

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CITY OF ESTHERVILLE
2024 BOY'S JUNIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL RULES
(Currently in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades as of Spring 2024)

Official Little League Rules, to govern, except where covered in the following:

- I. **GENERAL GAME**
 - A. Second team listed on schedule is home team. They will occupy the first base dugout, furnish the base umpire.
 - B. All games are scheduled to be 5 innings in length. A tie at the end of 5 innings, teams will follow the international tie breaker rule. If still a tie after one inning the game is a tie.
 - C. Continuous Time Clock. If there is time left, you keep playing. No new innings after 75 minutes of play. A complete game is 5 innings unless the game has been in progress 1 hour and 15 minutes - then a complete game will be three innings. If the game is in the third, fourth or fifth inning at the end of the time period, the inning will be finished, and then the game is complete. No infield practice will be allowed prior to the 2nd game.
 - D. There is a 15-run rule after three complete innings, and a 10-run rule after four. **Maximum 5 runs per inning.**
 - E. Intentionally walking batters is not allowed.
 - F. Pitching distance is 46 feet.
 - G. Bases are set at 60 feet.
 - H. Games called due to darkness, or weather will be restarted at the exact point it was called and the normal game will be finished. (See rule B-1).
 - I. Games may be started with a minimum of 7 players, no automatic outs.
 - J. Games must start as scheduled. NO time grace periods.
- II. **EQUIPMENT**
 - A. All playing equipment is checked out to the coach at the start of the season. It is his responsibility to return it in good condition with no items missing.
 - B. Five (5) pitches between innings.
 - C. No metal cleats or metal spikes on shoes. *
 - D. All base runners wear a helmet. *
 - E. Catchers must wear all protective equipment. * As coach, it is your responsibility to see that all equipment is worn properly at all times. Stop an injury before it happens.
 - F. Misuse of equipment by players shall not be tolerated. (i.e. throwing of helmets or bats, etc.) Players doing this may be suspended from the game.
 - G. A maximum of 2 3/4" size bats will be allowed and must have the USSSA stamp.
- III. **DUGOUT**
 - A. No pop or food to be allowed in the dugout.
 - B. All players and equipment to be in an orderly fashion in the dugout. Only "on deck batter" and the "batter at the plate" should be up and out of the dugout.
- IV. **STEALING**
 - A. Base runners cannot lead off until the ball has crossed home plate.
 - B. **Stealing home on passed balls is NOT allowed.**
 - C. No running on dropped third strike.
- V. **BATTING**
 - A. Every player present bats in an order.
- VI. **FIELDING**
 - A. Only 10 players on field at one time (four outfielders). Fourth outfielder cannot be on the infield.
 - B. All players present should field at least half the game. They can be rotated or back-to-back.
- VII. **PITCHING**
 - A. A pitcher can pitch no more than nine consecutive outs per game.
 - B. If traveling baseball pitchers pitch on Friday and 3 innings or less on Saturday and Sunday then they are allowed to pitch on Monday.
 - C. A pulled pitcher cannot go back in to pitch in the same game.
 - D. No curve balls.
 - E. No balks will be called but pitcher must set.
 - F. **No walks will be allowed. Once a pitcher has thrown ball four, the batter's coach will pitch to the player until the ball is put in play or he strikes out**
 - G. Pitcher must be pulled on second visit in any inning.
 - G. No hidden ball tricks
- VIII. **BASE RUNNERS**
 - A. All base runners need to try to avoid contact and must slide in any contact situation, making sure they don't leave the ground or an automatic out will result. This will be a judgement call at the discretion of the umpire.
 - B. If a runner leaves the base before the ball crosses home plate, a no pitch situation exists and the runner that left the base early is out.
 - C. No head first slides at any base. Runner will be called out.
- IX. **OVERTHROWS**
 - A. In playing field as many bases as runner can get.
 - B. Out of playing field - one base.
- X. **ADDING PLAYERS**
 - A. Players may be added to any team roster ONLY by the Parks and Recreation Department. DO NOT do this on your own.
- XI. **PROTESTS - NO PROTESTS - DECISION OF THE UMPIRE IS FINAL.**