

Enfield Little League Single A Bylaws: 2019

Game Management and Umpire Functions:

1. HAVE FUN!!!! – Be Safe, Be Smart and Be Good Sports
2. Under no circumstances will any arrangements between coaches can change any of the prior rules. These are the by-laws we have reviewed and agreed upon prior to the season. Please try to follow these as closely as possible.
3. No children are allowed to pitch in Single A for safety concerns.
4. Umpiring in Single A will be conducted by the Coaches. The Coach that is pitching as well as the defensive coach will make the calls.
5. Games should start no later than 6pm on weekdays. There will be a 1 1/2-hour time limit for the games or 6 innings. Visiting team shall have infield/outfield practice from 5:15-5:30 PM. Home team 5:30-5:45 PM.
6. Home team will use the 1B bench/dugout and the visiting team shall use the 3B dugout.
7. The home team will provide the game balls for the contest.
8. Three outs will be made or each batter will bat, whichever comes first will end an inning.
9. Please make sure you move the players on and off the field in a timely manner – please limit the time between innings to getting kids into position. It is vital that pace of play is monitored and we keep these games moving for the players and fans. Coaches, whenever possible have a plan in place for where you want to shift your players defensively ahead of time and make adjustments accordingly based on attendance.
9. Whenever possible if there are roster constraints and a team is short the minimum 8 players – if the opposing team has enough players please share in order to and allow for a game to be played. The more the kids can play and learn the better we all will be for it. We are only playing against ourselves – we are ALL ENFIELD!!! We all get better as a town and a community if we work together.

Pitching:

1. **NO CHILDREN ARE ALLOWED TO PITCH IN SINGLE A FOR SAFETY CONCERNS.**
2. Offensive Coaches will pitch from one knee in front of the pitcher's mound.
3. No more than two defensive coaches will allowed on the field at once time.
4. Coaches are not to make plays on defense.
5. Kids must wear full catching gear while warm up a pitcher.
6. There will be no walks during the game however we need to encourage the kids to swing the bats so swinging strikes will be called to record outs. We want to focus on developing pitching, hitting and fielding.

7. 6 strikes per out will be allowed for the first half of the season. From that point on it is encouraged to turn to 3 strikes per out.

Catching:

1. A catcher cannot catch more than two innings.
2. Catchers must wear a cup. All gear must be worn.
3. Please teach kids to set a good target and proper methods of blocking bad pitches.
4. Make sure catchers are at a safe distance from the batters swing path. And don't reach for balls in that path, any interference from a catcher's glove will be an automatic base.
5. If a player brings their own equipment make sure it meets all safety features required listed on the safety report.
6. Blocking the plate is not allowed. The runners must avoid a collision at home plate and the catcher cannot be blocking the plate.
7. Safety is the number one priority it takes preference over anything. So make sure your catchers are capable, confident and alert behind the plate at all times.

Fielding:

1. 8 players is the minimum to play a game. Borrowing of players is authorized. Players from another division are NOT allowed to play in a Single A game without prior approval.
2. You can have one fielding coach in the infield to call outs on the base paths and to make sure players are positioned safely, no corners in defense. For safety reasons the first baseman and third baseman must be behind the pitcher at all times.
3. Fielders cannot block any base from the runner. The runner will be awarded the base if this happens.
4. Please rotate your infielders and out fielders on a regular basis. They all must play at least three innings of the game in the field and no more than two in one position. If a player doesn't play at least three innings, they will start the next game and play his three innings of the next game.
5. Please rotate players in all positions that way they get experience in all positions and can learn each position and their responsibilities. It will benefit the league and players if they are capable to handle any position. We are trying to avoid teams that keep players in the same spot all year it is a disservice to all kids that are participating. They are here to learn baseball and to play it. And the more players that enjoy it the more players that come back and the more competitive the league gets.
6. Based on Roster Sizes– teams can play with four outfielders. Ideally both teams would use same configuration so if one team is unable to field 10 in the field please reduce and follow the 9 on the field standard. However a team does NOT need to reduce to a lower number if a team is only playing with 8 players.

Batting:

1. NO ON DECK PRACTICE SWINGS OR BAT HANDLING UNTIL THEY ARE AT THE BATTER'S BOX.

AGAIN THIS IS A SAFETY ISSUE. ALL BATS MUST BE PLACED IN AN ON DECK AREA AND AWAY FROM THE BENCH AREA – NO PRACTICE SWINGS AT ALL

2. No bunting.

3. Batting order is all players bat. You can replace a batter due to injury with the next batter in order with no penalty. All players bat.

4. Please teach the batters to load and step into their swings.

5. There will be no practice swinging allowed (safety for all players) all bats to remain in bag or on fence until batter goes up to the plate

6. Please make sure the batter is positioned in a manner where his swing path does not affect the catcher.

7. No throwing the bat after the swing. Please, stress this in practice so it will not arise during a game.

8. Batting helmets will be used at all times.

14. Hitting should be the strength of the league and the more opportunities you give your batter's the better their approach will be. Teach them that no matter the outcome being aggressive at the plate will help them in the long run.

15. All bats must meet USA bat standards new for 2018.

Base Running:

1. Helmets must be worn at all times when on the bases.

2. No leads.

3. No stealing.

4. No advancing on pass balls.

5. Runners must avoid coalition at any base. Runners must avoid any collision at home plate on any close play.

6. Defensive players cannot block the base path if not making a play on the ball. If it happens the runner is awarded the base.

7. Close plays go to the runner. So please don't argue in front of the kids and let them know beforehand so they know when it happens.

8. Players may advance more than one base when the ball is hit into the outfield. Once the ball is back into the infield the players may no longer advance.

Behavior:

1. Coaches please stress to the players that they are expected to represent Enfield Little League, their team and family when on and off the field.
2. Coaches should use their discretion when deciding to warn the player and/or team after an offense. You will know these kids the best. Do not single out a kid, make sure they understand what behavior is not acceptable.
3. Players throwing helmets or other equipment in an aggressive/violent manner should be benched (duration is up to the coach based off the situation)
4. Players cursing at umpires, managers, or coaches are to be benched for the remainder of the game. Recurring violations will result in a one game suspension, effective immediately
5. Players should keep their hands to themselves, no rough playing. Friends or not, remind them to keep their hands to themselves. If it's a true altercation, bullying the player will be removed from the game and the director must be notified.
6. Parents and spectators are to stay away from the backstop area.
7. Parents and spectators heckling umpires or the opponent will be asked to leave after the first warning. Refusal to leave the area after this warning may result in the forfeiture of the game.
8. Altercations between managers will be reported to the League Director.
9. Managers berating umpires or the opponent will be suspended for one game after first warning.

Rain Outs:

Games are called due to rain based on the following:

- Rain before 3:30 PM – The town determines if the fields are playable. Please call 860-253-5166 and listen to the recorded message. The decision of the town is final based on insurance. When the town closes a field, it is closed for the day and may not be used for any reason.
- Rain after 3:30 PM – The decision is up to the team managers and the umpires, with the umpires having the final say. Remember that safety is the prime concern when making the decision. In the event that the town chooses not to make a decision on the status of the fields, managers should instruct their players to arrive as scheduled, at which time a decision will be made.
- Due to insurance regulations and our strong relationship with the town, no manager, parent or player is allowed to rake or groom the field, at any time.