

Upper Tonka Little League

7 and 8 Year-Old League Rules

Many of the players in this league have played T-Ball before and are ready to understand the rules of baseball and to concentrate on their skills in throwing, catching, running and hitting. The rules are designed to allow each player the opportunity to play a variety of positions. All players play every inning in the field and bat in continuous order. Sportsmanship is an important part of the learning process. No emphasis is placed on winning games. Instruction is emphasized on throwing, catching and hitting. Coaches are asked to attend coaching clinics provided by Upper Tonka Little League. Players in this league will use regulation baseballs 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, UTLI 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 eight 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) Pitching machines will be used. Each batter gets five machine pitches. If the ball is not hit, the hitting tee will be used. If a player is hitting off the tee, 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 the 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).

7 and 8 Year-Old League Rules (continued)

- 10) Each game will consist of six innings. A maximum of 5 runs per inning, per side is allowed.
- 11) If a child throws his bat, the umpire (coach/parent) will give him one warning. The second time will be an automatic out.
- 12) Players, coaches, and parents will observe the Little League Code of Conduct at all times.
- 13) 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.
- 14) 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 minute before the scheduled start of the next game.**
- 15) Players may **not** advance **one** base on a "live play" overthrow.
- 16) 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.
- 17) No smoking will be permitted on playing fields, in the dugouts or in the bleachers.
- 18) No player will play more than two innings in the infield during a game.
- 19) There is not an on-deck circle. All on-deck batters must stay in the dugout.
- 20) Each team will be responsible for cleaning up their dugout and bleacher areas following each game.
- 21) Game will be played with regulation baseballs. Each team will receive 1 game ball that they keep upon completion of the game.
- 22) A batted ball which contacts the pitching machine will be considered a dead ball and will result in a replay.
- 23) Players can advance (at their own risk) to second base only if the batted ball hits the outfield grass on a fly.
- 24) Each player shall play both infield and outfield positions during each game. No more than 2 innings shall be in the infield.

7 and 8 Year-Old League Rules (continued)

- 25) The pitcher/coach will wait until all defensive players are positioned properly before the ball is put into play. The ball will be pitched by a coach or parent from the offensive team "feeding" the pitching machine. The coach shall hold the ball above the pitching machine to signify putting a ball into play.
- 26) The home team is in charge of setting up and putting away the pitching machine. Before putting the machine away, please check if there is another league game after yours.
- 27) The defensive teams' pitcher shall stay on either side and even with the pitching machine, until the ball is batted.