

Lefty Grove Baseball League, Inc.

8U Rules and Regulations

The Lefty Grove Baseball League (LGBL) has adopted the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Baseball Book of Rules as the base of our rule book. Following are the amended rules and regulations adopted by LGBL. Each rule notates the specific NFHS rule that it is amending or adding to. In the event of a conflict, these amendments take precedence. In the event of something unstated, the appropriate ruling under NFHS rules shall prevail.

Rule 0: LGBL Specific Rules and Information

These rules are unique to the LGBL, in the event that any NFHS rule conflicts with a rule that exists within Rule 0, the LGBL rule shall apply.

0.0.1 - On field/game time conflicts, issues, and decisions that must be called are at the discretion of the umpire of the game in question.

- Umpires can be questioned but their decisions are final
- There will be **NO ARGUING** with an umpire under any circumstances.

0.0.2 - If the issue is outside of the confines of an individual or direct game, the best available Board Member shall make the call themselves or refer the item to the Board at large for further consideration.

0.0.2 - For Player Safety: If a player has been injured, either while playing Lefty Grove Baseball or otherwise requiring a physician's care, the player must have a signed release from their physician before being allowed to rejoin their team. This is for the protection of the player.

Section 1: Field Etiquette

0.1.1 -Players do not go on the fields when the fields are wet without permission.

0.1.2 - Due to running double headers, Pre-game warmups will be "Tournament Style" Meaning there will be no Pre-game warmups on the infield. All warmups must be done in the outfield

0.1.3 - Both teams are responsible for cleaning up the area around the field and dugouts after their game(s). Failure to do so may result in a forfeit for the offending team(s). This is not limited to picking up trash, throwing away stones, and sweeping.

0.1.4 - Cameras or other recording devices are not allowed inside the fences of the playing field during a game without league approval.

Section 2: Team Composition

0.2.1 - LGBL Division is organized and based primarily on age.

- a. *League Age.* Division placement shall be determined by “league age”, which is the age of a player as of April 30th in the current year of play.
 1. With board approval, the parent or guardian of players within three (3) months of a different league age may elect to place their child in the next division. Board shall consider skill, size, and development of the player as shown at their skill clinic review and/or previous coach recommendations.
 2. Any movement between divisions that **ARE NOT** based on league age will need to be submitted (with justification) to the Board of Directors for approval and will require a majority board vote.

- b. *Division age.* Age separations (Based on League Age) as follows:

Division	Age Range
8U	7 and 8

1. With board approval, players may remain in a lower division longer based on skill and development level needs.

0.2.2 - Players may only play for one (1) LGBL team in one (1) LGBL division

Section 3: 8U Division Specific Rules

0.3.1 - Each team shall have an adult designated to pitch to their own team and abide the following:

- a. Pitching shall be overhand with no restrictions on height.
- b. The adult pitcher shall not display verbal or physical disagreement towards umpires.
- c. Adult pitchers can elect to wear a glove.
- d. Adult pitcher may only give instructions to his/her team when the ball is dead.
- e. Any batted or thrown ball that hits the adult is dead and runners cannot advance, and a pitch is declared. Exception is if it is the sixth pitch, the batter may have an additional pitch but no more than seven total pitches.

0.3.2 - Player designated as pitcher must stay within an eight-foot circle until ball is hit by batter

0.3.3 - Batters are out after three swinging strikes or 6 total pitches (exception of hitting adult pitcher)

0.3.4 - A ball batted into the outfield, runners may continue to advance until:

- a. The ball has been thrown in and ball is in possession of an infielder or any player in the infield dirt.

- i. Once the ball has been determined to be in, the umpire shall raise hands and announce, “dead ball”.
- ii. At that time, any runner more than halfway to the next base will be granted that base. A runner that was not halfway when the ball was called dead must return to the previous base.
 1. Runners returning to base are in a dead ball situation and cannot be tagged out.

0.3.5 - There are no free bases awarded to batters.

0.3.6 – Base runners cannot lead off or steal under any circumstances

0.3.7 - The 8U Division shall use the following ***Inning Run Rule*** and ***Mercy Rule***

- Teams shall be limited to five (5) runs per inning. When the fifth run scores, the inning shall be immediately called and no other runs shall be scored.
 - **EXCEPTION:** If a home run is hit, all runs shall be scored
- Mercy rule shall be invoked as soon as a team is mathematically unable to tie the game. Example, a team is ahead by 11 runs after 4 (or 3.5 innings, if the home team) or 6 runs after 5 (or 4.5 innings, if the home team is ahead).
 - Game WILL NOT continue once the Mercy Rule is invoked

LGBL Rule 1: Roster, Field, and Equipment

Rule 1 shall be amended as follows. Sections and articles noted in the LGBL rule book shall directly reference the amended section and article in the NFHS, unreferenced sections and articles are unamended and applied directly as written. In the event of a conflict, LGBL rules shall apply.

Section 1: Roster

1.1.1 - All LGBL teams bat the entire roster present on game day. At the pregame conference, rosters submitted to the umpire and scorekeeper shall be organized as follows:

- Listing the batting order of all players present by **first and last name and shirt number**.
- Listing all remaining players that are not present at the end of the batting order (also by both names and shirt number) as well as a designation for their absence:
 1. W-N – With Notice
 2. W/O-N – Without Notice
 3. Sus – Suspended
- Players arriving late or attending the completion of a suspended game shall be added to the end of batting line up and allowed to play.
- If a player has to leave the game under any circumstance (besides an injury) an out will be recorded 1 time at that player’s next “at bat” in the batting order
 - Subsequent at bats will not be counted as an out

PENALTY: Managers are required to provide a copy of this information to the Umpire, the Scorekeeper, and the opposing Manager, Coach, or Captain. If it is not provided at the pregame conference, it must be provided prior to the start of the game. Failure to provide this information by the start of the game will result in a forfeit of the offending team. At the umpire’s discretion, the manager may be given a reasonable amount of additional time to complete the line up if needed.

Section 2: The Field

1.2.1 - For player safety, players in the LGBL may use the on-deck circle that is to the back of the batter.

- For a right-handed batter the on-deck batter may warm up in the on-deck circle on the 3rd base line, and for a left-handed batter, they may warm up in the on-deck circle on the 1st base line.

1.2.2 - For player safety, the LGBL shall utilize the Double First Base Rules referenced in the NFHS rules. The only exception shall be if the LGBL utilizes a field for play that is not equipped for a double first base. See Rule 8, Base running, for guidance on usage.

1.2.3 - appended to note: LGBL divisions shall utilize fields with the following dimensions:

Division	Base Paths	Pitchers Plate
8U	65’	35’

Section 3: Equipment

1.3.1 - Bat Restrictions

- The LGBL requires that all bats be certified by a nationally recognized standard. Each division shall utilize bat allowances as follows:

Division	Max Length	Max Diameter	Max Drop
8U	30”	No Limit	n/a

EXCEPTION: Players that need a larger bat may get an exception with league approval.

1.3.2 - All players must wear batting helmets with face protection.

- Helmets MUST have a full-face cage
 - For safety reasons there are no exceptions to this rule

PENALTY: First infraction will be a warning by the umpire to both team managers. Any further infractions by either team shall result in the batter or base runner being ruled out. Deliberate or flagrant violations, at umpire discretion, may be ruled out and the player ejected.

Section 4: Uniforms

1.4.1 - All players in the LGBL must wear their unaltered league issued shirt and hat. (Exception: Teams may have player name added to shirt)

- Shirts must be tucked into their pants.
- Players must wear baseball style pants or sweatpants that extend below the knees:
 - no jeans, khakis, shorts, or other styles of bottoms may be worn during play.

PENALTY: no player may participate that does not meet this rule.

1.4.2 - Cleats are not required to play, but they are recommended and encouraged.

- No Steel Cleats

PENALTY: A player found to be using steel or metal style cleats/spikes during play shall be ejected from the game in question. If they are at bat, or on base, they will be ruled out, and any subsequent at bat they would be called to will be an automatic out, then on to the next batter.

Section 5: Player Equipment

1.5.1 ... All players must have face protection.

- Helmets **MUST** have a full-face cage
 - For safety reasons there are no exception to this rule
- **PENALTY:** First infraction will be a warning by the umpire to both team managers. Any further infractions by either team shall result in the batter or base runner being ruled out. Deliberate or flagrant violations, at umpire discretion, may be ruled out and the player ejected.

LGBL Rule 2: Starting and Ending Game

Section 1: Starting a Game

2.1.1 - Teams in each division shall have the following maximum/minimum number of defensive players on the field during an inning.

Division	No. of Defensive Players	Min. No. of Defensive players
8U	10 (4 outfielders)	8

2.1.2 - All players must check in with the scorekeeper before they take the field

2.1.3 - Forfeits due to not having the Minimum Number of Defensive players shall be declared 15 minutes after the official starting time.

Section 2: Ending a Game

2.2.1 - A regulation LGBL game shall consist of a number of innings up to a maximum time limit, as outlined below, unless extra innings or time is necessary because of a tie score, or unless shortened because the home team does not need all or a fraction of its (NFHS Art. 2) half of the final inning; or because of weather, or darkness (NFHS Art. 3). Each team must maintain the minimum number of

players through the game, otherwise the game shall be a forfeiture. A forfeited game is considered complete and regulation, regardless of innings played.

Division	Maximum Innings	Maximum Time	No New Inning
8U	6	1 hr 30 mins	No new inning after 1hr 15 Mins

2.2.2 – Game ends at 1 hr 30 mins.

- If the inning is incomplete at the time limit, the score reverts to the last completed inning score
 - I.E. If the time limit is hit in the bottom of the 6th inning. The game ends and the score of the 5th inning becomes the official score, **NO EXCEPTIONS**

2.2.3 - Any suspended game, not considered complete, shall be continued from the exact point of suspension.

- 4 complete innings is considered an Official Game if the game is suspended due to weather
 - If a game is in the middle of the 5th or 6th inning at the time of the suspension, The score will revert to the last **COMPLETED** Inning

2.2.4 - The LGBL has the policy of a minimum of a 30 minute delay at the site of Lightning

2.2.5 - The LGBL does not allow or permit any game protests.

Section 3: Make Up Games

2.3.1 - Any game that is canceled prior to its starting time due to weather, field conditions, or any other reason deemed appropriate and necessary by the LGBL Board of Directors shall be rescheduled as a Make Up Game.

2.3.2 - Any game that is suspended during play due to weather, lightning, field conditions, darkness, or any other reason deemed necessary for player safety shall be rescheduled as a Make Up Game and continued from the exact point of suspension.

2.3.3 - All Make Up Games shall be scheduled by the league to the next available date with at least 48 hours' notice

LGBL Rule 3: Substituting, Coaching, Bench and Field Conduct, Conferences

Section 1: Substituting

3.1.1 - All players on a LGBL team in any division must play three (3) innings in the field by the end of the 5th inning. By the 6th inning, if a player is removed from the field of play before three outs are recorded in any inning, the player must play a total of at least nine outs.

- a. LGBL teams are allowed unlimited fielding substitutions, providing the above rule is followed.

PENALTY: Failure to ensure this, the manager shall be suspended for one game. In the event that this occurs in a tournament or championship game, the offending team shall forfeit their victory.

EXCEPTION: If the player is removed from play due to injury, illness, ejection, or must leave the game/field early.

3.1.2 - The LGBL does not utilize designated hitters in any fashion.

3.1.3 - The LGBL allows courtesy runners for a pitcher or catcher that is on base when there are two outs. The same runner may not be used for both in the same inning. If the courtesy runner were to be up to bat while still on base, an out shall be declared and the inning over.

3.1.4 - A pitcher having already faced at least one batter and been replaced previously in the game may be returned to pitch once. After being removed from pitching a second time they shall be ineligible to return to the position for the remainder of that game.

Section 2: Coaching

3.2.1 - Coaches are not required to be in any uniform while in a coach's box.

- Anyone under the age of 18 must wear a batting helmet while occupying a coach's box.

3.2.2 - All players of the batting team must remain on their side of the diamond, notwithstanding the on-deck exception.

3.2.3 - ... The LGBL has a zero-tolerance policy for any type of bullying or harassment from players, managers, coaches, spectators, or any other person present at a LGBL game. We encourage every parent to sit down with their children and discuss with them how to choose kind words, how to follow expectations in other settings, and how to be respectful to others and to themselves. Bullying can come in many forms and can be very harmful to both the target and the bully. Please talk with your children about the different ways bullying can happen and what to do if they see it. We encourage you to talk with your children on what is appropriate and what is not when they are with their teams. It is the responsibility of all of us (parents, children, coaches, managers, and community members) to teach our children the importance of being kind and considerate to others. These are life skills which are greatly needed by all in our society.

PENALTY: on first offense, the player, manager, coach, or any other person present, shall be ejected from the current game, if in progress, and will receive a one game suspension. Any second offense will be a removal from the league.

3.2.4 - The LGBL has the following attendance policy: It is very important that you as parents make certain that your children attend practices and games. Improvement for your children at playing baseball is dependent on regular attendance at these events. Team improvement is dependent on this as well. It is discouraging to players, coaches, and managers when a team's full roster is not present for practices and games; more importantly it hurts your children as well. We understand that events and circumstances can happen that result in the need for a player not being able to attend practices and games; however, it is important that you contact your children's team manager to let them know that your child will not be there. Not doing so will result in an unexcused absence.

PENALTY: In response to excessive absences without notice or reasonable excuse, the manager **MUST** notify the Division President. The Division President may restrict play in a subsequent game to a minimum of one inning in the field and/or reduce the number of at-bats to one. If approved, the manager will report this to the scorekeeper before the start of the game.

Further issues may warrant removal from the team by board approval.

3.2.5 - Any player, coach, manager, or other team assistant that is ejected from a game, they will be required to attend a following subsequent game and sit out without participating in the game or player communication before being allowed to resume duties.

LGBL Rule 4: Official Record Keeping, Scoring

Section 1: Scoring

4.1.1 – The Scorekeeper's book will be the **OFFICIAL RECORD** of a game

- Any challenge of the score **MUST** be done **RESPECTFULLY** prior to the start of the opposing team's at bat.
 - Any discrepancies should be resolved **QUICKLY** prior to the next half inning.
 - This will be done "ON THE CLOCK" for the game time limit
 - The Umpire will determine if the issue is taking too long to resolve
- Once the other team's at bat starts, the score can no longer be contested