

## **Majors Playing Guidelines**

[updated March 2009]

### **Preliminaries**

- Mouth guards and athletic supporters recommended. Cups required for all catchers. Rubber cleats only, no metal cleats. No jewelry worn (watches, bracelets, rings, etc.) No gum chewing, no sunflower seeds.
- If you are short players you may borrow players from another team to fill out your lineup so long as the borrowed players are registered Little League players. Borrowed players can not pitch in the game.
- Umpires and managers to review the field situation and agree to any field-specific ground-rules before game play begins. Some examples might be rules around ground-rule doubles or tree branches extending into the playing area.
- Managers and coaches should attend coaching seminars before and/or during season. Practice time is critical- develop practice plans in advance and execute practice time efficiently. Recruit coaches and parents for help with skills stations, drilling on key fundamentals and keeping kids moving.

### **Game Playing Rules**

- All play follows the current Little League Rulebook.
- Six innings per game. Minimum 3 innings per game per player, unless injury or disciplinary action is being imposed (i.e. late to practices, missed practices, poor sportsmanship). If less time is to be played, it must be approved by coordinator and the opposing coach must be told before start of game.

#### Offense:

- Bat through entire roster. Late arrivals go to the end of the batting order.
- No on-deck batter.
- No fake bunts to swing. This is viewed as a serious safety issue.
- No leading off bases. No head first sliding into bases (other than when diving back/returning to a base).
- There is no max runs limit per inning in Majors.
- "10-Run Rule" as per LL Rulebook applies.

#### Defense:

- Note that new Pitch Count and catching Rules may apply. Review in Rulebook. Manager's are responsible and accountable for managing their pitchers' counts.
- The scorekeeper or another game official must be designated as the official pitch count recorder, and must provide the pitch count for a pitcher upon request. However, the manager is responsible for knowing a pitcher's pitch count.
- Refer to LL Rulebook for specifics.

- If player pitcher hits three batters in a game he should be removed as a courtesy by his manager.

### **Game Environment**

- No negative comments about umpires or players from the stands (the players all know when they make mistakes). It is the managers' responsibility to control the parents.
- Remember this is for the players. Let them have fun!

