

2.0 Rules: Player Pitch

2.1 Eligibility

All home-schooled, boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 12 (as of January 1) are eligible to participate in Family Homeschool Baseball (FHB), Player Pitch Division. The League Director may make exceptions to this rule at his discretion. Players become eligible on a first-come, first-served basis when registration materials and fees are submitted by the deadline designated each year by the League Director.

2.2 Code of Conduct

Parents, coaches and players are encouraged to conduct themselves at all times in a manner glorifying to our Lord Jesus Christ. At least one parent is required to remain at the park during the entire practice/game session. In other words, parents may not drop off their children and then leave the park. All players shall wear their uniform, with shirts tucked in, at all times. The League Director has the authority to appoint and dismiss coaches and to implement and enforce regulations concerning player attire and conduct.

2.3 Rules of Play

This section is not intended to give a comprehensive review of all the rules of baseball. In general, the official Little League rule will apply except as noted within. Managers of opposing teams are allowed to modify the rules if both are in agreement.

2.3.1 Teams - A team consists of a minimum of 9 players. No team shall forfeit a game. In the event one team is short of players, the manager of that team may omit a position or may elect to borrow a player from the opposing team for defense only. This would not effect the borrowed player's status in his own team's batting lineup.

2.3.2 Coaches - Base coaches (adults or players) may be used at first base, and third.

2.3.3 General Rules

1. There is no penalty for batting out of turn.
2. The infield fly rule does apply.
3. Base runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit or the ball crosses home plate. Stealing is allowed the last 4 games of the season only.
4. If a base runner passes a runner in front of him, he will be called out.
5. The base runner is out when:
 - a) an opposing player in possession of the ball tags the base (forced play) or the runner before the runner reaches the base. (Coaches should instruct players to tag runners below the shoulders.)
 - b) A defensive player catches a fly ball in fair or foul territory before it touches another object or the ground.
 - c) The base runner is hit by the batted ball.
 - d) A base runner runs out of the running lane to avoid a tag by a defensive player.

- e) Two players end up on the same base and one is tagged before going to either the next base or previous base without passing other runners.
- 6. Runners may tag up on a caught fly ball and advance one base.
- 7. The game duration will be 1 hour, after about 30 minutes of practice/warm-up.
- 8. Coaches or parents will act as umpires if paid umpires are not used.
- 9. A scorekeeper should be appointed to keep track of runs and number of hitters and outs for each inning.
- 10. Bunting will be allowed during the last 4 games of the season.
- 11. Runners may advance only one base on an overthrow.
- 12. All players shall play at least 2 innings in the field per game. All players will be in the batting lineup throughout the game.

2.4 Scoring

Managers are encouraged to appoint a scorekeeper (involve parents) for each game. Alternatively, the managers from both teams can keep track of runs and verify the correct score after each half-inning. In the event that time is called in the middle of an inning, the score at the last completed inning will be the final score of the game.

2.5 Safety Considerations

Make sure catchers have all necessary protective gear and have donned it properly (coach pitch only). Only players with advanced skills should be allowed to play the catcher position. A catcher must be wearing a protective cup. The League does not supply cups.

Batters, batters on-deck, and runners shall all wear helmets if there is enough equipment.

Check the field for broken bottles, cans, etc., before play begins.
Have players remove jewelry and other items which might be dangerous.

Head first sliding is not allowed.