



Land-O-Hills Baseball League
3rd-4th Grade Coach/ Player Pitch Rules
2014 Season (updated 3/5/15)

Note: *The purpose of the Land-O-Hills Baseball League is to allow the players to learn the game of baseball and have fun doing so. The league is not run for the benefit of the coaches or the parents of the players. The rules stated below are intended to help carry out this purpose. Should a situation arise not specifically covered in these rules, resolution of the situation should be made keeping this stated purpose in mind.*

It is also the intention of the league to maintain a fair level of play amongst all the teams within a community. "Stacking" of teams is not permitted by anyone, including coaches, commissioners and parents. Stacking refers to placing mostly 9 year olds on one team and 10's on another or selecting the most talented to play on one team and the less talented on another. Rosters should be balanced by age and talent. The commissioners will investigate all complaints and they alone will determine if and what disciplinary action will be taken. Your cooperation is appreciated to keep baseball fun, challenging and rewarding for all of our young players.

Playoffs and Awards: The League playoffs will take place between **July 17 and 19**. The League will supply 1st and 2nd place trophies after completion of all playoff games. 3rd Place teams will receive medals. All regular season games that have a potential impact on playoff seeding must be played by **July 14, 2015**. Regular season games not played by July 14 do not have to be played. All teams will be seeded by their regular season league records.

If a tie exists for any of the seeds after all league games are completed then the seeding for tied teams will be determined first by head to head results, second by fewest runs allowed, third by most runs scored and finally by a coin toss. All decisions on seeding by the LOH Commissioner are final. For tournament play after July 17th, the number one seed will play the worst seed and so on. The tournament will be single elimination.

All league rules apply to all games with the following exceptions/additions:

- 3 innings per pitcher per game
- 6 innings per pitcher for the tournament
- **NEW: Games will not start an inning 90 minutes following the time of the first pitch**
- **NEW: Tournament championship games will not be subject to the time limit.**
- "Innings pitched" forms will be handed out prior to first tournament games
- All forms must be signed by coaches after each game
- Forms need to be turned in after your final game each tournament day
- Violation of pitching rules will result in forfeiture of game by the offending team
- No substitute or non-rostered players from other LOH teams may be used
- **NEW: Extra innings will invoke the California Tie Breaker Rule: Each team on offense will put the batter who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half of the inning on second base and will start the half inning with one out. Play will continue until a team is ahead at the end of an inning.**
- **NEW: As a courtesy, each team should supply one game ball for each game.**

- NEW: Non-host LOH communities will offer to their umpires the opportunity to umpire tournament games.
- NEW: Tournament games should avoid home plate umpires related to either team when possible.
- The winner of the tournament is the winner of the league.

Rosters: By April 30, all teams through their community commissioner must submit a team roster (via e-mail) to the League Committee and to the Director designated by each community that contains the following player information: Name, City, Phone # and Date of Birth. Include uniform numbers when possible. Rosters must also include the team coach and assistants with the following information: Name, City, Phone # , Cell Phone # and email address. Each league head coach MAY receive a copy of all league rosters – upon request.

Coaches may compare these rosters to game lineups. Each team must submit a roster by April 30. Players may be added to the roster up to June 15 by submitting a roster change request to the League Committee. The request must include the reason for the roster change (ex. Replacing injured player, player moved into community, etc.)

Scheduling: In order to complete the schedule, all information including field availability, field locations, coaches names, phone and email address, preliminary player roster including name, DOB, city and phone number must be completed and received by the League Committee by no later than 5 days after the league scheduling meeting (usually the last week in March or first week in April) or the team may not be included in the league schedule.

General Rules

1. Players in this league must be in 3rd or 4th Grade when registration takes place in order to play. For Home Schooled children, players must not turn 11 before September 1 of the current season. Exceptions can only be made by agreement of the League Committee.
2. Each team must share a lineup prior to the start of each game – including player numbers.
3. The home team will keep the official scorebook for both teams . If the score is disputed and the coaches cannot resolve it, the umpire will be the final decision maker.
4. The home team is also responsible for calling/emailing the final score to the designated web site (www.Monchesreclub.org) within 1 week after a completed game. Please include the team age group and game number. Every team must have an identified individual on the roster that will be responsible to report the game score. It is the responsibility of the home team to report a score. If a score is not reported after one week, then either the commissioner of the league or the visiting coach may report the score.
5. Scheduled games: Once officially scheduled, games can be cancelled or postponed only because of weather related conditions (by 5pm of game day) including heavy rain, wet, muddy, puddle field or lightning. Coaches will make a good faith attempt to reschedule rained out games.
 - Rained out games may be played at any LOH venue and also on Saturdays/Sundays.
 - The home team from the original game will be responsible for baseballs and umpires.
 - The home team shall provide a minimum of two alternate dates within 7 days of the rained out game.
 - If the home team does not provide two alternate dates, then the visiting team is awarded a 1-0 win. But, the single run may not count toward any tie-breaking totals.

- If the visiting team cannot make either of the two alternate dates (provided the dates do not conflict with other LOH games or require a team to play games on three consecutive days), then the home team shall be awarded a 1-0 win, but the single run may not count toward any tie-breaking run totals.
6. No protests allowed. Problems can be discussed at the coaches meeting at the end of the season.
 7. Players can be called out or ejected for throwing equipment. This decision is up to the umpire, although the umpires should first give a warning unless the incident is intentional or flagrant.
 8. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their team and fans.
 9. Heckling by players or fans is not allowed. Arguing umpire calls will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and after one warning, may result in ejection. Continued incidents will result in a game forfeit. It is the responsibility of each community commissioner to give a copy of these league rules to every umpire they expect to use. Umpires regardless of age are expected to read and understand these rules. Questions can be forwarded to the League Committee if need be.
10. NEW: All umpire calls are final.
 - *Only head coaches may ask for an explanation, and the other head coach may be present for the explanation.*
 - *Once an umpire declares a call final, the play will stand.*
 - *Coaches should apply common sense and set an example for players and parents once a call is final.*
 11. NEW: Umpires may eject coaches for negatively interacting with players of opposing team. (
 - *Umpires should give an initial warning.*
 - *Additional interactions will result in an ejection.*
 12. Coaches should avoid conversations with umpires during games to avoid the look of impropriety. (New)
 13. Umpires may not stand by either team's bench for any extended period of time between innings. (New)
 14. Game play shall be governed by the rules of Major League Baseball – except for rules highlighted specific to Land of Hills. (New)
 15. All players present at the game must play at least two innings in the field, with the following exceptions:
 - Coaches and umpires must be notified if a team member will not participate due to disciplinary actions or injury.
 - Ejections for unsportsmanlike conduct - failure to comply will result in forfeit of the game.
 16. No infield fly rule.
 17. The home team coach will decide when a game shall be suspended or discontinued due to bad weather. In no case shall a game start or continue when there is lightning in the area.
 18. A team will consist of ten (10) rostered players with four (4) outfielders. In the case of an injury, a team will be allowed to continue with eight (8). A team will also be allowed to play with less than 8 players upon agreement between the two coaches. *In the event, an extra player becomes available, then that player may be added to the bottom of the batting order.*
 19. All LOH 3-4th Grade league teams may share players in order to avoid a forfeited league game due to lack of players.
 20. If a team requires a sub from another LOH 3-4th grade team, then they must play with no more than 10 players.
 21. Coaches using substitute players must notify the opposing coach of the use of the substitutes.

22. Substitute players may not pitch or catch in a LOH league game AND must hold the last batting order positions.
23. A maximum of two substitute players may be used.
24. Substitute players cannot playing for, or be rostered on a select team; however, players from a league team may play on a non-LOH, tournament only team.
25. Injury rule for taking outs for injury vs. player leaving for other reasons. Use state league rule. If a player leaves the game due to an injury or illness, there is an automatic out for that player the next time his spot comes up in the batting order. His spot is then skipped on subsequent at bats. Once the out is taken, this player may NOT return to this game. *Note: Opposing coaches should discuss with the umpire and agree upon the final disposition of the player and his removal from the game. Any exceptions made to this rule must be agreed upon by opposing coaches and umpires in the spirit of good sportsmanship.*
26. All players must have the same uniform (hats and shirts), if possible. (New)
27. Any local or "house" rules must be declared prior to the start of a game. No "house" rule will permit a game to unfairly end with a half inning played.

Field Preparation

1. The home team is responsible for having the playing field in good condition.
2. Bases and pitcher's rubber must be staked down.
3. Bases are 60 feet. The pitcher's rubber is 46 feet from home plate.

Game Rules

1. The Home Team will supply two new baseballs for each game.
2. The Home team will provide the home plate umpire or both umpires if both are paid. The visiting team will provide one base umpire unless home team provides paid umpires.
3. The home team coach will determine when conditions prevent the playing of a game and shall contact the visiting team's coach by 4:30 p.m. of game date. The home coach is responsible for verbally talking with the visiting coach—no emails, no postings on webs. Rain dates must be rescheduled within 7 days and played within 21 days or by July 14, 2012, whichever comes first. The home team coach must take the initiative to communicate to the visiting coach and is responsible for notifying the Community Directors of the date and field of choice to insure availability. If the coaches cannot agree on a time, date or place, the League Committee will determine same and notify both teams within 3 days of game day. Both teams that fail to reschedule an unplayed game within the above time constraints will be given a forfeit.
4. Games start promptly at 6:00 pm. Teams arriving more than 15 minutes late shall forfeit the game; however, this rule may be waived by mutual consent of the coaches.
5. Visiting team gets the field for the 15 minutes immediately prior to scheduled game start time.
6. No new inning may start 2 hours and 5 minutes after actual game start time. In case of a tie, the home team coach will determine if the game can be safely completed. Both coaches can also agree to resume a tie game at a later date or end play with a tie score.
7. Games shall consist of 6 innings. Three and one-half (3 ½) innings is considered a full game if the home team is ahead, four (4) if the visiting team is ahead. Score reverts back to the last completed inning for a game called in the middle of an inning.

8. A game can be considered over by the losing team if the winning team has a fifteen (15) run lead at the end of **four (4)** innings or anytime thereafter.
9. Three (3) outs or a maximum of five (5) runs per inning, whichever comes first, except for the last inning in which case three (3) outs will constitute an inning.

Pitching

1. A pitcher will pitch no more than three (3) innings per game or six (6) innings in **three consecutive calendar days**. **Pitching should be limited based on Calendar Days not on 24 hour periods.**
2. Any pitch thrown by a pitcher in an inning constitutes a full inning.
3. No pitcher can re-enter a game as a pitcher once he is removed from that position.
4. Umpires must call balls and strikes from behind home plate. Three strikes is an out. Foul balls count as strikes 1 and 2 only. No walks are allowed.
5. Each team will also designate an adult to pitch to their team. The adult pitcher will pitch overhand **from a spot no more than 1 foot from the pitching rubber** and can remain on the mound throughout the game in the background of the player pitcher.
6. The adult pitcher may use his glove for self-defense only.
7. 3-4 grade pitchers must maintain a proximity / location in relation to the coach pitcher of 6 feet to the left or right of the coach pitcher.
8. The adult pitcher will take over pitching as soon as the 4th ball is called by the umpire as no walks are allowed. The adult pitcher will continue to pitch to that batter only. The player pitcher will resume pitching to the next batter. The player pitcher will always be in the game for defensive purposes.
9. The strike zone can be slightly expanded by several inches in all directions in order to allow the player pitchers to develop.
10. **Pitchers may wear sunglasses. (New)**

Base Running

1. Players must wear helmets at all times while in the field of play. Intentional removal of a helmet while base running when the ball is live shall result in the runner being given a warning for the first such incident or being declared "OUT" for any further incidents.
2. If the ball is out of play, the runners shall be awarded the base to which they were headed plus one base.
 - Example #1 - An over throw out of bounds while a runner is going from first base to second - the runner is awarded third base.
 - Example #2 - An over throw out of bounds while a runner is heading back to first base after going part way to second - the runner is awarded second base.
3. A courtesy runner is allowed at any time for the catcher – **provided the catcher is the catcher of record of the previous inning**. Any courtesy runner utilized should be the last out recorded. **A courtesy runner for the catcher is recommended after two outs.**
4. If a play is made at home plate, the runner must slide. It is a judgment call by the umpire if the play is close enough to require a slide. The umpire must call the runner out if the runner does not slide when the umpire decides a slide was required. The catcher cannot block home plate or make a play for the runner if he does not have the ball or will not have the ball before the runner reaches the base. The umpire shall warn the catcher for the first infraction and can eject the catcher from the game for flagrant or further infractions.

5. No lead-offs until the ball is hit. A runner is allowed one grace step if he leaves before the ball is hit if the batter swings and misses. Except in the case of a swing and a miss noted above, the umpire will call out any runner taking more than one step from the base before the ball is hit.
6. Head first slides are permitted at all bases. (New)

Batting

1. No designated hitter.
2. All players present at the game must bat in common numerical order.
3. No walks.
4. No bunting or fake bunting (eg squaring around to bunt) NEW.
5. Batters must wear a batting helmet.
6. The batter will be called out if he fails to swing at a 3rd called strike.
7. There is continuous batting.
8. An inning ends when a team has scored five runs (3-4th Grade 5 run limit).
9. A team will be permitted to score more than five runs if trailing by five or more runs in the final inning of the game.
10. Batter interference is subject to umpire judgment.

Equipment

1. Metal spikes are not allowed.
2. Catchers must wear a protective helmet, facemask, throat protector, shin guards, chest protector and cup.
3. There is no restriction on a bat's weight to length ratio; however, bats are limited to a 2 5/8" maximum barrel diameter. Any adult league bat (those with a weight to length ratio of -3) must conform to current NFHS standards (WSYBL rules).