



# Dundas Little League

Established 1954

## Minor and Major Baseball: House League Ground Rules 2025

Little League Rules and Regulations will be followed with the following exceptions.

### Base Coaches

- Two adult coaches may be base coaches, but there must be an adult coach in the dugout at all times.

### Call-ups

- A Call-up is when you ask a player on another team in the division below yours to join your team for a game.
- Call-ups can be used if you suspect you are going to have less than 10 players at game time.
- Coaches are responsible for finding their own Call-ups in accordance with the League's Call-up Policy.

### Score Books

- Score Books shall be used by both teams.
- Once the Playoffs begin, Score Books must be retained by each team in the event the League asks to see them.
- The final score and innings played of all playoff games must be reported to the league by both teams.

### Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> Strike

- Batters are out on a called 3<sup>rd</sup> strike regardless of whether the catcher fails to catch the ball.

### Warming up pitchers

- A spotter with a batter's helmet on must be used when pitchers are being warmed up in the bullpen.
- A coach may spot a pitcher warming up in the bullpen only if no players are available.
- Catchers must wear a catcher's helmet with face mask and throat guard when warming up pitchers.

### Continuous batting order

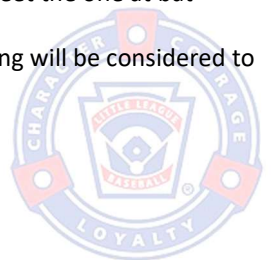
- All players in attendance at the game shall be in the batting order and every player shall bat in their turn.

### Curfew and Game length

- No new inning can start 1hr 45min from scheduled start time unless otherwise communicated. Games shortened by a curfew are official regardless of how many innings are played. The 1hr 45 min rule applies to the scheduled start time, not the time that the game begins if the game is late starting.
- Games are official after 4 innings, or 3½ if the home team is leading.
- Games are official if the game is out of reach regardless of how many innings are played (Minor Baseball only).
- Games shortened by weather prior to being official are to be replayed from the beginning on a rescheduled date.

### Mandatory Play

- No player sits twice until all have sat once.
- Each player shall have a minimum of 2 innings played per game in an infield position. The positions played are at the discretion of the coach. (As a best practice, coaches should aim to have all players play infield every other inning.)
- Every rostered player present at the beginning of the game will participate in each game for a minimum of 6 defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time as per Reg 4 (i) NOTE: League uses continuous batting order therefore will meet the one at bat requirement.
- If a half inning ends due to the mercy rule the players on defense that have played the entire had inning will be considered to have participated for three (3) defensive outs for the purposes of this rule.



**Mercy Rule**

- For both divisions, the first 2 innings are 3 runs per inning. All other innings are four runs per inning.
- Major Baseball: The 6th inning is an open inning and there is no mercy. If the game ends prior to the 6th inning, no open inning is played.
- Minor Baseball: in playoffs if the game is out of reach, the game is over.

**Late arrivals**

- Players who are late arriving to a game must be added to the lineup at the end of the batting order regardless of the point in the game at which they arrive.

**Player substitutions**

- Once a player takes their position in the field for the beginning of their defensive inning, they may not be substituted out for another player unless for injury, illness or other emergency. The exception is the pitcher's position which can be substituted out for any player in the lineup only once (unless for illness, injury or emergency) per inning.

**Minimum lineup size**

- Teams must have a minimum of 8 players to play a game. A 10-minute grace period is permitted from the scheduled start time.

**Pitching/Catching**

- 2 innings of pitching per game max., and they must be consecutive. Any number of pitches constitutes an inning pitched.
- 2 innings of catching per game, max.
- Call-ups may pitch only if the coach has confirmed at the game that no regular roster players are willing to do so.

**Pinch Runner for the Catcher**

- If the next inning's catcher is on base at any time, the offensive team may replace the catcher with the last out.

**Martino Outfield Wire**

- If the ball hits this wire, it is no longer 'in flight'. It cannot be caught for an out, called an infield fly or declared a homerun. Runners may advance at their own peril. The ball is still live and in play. There are no automatic base awards.

**Number of outfielders**

- In Minor Baseball, 4 outfielders are permitted. In Major Baseball, the number of outfielders permitted remains at 3.

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**LIST OF CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS VERSION (2022):**

1. Changed mandatory play to minimum 2 innings in infield and added best practice note of having players play infield every other inning.
2. Changed pitching/catching to 2 innings pitching (consecutive) per game max and 2 innings catching per game max.