



CITY OF LIGHTHOUSE POINT



12U BASEBALL GAME RULES

The City of Lighthouse Point Recreation Department will adhere to safe, responsible strategies for youth to participate in sports. We will protect participants and City employees by following CDC guidelines, wear face coverings, and practice physical distancing whenever possible.

- We will follow County Emergency Order 20-25, coaches, parents, spectators and visitors must wear facial coverings at all times (except children under 2 years of age); participants must wear facial coverings, when entering and leaving the park, except when engaged in strenuous activities.
- No one is permitted to participate if they are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or has a temperature of 100.4 F or higher
- To ensure that physical distancing is maintained LHP Rec Staff may limit the number of spectators allowed, close bleachers, and limit the time any person spends at our facilities.
- Coaches will be required to wear a facial covering when not on the field, players will have to wear one when not actively participating.
- Coaches will be required to take daily attendance in order to help with contact tracing.
- No food is allowed in the dugout or playing field.

PLAYER PITCH RULES:

1. PLAYING FIELD AND EQUIPMENT

1.1. Field dimensions: Mound/Base= 50/70

1.2. Bat: barrel of bat diameter can be 2 1/4 or maximum 2 5/8. No restrictions on length-weight differential (-5, -7, -9, etc.).

1.3. Cleats: Metal Cleats are not permitted.

1.4. Catchers: Any player crouching behind home plate must be wearing the proper protective equipment.

1.5. Regulation League Baseball will be used.

1.6. All players are required to wear a protective cup.

2. GAME PRELIMINARIES

- 2.1. A team must have at least eight (8) players present.
- 2.2. Games start at the scheduled start. Teams forfeit 15 minutes after the scheduled start time if they cannot field the minimum eight (8) players.
- 2.3. A maximum of nine (9) players may be placed in the field with three (3) outfielders (outfielders – LF, CF, and RF).
- 2.4. Players shall be given the opportunity to play multiple positions on the field including a balance between the infield and outfield. However, where safety of the player dictates especially at pitcher and first base, coaches should exercise their good judgment when positioning players.
- 2.5. No player may sit on the bench defensively for two consecutive innings
- 2.6. The umpire will declare the last inning.
- 2.7. Every team is responsible for keeping their own scorebook. The official score sheet/ score card must be signed by a manager or coach from each team and also by at least one umpire.

3. STARTING AND ENDING THE GAME – TIME LIMIT

- 3.1. A regulation game is 7 innings or 1.75 hours, whichever comes first. A new inning starts when the last out is made.
- 3.2. A legal game lasts at least 4 full innings.
- 3.3. Base Coaches: There may be adult coaches in the first and third base coaching boxes when the team is at bat.
- 3.4. 10 runs after 4 or more completed innings or 3 ½ if the home team has the lead at the end of its 4th inning, the game shall be terminated and the team in the lead shall be declared the winner.

4. PUTTING THE BALL IN PLAY

- 4.1. The end of a half inning will occur when one of the following first occurs:
- 4.2. Three (3) defensive outs are made.
- 4.3. When the team batting scores (5) five runs.

5. THE BATTER

- 5.1. A league approved batting helmet must be worn while hitting.
- 5.2. A continuous batting order is to be used (all players bat, regardless of whether they are playing in the field).
- 5.3. Late arrivals will be placed at the end of the batting order.
- 5.4. A strikeout consists of three (3) swinging strikes. A batter may not be called out on a foul ball.

6. THE RUNNER

- 6.1. If a batted ball hits a runner, the runner returns to the bench and it is counted as a defensive out. The batter is awarded first base.
- 6.2. Players may take a lead off the base in 12u.
- 6.3. Batting helmets must be worn while running the bases.
- 6.4. Interference will not be called unless it is deliberate and/or willful.
- 6.5. A player who has made an out cannot remain on the base and must return to the bench.
- 6.6. Base-runners are encouraged to advance as far as possible on hits to the outfield. The play ends when the pitcher has control of the ball.
- 6.7. No straight steal of home is permitted in any division. A runner advancing on a wild pitch or passed ball is not considered a straight steal, 12u only. No steal of home is permitted.
- 6.8. Stealing is allowed, runners do not have to wait for ball to reach home plate.
- 6.9. Drop third strike by the catcher the catcher must throw the ball to first base to record the out.
- 6.10. Catcher speed up rule - Last batted out to run for the catcher when there are two outs.

7. THE PITCHER

- 7.1. Starting pitchers, once removed from the pitching position may not re-take the position of pitcher in that game, but may assume another defensive position.
- 7.2. A 12u Division pitcher may pitch a maximum of 55 pitches per game and 110 pitches per week.

7.3. A pitcher (10u and 12u) may complete pitching to a batter if the pitcher has reached their number of pitches for a game. Once the batter has defensively been put out, struck out, or reached base, the pitcher must be removed. .

7.4. Drop third strike by the catcher, the catcher must throw the ball to first base to record the out.

7.5. The adult coach must make every attempt to avoid interference with a ball in play.

8. SAFETY RULES

8.1. No head first sliding.

8.2. No straight stealing of home is permitted.

8.3. Batter/ runners or base runners may not jump or hurdle to avoid a defensive player attempting to make a play on that base runner.

9. CONDUCT

9.1. The coaches are responsible for the behavior of all assistant coaches, players and parent helpers. Coaches must ensure that everyone is setting a good example for the children. Unruly or argumentative persons will be asked to leave the field immediately.

9.2. Only one designated coach may approach the umpire in between innings to discuss any play or result of a play.

9.3. No smoking is allowed on the field, in the dugout or anywhere on park premises. No alcoholic beverages of any sort are allowed at any park.

9.4. Although sportsmanship is very important, shaking hands after each game will not be permitted to avoid unnecessary contact with others. Teams shall line up on the first and third base line to say good game and tip of the hat to the opposing team. This is strictly a Covid-19 precaution.