

Needham Little League Rules: 9U-12U

Pitching Report

- Pitch counts are for player safety and are strictly enforced (try to work with club coaches and parents of your pitchers to understand when they will be throwing or have thrown as we should respect the days of rest no matter what team they threw for):
 - 01 – 20 pitches – no days rest
 - 21 – 35 pitches – 1 calendar day rest
 - 36 – 50 pitches – 2 calendar days rest
 - 51 – 65 pitches – 3 calendar days rest
 - 65 – 85 pitches (75 if baseball 10U, 9U or 8U) – 4 calendar days rest
- There will be times a pitcher MIGHT be eligible to pitch, but please use common sense and maybe hold the pitcher out that day if they have thrown a lot in the prior 7 days

Playing Catcher

- 41 pitches or more in a game by a pitcher– player not eligible to play catcher afterwards
- 4 innings or more catching in a game – player not eligible to pitch afterwards (1 pitch caught in inning 4 is a full inning)

Bat Rules

- **USA BATS ONLY (wood bats are allowed)**
 - No USSSA bats, or BBCOR -3 bats are allowed to be used in Little League games. Please tell your parents and ensure the bats are not brought to the field
 - If someone uses a USSSA bat in a LL game, it is an **automatic out when they step to the plate with the bat.**
 - **If a second player brings an illegal bat to the plate (or the first one does it again) they are called out and the Manager will be ejected**
- **THERE IS NO ON DECK SWINGING DURING GAME PLAY**
 - I will repeat this one. There is NO ON DECK SWINGING.
 - There are two times a SINGLE batter is allowed to swing when they are not at the plate
 - If they are leading off an inning and are standing 10 feet to the side of the plate with no one around them.
 - If there is a pitching change when the batter is up, they may stand 10 feet to the side of the plate with no one around them and swing
 - In either scenario above:
 - THIS DOES NOT MEAN THE ENTIRE ROSTER CAN LINEUP ON ONE SIDE OF THE FIELD TO TIME UP THE PITCHER BY SWINGING A BAT

Youth Umpires

At each level, you will have kids who have come up through the Needham baseball program be your umpires.

Our expectation as a league is to set the right example for the kids on how we treat umpires. In AA, you may have some new 12 and 13 year olds umpiring. At AAA you will have more experienced youth umpires that have been doing this for a few years (but can still struggle). At Majors, we will have times where we need to have the experienced youth umpires along with the patched umpires.

Please encourage your players (and parents) to refrain from trying to influence calls or moan and groan if something does not go their way. Yes, it can be difficult to do, but that is the expectation. And, more than likely, there will be a call made that benefits you as well.

General Behavior

The purpose of AA, AAA, and Majors is to be a developmental league for in town baseball. There will be a wide variety of skill levels across the different divisions. It is NOT a win at all cost playing environment at these age levels or divisions. There will be playoffs in each league and we encourage you to play to win there, but the regular season should be all about developing good life skills in addition to good baseball skills.

Play kids at any and all positions they want to (unless it is a safety issue), and move kids around the batting order. If a kid wants to pitch, give them a chance to pitch. Your goal as managers and coaches should be that everyone on your team asks their parents to sign them up for the next season.

Your League Coordinators (Derek Roy - AA, Nick Scola - AAA, Paul Galvin - Majors) will follow up with league specific rules and practice/game scheduling in the coming weeks, please reach out directly to them if you have questions.