

# **WEST VALLEY LITTLE LEAGUE LEAGUE BY-LAWS – Rookie Division**

(As of 2010)

Minors Division – West Valley Little League recognizes three levels of the Minors Division (Minor AAA, Minor AA and Rookie), these rules apply to Rookie. Rookie should include only 7 and 8 year olds. 6 year olds only with WVLL board approval.

Little League Baseball's Official Regulations and Playing Rules govern our league (Tee Ball, Minor League, and Major League) except as modified by the following rules. It is the responsibility of each Manager to read and abide by both the above referenced Rule Book and this document.

## 1.0 Team Responsibilities

- 1.1 The team designated on the schedule as the home team shall occupy the third base dugout.
- 1.2 Each team shall provide one ball at the beginning of the game.
- 1.3 Scores will not be kept.**
- 1.4 The home team will prepare the field prior to the game.
- 1.5 The visiting team, at the completion of the game, will be responsible for picking up trash around the spectator area and for taking trash to the dumpster.

## 2.0 Equipment

- 2.1 WVLL provides the following: uniform shirt and cap. Each player may retain the shirt and cap.
- 2.2 Each player should wear regulation baseball pants (no shorts). Belts are not required.
- 2.3 Close toed shoes must be worn and cleats are suggested at this level.

## 3.0 Game Start and Stop Times

- 3.1 All games shall start at 6:15 p.m.
- 3.2 Games at the Rookie level shall be played for six innings or 1 ½ hours, whichever comes first. (Home umpire will keep official time.) In any event no new inning may start after 7:45p.m.
- 3.3 The home plate umpire has responsibility for calling the game in the event of darkness or weather. The home plate umpire is urged by the WVLL Board of Directors to err on the side of caution when determining when to call a game due to weather or darkness.
- 3.4 A team may play with a minimum of 8 players.
- 3.5 If a game cannot be played due to a lack of players for one team, the coaches are encouraged to make up two teams from the available players and allow the players to play a game. The purpose of this division is recreational/instructional play.

## 4.0 Players, Substitutions and Coaches

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- 4.1 Children not registered in West Valley Little League may not play or practice with the team. Only registered team players are allowed in the dugout.
- 4.2 No player at any game shall sit out more than one consecutive defensive inning unless the coach is withholding play due to injury or disciplinary reasons. If play is withheld defensively then the player must be pulled from the offensive lineup also.
- 4.3 There shall be no restrictions on substitutions in the defensive positions. No player may play the same defensive position more than two innings in the same game.
- 5.0 Batting Order
- 5.1 Managers are to bat their entire roster (all players in attendance) per their batting line-up. The first batter in each inning after the first inning shall be the player whose name follows that of the last player who legally completed a time at bat in the preceding inning.
- 5.2 A half inning is considered complete when 3 outs are posted or the entire line-up has batted (whichever comes first).
- 6.0 Batter
- 6.1 There will be a six-pitch limit per batter; however, after three swinging strikes the batter is out by strike out.
- 6.2 The batter will also be out if he/she has not made contact after six pitches. A foul ball on the last pitch entitles the batter to another pitch.
- 6.3 No batter shall be entitled to first base as a result of receiving four pitches that the umpire has called balls. There are no walks in the Rookie division.
- 6.4 No batter shall be entitled to first base as a result of being touched by a pitched ball. If a player is touched by a pitched ball and is unable to continue to bat, the at bat will not be recorded.
- 7.0 Overthrows
- 7.1 An overthrow is defined as a ball thrown by a defensive player that goes beyond the foul line of the playing field by more than 15 feet.
- 7.2 If the game is being played on a field without a backstop, a ball thrown more than 15 feet beyond home plate is also defined as an overthrow.
- 7.3 When an overthrow occurs, the ball is dead and the runners are entitled to advance one base beyond the base last legally touched at the time of the overthrow.
- 8.0 Stealing
- 8.1 Rookie ball does not allow for the stealing of bases.

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- 8.1.1 To clarify, stealing is defined as any advance of the runner while the ball is dead except for advances otherwise allowed by the rules. The ball is dead in all cases specified in the Little League Rule Book.
- 8.2 A ball is considered dead after being hit by a batter and after a defensive play is made, when – in the judgment of the umpire – the defensive pitcher has initially controlled the ball and is within a 10 foot diameter circle around the pitching rubber. The ball shall remain dead until the ball is hit by a new batter.
- 8.3 If the ball is hit to the defensive pitcher, who then controls the ball within the 10 foot circle and does not attempt a play, the runners may only advance one base beyond the base they occupied prior to the pitch.
- 9.0 Pitching
- 9.1 Defensive Pitcher:
- 9.1.1 This defensive player shall be referred to in these rules as the defensive pitcher.
- 9.1.2 The defensive pitcher must take a position right or left of the pitching rubber but, not nearer to home plate than the pitching rubber before the adult pitcher may pitch the ball.
- 9.1.3 All balls that are thrown to the pitcher's mound (or circle) shall be intended for and fielded by the defensive pitcher. When the ball becomes dead, the defensive pitcher shall hand the ball to the adult pitcher.
- 9.2 Adult Pitching (offensive team):
- 9.2.1 The purpose of the adult pitcher is to deliver a pitch that can be easily hit by the batter. To accomplish this, the adult pitcher may adjust his pitching method and position for each batter. The adult pitcher shall have the following options;
- 9.2.1.1 May use an overhead or underhand motion in delivery the ball to the plate.
- 9.2.1.2 May pitch from any position – standing, crouching, kneeling, etc.
- 9.2.2 The pitching rubber shall be placed 46 feet from home plate (measured from the back of the plate to the back of the pitching rubber) and shall not be moved during the game. The adult pitcher is not required to be in contact with the rubber when the ball is pitched and shall be allowed to vary the pitching distance to meet the needs of each batter. However, the minimum pitching distance shall be 36 feet and the maximum distance shall be 46 feet.
- 9.3 Adult Pitcher Interference

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- 9.3.1 If the adult pitcher is touched by a batted ball the ball is dead and the batter and base runners shall return to the base they occupied prior to the pitch. The pitch becomes a no-pitch and shall not be counted as a strike against the batter.
- 9.3.2 The adult pitcher must avoid a batted or thrown ball and must make room for any defensive player attempting to field a ball or he will be charged with interference.
- 9.3.3 If the adult pitcher interferes with the defensive pitcher who is attempting to catch a ball thrown to him, the ball is dead and all runners must return to the last base legally touched prior to the interference.
- 9.3.4 If the adult pitcher interferes with a defensive player who is attempting to make the first play on a batted ball the ball is dead, the batter is out, and all base runners must return to the base they occupied prior to the pitch.
- 9.3.5 If during the game the umpire has made two interference calls against an adult pitcher which, **in the umpire's judgment, represent intentional interference**, the umpire shall inform the manager that the adult pitcher will be removed from game for intentional interference.

10.0 Umpires

- 10.1 Each team shall provide an Umpire. WVLL will conduct a mandatory 1-2 hour umpire class specifically for Rookie baseball. Unless otherwise agreed, the home team provides the home plate umpire and the visiting team provides the field umpire.
- 10.2 The home plate umpire has responsibility for calling the game in the event of time, darkness or weather. Refer to Division start and stop times in section 3.0.
- 10.3 The infield fly rule shall not enforced.

Date Voted In:        January, 2010

Attested:             \_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Veerkamp, VP of Baseball