

Morada Little League

Local League Rules

The purpose of Little League baseball is to give young people an opportunity to learn the game of baseball. It is equally important that Little League provide an opportunity for the participants to learn good sportsmanship. At Morada Little League good sportsmanship means that players show respect to their opponents, their teammates, the umpires, league representatives and fans. It means that **all participants** learn both to win **AND** lose with grace and dignity. The players mimic their coach/parent and his/her behavior regarding umpires, opponents, teammates and attitudes about winning and losing. **Morada Little League expects its managers and coaches to be outstanding role models and examples of good sportsmanship at all times.** It expects no less from parents and other spectators.

Little League Regulation XIV entitled “Field Decorum” sets out the potential penalty when a Little League participant violates rules of conduct and good sportsmanship: “Any player, manager, coach, umpire, or league representative who is involved in a verbal or physical altercation, or incident of unsportsmanlike conduct, at the game site or any other Little League activity, is subject to disciplinary action by the (Morada Little League) board of directors.” Managers and coaches are advised that unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated from anyone participating in or attending Morada Little League games or other activities. In particular, **Morada Little League will not tolerate any verbal or physical abuse of umpires, players, or other participants.** Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, verbal warning from an umpire and/or league representative, immediate ejection from the playing area, and suspension or expulsion from future games or activities. The purpose of this code of conduct is to encourage the Little League values of teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play.

Little League relies on a devoted legion of adult volunteers to help ensure that the organization remains structured and runs smoothly. We are always looking for responsible and enthusiastic individuals to support and coordinate Little League events and activities, as well as each family doing their share to make their child’s Little League experience the best it can possibly be. As a volunteer, you should have a keen interest in the safety, well-being, and overall development of children.

As a volunteer, you have the opportunity to spend quality time with your child in a safe, fun-filled environment. Oftentimes, parent and child social lives parallel each other. Volunteering allows your life and your child’s life to intersect on common ground, with shared interests and goals. You will discover that the benefits of volunteering are endless.

Please remember, Little League is not just something your child does, it’s something you do with your child.

General Rules

1. All local league rules contained herein shall pertain to baseball as well as softball and shall be in effect and remain in effect for the entire baseball year. All local rules shall be reviewed and approved by a simple majority of the board of directors for the next year, 30 days prior to the beginning of the season.
2. Any Morada Little League volunteer who provides regular service to the league and/or has repetitive access to, or contact with, players or teams must satisfactorily clear a background check.
3. All managers will be provided with an orientation to Morada Little League at the managers' meeting prior to assuming duties.
4. Managers and/or coaches **MUST** have medical release forms in their possession for all team players during practice and games. They must be readily available and produced upon request by any Umpire, Board of Directors official, District 8 official or Little League Incorporated official. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.
5. Managers and coaches are responsible for the conduct of the players.
6. Make-up, rainout and playoff games, will be rescheduled by the Player Agent or the Board of Directors.
7. All first-half rainouts, ties, make-up games, and any first-half playoff games will be played before the second half begins, as time permits.
8. The home team is responsible for preparing playing fields for play.
9. Each team is responsible for ensuring that the dugouts and stands are cleaned after their game.
10. The visiting team is responsible for emptying the garbage cans at their respective fields after their game.
11. In compliance with the Little League Inc. qualified safety program, Managers or at least one (1) coach from each team must attend a required skills and umpiring fundamentals training clinic.
12. Minor A through Senior division teams will be scheduled to umpire a number of games during the season. Each team's manager will be responsible to supply an umpiring staff to officiate the scheduled games for his/her team, as established by the schedule.
13. The home plate umpire will submit a completed report form to the Umpire in Chief after each game in the event of an injury, ejection or notable event.

14. In the event of an injury to a player, managers shall: a) not leave a player unattended; b) notify parent or guardian immediately; c) notify the Safety Officer within 48 hours; d) provide a written report to the Safety Officer; e) if medical attention is necessary and the player misses more than seven (7) continuous days of participation, a physician or other accredited medical provider must give written permission for a return to full baseball activity to the Player Agent prior to returning to practice or play. This rule is strictly enforced and if the player is on the field before submitting proper release, practices or play will be suspended until the player is removed from the playing field.
15. Teams will be assigned snack bar duty and be required to provide parents to render this service in the Morada Little League snack bar. Failure to supply service will result in a Morada Little League Board representative suspending game play until the snack bar is sufficiently staffed with at least three (3) people, no less than one adult and no child under the age of 15 years.
16. **A Morada Little League representative is required to stay with the snack bar manager to secure the snack bar and premises at closing.**
17. All male players, at Minor B level and above, will wear an athletic supporter and a hard cup during practice and games. Male players at the T-Ball level are encouraged to wear **at least** an athletic supporter and soft cup.
18. In the event of a late sign up, if roster positions are available, the player will be evaluated for ability and placed on an appropriate team by the Player Agent or the Board of Directors.
19. No game shall be forfeited due to lack of players, at the start of game play. Game time will only be held for 15 minutes from the scheduled start time. In such an event, this matter will be presented to the Board of Directors for a decision.
20. A coaching staff consists of one (1) manager and two (2) coaches in the dugout. Coaches must be on the roster as such. Softball coaching staff must include one (1) female member.
21. Players must not wear watches, rings, pins, jewelry or other metallic items. (Exception: Jewelry that alerts medical personnel to a specific condition is permissible.)
22. Practice on any Morada Little League field on game day is prohibited.
23. An adult manager and coach will be allowed to coach at both bases when their respective team is at bat. There must be at least one (1) adult in the dugout at all times.
24. No new inning will start after 7:30p.m. on a school night. The start of an inning is when the pitcher delivers the ball to the batter. Innings started before 7:30p.m. will be completed, unless a game is called due to darkness, lightning etc.
25. Managers or coaches must not warm up a pitcher at home plate or in the bullpen or elsewhere at any time.
26. Little League rules **always** apply and take precedent—**read and refer to your rulebook.**

Scorekeeping

1. Each Team must supply a minimum of two (2) scorekeepers, who must attend the scorekeeping clinic prior to the start of the season. Exception: Scorekeepers that can document prior training and/or experience, may be excused on an individual basis.
2. The home team will supply a scorekeeper to maintain the official scorebook. An alternate scorekeeper from the team will maintain the home team book. One scorekeeper may not keep both the official book and team book during a game.
3. In accordance with Little League Regulation VI, there will be one official person to keep the pitch count for all **baseball** games Minor A and above.
4. A designated scorer for the visiting team will maintain the visiting team scorebook.
5. All three (3) scorekeepers will sit together in a league-designated area. Scorekeepers shall not sit in the stands and/or dugout, and may not fraternize with the players, parents or spectators. The official scorekeeper is considered an official during the game. The official scorekeeper shall confer only with the game Umpire in Chief (plate umpire), not coaches.
6. All books shall be in agreement before being signed by the official umpire and team managers. The official scorer will make the final judgment pertaining to a scoring question.
7. After the official scorebook is signed it is the official scorekeeper's responsibility to give the book to the board member on duty.
8. The official score book will be maintained in a manner as determined by the Morada Little League Board of Directors.
9. A copy of each team's lineup card shall be stapled to the official scorebook/page.
10. The official scorebook must have the following:
 - a. Date
 - b. Playing field Example: Minor A, Major etc.
 - c. Scorer's name
 - d. Official game start time
 - e. Name of teams playing
 - f. Pitching changes and inning they occurred
 - g. Line up changes/substitutions
 - h. All rostered players, even if absent
 - i. Signatures of plate umpire and both managers
 - j. Pitchers name and # of pitches pitched (Minor A and up), or for softball, # of innings pitched.
11. **AT NO TIME SHALL A MANAGER, COACH, PARENT, BOARD OFFICIAL, OR PLAYER ATTEMPT TO ALTER, INFLUENCE OR CHANGE ANY ENTRY IN THE OFFICIAL OR TEAM SCOREBOOK.**

Tee Ball Rules

1. Players must be age five (5), six (6) or seven (7) by April 30th of the playing season.
2. Players will be designated to teams by the Player Agent, with the first priority to balance each team with regard to age.
3. All weekday games will start promptly at 5:30 P.M. (unless otherwise specified). Games will last no longer than one (1) hour, unless agreed upon by both managers.
4. NO SCOREBOOK WILL BE USED DURING TEE BALL GAMES FOR ANY REASON.
5. The distance between bases shall be fifty (50) feet. A fifteen (15) foot dead ball line will be designated between home plate and the pitcher's mound area for each game.
6. Defensive play
 - a) Every player present shall play defense each inning. All players are to be rotated into different positions each inning. A maximum of six (6) players will play the infield, with remaining players situated in the outfield.
 - b) Infielders may not position themselves in the baseline and may not block bases. Runners shall have the right-of-way.
 - c) A maximum of three (3) board approved adults shall be allowed on the field of play during defensive play. Managers/coaches may stand behind defensive players in the outfield to instruct players on how to make a play. At no time may a manager or coach interfere with play. Managers and coaches are permitted at the end of a play to call "time out" and instruct their player for not longer than one (1) minute.
 - d) Pitchers must remain on the rubber/line prior to the ball being hit by a batter.
7. Offensive play
 - a) All players present shall bat each inning with the batting order being reversed in the second inning. There is no on-deck circle and all players not batting or on base are required to remain in the dugout.
 - b) The manager or coach for the team batting is responsible for setting up the batting tee, placing the ball on the batting tee and removing the batting tee when a runner approaches home plate. Players or spectators will not be allowed to alter or remove the batting tee.
 - c) When the ball is thrown to the pitcher after a hit ball, all runners will remain at their bases and not advance, regardless if the pitcher catches the ball.
 - d) Runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is batted.
 - e) When a thrown ball crosses the first or third baselines, it will be ruled a "dead ball" and any base runners half way or more to the next base will be awarded the base. Base runners less than half way shall return to the previous base. One base maximum on an overthrow.

f) Foul ball - the rules are the same as baseball, however any batted ball, which does not travel out of the designated dead ball territory, shall be ruled a "dead ball." Base runners may not advance, nor defensive plays be made on base runners in the event of a foul ball or dead ball situation.

g) Managers and coaches shall position themselves at first and third bases for the purpose of coaching base runners. Players may not be used to coach bases.

h) There must be at least one (1) board approved adult in the dugout.

8. Batter's box

a) The manager or coach may position a batter in the batter's box once to instruct the batter on the correct batting stance. The manager or coach may stand behind the catcher to instruct the batter on how to hit the ball. At no time may a manager or coach interfere with play.

9. Umpires

a) Managers and coaches of the defensive team will act as umpires for the purpose of making "out" or "safe" calls on the batter and/or runners. The umpires direct the games at all times and no complaints will be allowed regarding the umpire's judgment.

b) When the ball has been returned to the pitcher's mound area, or an out has been made, the umpire will call "time" and the ball shall be returned to the batter's box area. After all players are in their defensive positions, and the batter is ready, the umpire will call "play ball."