

LAMAR LITTLE LEAGUE

MACHINE AAA DIVISION GROUND RULES

Spring 2008

All competition is to be conducted under official Little League rules. Refer to the Minor League Official Regulations and Playing Rules. The following are Lamar Little League local rules. They are intended only as additions to the official Little League rules.

1. All games must start on time. The length of the game is determined from the scheduled starting time. If a prior game concludes one minute before the next scheduled starting time, the managers must have their teams take the field immediately and start on time. The instance in which the scheduled starting time will be waived is when a prior game actually encroaches on the scheduled start of the following game. In that case, time limits will begin five minutes from the end of the prior game.
2. All games will be a maximum of six innings in length. **No new inning will start after one hour, 30 minutes from the scheduled start time.** To help speed up play, the umpires, managers, and coaches should allow no more than 60 seconds between innings or sides retired. Time outs are limited to one offensive and defensive time out per inning with no more per game than specified in the official rules.
3. **A five run per inning rule is in effect through the first 4 innings.** Note – continuation scoring will be allowed past 5 runs. If the batter hits the ball to score the 5th run, base runners may continue to score until the lead runner is stopped or a third out is made. It is possible to score more than 5 runs per inning.
4. A ten rule rule applies after 4 innings (3 ½ if the home team is ahead).
5. If time runs out before a game is “official” (four complete or 3-1/2 innings if the home team is ahead), the game will be stopped and resumed later. Any suspended games must be rescheduled with the approval of the Division VP.
6. **Play will continue until the lead runner is stopped and/or the umpire has called for time.** The position of each base runner will be last base legally touched unless otherwise determined by the umpire. There is no other rule regarding stopping the runners. (i.e. location of the baseball or pitcher in possession). We do this to encourage the appropriate play to be attempted.
7. All players on the roster will bat in continuous order. All player participation rules will be enforced and are the responsibility of the manager. Free substitution of defensive players is allowed.
8. A player who arrives after the start of the game will be inserted at the bottom of the batting order.
9. Stealing is permitted from the start of the season. This includes stealing home.
10. Bunting has never been allowed in the Machine Division for a couple of reasons. The first is a safety issue where we would not want the infield "drawn-in", and the batter to swing away. The second is to encourage the batters to swing the bat. The first instance of bunting will result in a warning to the manager, the second instance of bunting will be a called strike and the third and future instances will result in an automatic out. Fake bunting is not allowed!
11. A base runner cannot lead off a base. A base runner may not leave the base until the ball is hit or it passes over the plate. Please note Rule 7.13 regarding runners who leave the base early.
12. Balls and strikes will be called by the umpire. A batter will be called out on three called and/or swinging strikes. If a batter has four balls called on him, the ball count will revert to 0, the strike count will remain. No

base on balls will be awarded. Once the ball has been returned to the pitcher, the machine may be adjusted immediately after any four-ball count. **This is the only time the pitching machine can be adjusted. No pitching machine adjustments between innings.**

13. If a batted ball strikes the pitching machine, the ball is dead and the batter and all runners automatically advance one base. If the batted ball strikes the umpire who is operating the machine, the ball is live and in play. The cord of the machine shall be considered as the machine.
14. Base coaches may consist of two adults or one adult and one player. No defensive coaches will be allowed on the field. They must remain in the dugout. No on-deck batters are allowed per official Little League rules.
15. If a problem occurs with the pitching machine that cannot be corrected within 10 minutes, each team shall furnish an adult to pitch to his respective team. Each batter will be given six pitches to put the ball in play. Failing to put the ball in play, the batter will be called out. In the instance of three missing swings, the batter will be called out.
16. Pitching machine is to be set at **40 mph** for the spring season. The pitching machine should be set with the rear leg placed in front of the rubber. The pitching position should be played left or right of the machine, but not in front, with one foot in the dirt and one in the grass.
17. Players must be rotated every 2 innings to a new position. No player can play the same position for more than 2 innings in a single game.
18. A team may utilize only 3 outfielders.
19. Ages 6, 7 & 8 year olds.
20. Parents or coaches will fulfill the role of base umpires. Home team (3rd base dugout) will umpire 1st base side and visiting team (1st base dugout) will umpire 3rd base side. Should a coach be a base umpire he will no longer be a coach for the team, his duties will be that of an umpire only for the game. Umpires are to feed the machine.
21. Rain-out games will be rescheduled by the Division VP. **For rain-out information, call 713-238-5567 after 4:30 PM on game day.**
22. The infield fly rule is not in effect.
23. NO GENTLEMENS AGREEMENTS ARE TO BE MADE IN ANY

WAY SHAPE OR FORM THAT ALTER THESE GROUND RULES.

NOTE: BOTH MANAGERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- A. Conduct of the players and parents before, during, and after the game.
- B. Cleaning the dugouts and grandstand areas around the field after the game.
- C. Raking and preparing the field for play and raking the field and returning equipment to the container at the end of games for the day/night. Both teams should assist in setting up the field for play (getting bases, chalking the field, etc.) and raking after each game. The home team's primary responsibilities include preparing the field for play and maintaining the score book. The visiting team's primary responsibility is to

operate the scoreboard. Failure to comply will result in suspension or dismissal. If you have questions, please call the Division VP.

End of Season Tie Breakers

1. Head to head
2. Runs Allowed.
3. Runs Scored.
4. Coin Flip.