

2017 Athens Sandlot Baseball Local Rules

12U/Majors Division - Board Approved

General: These are the regular season rules that have been agreed upon by the Athens Sandlot Baseball League Board. Little League rules will be in effect, except as noted by these local rules. (Athens Sandlot Baseball League (ASBL) is not affiliated with Little League Baseball)

Age Guidelines: 11 & 12 year olds, as determined by the age of the player on or before April 30 of this year. An experienced 10 year old, currently in the 5th grade, may request to play in this division. A 10 year old playing up may be eligible for this division's all-star team but **not eligible** for the all-star team from his/her actual age division.

Officials: The umpire is in charge of the game, and will handle all appeals on the field. Only the head coach may address the umpire to resolve any questions. In the event the umpire cannot resolve a situation, the Majors Commissioner can be called upon to do so. The head coach is responsible for the conduct of his/her players, spectators, and coaches. In the tradition of baseball, "chatter" is encouraged; however, negative chatter or team "chant songs" are not permitted.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. The umpire may give a warning, but can, at any time, eject any coach, player, or spectator. Profanity is not tolerated and may result in immediate ejection from the park.

I. Start & End of the Game:

A. Line up cards. Each coach shall prepare a team line up card to include:

Batting line up
Starting pitcher
Members of the team that may be arriving late and may play
Coaches names. (No more than 4 coaches may be used during games.)

B. Pre-Game Warm ups, line ups, line up cards and protocol:

20 minutes prior to the start time: Visitor team warm ups
10 minutes prior to the start time: Home team warm ups
5 minutes prior to the start time: Line up cards delivered to the chief umpire.
Failure to finish a team warm up is not an excuse to delay the on-time start the game.
On-field pre-game warm ups may be altered or disallowed due to games running behind schedule, weather, or darkness.
First pitch: Start time shall be called by the umpire.

C. If a team cannot field 8 players within 10 minutes of the scheduled start of the game, the ASBL Board has determined this team shall forfeit the game. A team may play with 8 players and the opposing team shall supply a defensive player that is deep in the batting order for that inning, (or from the bench when possible) to fill in the 9th position (outfield), so the game may be played. This "loaned" player will still bat for his/her team. A forfeit game may be played with less than 8 players, however, the score will not count, and the only item that will be recorded in the official score book will be "innings pitched."

D. The City of Athens will notify ASBL if the field is not available for use because of field conditions. If the City has approved the field for use but the weather or field conditions are poor, the team coaches must both agree the field is acceptable. Once the game is turned over to the Chief Umpire, only the Chief Umpire may end a game for weather, darkness or time.

E. Games will be 6 innings. Ties to be resolved in extra innings. A game is official after 4 complete innings (3 1/2 if home team is winning).

F. No new inning shall begin after 1 hour, 45 minutes from the official start time of the game, or within 20 minutes of sunset. Sunset times will be posted weekly.

IV. Batting:

- A. The ASBL Board has ruled all players present and eligible shall get at least 1 at bat per game
- B. The ASBL Board has determined the strike zone to be at least one ball width wider and taller than the NLL strike zone in order to encourage batters to swing at the pitches. In general this means any pitch from the shoulders to the knees and one ball width on either side of the plate will be called a strike.
- C. A player re-entering the lineup must re-enter in the same spot in the batting order. Exception: In the event a void is created in the batting order due to the loss of a player (injury, etc.) a coach may re-enter a player to fill the void if no bench players are available.

V. Fielding:

- A. The Athens Sandlot Board has determined that minimum defensive play for each player shall be six (6) defensive outs per six inning game. Compliance with this local rule is on an honor system only. **HOWEVER**, managers suspected of not complying will be closely scrutinized and if found delinquent shall be subject to discipline by the Board, which may include forfeiture of subject game(s).
- B. Each team shall assign a coach to insure the catcher is ready at the end of the inning with a cup, mask/helmet and catchers glove and be ready to take the field. If there are 2 outs and the catcher is on base, you should use a bench player, when available, or the last player that made an out, as a pinch runner, in order to get the catcher ready.
- C. Infield Fly rule is in effect.

VI. Running:

- A. **Slide or Avoid Rule:** On any play on a runner at 2nd, 3rd, or home, for the purpose of avoiding collisions, **the runner must slide or otherwise avoid contact with the fielder**. Any collisions will result in the runner being called out and the ball will be dead.
- B. If there are 2 outs and the catcher is on base, you should use a bench player, when available, or the last player that made an out, as a pinch runner, in order to get the catcher ready.
- C. "Pinch" runners: A player not in the lineup may be used at any time to pinch run for another player. This will not count toward the players' minimum playing time.
- D. In the event of an injury, the ball is dead; the runners receive the base they are headed to.

VII. Substitutions:

Coaches shall notify the Chief Umpire of:

- All pitcher changes
- Arrival of late players who will be put entered into the line up (end of line up only).
- Any injured or sick player that is being removed from the line up.

VIII. Home Team:

- A. The schedule will determine home team and the home team shall occupy the 3rd base dugout.
- B. The home team shall drag the playing field and fill in any divots around the pitchers rubber, bases, etc., after the game as well as remove and or replace any rain tarps for the pitcher's mound and home plate areas.

IX. Uniforms:

- A. Complete uniforms must be worn, as supplied by Athens Sandlot Baseball. Hats must be worn facing forward; shirts must be tucked in. No modifications are allowed- example: cutting off sleeves, adding names, etc.
- B. Coaches will wear Sandlot League shirts.