

**WEST HARTFORD LITTLE LEAGUE
LOCAL RULES
BASEBALL - MAJOR LEAGUE DIVISION
1st Revision March 10, 2006
2nd Revision December, 2006
3rd Revision April, 2008
4th Revision January, 2009
5th Revision February, 2011**

All coaches must discuss these Rules with the players and parents prior to the start of the regular season.

1. Please make sure to check the West Hartford Little League General Rules which appear on the West Hartford Little League website – www.westhartfordlittleleague.com.
2. The Rules contained in the Official Little League Rulebook supercede these Local Rules if they are more restrictive.
3. Umpires are needed for the game to start. If umpires do not show, the home plate umpire cannot be a coach, manager or parent from one of the teams playing unless both team managers agree. Field umpire can be a coach, manager or parent from one of the teams playing or a child age 13 or over.
4. Leading off the base is not allowed.
5. Stealing is allowed after the ball crosses the plate.
6. No head first slides, except when returning to a base. If violated, player will be called out.
7. Coaches can be third base coaches only; players must coach first base and must wear a batting helmet.
8. Batting helmets must be worn when batting, running the bases or coaching a base.
9. Practice swings are not permitted until the batter is at the plate. No on-deck swings. All bats must be kept inside backstop when not in use.
10. All players are in the batting order the entire game, even if they are not playing on the field. Coaches are encouraged to mix up the batting order so that all players have a reasonable opportunity throughout the season to come to bat during the first two innings.

11. Every player must play at least 1 inning per game at an infield position, (pitcher and catcher are considered infield positions) and must have the opportunity to play every position on the field at least one inning during the season, except for pitcher and catcher. If a coach feels that it would be dangerous for a particular player to play a particular position, he or she must discuss it with the player's parents. No player shall play less than 4 innings in the field in any game, except in exceptional circumstances where the game is shortened because of weather or darkness, or because a player does not show up at the beginning of the game. Every player must play at least one inning at an outfield position in each game. No player will play more than 4 innings at the same position in any game, with the exception of pitcher and catcher. No player can start consecutive games on the bench. Note: If a game ends after 5 1/2 innings because the home team is ahead, the away team meets these playing requirements if, in theory, they could have completely fulfilled the requirements in the last of the 6th inning.
12. Follow pitching and pitch count Rules in official Little League Rule Book.
13. A pitcher's league age must be reported to the umpire and to the coach of the opposing team prior to the first pitch being thrown by any starting pitcher or replacement pitcher.
14. Games are six innings long; however, an inning cannot start more than 15 minutes prior to the next scheduled game. (Except in playoffs) This paragraph applies only to games played where there is a scheduled game following the game.
15. The distance between the plate and the pitching rubber is 46 feet.
16. No pitcher may throw more than 60 pitches in a single game prior to the third Sunday of the regular season.
17. No intentional walks.
18. A minimum of 8 players are need to start and finish a game. If a team does not have enough players within 15 minutes after the scheduled start time, the team with insufficient players will forfeit the game. However, the teams are encouraged to divide up extra players and play a practice game anyway.
19. There is no mercy rule in this division.
20. Sponsor banners must be prominently displayed at all games and practices.

Please remember to keep this all in perspective and have fun!!!

