited to a maximum total time of 2 hours. A new inning should not be started after 1 hour and 45 minutes into the game. A game limited by time is a complete game. If a game is tied at the end of an inning with the time limit reached, extra innings may be played provided there are not two other teams

waiting for the field. If there are other teams waiting for the field, the tied game is a draw.

- b. 10-run Mercy Rule – A game will be called after 4 complete innings if a team is winning by 10 runs or more (called after 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead by at least 10).
 - c. During the first four innings or any extra inning, a maximum of 6 runs can be scored in a half inning. In the fifth or sixth inning, a maximum of 10 runs can be scored in a half inning.
- 7. The umpire has the discretion to call a base runner out if the player repeatedly and/or intentionally leaves a base early (leads off).
 - 8. All players at bat, on base, or in the coaching box must wear a batting or running helmet.
 - 9. The on-deck batter is not allowed to warm up with a bat.
 - 10. Catchers MUST wear a mask, helmet, chest protector, leg protectors, and a cup.
 - 11. No metal cleats are allowed; rubber cleats are fine.
 - 12. The umpires shall provide two new regulation hard baseballs for the game. At the end of the game, each team will be given one of the game balls.
 - 13. The LYBL Majors Commissioner (or “on-duty” Board member) will be the final authority on any dispute.
 - 14. The League (on-duty commissioner) will make decisions to cancel or suspend play due to weather/field conditions.
 - 15. Players, coaches and parents must treat the umpires with respect.
 - 16. Players must play in the field for 2 innings per game, more innings are encouraged.
 - 17. Each team will provide a volunteer official and will alternate calling a game between double headers.
 - 18. There will be no cursing on or off the fields.
 - 19. The slide rule will be enforced if a play is in progress to make an out. The umpire will use a very conservative approach for the protection of the children. If in doubt, slide.
 - 20. Ground rules:
 - a. The area of play shall be considered to be the area comprised of the 'fair' area of the field itself plus the area to each side of the base-paths to first and third limited by the backstop fence and a straight line extending from this fence. Balls hit or thrown outside of this area are out of play.

- b. A fair ball in the outfield that rolls out of play is a ground-rule double.
 - c. A batted ball that bounces over, rolls under, or is stuck in the outfield fence is a ground-rule double.
- 21. ** Players aged 12 on April 30 are only eligible for the LYBL Majors league and will not be allowed to try out for the LYBL Juniors league. This decision was made by the LYBL board.
- 22. ** Players aged 10 on April 30 may try out for the LYBL Majors league before the start of the season. The Majors commissioner should be notified of the intent to try out before the rosters are formed. Players aged 9 on April 30 are only eligible for the Minors league. A beginner player aged 11 or 12 may play down in the Minors for safety reasons.
- 23. LYBL is responsible for assigning players to teams. When there are enough players to form two teams from a “neighborhood,” the commissioner and coaches shall form two balanced teams, with a draft, if necessary.

Administrative Items:

- ✓ **Field Preparation** – The Majors teams that play the first majors game of the day on a field shall be responsible for preparing the field for play (rake surface; eliminate standing water; chalk base lines, base coach boxes, batters box and catchers box; install bases; etc.). Please ensure that the first game starts on time.
 - **Between Games Field Preparations** – Both teams are responsible for completing any minor field preparation tasks (raking, chalking, etc. as needed).
- ✓ **Field Clean-up** – After the last game of the day, both teams will be responsible for cleaning up the field and spectator area (return all trash cans to the equipment building area and pick up all trash).
- ✓ **Scorebook** – The home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook. The official score will also track the pitch count. Please include player’s first/last names and the date/time of the game. The books can be obtained and should be returned to the concession stand. The scorebook is used as proof of eligibility for post-season tournament play.
- ✓ **Cancel/Rescheduling** – If your team cannot participate in a scheduled game, please notify the other coach and the league commissioner as soon as possible. The league commissioner will cancel the umpire and help reschedule the game.
- ✓ **Be ready to play** – Please be ready to play 15 minutes before your scheduled start time. Sunday games are back to back; start on time.

- ✓ **Most Important** – Let's have fun in the spirit of competition