

LSYB A2 Division Rules of Play
Last Updated March 26, 2025

1. General Rules

- Scores will not be recorded
- Team standings will not be kept
- Focus is on having fun, developing individual baseball skills and learning to love the game
- Team goals should be to play together as a team and meet new friends. Coaches should strive to have all kids return to play the next baseball season.

2. Game Format

- Please try to arrive 15-20 minutes early to warm up so that the game can start on time.
- Games end after 6 innings, daylight permitting, or hard stop 1hr 40 minutes after start time. No new innings start after 1hr 20 minutes of play.
- Three outs or five runs per team per inning. When an out is recorded, the player that was out returns to the bench (as in a normal game).
- No umpires in the league, coaches make the call (if a close call, the runner should be safe)

3. Pitching (coach pitch)

- Hitting team's coach pitches to their batters.
- No called strikes or balls.
- 10 pitch maximum (including soft toss) then batter takes a base.
- We will introduce kid pitching mid-season.

4. Batting

- All players bat (nobody is on the bench)
- On deck player shadow bats (no bats in hand) – no live bat swings
- Set batting order for game (use template on LS baseball website). Change batter orders each game to give kids opportunity to hit in all parts of the lineup. Avoid favoritism.
- No bunting
- New for 2018, all bats must meet the USA bat standard for practices and games. All bats must be labeled with this stamp:



5. Base Running

- One base at a time. Managers may agree before the game to allow one extra base on a clean hit to the outfield.
- No taking extra bases on an overthrow to a base.
- No stealing or leading, – runners may only leave the base after the ball is hit.
- Runner's responsibility to avoid running into fielders. Teach first baseman not to block the base.

6. Fielding

- All players on the field each inning (nobody is on the bench)
- You can still use Pitcher Right or Pitcher Left positions but be mindful to back the kids up with strong hitters. By the end of season eliminate these 2 positions especially when kids start to pitch.
- Rotate positions equitably – no player in the outfield two innings in a row (use template)
- Qualify 1st base, catcher and pitcher positions only – (safety)

- A catcher must wear a protective cup. Use good judgement to ensure safety first. A parent or coach may stand at the back stop, field pitches that get by the catcher. The catcher should hold all balls until next batter (coach to be near catcher).

When Kids start to pitch, observe the following rule modifications
(Note: Kids start to pitch 3rd to 4th Week of the season, not sooner)

7. Positioning

- No extra infielders next to pitcher
- When players pitch, they should be in contact with the pitching rubber, although those who need it may start from no closer than the landing hole on the mound. It is expected that the pitcher's manager will use good judgment in the spirit of safety and fair play.
- The "landing hole" is no more than two feet in front of the rubber. **In no instance should a player be closer than 44 feet from the plate.** This is for safety reasons. Moving the pitcher in front of the rubber should only be done when absolutely necessary and generally would be appropriate only for smaller players that really can't reach the plate with any degree of accuracy from 46 feet.

8. Pitching

Kids pitch to opposing batters. A Coach from hitting team will stand behind mound ready to come in relief after 4 balls are thrown assuming no hit or out. If a kid is pitching strikes but the hitter is not swinging it is ok to leave the pitcher in. (Coach to use discretion on when to let batter take first base – No Strike-outs)

A pitcher will pitch to no fewer than 3 batters, for no more than 6 outs in any game, and for no more than 9 outs in any calendar week (Monday through Sunday), at the manager's discretion. Although strict pitch counts will not be kept, managers should try to keep pitchers below 50 pitches per game based on PitchSmart age group recommendations.

<http://m.mlb.com/pitchsmart/pitching-guidelines-ages-8-and-under>

Coaches should pitch overhand, from a reasonable location, and at a reasonable speed allowing the batter a good chance to make contact. If a coach wants to pitch from a knee that is his/her choice but be mindful of personal safety.

If a pitcher hits a batter, the batter has the choice to take first base or continue with the at bat. If a pitcher hits 3 players in an inning, the coach should move the pitcher to another position.

9. Pace of Play

To maintain the pace of play, we recommend that a pitching change be made if the coach takes over for the same pitcher four (4) times during the same inning. Managers should use their best judgment in this regard. If replaced during an inning, the pitcher shall exchange positions with a player in the field for the remainder of the inning. If you do not have another pitcher, the coach pitches the rest of the inning.

All players should be qualified before pitching a game:

- Ability to throw strikes (5 strikes out of 10 pitches is suggested)
- Good pitching mechanics and pace.
- Awareness and skill to play position safely.

10. Snack Shack

- If a team is playing on LFC (Lower Featherland Center), they are required to have a few people run the snack shack. Generally, 4 people are required: 2 for innings 1-3, 2 for innings 4-6. Instructions are available within the snack shack.