

2026 East Shore Little League Rules

Revised 1/26/2026

Regarding Game Play, all rules are as stated in the 2015 Little League Rulebook except for the following rules:

Game Rules:

1. There is no balk rule. Pitchers must use legal windup or stretch. If not, a NO PITCH should be called by the umpires. In the event a pitcher stops his pitch after the batter has squared to bunt, a ball shall be called. (2015)
2. Any pitcher can pitch 2 (must be) consecutive innings during a 6 inning game. 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. (2017)
3. No curve balls, knuckle balls, or breaking balls allowed. Only a straight pitch is acceptable. This is left up to the discretion of the umpire. An intentional curve is called a ball.
4. Pitcher's mound is 50 feet from the front of the pitching rubber to the back of home plate. The bases will be at 70 feet between bases. (2010) (2026) ~~(was 46 feet and 60 ft bases)~~
5. Runners cannot leave base until the pitched ball leaves the pitchers hand. 1st offense the runner is not called out, but a team warning is issued. 2nd offense the runner is called out. Dead ball. (2026) ~~(was across the plate)~~
6. Runners are allowed to steal home.
7. If the game is played on a field with a long distance to the backstop, the coaches and umpires shall discuss the ground rules before the game. Suggested that ground rules include only 1 base max allowed on a ball that gets past the catcher. If the catcher attempts to put someone out, runners may advance a second base.
8. No runner may purposely (Umpires discretion) run over the catcher at the plate or the fielder at any other base. Runner is out in all cases If contact is malicious (again, umpires discretion), runner is to be ejected from the game.
9. No player may block a base or be in the baseline if they are not in possession of the ball (Umpires discretion). Runner is safe.
10. On any physical interference by the base coaches, the runner is automatically out.
11. Infield fly rule is to be used.
12. On a missed base or leaving early on a fly ball, no appeal is made. Umpire declares runner out after the play is declared dead.
13. No fake tag allowed. 1st offense player & coach warned. 2nd offense player will sit out 2 innings.
14. AH RULE: Teams that start with an AH must stay with the position and bat 10. Teams that start without an AH must maintain 9 in the batting order. Batting the entire lineup is an option and must be maintained the entire game. This would allow free substitution on

2026 East Shore Little League Rules

defense. Any player may play defensive position at any time when this lineup option is used on offense. (2011)

15. For clarification: In case of an injured player. If a team is batting only 9, which would be their entire roster, an out must be taken in the open spot once the team is batting less than 9 players. If using the AH rule, an out must be taken in the open spot once the team is batting less than 10 players. If a team has only 10 players and are batting 10 players, they are considered to be batting the entire lineup, not utilizing the AH rule.
 - a. **It is strongly recommended** that if you are playing more than 10 players eliminate the spot in the lineup and the player is taken out of the game, that injured player's spot in the lineup should not take an out, though the opposing coach is allowed to use their discretion. (2026)
16. 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)
17. Completed game is 4 innings unless the home team is ahead, then only 3 1/2 innings is required. A 15 run lead after 4 innings or 10 run lead after 5 innings is a completed game. (2013) Team trailing must bat in their half of the 4thinning. 6 innings can be completed with no score kept after the game is called by run rule.
18. Ground rules should be discussed before the game.
19. 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 (2019), including subs. (2011) This rule is used when not batting the entire roster.
20. 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. (2005)
21. All games must start within 15 minutes of the scheduled game start time or the conclusion of the previously concluded games. If a team is not ready to start, that team will forfeit the game.
22. Courtesy runners are allowed only for the active pitcher and catcher. An eligible courtesy runner is any team member who is not in the lineup at the time of the request. (2004) If batting the entire lineup, the last out may be used as a courtesy runner at any time. (2013)
23. No "Fake Bunting and then swinging away" allowed. Safety issue. Batter is out. (2013)
24. A coach may attend to an injured player while the ball is live and play will continue. (2018)
25. Regular season games not played or not completed due to weather or darkness, will be reviewed by the East Shore League Board for win/loss/tie. ***Good faith attempts must be made by both teams to get the games scheduled/rescheduled within 3 weeks of the regularly scheduled game. (2021)

2026 East Shore Little League Rules

26. Sliding head first is allowed. (2021)

27. Batters can warm up in either on deck circle. Safety is the priority! (2022)

Equipment:

28. No metal cleats allowed.

29. Bat rule; Little League of America Certified bats including 2 1/4" 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: first time the bat is used the player is called out. Second time the bat appears the player is out of the game. (2019) Illegal Bats belong in bags and unavailable all game (2026).

League Rules:

1. The home team will furnish the game balls and 2 umpires. Umpires: one umpire must be at least 18 years old (or 16 and WIAA certified for baseball) and the other umpire must be at least 16. (2012) Use of a 3rd umpire (adult) can be used to comply with this rule.
2. All attempts should be made to call games off due to weather at least 1 hour before game time.
3. If on a diamond with no lights, all games are to be scheduled to start no later than 6:30 PM. On a diamond with lights, games should be scheduled no later than 8:00 PM. Games will be scheduled for Friday nights with the exception of Booster games on Saturdays and Sundays. (2022)
4. The home team takes infield practice first. If there is no other game before the little league game, they must be through with practice 15 minutes before game time. If there is another game before the little league game, the home coach should communicate with the visiting coach on the plans for infield practice.
5. An eligible player is a player that is age 12 or under as of April 30th of the current year. (2010)
6. PROTEST RULES: A. Game must be protested immediately. B. Only the interpretation of the rules may be protested, not of an umpire's judgment. C. Game situation at the time of the protest must be recorded: home team, score, position of runners, number of outs and the count on the batter, etc. The game continues under protest at this point. D. The umpire and the protesting coach must call and write a letter to the president within 24 hours of the protest. E. The protest then goes to the board consisting of three individuals, president of the little league and 2 vice-presidents. If the game under protest includes the LL president, the Minors vice-president assumes the lead and picks a third person to decide the protested game outcome.

2026 East Shore Little League Rules

7. 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 a player roster before the game.

League Organization Rules

1. Meetings held each Spring and late Summer at a time set by the League President. Special meetings to be set as necessary.
2. Rule changes are only allowed at the late-Summer meeting.
3. Each team must have a representative at the meetings by adjournment time. \$10.00 fine.
4. League fees are to be set at the spring meeting and are applied to each team in the league. (2020) League fees are due to the league president by June 1st.
5. 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 Jersey 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 All-Star game.
6. Players must play at least 3 league games to be eligible to play in the tournament. Minors players that have signed up to play for that community are automatically eligible (and do not need to be added to the Little League roster) provided they have played at least 3 minors games and have not played for another Little League team. In fairness to the rest of the league, it is suggested, but not required, that clubs with multiple Little League teams divide up the stronger Minors players and place them on the Little League roster at the beginning of the year. Little League players cannot play on other Little League teams, you must pull up minors (2026)
7. The games played rule may be waived for sick or injured players. Request a waiver with the East Shore League Board. (2018)
8. The top 3 teams in league play will receive individual medals. In the event that more than three teams are tied for the top three places, the league tiebreaker rules will determine the top 3 league play teams. If there are 2 divisions the top 2 teams 1 from each division. (2025) These medals will be paid for from the Little League checkbook. *The Little League President will order and present these awards.* (2021)
9. 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. (2017) 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)

2026 East Shore Little League Rules

10. No throwing of the bat. One team warning, the next player to throw the bat will be called out.(2019)
11. East Shore Little League President is a designated person from the host club of the Little League Tournament. The president is responsible for running the Spring scheduling meeting and the Fall rules meeting. The Little League President is also responsible for completing the Little League schedule. This President will also serve on the Game Protest Committee for Little League, Minors, & Rookies Leagues with the two vice-presidents. Failure to meet this obligation will result in the forfeiture of their respective 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 on the responsibilities, 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. (2020)
12. The updated/changes rules from the fall rules meeting along with the minutes from the fall and spring meetings are to be published within one month when the meeting was held.
13. 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)
14. There will be a maximum of 12 regular season games depending on the number of league teams. If more teams are in the league than would allow a 12 game round robin season schedule, 2 divisions will be created randomly and scheduled accordingly with non division games used to fill the schedule to a maximum of 12 games. (2025)

Tournament Format and Addendums to Rules to be used in the Tournament:

1. The tournament shall be seeded based on league record. In the event of a 2-way tie, head to head results will be used as the tiebreaker. In the event of a 3-way (no more) tie, a coin flip shall be used.
2. In all games, the higher seed is the home team.
3. The tournament shall be set up as a Consolation Bracket, 3rd-place game, and Championship game format.
4. It is suggested that at a minimum, individual awards are presented to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Consolation Champion teams. Team awards are optional.
5. No weeknight games shall start earlier than 4:45pm. (2020) (2026) (was 5PM)
6. 10 run-rule after 4 innings and game is complete (replaces run rule from league play).
7. Teams must be ready to start by the scheduled start time of the game (replaces rule from league play)
8. There will be no infield practice (coach hitting at the start of the game) allowed during the tournament.

2026 East Shore Little League Rules

9. 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" games.
10. The host club has the option to require all winners' bracket games to be finished up to 6 innings, the run rule, or the time limit. (i.e., if a game called for rain or darkness and 3-1/2 or 4 innings are completed, the host has the option to require this be finished. This would need to have been communicated before the tournament started)
11. No protests are allowed in the tournament. If there is an issue, see the tournament director (or designee) immediately. Tournament director (or designee) has the right to extend the time limit if there is a delay due to a rules question. The rule in question will need to be interpreted and enforced by the president of the host club/ tournament director (2019).
12. 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 raps. The host club must communicate to all coaches which format will be used during the tournament (2020).