

2026 East Shore Minor League Rules

Revised 1/26/2026

General

1. Evening games will begin at 6:15 PM. Games will be scheduled for Friday nights with the exception of Booster games on Saturdays or Sundays. (2022) All games will be 6 innings long. Innings will be limited to a maximum of 6 runs per team. A completed game is 4 innings unless the home team is ahead, then only 3 ½ innings is required. A 13 run lead after 4 innings or 7 run lead after 5 innings is a completed game. Team trailing must bat in their half of the 4th inning. After the game hits the run rule limit, the scoreboard score will be frozen. 6 innings can be completed with no score kept after the game is called by run rule. (2020)
2. If it rains, an official game is a 4 full innings, 3 ½ if the home team is ahead.
3. Games are to be called off by the home team at least one hour before game time.
4. The home team furnishes both the home plate and base umpires and the game balls. Umpires shall be at least 14 years old. "Addition to the rule" For tournaments the umpires shall be 18 or 16 and WIAA certified. The other ump must be 14 years of age. (2022) Before each game coaches and umpires will meet to discuss and clarify rules as well as the strike zone.
5. The visiting team shall be allowed to take infield practice 15 minutes before game time.
6. The pitcher's mound will be 46 feet measured from the front of the pitcher's rubber to the rear of home plate and the base lengths will be 60 feet. (2020)
7. Sportsmanship and skill development are to be stressed at all times.

Eligibility/Rosters

8. Any player coming out of fourth grade is eligible to play. *Beginning age is up to the coaches of the individual teams. (2021)*
9. The number of players on the roster is unlimited. Team rosters should be sent to the league Vice-President by BEFORE THE 1st GAME, showing the players name, age on April 30th, grade of player, and Jersie Number. Any players can be added to the roster during the season before they play by contacting the league Vice-President. (2026) Team roster is required for Tournaments. Players must play at least 3 games before they become eligible for the Tournament. (2015).
10. Rookies players that have signed up to play for that community are automatically eligible (and do not need to be added to the Minor's team roster) provided they have played at least 3 Rookies games and have not played for another Minor's team. In fairness to the rest of the league, it is suggested, but not required, that clubs with multiple Minor's teams divide up the stronger Rookies players and place them on Minor's rosters at the beginning of the year. (2018) Minors players cannot play on other Minors teams, you must pull up rookies (2026)

2026 East Shore Minor League Rules

11. The games played rule may be waived for sick or injured players. Request a waiver with the East Shore League Board. (2018)

Administration

12. East Shore League Vice President-Minors, would be any designated person from the club hosting the Minors Tournament. The Vice President-Minors is also responsible for completing the Minors Schedule *in conjunction with other League Presidents*. This Vice President-Minors will also serve on the Game Protest Committee for Little League, Minors, & Rookies Leagues. Failure to meet this obligation will result in the forfeiture of their respective Minors tournament and the team next on the list will get to choose if they want to host and fill the position as Vice President. If they pass, the tournament will go down the list until a club accepts. A club that does not wish to host will not lose their spot on the tournament rotation. (2021)
13. Any new club joining the Minors league will enter the Tournament rotation at the end of the current ten year cycle. (2015)
14. Team fees will not be charged by the East Shore League for any Minors level team. (2015)
15. All votes taken at the Fall and Spring meeting will be done verbally. Any vote too close to call must be publicly disputed immediately. After the results are disputed, a roll call vote will be taken with each club receiving only one vote. Simple majority wins a Roll call vote. In the event of a tie, the East Shore League President (which should be the LL President) will vote to break the tie (the East Shore League President's club gets one vote & the East Shore President gets one vote). (2020)

Tournament

16. Host tournament club will run a Championship/Consolation Bracket Tournament. The host club will randomly draw brackets.
17. For tournaments, if the host club does not keep an official book it will be the responsibility of the home team to keep the official book. It is encouraged that both teams keep the book. After each inning both teams should compare books or when the visiting team asks. (2013)
18. It is suggested that at a minimum, individual awards are presented to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Consolation Champion teams or 1st, 2nd and Consolation Champion if there is no 3rd place game. (2020) Team awards are optional. (2015)
19. For the end of season tournament, a time limit of 80 minutes minimum may be used (games cannot be less than 80 minutes). If a time limit is used, it is to be checked at the end of the inning. If there is a time limit, it must be communicated to all teams before the tournament starts. Unless there are unique circumstances, there should be no time limit in "place"

2026 East Shore Minor League Rules

games. If the time limit is reached, any innings played after reaching time limit will be considered extra innings and extra inning rules will apply. (2022)

20. There will be no (coach hitting at the start of the game) infield practice allowed during the end of season tournament. (2020)
21. No weeknight end of season tournament games shall start earlier than 5:00pm. (2020)
22. For the end of season league tournament only, if a game ends in a "tie", the host club has the option to use the traditional "extra inning" format or use the CALIFORNIA RULE extra inning tie-breaker format to determine the winner. California rule explanation: The extra innings will begin with the "away" team placing the runner who made the last out of the last inning on 2nd base. The inning will begin with (1) out. Extra innings will continue in this format until there is a winner. The "home" team will always get their last at bat. The host club must communicate to all coaches which format will be used during the tournament (2020).

Equipment

23. Batters and runners must wear full helmets. Face masks are optional. Chin straps are not required. a. Cages are allowed (2015)
24. Metal Cleats are not allowed.
25. Bat rule; Little League of America Certified bats including 2 1/4", 2 3/8" 2 1/2" and 2 5/8" bats allowed as long as they are stamped with USA Baseball certification. Penalty for using anything other than a USA certified bat: the first time a bat is used the player is called out. Second time the bat appears the player is out of the game. (2019)
26. Catchers must wear complete outfits at all times including a cup while catching.
27. The use of the orange safety base at first base will be used as one big base. The defense or runner can use either base. For safety reasons, it is suggested that the runner use the orange base when running "thru" the base. (2020)

Game Play

28. It is the coach's decision to use either 3 or 4 outfielders (9 or 10 players).
29. RE-ENTRY RULE-A player in the starting lineup, or substitute may be removed from the game and re entered in any defensive position, provided they re-enter the game in the same position in the batting order. Any player may re-enter 1 time, including subs. This rule is used when not batting the entire roster. (2020)
30. A team that starts without an AH must maintain 9 in the batting order (or 10 if using 4 outfielders).
 - a. Addition to the rule - A team may opt to bat their entire team roster (this would allow free substitution on defense) to make substitution easier.

2026 East Shore Minor League Rules

31. Minimum Participation rule- all players present at the start of a game and in full uniform must bat at least once and must play at least one inning in the field during a full 6 inning game. (2017)*** Must submit player roster before game (Entire rule added in 2022 from Little League Rules)
32. There shall be no physical interference by coaches. Interference will result in the player being out.
33. There is no infield fly rule.
34. Razzing opponents or false tags will not be allowed.
35. A count of 4 balls and 3 strikes will be used.
36. The batter is automatically out on strike three, whether or not the catcher holds on to the third strike.
37. Bunting is permitted.
38. A batter is not allowed to square to bunt and then swing to hit the ball. Batter will be called out. If a pitcher stops delivery on a batter that squares to bunt the ball will be called dead and the play will reset.
39. A defensive player can't talk to the batter.
40. A pitcher is allowed to wear a pitching helmet. All defensive players are allowed to wear defensive head gear. (2015)
41. A coach may attend to an injured player while play is live and the play will continue. (2018)
42. No new inning will be started after 1 hour and 45 minutes. (2019) If a game is tied after 6 innings or if the time limit has been reached, extra innings can be played if it's not too dark.
43. No throwing of the bat. One team warning, the next player to throw the bat will be called out. (2019)
44. A team must have 8 players minimum to start and will have to take an out for each player short of 9 batters when the open spot in the batting order is up. In the event a player shows up after the game has already started, they can be inserted on defense immediately and be placed in an open spot in the batting order. (2025)

Pitching

45. A pitcher may pitch a maximum of 2 innings per 6 inning game. These innings must be consecutive. One pitch is considered an inning. In the event of extra innings, pitchers are allowed to re-enter to pitch one more inning, for a total of 3 innings. (2020)
46. There is no balk rule. Curve balls are not allowed (discretion of the umpire).
47. It is recommended that the strike zone be inside the chalk of the batters box and from the knees to shoulders. (2025)

2026 East Shore Minor League Rules

48. An intentional walk may be given by having the defensive coach request the umpire to award the batter first base. The ball is dead during an intentional walk. (2025)

Baserunning

49. Sliding is permitted. *Sliding head first is allowed.* (2021)

50. Stealing is allowed after the ball crosses the plate. Runners will be allowed to steal 2nd or 3rd base. Runners will not be allowed to steal home. If a runner attempts to steal any base and there is an overthrow, the runner is allowed to steal the next base (including home if a play is made on them). Runners on third can only advance home on a walk, hit ball, or if an attempt is made to throw out the runner at third. After an 8 (was 6 runs 2020) run advantage stealing is not allowed for the team ahead. (Revised 8/22/2016)

51. A player is not out for turning the wrong way at first base. If the player breaks for second base, he can be put out.

52. Base runners must stay on their bases until the pitcher ball has been batted or reaches the batter. If a runner leaves a base ahead of the time the runner will be called out.

53. On a missed base, no appeal is to be made. The play is called out at the umpire's discretion.

54. A player may advance and score after tagging up on a caught fly ball.

55. If a ball is thrown out of play the runner or runners may only advance one base beyond the base they were going to.

56. No player may intentionally run over the catcher at the plate. If this occurs the runner will be called out. If the play is at home plate, it is up to the catcher to clear the base path and the runner must slide (discretion of the umpire). (2018)