

Reedley Little League-Minors Rookies Division Ground Rules 2025

The purpose of these ground rules is to govern the Reedley Little League (RLL) and to coordinate all baseball activities necessary for boys and girls ages 5 through 8 in coach-pitch instructional baseball. This activity will be associated and belong to the National Little League Association and abide by its established rules.

1. Scores will not be kept in coach pitch.
2. Field – Will be a regulation Little League field consisting of 60-foot bases and a 46-foot pitching mound.

The game:

3. All games will be played on the scheduled game day unless otherwise approved by the league President.
4. The home team lines the field and sets up the bases.
 - a. 2” lines are all that is necessary for rookies.
5. The visiting team puts the bases and equipment away.
6. The batting line-ups shall be exchanged by the managers before the start of the game.
7. A team’s time at bat is considered over when one of the following occurs:
 - a. 3 outs have been made.
 - b. 5 runs have been scored.
 - c. All players listed on the roster have made a plate appearance.
8. Batting Format – Teams will bat ALL rostered players.
9. All games will be played with low compression (squishy) baseballs. Absolutely no standard hard balls are permitted.
10. Only one player per defensive position in the infield. Managers are not required to rotate players each inning defensively although it is recommended by RLL. However, Managers are required to rotate their players throughout the season so that each player has an opportunity to play each position if the player can safely do so. Defense will field (10) ten players consisting of a Catcher, a Pitcher, (4) four infielders, and (4) four outfielders. The fourth outfield position or “Rover” is permitted. The Manager may place the “Rover” anywhere in the outfield. Outfield is defined as the grassy area past

the infield dirt. ALL OUTFIELDERS MUST BE POSITIONED IN THE GRASS OUT OF THE INFIELD DIRT.

11. All bats must meet the USA bat standard..
12. Game time shall be 6 innings or no new inning after 75 minutes.
13. Coaches will pitch the entire season from a kneeling position, throwing overhand. No closer than 20ft.
14. The Batter will be allowed up to (5) five pitches from the Manager/Coach. The batter will be considered “Out” after (3) three swinging strikes or they miss or fail to swing at the fifth pitch. Additional pitches will be permitted if the ball is fouled off on the fifth pitch. Note: If the Catcher catches a foul tipped ball on the third strike or fifth pitch the batter is “Out”.
 - a. Prior to the game starting, coaches may elect to allow batters to hit off of a tee after five pitches in order to encourage development of both hitters and fielders. This can be done on an individual basis or as a whole team.

Bring at least five balls to the pitching area. Do not make the catcher retrieve the passed balls during at bats, it slows down the game. Have a volunteer gather them and return to the pitcher between batters.

15. Catcher is a required position. The Catcher must wear appropriate catcher’s gear to play the position, a catcher’s mitt is required. The catcher may be substituted for a special courtesy runner with (2) two outs. The courtesy runner must be the player with the last recorded ‘Out’ of the inning. NO other pinch runners are allowed unless due to a player injury. The Catcher is required to wear a dangling throat guard on the catcher’s helmet no matter the design of the helmet and male players must wear a protective cup per Little League rule. A player will NOT be permitted to play catcher without the appropriate protective gear. Only the Catcher is required to wear a protective cup but RLL recommends that all male players consider using a protective cup.
16. NO infield fly rule in effect.
17. NO base on balls, intentional walks, or hit by pitch.

18. Batters are encouraged to swing the bat. Bunting is not allowed. The batter must take a full swing and follow through. No runners may advance. A ball must travel 15 feet to be fair.
19. A half swing or bunt will be considered a “foul ball”.
20. NO base stealing. The base runner may not lead off or leave the base until the ball is put into play. Batters may not stand in the “on-deck circle”.
21. Overthrows - An overthrow to a base is a “live ball” and will remain live until the play has been stopped as defined for this division. Play will continue if no attempt to stop the play has been made or the defense elects to make another play. A “reasonable” defensive play must always be attempted initially. Overthrows from the Catcher to the Pitcher between pitches is considered a dead ball and no runners may advance.
22. Runners advancing on a ball batted to the outfield may advance until the ball has been returned to the infield. This is to encourage the development of proper base running techniques.
23. A runner on base more than half way may advance to the next base if the play is concluded while advancing.
24. If a batted ball hits the pitching coach it is declared dead and considered a “no pitch”. The pitching coach should walk outside the baselines after a ball is put in play to avoid obstruction.
25. During the game, no more than 2 coaches from the fielding team shall be on the field. The batting team shall have no more than 4 volunteers on the field (one pitching, two base coaches, and someone to retrieve balls behind the plate).