

**Atlee Little League**  
**33rd Annual**  
**9 Year Old Baseball Invitational Tournament - 2021**

**Tournament Rules**

**OBJECTIVE**

To provide eight and nine-year old players with an opportunity to participate in tournament play other than District all-stars at the conclusion of regular season.

**TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES**

This tournament is approved, sanctioned, and insured by Little League; therefore, the Official Little League Playing Rules (Regular Season Rules) shall govern this Invitational. Refer to 2021 Baseball Playing Rule Book.

**FORMAT**

The format for this tournament is **POOL PLAY into a Single Elimination Championship Bracket**. If a league sends more than one team, one team will be American and the second team National. POOL PLAY: The home team shall be determined by a coin toss prior to every pool game. CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET: The highest seeded team shall be the home team. In the event both teams have the same seed, then a coin flip will be utilized. The home team shall occupy the first base dugout and the visitors shall occupy the third base dugout during bracket play. Batting practice must be done in one of the batting cages located next to fields 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 9. **Cage assignments will be made prior to the beginning of the tournament. Also, limit batting practice to the cages. Pre-game infield practice is NOT allowed. Teams can warmup in the outfield and also in foul territory of the infield.**

Seeding for the Championship Bracket will be based on Pool Standings. Pool Standings are determined by:

1. Win-Loss Percentage (ties will be counted as a half win and half loss)
2. Head-to-Head Results
3. Runs-Against-Ratio (runs allowed/defensive innings played)
  - a. A defensive inning is defined as one pitch = one inning (i.e. NO partial innings)
4. Coin flip by tournament director

**TEAMS**

The Eligibility Team Affidavit must be certified by the Tournament Committee or an authorized representative and presented at the Managers Meeting on July 8th . Each league president must sign, verifying that all data represented on affidavit is true and accurate. This document must be a part of the team's tournament binder.

The manager and coaches shall be regular season league managers or coaches from the minors kid pitch division.

**MANAGERS AND COACHES**

Each tournament team must have a manager. An additional two coaches are allowed within the playing field fences.

## **PLAYERS**

Players must be League Age 8 or 9 and a regular member of the league to be eligible for the tournament team, provided the player has participated as a member of a Minor League team for at least one-half of the regular season. Players of league age 9 who played up with 10 year olds may play in the tournament. Players of League Age 8 may participate ONLY if they played up in a League Age 9 Division during the regular season. Players may only be a member of one tournament team (cannot play for both American and National).

**\*\*Teams may not roster any players who participate in All-Stars at the District level in the 9/10 age group, unless approved by the ALL Executive Board. Requests should be made prior to the July 8th meeting.**

It shall be the League President's responsibility to review and certify birth records of all players. When the league decides the makeup of the team, names must be entered on the League Tournament Team Eligibility Affidavit. Once the Tournament Committee certifies the Affidavit, there is no need to carry birth certificates. No original birth certificates, please.

## **MINIMUM PLAY**

Players must play a minimum of six (6) defensive outs. A continuous batting order shall be used in all tournament games.

## **PITCH COUNTS**

The maximum number of pitches thrown by a 9 year old pitcher in a day shall be 75 (8 year olds have a maximum of 50 pitchers per day). If a pitcher reaches the limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until the completion of that at-bat or the end of the half-inning, whichever comes first.

If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 51 to 65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 36 to 50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 21 to 35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 1 to 20 pitches in a day, no rest is required.

Pitchers, once removed from the mound, may not return as pitchers.

Any player who has played the position of catcher in 4 or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.

## **PLAYING EQUIPMENT**

The use, dimensions and other specifications of all other equipment used must conform to those set forth in the playing rules.

Every team member must wear a conventional uniform, which includes shirt, pants, stockings and cap.

Each team must provide at least four NOCSAE approved safety helmets with warning labels for the batter and all base runners. Helmets may include a safety face guard on the front.

All male players must wear a protective cup

Catchers must wear approved long or short model chest protectors with neck collars and shin guards. Catchers must use a catcher's mitt. All catcher's mask must be fitted with a dangling throat guard

Shoes with metal cleats or metal spikes will not be worn by players, managers, coaches or umpires.

Helmets – face shields are optional

## **RULE CLARIFICATIONS**

Infield Fly Rule – the infield fly rule is in effect for the tournament.

Offensive Half Inning – teams will have completed an offensive half inning when the first of the following occurs: three outs are made or five (5) runs are scored. THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR UNLIMITED RUNS IN THE LAST INNING.

Defensive Half Inning – a team shall be deemed to have played a defensive half inning as long as one (1) pitch is delivered by the pitcher to the batter of the opposing team.

Batting Order – continuous batting order is used.

Minimum # of players – a game can start and/or continue with a minimum of 8 players. The 9<sup>th</sup> (or vacated) spot in the batting order will be an automatic out each time it is due up to bat. A game will be considered a 7-0 forfeit if there are less than 8 players at the start of a game.

Intentional Walks – pitcher does not have to deliver the pitches but 4 pitches (or remaining # of balls in at bat) will be added to the pitchers pitch count per LL rules.

On Deck Batter – the on deck position is not permitted.

Head First Slides – the runner will be called out if attempting a head first slide when advancing a base. Runners MAY slide head first returning to a base.

Base Runners (bases and home plate) – a base runner will be called out if he does not slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag.

Mercy Rule – games shall be considered final if, after 3 ½ innings, the home team is leading by 10 or more runs; or after 4 innings, the visiting team is leading by 10 or more runs.

Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> Strike – the batter is deemed out whether the ball is caught or not caught by the catcher.

Tie Games (Pool Play) – games tied after six (6) complete innings will be recorded as a tie in the standings.

Tie Games (Championship Bracket) – games tied after six (6) complete innings will continue on until a full inning is completed with the visiting team ahead or until the home team has scored one more run than the visiting team.

Courtesy Runners – following LL Rule 7.14(b), courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or catcher will be allowed when there are 2 outs. Since a continuous batting order is being used, the courtesy runner will be the player that made the last out.

Noisemakers – artificial noisemakers of any kind are prohibited.

## **SCHEDULES**

The tournament will be **POOL PLAY into a Single Elimination Bracket** and shall not start until District All-Star play for this level has concluded. Inclement weather may be justification to change the tournament format in order to complete the tournament on schedule.

## **TIME LIMITS**

Pool Play Games: No new inning will start after 1 hour and 45 minutes of play. An inning starts the moment the third out is made completing the previous inning.

Bracket Games: There will be no time limits imposed.

### **TOURNAMENT TEAM PRACTICE**

Tournament teams shall not start practice until **four weeks** prior to the start of the tournament and each team may not hold more than 15 practices (scrimmages count as practices).

### **SELECTION OF FIELDS**

All games shall be played upon Atlee Little League fields approved by the Tournament Director. Fields must be enclosed with an outfield fence. The distance will be no less than 180 feet from home plate.

### **GAMES UNDER LIGHTS**

Games under lights will be scheduled. No inning shall start after 10:00 PM prevailing time. An inning starts the moment the third out is made completing the previous inning.

### **STARTING TIME OF GAMES**

A game shall not be started unless the Tournament Director determines there is adequate time to complete the game before curfew.

### **LOCAL PROTEST COMMITTEE**

The protest committee shall consist of two or more members of the Atlee Little League Executive Board.

### **OFFICIALS**

**Official Scorer:** The home team will provide official scorer for each game. The official scorer shall, immediately following each game note on the reverse side of each team's Eligibility Affidavit the following: game date, name of each player who pitched, the pitch count, name of opponent, score of game for the last inning the player pitched and the signature of Tournament Director or Game Director. This shall be the official record. The official scorer MAY NOT keep another book while acting as official scorer.

**Pitch Counts:** Each team shall designate a parent/coach who will act as a "pitch count assistant". At the end of each half-inning these individuals will agree on an official pitch count and then report said pitch count to the official scorer. In case of a discrepancy for the previously played half-inning, the Game Director will determine the official pitch count for that half-inning. The official pitch count sheets are to be signed by both team managers at the end of each game. Once signed, these pitch counts become official and cannot be changed.

**Announcer:** the visiting team will provide an announcer for each game.

**Umpires:** Atlee Little League will provide umpires for tournament play.

### **Atlee Little League Executive Board:**

|              |              |            |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Jim Eddy     | James Layne  | Andy Blair |
| Ben Turnauer | Matt Freundt |            |