

Upper Tonka Little League

5 and 6 Year-Old League Rules

The primary purpose of this League is to introduce the game of baseball to boys and girls 5 and 6 years of age. Basic skills such as hitting, fielding and throwing are taught in a fun and safe environment. Rules, sportsmanship and teamwork are also emphasized. All of these concepts are taught in a manner in which to build the player's self-esteem and confidence. All players will have an equal opportunity to play infield, outfield and to hit. Coaches are asked to attend coaching clinics provided by Upper Tonka Little League. Players in this league will use soft-coated balls for the entire season. Little League Baseball, Inc., headquartered in Williamsport, PA, publishes an exhaustive handbook each year titled "Official Regulations and Playing Rules" which Upper Tonka Little League abides by. Where permitted, UTLL supplements these rules with the following local rules:

- 1) A team consists of a conventional infield, with all other players in the outfield.
- 2) A team must field at least seven players or the game will be forfeited. A ten-minute grace period will be allowed after the scheduled game time.
- 3) There is no stealing. A player cannot leave the base until the ball is struck by the batter. A player cannot run inside or outside the base line more than 3 feet to avoid being tagged out by a player.
- 4) The **hitting tee** will be used at this level. The pitcher must go through a simulated wind-up and throw on every pitch. The pitcher may not move off the mound until the ball is hit.
- 5) The batter must watch the wind-up and throw, and cannot swing at the ball until the delivery is complete.
- 6) There is no bunting. The batter must take a full swing at the ball.
- 7) There will be no strikeouts. A foul ball caught in foul territory is an out.
- 8) The home plate umpire (coach/parent) must remove the tee from the base if a play is to be made at home plate.
- 9) The umpire (coach/parent) will have jurisdiction over the entire playing field. One umpire (coach/parent) stands behind the catcher and the other one serves as the base umpire (coach/parent).
- 10) Each game will consist of six innings (or less if the time limit occurs first). Each team shall bat through the entire batting order in an inning regardless of whether or not three outs occurred.

5 and 6 Year-Old League Rules (continued)

- 11) An out is an out, the player must leave the base if he is out.
- 12) If a child throws his bat, the umpire (coach/parent) will give him one warning. The second time will be an automatic out.
- 13) Players, coaches, and parents will observe the Little League Code of Conduct at all times.
- 14) All batters and base runners shall wear a helmet. Catchers shall wear a helmet with a face protector, chest protector and shin guards when catching.
- 15) All games have a one-hour and thirty minute time limit from the SCHEDULED start time of the game. A new inning may not be started with less than 15 minutes remaining before the scheduled start time of the next game. **Without exception, regardless of the game circumstances, the game must end five minutes before the scheduled start of the next game.**
- 16) Players may not advance **one** base on a "live play" overthrow.
- 17) Two coaches may assist players in the outfield with verbal instructions before and after each play as long as this does not prolong the progress of the game. The coaches may not interfere with the play of the ball.
- 18) No smoking will be permitted on playing fields, in the dugouts or in the bleachers.
- 19) No player will play more than two innings in the infield during a game.
- 20) There is not an on-deck circle. All on-deck batters must stay in the dugout.
- 21) Each team will be responsible for cleaning up their dugout and bleacher areas following each game.
- 22) Game will be played with soft-coated balls. Each team will receive 1 game ball that they keep upon completion of the game.
- 23) To keep the game moving and provide the maximum number of batting opportunities, each hit shall be considered a single.
- 24) No score will be kept.