



2026 CVLL

Coach Pitch Playing Rules

These rules are specific to Clinton Valley Little League or are here for clarification purposes.

They are not a replacement but are a supplement to the 2025 Official Little League Rulebook.

At the Coach Pitch Division level of play the objective of each game shall be to provide instruction and equal playing time to all players.

1. Home Team Responsibilities:

The home team is responsible for the field set up before each game (**Please see field set up sheet in lock box**), and conditioning the field after each game & practice. This includes putting out/away bases, raking and/or dragging the infield and LOCKING the boxes before you leave. The visiting team is expected to assist the home team. Both teams are responsible for cleaning up dugouts; garbage must be IN the can & not left loosely in the dugout. Failure to do so will result in reduced privileges of the field & equipment; and any equipment lost due to unlocked boxes will be replaced by the home team manager. The home team is also responsible for adding the score to the website.

2. Minimum Participation Requirement:

- A. No player can sit on the bench defensively more than 1 inning (3 outs) unless all players have sat on bench defensively 1 inning (3 outs).
- B. No player can sit on the bench defensively more than 2 innings (6 outs) unless all players have sat on bench defensively 2 innings (6 outs).
- C. Any player not meeting the minimum requirements due to the game being shortened because of weather or time limit must start defensively the next scheduled game. Ten (10) players will play each inning defensively, 5 infielders, 4 outfielders, and a catcher. **Outfielders must be positioned on the grass not the dirt.**

3. Substitution Rules:

- A. A Continuous Batting order shall be used for all games, meaning every player present for the game will bat when it is their turn in the batting order regardless if they are in the game defensively.
- B. Unlimited defensive substitutions: Any player on the team can be entered as a defensive substitution at any time but will remain in the same position in the batting order.
- C. If a player leaves the game for any reason and their spot comes up in the batting order, they will simply be skipped over that time and any other time they miss. If the player returns, the player will assume the same place in the batting order.
- D. No courtesy runners or special pinch runners will be allowed.

4. **Bunting is not allowed.**

5. **Stealing:**

- A. Stealing is not allowed. Runners will remain on base until the batter puts the ball in play.

1) **Game Time:**

- a) All games will be six innings, unless shortened by the time limit.
- b) A time limit of 90 minutes will be imposed. This means no inning shall start after 90 minutes of play. An inning starts when the third out of the previous inning is made.

2) **The Five Run Rule:**

- a) team's turn at bat will end prior to the 3rd out in a single inning immediately upon scoring of the 5th run.

3) **On-Deck Batter:**

- a) On deck batters are not permitted at any time or place on or off the playing field during the game. This is an Official Little League Inc. rule. The only players permitted to leave the dugout in an offensive situation are the batter and any base runners.

4) **Pitching**

Coaches:

- a) The Pitching Coach will deliver pitches to their team when on offense.
- b) The Pitching Coach will deliver up to 10 pitches to the batter until said batter puts the ball in play. Balls & Strikes will not be called. If the batter fouls the 10th pitch he/she will continue to receive pitches until the ball is put in play or he/she swings & misses.
- c) Wayward pitches will count against the batter except for on the 10th pitch.

- d) If a batted ball hits the pitching coach or the ball bucket the ball is ruled dead and the batter is awarded 1st base. Other runners may advance 1 base if forced to by the batter being awarded 1st base.
- e) Coaches must pitch from the coaches' boundaries, between 35 and 42 feet measured from the back of home plate. See field set up sheet.

PLAYERS:

- f) The defensive player playing the position of pitcher must stand within the 10-foot diameter pitcher's circle until contact with the ball has been made. See field set up sheet.

5) Coaches' Instruction:

- a) Two defensive coaches will be permitted on the field to provide instruction. Both coaches should position themselves in the outfield and may not physically assist players.
- b) Three offensive coaches will be permitted. One pitching, one as a 1st base coach and one as a 3rd base coach.
- c) One coach or adult with a background check completed must be always in the dugout.

6) Defensive Players / Batters:

- a) The player playing the position of pitcher must be positioned within the 10-foot dia circle. The pitcher's circle shall be positioned with the front edge of the circle at 42 feet from the rear edge of home plate. (See field set up sheet for layout.)
- b) All Defensive players shall remain at their positions until the pitch has been delivered to the batter.
- c) To help keep both runners and fielders safer, CVLL has provided a double first base system. If there is a play at first base, the runner must make every attempt to run to the orange base to be safe. The first baseman must also attempt to only have one foot on the white base. It will be at the discretion of the coaches to determine if the batter/runner or fielder properly used the double first base system. Please stress with your players how to use first base properly and safely.
- d) If a batter throws the bat after swinging at the ball and the entire bat lands or rolls outside of the 10 foot circle around home plate, the batter is given a warning. After such warning, if that player throws the bat again, the batter is out and play is dead. No runner may advance and no plays can be made by the defensive team.

7) Runners:

- a) **Runners may continue to advance bases until the ball returns to the infield**

- i) Clarification: Since most player in the outfield cannot make a single throw to the infield, the rule is as follows.
- ii) If the ball is hit to the outfield, the runners shall advance until the ball has left the defensive players hand in a throw towards the in-field. Once the ball has left the defensive players hand in a throw towards the in-field, all base runners will stop advancing at the base they were standing on or advancing to.

b) Base paths will be 60 feet.

8) Umpires:

a) Umpiring the game is a shared responsibility of all coaches.

Coaches should make calls as follows:

- i) First base coach makes calls at 1st base
- ii) Pitching Coach makes calls at 2nd base
- iii) Third base coach makes call at 3rd base
- iv) The coach behind the plate retrieving pitched balls will make calls at home

b) Arguments about calls between coaches or parents will not be tolerated. Any person found to be doing so will be disciplined by CVLL Board of Directors. This disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the CVLL Disciplinary Committee. ***Coaches and parents are expected to set an example for the kids – be a leader!***

9) Bat / Equipment Requirements.

- a) It is mandatory that male players wear athletic supporters with metal, fiber, or plastic protective cup.
- b) Spikes or cleats are recommended and must be molded plastic or rubber.
- c) Pitching Helmets (with face mask attached) must be worn.
- d) Bats may not exceed the standards set forth by Little League Inc.
- e) All bats must have the USA Baseball stamp to be used. Maximum diameter 2 5/8".
- f) Refer to the Little League website for the complete list of bats allowed to be used during the 2023 season.

10) Playoffs:

- a) At the end of the season the playoff bracket will be determined by a random drawing.
 - Rules modifications for the playoffs will be issued prior to the start of the tournament
- b) Scores will be kept by both teams and *reported to the Player Agent.*
- c) Umpires will be provided.