

# 2020 East Shore Minor League Rules

Revised 9/29/19

1. Any player coming out of fourth grade, or still age 10 on April 30<sup>th</sup>, is eligible to play.
2. Evening games will begin at 6:15 PM. See schedule for any changes by town. All games will be 6 innings long. Innings will be limited to a maximum of 6 runs per team. Completed game is 4 innings unless the home team is ahead, then only 3 ½ innings is required. A 13 run lead after 4 innings or 7 run lead after 5 innings is a completed game. Team trailing must bat in their half of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning. After game hits the run rule limit, score board score will be froze. 6 innings can be completed with no score kept after the game is called by run rule. (2020)
3. If it rains, an official game is a 4 full innings, 3 ½ if home team is ahead.
4. Games are to be called off by the home team at least one hour before game time.
5. The home team furnishes both the home plate and base umpires and the game balls. Umpires shall be at least 14 years old. "Addition to the rule" For tournaments the umpires shall be 15 years old with at least one umpire being 18. (2013). Before each game coaches and umpires will meet to discuss and clarify rules as well as strike zone.
6. The visiting team shall be allowed to take infield practice 15 minutes before game time.
7. A team roster should be available upon request that has grade, age, and name of players by the third game of season. The number of players on a roster is unlimited.
8. The pitcher's mound will be 46 feet measured from the front of the pitcher's rubber to the rear of home plate and the base lengths will be 60 feet. (2020)
9. Sportsmanship and skill development are to be stressed at all times.
10. The number of players on the roster is unlimited. Team roster should be sent to the League Vice President-Minors by June 1<sup>st</sup> showing name, age, birth date and grade of the player. Team roster is required for Tournaments. Players must play at least 3 games before they become eligible for the Tournament. (2015).
11. Rookies players that have signed up to play for that community are automatically eligible (and do not need to be added to the Minor's team roster) providing they have played at least 3 Rookies games and have not played for another Minor's team. In fairness to the rest of the league, it is suggested, but not required, that clubs with multiple Minor's teams divide up the stronger Rookies players and place them on Minor's rosters at the beginning of the year. (2018)
12. The games played rule may be waived for sick or injured players. Request a waiver with the East Shore League Board. (2018)
13. It is the coach's decision to use either 3 or 4 outfielders (9 or 10 players).
14. RE-ENTRY RULE-A player in the starting lineup, or substitute may be removed from the game and re-entered in any defensive position, provided they re-enter the game in the same position in the batting order. Any player may re-enter 1 time, including subs. This rule is used when not batting the entire roster. (2020)

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15. A team that starts without an AH must maintain 9 in the batting order (or 10 if using 4 outfielders).
  - a. Addition to the rule - A team may opt to bat their entire team roster (this would allow free substitution on defense) to make substitution easier.
16. There shall be no physical interference by coaches. Interference will result in the player being out.
17. Batters and runners must wear full helmets Face mask is optional. Chin straps are not required.
  - a. Cages are allowed (2015)
18. Metal Cleats are not allowed.
19. Bat rule; Little League of America Certified bats including 2 1/4", 2 3/8" 2 1/2" and 2 5/8" bats allowed as long as they are stamped with USA Baseball certification. Penalty for using anything other than a USA certified bat: first time bat is used the player is called out. Second time bat appears the player is out of the game. (2019)
20. Catchers must wear complete outfits at all times including cup while catching.
21. A pitcher may pitch a maximum of 2 innings per 6 inning game. These innings must be consecutive. One pitch is considered an inning. In the event of extra innings, pitchers are allowed to re-enter to pitch one more inning, for a total of 3 innings. (2020)
22. There is no balk rule. Curve balls are not allowed (discretion of the umpire).
23. There is no infield fly rule.
24. Razzing opponents or false tags will not be allowed.
25. A count of 4 balls and 3 strikes will be used.
26. The batter is automatically out on strike three, whether or not the catcher holds on to the third strike.
27. Bunting and sliding are permitted.
28. A batter is not allowed to square to bunt and then swing to hit the ball. Batter will be called out. If a pitcher stops delivery on a batter that squares to bunt the ball will be called dead and the play will reset.
29. Stealing is allowed after the ball crosses the plate. Runners will be allowed to steal 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Runners will not be allowed to steal home. If a runner attempts to steal any base and there is an overthrow, the runner is allowed to steal the next base (including home if a play is made on them). Runners on third can only advance home on a walk, hit ball, or if an attempt is made to throw out the runner at third. After an 8 (was 6 runs 2020) run advantage stealing is not allowed for the team ahead. (Revised 8/22/2016)
30. A player is not out for turning the wrong way at first base. If the player breaks for second, he can be put out.
31. Base runners must stay on their bases until the pitcher ball has been batted or reaches the batter. If a runner leaves a base ahead of the time the runner will be called out.
32. On a missed base, no appeal is to be made. The play is called out at the umpire's discretion.

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33. A player may advance and score after tagging up on a caught fly ball.
34. If a ball is thrown out of play the runner or runners may only advance one base beyond the base they were going to.
35. No player may intentionally run over the catcher at the plate. If this occurs the runner will be called out. If the play is at home plate, it is up to the catcher to clear the base path and the runner must slide (discretion of the umpire). (2018)
36. ~~A player can only score after a hit ball. A play does not end until the ball is dead.~~ Deleted 8/22/16
37. Defensive player can't talk to batter.
38. A pitcher is allowed to wear a pitching helmet. All defensive players are allowed to wear defensive head gear. (2015)
39. A coach may attend to an injured player while play is live and the play will continue. (2018)
40. Host tournament club will run a Championship/Consolation Bracket Tournament. The host club will randomly draw brackets.
41. For tournaments, if the host club does not keep an official book it will be the responsibility of the home team to keep the official book. It is encouraged that both teams keep book. After each inning both teams should compare books or when visiting team asks. (2013)
42. East Shore League Vice President-Minors, would be any designated person from the club hosting the Minors Tournament. The Vice President-Minors is also responsible for completing the Minors Schedule after completion of the Little League Schedule. This Vice President-Minors will also serve on the Game Protest Committee for Little League, Minors, & Rookies Leagues. Failure to meet this obligation will result in the forfeiture of their respective Minors tournament and the team next on the list will get to choose if they want to host and fill the position as Vice President. If they pass, the tournament will go down the list until a club accepts. A club that does not wish to host will not lose their spot on the tournament rotation. (2015)
43. Any new club joining the Minors league will enter the Tournament rotation at the end of the current ten year cycle. (2015)
44. It is suggested that at a minimum, individual awards are presented to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Consolation Champion teams or 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Consolation Champion if there is no 3<sup>rd</sup> place game. (2020) Team awards are optional. (2015)
45. Team fees will not be charged by the East Shore League for any Minors level team. (2015)
46. No new inning will be started after 1 hour and 45 minutes. (2019) If a game is tied after 6 innings or if the time limit has been reached, extra innings can be played if it's not too dark. For the end of season tournament, a time limit of 80 minutes minimum may be used (games cannot be less than 80 minutes). If a time limit is used, it is to be checked at the end of the inning. If there is a time limit, it must be communicated to all teams before the tournament starts. Unless there are unique circumstances, there should be no time limit in "place" games. (2020)
47. No throwing of the bat. One team warning, the next player to throw the bat will be called out. (2019)

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48. A team does not have to start with (at least) 9 players but does have to take an out for each player short of 9 batters. In the event a player shows up after the game has already started, they can be inserted on defense immediately and be placed in an open spot in the batting order. (2020)
49. There will be no (coach hitting at the start of the game) infield practice allowed during the end of season tournament. (2020)
50. No weeknight end of season tournament games shall start earlier than 5:00pm. (2020)
51. The use of the orange safety base at first base will be used as one big base. The defense or runner can use either base. For safety reasons, it is suggested that the runner use the orange base when running "thru" the base. (2020)
52. All votes taken at Fall and Spring meeting will be done verbally. Any vote too close to call must be publicly disputed immediately. After the results are disputed, a roll call vote will be taken with each club receiving only one vote. Simple majority wins a Roll call vote. In the event of a tie, the East Shore League President (which should be the LL President) will vote to break the tie (the East Shore League President's club gets one vote & the East Shore President gets one vote). (2020)
53. For the end of season league tournament only, if a game ends in a "tie", the host club has the option to use the traditional "extra inning" format or use the CALIFORNIA RULE extra inning tie-breaker format to determine the winner. California rule explanation: The extra innings will begin with the "away" team placing the runner who made the last out of the last inning on 2nd base. The inning will begin with (1) out. Extra innings will continue in this format until there is a winner. The "home" team will always get their last raps. The host club must communicate to all coaches which format will be used during the tournament (2020).