



Welcome to the 2015 season! The following is a list of rules/guidelines for our division. If you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

1. General

- 1.1. Have fun!
- 1.2. The biggest change this year is that we are going to run a short practice for the first 40 minutes, then play as much of a game as the two hours allotted will allow for. The practice will simply be 10 minutes at four stations each. The stations will be throwing and catching, hitting in the cage, infielding, and base running (in tandem with the in-fielding drill). The two teams will do this together. Obviously if you both agree to spend the time on other drills, that would be fine. You are not to opt out of this practice time. Mattawan Little League has decided that these youngsters need controlled skills coaching all season. Once games start, this will be the only time available for practice for the A level of minors.
- 1.3. No new innings after 8:00pm on a school night. Please exercise good judgment. Just because the inning ended at 7:58pm, does not mean you should start another inning.
- 1.4. Limit of 5 runs/inning, except for the last inning which is unlimited.
- 1.5. Technically we play with nine players in the field, but if both sides agree you can play extra kids in the outfield as to not make anyone sit the bench.
- 1.6. Play is dead when the ball is controlled anywhere in the infield.
- 1.7. Coaches are responsible for cleaning up their own dugouts before leaving.
- 1.8. Home team occupies the third base dugout.
- 1.9. Home team is responsible for cleanup and setup of the fields. They will also provide the balls for the game. Please try to preserve the new balls that you were given at the beginning of the season for games. This will help in keeping consistent pitches coming from the machines.
- 1.10. If you borrow a player from another team to fill your game day roster, there are some rules. First, they must be a registered little league player. Second, they must wear a little league uniform (doesn't need to be the same color). Third, they must play the outfield at all times.
- 1.11. All information is on the league's website.

2. Batting

- 2.1. For all games, a continuous (open) batting order is in effect.
- 2.2. Bunting is not allowed.

3. Base Running

- 3.1. Each runner can only advance one base on an infield hit, even if there is an overthrow. This encourages the infielders to attempt to throw runners out instead of holding the ball to avoid errors.
- 3.2. Runner can continue to advance as long as the ball is still in the outfield grass (not in grass due to an overthrow from the infield). Once the ball has been thrown into the infield, regardless if it is controlled, all runners must cease advancing bases. Example: if a runner is



- past second base when the ball is thrown into the infield, the runner can finish advancing to third but no further even if the ball is not controlled.
- 3.3. The runner cannot advance on a passed ball between catcher and pitcher. There is absolutely no stealing or lead offs.
 - 3.4. The goal here is to teach hitting and fielding with less focus on base running and scoring. The kids will learn more of that at the next level. This also should allow for more force out opportunities at all bases. I know that often it is parent volunteers as base coaches. Please go over these rules with them. We want it to be consistent in every game.
4. Pitching Machine
- 4.1. The child playing the pitching position must always start behind the pitching machine and can only move in front of it after the ball is hit.....not as soon as the ball exits the machine. This is a safety issue. The pitcher must also wear a helmet with a face mask. Every coach should have one in their team equipment bag.
 - 4.2. We will pitch at 39 mph. If you get a machine that does not have a digital readout, the ball should be pitched on a relatively flat line and the catcher should be able to catch it before it hits the ground.
 - 4.3. Balls that come to rest under the machine are a deal ball. Batter is awarded first and runners advance ONLY if forced.

Finally, thank you all for volunteering your time and skills to little league. Without the volunteers, there would be no little league. On that note, we are always in need of additional volunteers. Please pass this sentiment on to the parents of your team. Often new volunteers are found simply by asking.