

# TULSA LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL, INC.

## 2011 LOCAL LEAGUE RULES

### BIG11

## GENERAL RULES

1. The Umpire-In-Chief will keep the official time for purposes of curfew.
2. The league will provide enough new balls for all season games to each head coach. It is the coach's responsibility to provide one new league provided game ball to the Umpire-In-Chief prior to the start of each game. **No baseballs except those provided by the league will be accepted for play.**
3. All teams must play in full uniform as provided by the league.
4. The home team's score book is the official scorebook. The Umpire-In-Chief is to complete the Tulsa Little League Game Score Card and sign the home team's score book after the game.
5. Team uniforms cannot be altered in any way except to make uniforms fit. For example, no names on uniforms and no pins on hats are allowed.
6. Players are expected to bring and use their own batting helmets. TBALL, Coach Pitch, and BIG8 helmets must have a full face shield and chin strap with NOCSAE approved seal. BIG9 helmets must have a full face shield.
7. It is the responsibility of the player to have proper fitted catcher's equipment. All catcher's equipment must meet Little League standards. Any player behind the plate must wear:
  - a) Catcher's helmet and attached mask with dangling throat protector.
  - b) Chest protector and shin guards.
  - c) Catcher's mitt.
8. No big barrel bats are allowed. All bats must be 2 ¼ inch barrel and on the Little League approved list.
9. If, in any division, a team is unable to field the proper number of players within ten (10) minutes after the scheduled starting time, they will automatically forfeit that game.
10. A fifty dollar (\$50) fee will be collected with any protest. Protests must be made in accordance with Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules, Section 4.19.
11. A player may be benched for disciplinary reasons by his coach. The Player Agent, opposing head coach, scorekeeper and parents of the player must be informed before the game by the player's coach.
12. Umpires are sole judges of unsportsmanlike conduct.
13. **No smoking at any Tulsa Little League Baseball game.**
14. Both teams are responsible for picking up trash in their dugout after each game. The teams must leave their dugouts immediately after their game has finished to allow teams for the next game to occupy the dugout. No refreshments will be allowed in the dugout after the games.
15. An individual may be listed as head coach on only one Tulsa Little League Baseball team.
16. All rained out games will be replayed on the date assigned by Tulsa Little League Game Scheduler. Once the game has been rescheduled, Local League General Rule # 7 shall be in effect.
17. The visiting team will occupy the dugout closest to first base and take the infield fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the game. The home team will occupy the dugout closest to third base and take the infield ten (10) minutes prior to the start of the game. Each team will take a maximum of five (5) minutes of infield. The home team will remain on the field following taking infield and the game will start as scheduled.
18. Every player on a team roster will participate in each game for **a minimum of six (6) defensive outs** and a continuous batting order will be used – all players will be in the batting lineup. The Tulsa Little League Baseball penalty for violation of this rule is that the player in question must start and play defensively for nine (9) consecutive outs, unless injury occurs to that player.
19. All ties in standings at season's end will be broken by:
  - a) Head to head competition; or
  - b) Total runs scored against the other; or
  - c) Coin Toss
20. All defensive substitutions and changes must be reported to the official scorekeeper at the time of the change.
21. A base runner is out if, in the judgment of the umpire, he intentionally removes his batting helmet while the ball is in play.
22. All male players shall wear an athletic support cup during regular season games. **Any male player not wearing an athletic support cup is not allowed to play in that game.**
23. The STRIKE ZONE is that space over home plate which is between the batter's armpits and the top of the knees when the batter assumes a natural stance. NOTE: If any part of the ball passes through any part of the strike zone, it is a strike. This is considered a judgment call by the Umpire-In-Chief.
24. If a game is called, it is a regulation game:

1. If three (3) full innings have been completed; or
  2. If the home team has scored more runs in 2 ½ innings than the visitors team has scored in three (3) full innings; or
  3. If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the third inning to tie the score.
25. If, at the end of a regulation game, the score is tied, the game will end and the tie will stand. Each team shall receive half game credit in the league standings.
26. Every game will have a 1 hour 30 minute time limit except for TBALL which is 1 hour 15 minutes.

## CONDUCT

1. All head coaches, assistant coaches and players: Take note of Little League National rules 4.06, 4.07, 9.01 (d) & 9.02 (a).
2. **No smoking will be tolerated at any Tulsa Little League game. Designated smoking areas in the parking lot are available for any parents needing to smoke.**
3. No head coach, assistant coach, player or fan will razz, abuse or embarrass players of either team, neither will they use abusive/threatening language or gestures. Coaches will not allow their players to cast slurring remarks about players on opposing teams. The practice of yelling "OUT, STRIKE, SWING", or any other phrase designed to distract opposing players is considered unsportsmanlike conduct and is strictly prohibited. The head coach is responsible for the conduct of his players, coaches and fans and must prevent them from umpire-baiting or razzing opposing players. Should fans violate this rule, the coach will be required to deal with his fans. Should they not cease the offensive conduct, the coach will be ejected. **ABSOLUTELY NO INTIMIDATION** including, but not limited to hand clapping, chanting, abusive language, threatening language or gestures, etc., by any player towards any other player will be allowed. Refusal to comply with any provisions of the aforesaid rule will constitute unsportsmanlike conduct and may result in expulsion of the offender.
4. Umpires and coaches shall NOT consume alcoholic beverages or tobacco products at the ball park and/or during games, practices or other activities in which the players are involved. This includes personal indulgences while any part of the uniform is worn in public. NO VIOLATION of this rule will be tolerated. Refusal to comply with any provisions of the aforesaid rule will constitute unsportsmanlike conduct and may result in expulsion of the offender.
5. Throwing of equipment such as helmet or bat is unacceptable and could result in IMMEDIATE EJECTION from the game. NOTE: This is considered unsportsmanlike conduct.
6. Physical contact with an umpire by a coach, player or fan will result in immediate removal from the game and premises and can result in lifetime expulsion from Tulsa Little League Baseball.
7. Coaches will not have any physical contact with players of the opposing team apart from assistance of an injured player. Any inappropriate contact with any player is grounds for immediate ejection and possible suspension for the remainder of the season.
8. Any coach or player ejected from a game is automatically suspended for the next scheduled regular season game. When a coach or player is ejected from a game, they must leave the park for the remainder of that game and may not come to the park for the next scheduled regular season game. A second offense by a coach will result in suspension for the remainder of the season. A second offense by a player will be referred to the Rules Committee for disciplinary action.
9. **Head coaches, assistant coaches or players shall not be allowed during a game to leave the playing field without umpire approval.** If a coach or player does leave the field without permission, they may not be allowed to return to the field and may be taken out of the game by the Umpire-In-Chief for infraction of this rule.
10. Players allowed to leave the field to go to the restroom MUST be accompanied by an adult.
11. No coach will be permitted to argue a judgment call by an umpire.
12. **Adults may not warm up pitchers either before or during a game or at practices. The only exception to this is if a team has 9 or fewer players at a game, an adult may warm up the pitcher while the catcher is getting their gear on.**
13. Any adult on the field or in the dugout must display the badge issued by the league that shows they have passed a background check and been approved by the Tulsa Little League President.
14. **Any player that does not seek to avoid a collision with another player may be ejected from the game.** Collisions do occur at times when the play takes both runner and fielder together. There is no penalty for these types of collisions. If the fielder is blocking the base path the runner must go around the fielder to avoid a collision. If the fielder does not have the ball then obstruction will be called on the fielder.

## GROUND RULES

1. A line extending from the fence dividing the fields to the outfield fence shall mark the out-of-play area. Dugout areas are also out-of-play. No play may be made on a ball by a player standing in the out-of-play areas.

2. If interference occurs on a foul ball from another field, the umpire shall impose such action as, in the umpire's judgment, will nullify the act of such an interference.
3. Only Tulsa Little League registered and uniformed team members are allowed on the field or in the dugout. No bat-boys or non-team members are allowed on the field or in the dugout at any time.
4. TEE BALL, COACH PITCH, BIG 8, BIG 9, and Big 11 divisions are allowed one (1) head coach and three (3) assistant coaches. MAJORS AND BIG League divisions are allowed one (1) head coach and two (2) assistant coaches.
5. NO on deck circle is allowed in Little League. All batters warming up must remain off the playing field and behind the fence.
6. The league president shall have the power to impose additional ground rules as circumstances warrant.
7. Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, the slide must be legal. Jumping, hurdling, and leaping are all legal attempts to avoid a fielder as long as the fielder is lying on the ground. Also, such actions to simply avoid a fielder's glove is also a legal attempt to avoid a fielder. Diving over a fielder is illegal. **PENALTY:** The runner is out, the ball is dead immediately and interference is called. Runners shall return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

## BIG 11 DIVISION

1. ***Special Tulsa Little League Local Rules: In summary, lead-off is allowed and the balk rule and infield fly rule is in effect. Base path is 65 feet. Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike is not in effect.***
2. During the first five (5) innings a team may score a maximum of five (5) runs per inning. All runners must touch the bases that they are forced to on any play in which the fifth run scores. If the fifth run of an inning should score on a home run hit over the outfield fence, all runs scoring on the home run shall be counted. **The sixth inning has no limit on the number of runs a team is able to score.**
3. Each player on a team roster will participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) defensive outs. The Tulsa Little League Baseball penalty for violation of this rule is that the player in question must start and play defensively for nine (9) consecutive outs in the next scheduled game, unless illness or injury occurs to that player.
4. Head coaches may freely substitute defensive players between innings but not during an inning. Only pitching changes may be made during an inning unless a fielder sustains an injury or illness which, in the umpire's judgment, incapacitates that fielder. **Once a pitcher is removed, he may not re-enter as a pitcher in the same game.**
5. Two (2) adult coaches may act as base coaches. Base coaches may not switch positions during an inning. **One (1) adult coach must remain in the dugout at all times during the game.** A player may be used for a base coach. All player-coaches must wear a helmet while on the playing field. If the player-coach intentionally removes his helmet while the ball is in play, said player-coach will be removed from the coach's box and returned to the dugout.
6. All games played will have a one hour thirty minute time limit. The next inning begins when the home team has made its third out. **Innings begun must be completed unless it is impossible for one of the teams to win.** No mercy rule, games are played for 6 innings or until the time limit has expired.
7. A batting order including every player on the official team roster who is present shall be made before the game and used throughout the game unless illness or injury incapacitates a player. Players arriving after the game begins shall be added at the end of the batting order.
8. **Pitchers shall receive a total of one (1) warning on any balks.** A second offense will result in assessed penalty per the addendum in the pitching section of this document.
9. A regulation game normally played with nine (9) players can be played with eight (8) players. There will be no penalty for playing with eight (8) players. If a player arrives after the start of the game, he will become the ninth batter and take his turn at bat.
10. It is very important that coaches read and fully understand Little League Pitching rules. Tulsa Little League adheres strictly to all rules in the Little League Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules.
11. Violation of the rule against use of an ineligible pitcher, pitch count limitation or rest period is automatic forfeiture and suspension of the head coach for the next scheduled game, if found to have occurred at any time during the season. A protest shall not be required and intent shall not be a defense for such a violation. **Coaches are responsible for keeping the team's Official Pitching Affidavit current with the pitch count and days of rest for their pitchers signed by the Umpire-In-Chief of the previous game and presented to the Umpire-In-Chief of the current game prior to the start time.** Upon request by the Umpire-In-Chief, failure to provide the Official Pitching Affidavit shall result in automatic forfeiture. The penalty will be levied by the Player Agent. No board meeting shall be required. Imposition of the penalty will not be optional and shall be automatic upon verification of the violation. See official pitching regulations.

# Tulsa Little League Baseball

## 2011 Rules Summary

Div	Ages	Time	Innings	Base Path	#Coaches	Pitch Dist	Steal
Tball	4,5	1'15"	5	50	4	n/a	No
Coach Pitch	6,7	1'30"	5	50	4	35	No
Big 8	7,8	1'30"	6	60	4	35	Yes
Big 9	8,9	1'30"	6	60	4	46	Yes
Big 11	9,10,11	1'30"	6	65	4	46	Yes
Big 12/13	12/13	1'30"	6	70	3	50	Yes
BIG League	13, 14, 15, 16,17	1'30"	7	90	3	60	Yes

	Leadoff	Infield	Dropped	Other
Div		Fly	3rd strike	
Tball	No	No	No	standard infield everyone else in outfield
Coach Pitch	No	No	No	no bunt, 4 player outfield
Big 8	No	No	No	35-38mph machine pitch, no bunt, no steal home
Big 9	No	No	No	
Big 11	Yes	Yes	No	Lead-off is allowed and the balk rule and infield fly rule is in effect. Dropped 3rd strike is not in effect.
Big 12/13	Yes	Yes	Yes	Big barrel bat allowed. Head-first slide allowed.
BIG League	Yes	Yes	Yes	