

Windermere Little League

Local Rules – Softball MINORS Division (Spring)

INTRODUCTION:

The goal of Windermere Little League (WLL) MINORS Division is to provide a positive instructional and competitive softball experience. No regular season standings are kept and managers are expected to provide players with instruction and equitable playing time/experience at a variety of positions.

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LOCAL RULES:

1. Volunteering:

Windermere Little League (WLL) is one of the largest leagues in the state of Florida and is a volunteer league. Parents/guardians of players are expected to volunteer their time each season to serve the league including, but not limited to, concession stand duty and umpire duty.

2. Team Management:

- A. Each team is permitted to have one manager, two coaches, and a team parent. No one other than these individuals is permitted on the field during a game. At no time shall there be more than 4 of these adults in the dugout or on the field of play.
- B. Offensive Team - permitted to have two adult base coaches (all innings), as long as one other coach remains in the dugout to supervise. During play, the dugout gate is to remain closed and no further players or adults are permitted on the field.
- C. Defensive Team- No coaches on the field. At no time during play are coaches permitted to leave the dugout, interfere with or influence an umpire in any way.

3. Mandatory Playing Requirements

- A. **No player can sit twice until every player sits once**, except for injury/illness.
- B. Managers are expected to play each player at a variety of defensive positions (including both infield and outfield) in each game and throughout the season. As no standings are kept during the regular season, it is expected that playing time will be reasonably equitable among the team/positions.

C. Penalty for violation of playing requirements:

- First Violation-warning
- Second Violation-suspension from next game
- Third violation-removal as team manager

Note: Player agent at his/her option may not give a warning prior to suspension if player agent finds that the manager is purposely not meeting mandatory playing requirements.

*Exception: Game is called because of the mercy rule.

4. Time Limits

1:30 Minute Game Time Limit:

It is imperative that all Managers, Coaches, Umpires and WLL Board Members on Duty (BOD) ensure games begin on time, move at required pace and end on time.

- A. Games start with the umpire saying "Play Ball". Home book will record the starting time given by the Plate umpire.
- B. No new inning will start after time has expired. Umpire maintains the game clock.
- C. Every effort will be made to start games on time. Late arriving players, managers, or coaches will NOT be considered valid excuses. Weather, field maintenance, or late umpires WILL be considered valid excuses .

5. Pitching Rules:

In an effort to encourage the development and use of pitchers, no player can pitch more than 3 innings in a single game. The following "days rest" restrictions for pitchers will be in effect for Minors:

- Pitch 1 inning = 0 days rest
- Pitch 2 innings = 1 day rest
- Pitch 3 innings = 3 days rest

Delivering a single pitch in an inning constitutes an inning pitched.

After each game, the managers (or designee) will send an email to all Minors managers/player agent with innings pitched by player.

It is the responsibility of each manager to ensure the pitching limits are observed by themselves and their opponent.

6. Outfield Players:

Playing three (3) outfielders is encouraged, however, each team will have the discretion to use up to four (4) outfielders. All outfielders must be positioned in the outfield grass, utilized as outfielders, not additional infielders. Outfielders must play the position of outfield and should not be positioned as short infielders.

7. Run Limit:

3 run limit for innings one – four; 5 run limit for remaining innings. 10 run rule in effect after 4th inning

After one team has conceded victory to the opponent because of the mercy rule, the managers can agree to play for instructional purposes and only if allotted time available.

8. Base Stealing:

Runners can leave base when ball reaches the plate (not when it leaves the pitchers hand)

9. Suspended/Canceled Games

Canceled or rained out games and suspended games may be made up during the league allotted time slots provided in the schedule. These games will generally be made up during the affected team's practice slot, unless other arrangements are made.

10. Batting Order

WLL uses a continuous batting order and bats the complete roster for every game. Late arriving players will be added to the end of the current (starting) batting order.

There are no substitute players. A courtesy runner can be used only if the runner is injured on the play, becomes ill, or if the baserunner is the catcher. The replacement runner must be the offensive player that made the last out.

12. Infield Fly Rule: Is NOT in effect.

13. Drop 3rd Strike: Is NOT in effect

GENERAL:

Please read the Conduct Rules for all divisions. Players and Parents should review before the season begins.

In one of the first team meetings with parents, please review local rules, conduct rules, assign responsibilities, schedule, team roster, team goals, and team rules, etc.

- All other rules will be provided in accordance with the Little League Rule Book. If you are new to coaching, please become familiar with the rules