



## **PETALUMA LITTLE LEAGUES INTER LEAGUE RULES: AA MINOR DIVISION**

All games will be played by Little League rules (the book). Modifications to certain rules that are allowed under local rules are listed below. This document was agreed upon by all three leagues on March 1st, 2021.

### **LITTLE LEAGUE MINOR (AA) DIVISION SPECIAL RULES**

- A) **Roster**: The roster of each team will be determined by a draft conducted at the beginning of the season. Once an official team roster is set at the beginning of the season, it cannot be modified except to fill an absence through a player agent from a lower division or waitlist.
- B) **Playing Time**: No player will remain out of the defensive line-up for two (2) consecutive innings. Managers and coaches shall rotate defensive players.
- C) **Scoring**: During all innings of a game a team is limited to scoring five runs per inning. If an out-of-the-park home run is hit, all runners on base, plus the batter will be allowed to score and the batting team is allowed to finish the play, but a maximum of 5 runs will be recorded. The Run Rule, 4.10(e) does not apply for the AA division's regular season. For playoffs the Run Rule 4.10(e) will apply for the AA division.
- D) **Pitching**: During the first half of the regular season and will not be used after April 12th. A pitching machine will be used for the first three (3) innings of each game. Players will pitch the remaining innings of the game. The pitching machine may be used for fewer innings in a game based on mutual agreement by participating managers prior to the start of the game. An adult member of the coaching staff of the team on offense will run the pitching machine. This adult coach should not receive throws from other defensive players or participate in the field. Their sole purpose is to feed the machine. A player will receive a maximum of 5 pitches from the pitching machine.
- A player can strike out when the pitching machine is in use. The player is declared out after the fifth pitch unless they foul the ball off, then they can continue to bat until a single ball passes homeplate without being struck by the bat. Players will pitch all innings of the game during the second half of the season and in the playoffs.
- E) **Time Limits**: No new inning --defined as starting at the completion of the last out in the prior inning-- shall begin after the game has been in progress for 1:45 hour. A game officially ends after 2:00 hours. The game start time will commence on the first pitch and be monitored by the game's umpire(s). Games can end in a tie. There is no time limit for playoffs and tournament play as these games cannot end in a tie.
- F) **Base Stealing**: A player may not steal a base when the pitching machine is in use. A player may only steal one (1) base on any pitch. A player may only steal one (1) base per attempt and may not advance to an additional base on a defensive error. A player may steal home only when the catcher overthrows the pitcher (the ball lands behind the pitcher whether underthrown, overthrown or off of the pitcher's glove where the ball lands behind the pitcher). A player that steals or attempts to steal home under any other term(s) will return to third base and will not be called out, whether they were tagged out by the defensive team or not. The ball is dead when this illegal steal or attempt to steal by the base runner occurs.
- G) **Walks**: There shall be no intentional walks allowed.

H) Batting Order: All players present at the start of a game shall be listed on their team's batting order and shall bat in that order throughout the game, whether or not they are playing in the field during any particular inning. This shall be known as the "continuous batting order" rule.

A team's continuous batting order will remain unchanged for the season and in use from game-to-game, such that the first batter in the order for a game is the player following the last out in the previous game.

This batting order will remain the same for the season with two exceptions. 1) Managers may change the batting order for the remainder of the season on April 12th. 2) In the playoffs, managers may change the batting order for each game.

I) Game Status: Games should start on time and as scheduled. Any team that can not field a team, needs to notify the opposing team 24 hours in advance. Failure to do so, will result in a forfeit. The eight player rule in effect for the 2021 season. The 9th player (missing from the game) will be placed in the 9th position of the batting order and be recorded as a "skip" in each batting rotation. Games may be cancelled prior to starting for weather by agreement of both managers and the adult umpire. Both managers should ensure that the affected leagues board is notified of the cancellation or game suspension for proper scheduling. Games in progress may be suspended or called by the adult umpire on the field. Makeup games will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

J) Playoffs: A playoff format will be annually determined by representatives of each league. The format will be based on the number of teams in the Minor (AA) Division and final season standings. Home field advantage will be determined by a coin flip conducted prior to the beginning of the first pitch at the plate meeting with the umpire who will flip the coin.

K) Playoff Seeding: The team with the best record will receive the top seed in the Minor (AA) Division Championship Playoffs. All minor league teams will participate in the playoffs. If multiple teams have the same regular season record, the advantage will be determined by the following: 1) Team with the best head-to-head record. If still tied, then; 2) Team with the lowest total runs allowed between the tied teams. If still tied, then; 3) Team with the lowest total runs allowed against all other teams in the full season. If still tied then: 4) A coin toss

L) Umpires: Hosting leagues will provide the umpire, unless they need help from other leagues. While adult umpires are preferred, a youth umpire age 13 or older is allowed. Under limited exceptions, a youth umpire may be less than 13 years old when the League believes that they are mature enough to umpire. Under such circumstances, the youth umpire(s) shall be older than the players they are umpiring.

When a youth umpire is umpiring a game, an adult umpire (umpire, coach, board member) will be on the field as the second umpire. All disputes against a call made by the youth umpire will go directly to the adult umpire on the field. Managers are only allowed to talk with the adult umpire regarding the youth umpires call and ask them to clarify or to dispute calls that are made by the youth umpire. Adult umpires should listen to the dispute and then privately meet with the youth umpire to discuss the dispute. The adult umpire will then make the final ruling and let the manager know what the ruling is.

A league may choose (due to Covid restrictions) to have an adult umpire or a defensive coach behind the pitcher mound to call balls and strikes instead of having an umpire behind the plate during the regular season. This does not apply for the playoffs.

Any manager, coach, parent, player, that displays inappropriate behavior, bad language or aggression that is directed at the youth umpire may be ejected from the game by the adult umpire on the field and would be subject to discipline from their league. It is strongly recommended that playoff and championship games be umpired by adults and not youth umpires.

M) Playoff and Championship Hosting: Each league will have a choice of hosting at least one playoff game. Higher seeds determined by regular season standings will host playoff games over lower seeds. The highest seed for the regular season gets the option of hosting the championship game and consolation game. The lowest seed will have the option of hosting one game in the lower bracket if there is a double elimination playoff schedule.

N) Score Book/Pitch Count: The official score book and pitch count will be held by the home team as determined by the regular schedule or by coin flip in the playoff and championship games. Both team managers sign off on pitch count sheets at the end of the game.

O) Field Prep: Field prep will be completed by the hosting league or home team if both teams are in the same league. Hosting league or home team will provide game balls.

P) Trophies: Trophies will be presented to the 1st place team. The cost of trophies will be split between the three leagues, but ordered by the league that hosts the championship game, as determined by regular season seeding.

Q) Pool Play: Pool play will be allowed in the AA Division as outlined in each Leagues Local Rules. Pool Play will not be allowed in the playoffs.