

**2026 SEASON MINOR DIVISION LEAGUE RULES** 3/4/2026  
**ATASCADERO LITTLE LEAGUE LOCAL RULES**  
**Appendix B**

1. **GAME LENGTH:** Game shall consist of 6 innings. No new innings will start after **1 hour and 45 minutes** from the start of the game. Any inning in progress will continue until completed or the game is called by the umpire for safety reasons. The umpire is responsible for calling the game in case of darkness and/or adverse weather conditions.
2. **BATTING:** Continuous batting order is in effect for all games. Bunting is permitted in the Minor Division.
3. **MANDATORY PLAYING TIME:** *Two* innings minimum (6 defensive outs) [three is ***strongly*** encouraged to aid in player development], and 1 at bat. This is an instructional division and it is highly recommended that players should not play the same position more than 2 consecutive innings.
4. **PITCHING:** Home team scorekeeper is the official scorekeeper and pitch counter. The umpire is dependant on the official scorekeeper to monitor the pitch count. The pitching affidavit in the Official Scorebook must be filled out by the home scorekeeper and signed by both managers after each game. Managers are responsible for checking the pitching availability **BEFORE** the game. Pitchers once removed from the mound may not return as pitchers. Pitchers may not pitch in more than one game per day. **A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day. Any player who has played the position of catcher for four or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day. A player who played the position of catcher for three innings or less, moves to the pitcher position, and delivers 21 pitches or more in the same day may not return to the catcher position on that calendar day.** Catching a single pitch in any inning qualifies as a complete inning caught (warm up pitches do not count).

<u>League Age:</u>	<u>Max Pitch Count</u>
11-12	85 pitches per day
9-10	75 pitches per day
7-8	50 pitches per day

**REST DAYS** - Pitchers league ages 7 through 12 must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest.
- If a player pitches 51 – 65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest.
- If a player pitches 36 - 50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest.
- If a player pitches 21 - 35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest.
- If a player pitches 1 - 20 pitches in a day, no calendar day of rest is required.

Note: ***Rest days are measured midnight to midnight.***

**Example:** If a pitcher in the Little League Minor Division throws 70 pitches in a game on Saturday morning, that pitcher cannot pitch again until Thursday, when he/she has had four calendar days

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of rest (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday). It makes no difference what time of day the pitcher pitched on Saturday, as the rest period does not begin until midnight that night.

If a pitcher reaches the “days of rest threshold” imposed while facing a batter the pitcher is only required to observe the calendar days of rest reached during that at bat provided that pitcher is removed before delivering a pitch to the next batter. Example: Pitcher starts with 48 pitches and throws 4 pitches (52 total) to complete at-bat and pulled, he will only have to rest 2 calendar days.

Note: There are no automatic intentional walks in Atascadero Little League.

5. **CATCHERS:** ALL MALE CATCHERS MUST WEAR PROTECTIVE CUPS.
6. **STEALING BASES:** Stealing will be allowed per Little League rules throughout the entire season. A player may only advance one base per overthrow resulting from the defensive team attempting to throw out the runner. This rule has been established to allow development of catchers and their throws to second and third base during the Minor League Season.
7. **STEALING HOME:** Standard Little League stealing home rule will apply during the entire season: runners may advance at their own risk. Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike rule WILL NOT be in effect for the Minor division.
8. **BATTERS PER INNING:** A team may bat through their lineup in a single inning if three outs aren't recorded against them. If three outs are recorded, then it is a change of inning. If one team has more players at the start of the game than the other the larger number dictates how many batters will hit in an inning. *EXAMPLE: The Rays have 12 players present and the Blue Jays have 10. The Blue Jays can bat a maximum of 12 players if not put out. Their entire lineup would hit, plus the next two batters. The batting order will remain the same and the next inning will start with the next batter. The Rays if not put out with 3 outs could bat all 12 of their players. Picking up in the next inning where they left off.*
9. **REGULATION GAME:** See Sections 4:11 thru 4:13 of the Rule Book. The 8-run rule applies to all games after 5 innings. The 10-run rule applies to all games after 4 innings. The 15-run rule applies to all games after 3 innings. The Minors Baseball Division game consists of 6 innings, unless extended because of tie score, or shortened (1) because the home team needs none of its half of the sixth inning or only a fraction of it; or (2) because the umpire calls the game. Any inning not fully completed by maximum game time or called due to safety issues by the umpire shall not count towards the official score or calculation of innings for regulation game determination. See Sections 4:11 thru 4:12 of the Rule Book for clarification on ties and incomplete innings. The game is regulation after 4 complete innings (3 ½ if the home team is ahead or ties the game during its half of the 4<sup>th</sup>) – see rule 4.10. If the score is tied at the end of a regulation game the game will be recorded as a tie.
10. **FIELD SET-UP/CLEAN-UP:** The home team is responsible for unlocking the field gates and scorekeeper's booth (if playing on Paloma Little League field), Porta-Potty and field set up (dragging the field, setting out the bases and chalking the foul lines). The visiting team is

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responsible for locking the field gates scorekeeper's booth, Porta-Potty and field clean-up (dragging the field and returning bases). Please rake, water and tamp home plate and the pitcher's mound after the game. After the last game of day, the mound should be covered with the tarp (Little League field). Home team is always 3<sup>rd</sup> base side. Both teams should pick up all trash before leaving the field.

11. **SCOREKEEPING:** Each team must provide a scorekeeper. The home team is responsible for the Official Scorebook. An additional scorekeeper may be used to keep score in the home team coach's scorebook. It is the responsibility of the visiting scorekeeper to verify the score and pitch counts at the end of each inning. Any discrepancy once an inning is past shall be solved by utilizing the score in the Official Scorebook. The home team is responsible for entering the final score into SportsConnect. Both managers are responsible for entering their team's pitch counts into SportsConnect.
12. **\*\*\* Home team manager must post the score of the game on Sports Connect within 24 hours or risk forfeiture of game, or future game.\*\*\***
13. **AGE LIMITS:** This division is for eight, nine, ten and eleven-year-olds.
14. **BASE COACHES:** Two adult base coaches are allowed however there must be at least one coach or manager in the dugout at all times when the team is at bat. Players may coach a base at any time with batting helmet.
15. **DRUG FREE ZONE:** All school district sites are drug-free – NO ALCOHOL, DRUG OR TOBACCO USE IS PERMITTED AT ANY LITTLE LEAGUE ACTIVITY.
16. **INJURIES:** Immediately report any on-field injuries to the Safety Officer and fill out the *Accident Notification Form*. Please notify the Player Agent if you lose players. If appropriate, replacements may be moved from a lower division if the Player Agent deems necessary.
17. **VERBAL BEHAVIOR:** Absolutely no heckling, harassment, profanity or unsportsmanlike conduct will be tolerated from any manager, coach, player, parent or spectator during games or practices. Any person ejected by the head umpire must leave the field immediately and is suspended from the next game. **Refer to rule 4.07.**
18. **POST-SEASON PLAY:** All Minor players in good standing are eligible to be considered for All-Star and TOS post season tournament play as determined by age and ability.
19. **STARTING THE GAME:** Teams may start the game with 8 players. The ninth batter's position WILL NOT count as an out.