

Land-O-Hills Baseball League

7th-8th Grade Boys (Major) Rules

2023 Season

(updated 4/24/23)

Note: The purpose of the Land-O-Hills Baseball League is to allow the players to learn the game of baseball and have fun doing so. The league is not run for the benefit of the coaches or the parents of the players. The rules stated below are intended to help carry out this purpose. Should a situation arise not specifically covered in these rules, resolution of the situation should be made keeping this stated purpose in mind. Your cooperation is appreciated to keep baseball fun, challenging and rewarding for all of our young players.

"RULES OF THE GAME"

1. Rules

The league will play "National Federation of State High School Rules" with the following clarifications and exceptions.

2. ROSTERS

2.1. The Commissioner will determine the number of players per team.

~~2.2. A player may only play on one team in the LOH League during a season. Select players or players from a try-out team are not eligible for play in the LCYBS recreation league. If a select or try-out player is found playing in a recreation game, that team will automatically forfeit the game. No variation of this rule will be accepted.~~

2.3. All LOH league teams may share players in order to avoid a forfeited league game due to lack of players.

a. Coaches using substitute players must notify the opposing coach of the use of the substitutes.

b. Substitute players may not pitch or catch in a LOH league game AND must hold the last batting order positions.

c. A maximum of two substitute players may be used.

d. Substitute players cannot play for or be rostered on a select team; however, players from a league team may play on a non-LOH, tournament only team.

e. Selecting substitutes to fill a roster should be chosen in the following order of availability:

1. From a lower level team within your organization.

2. Borrow from the opposing team. The opposing coach will decide whom to borrow.

3. Another player currently playing in the same division of the LOH League.

4. If the opposing coach does not agree to the above stated rule, the game will be a forfeit.

3. AGE REQUIREMENTS

3.1 - 7th/8th Grade

- 3.1.1. The school grade that the player is in at the time of sign up.
- 3.1.2. Any modifications to this rule must be approved by the league committee.

4. PARTICIPATION

- 4.1. Each player must play a minimum of three (3) innings in the field
- 4.2. Exception- in the case of disciplinary actions, the opposing coach must be notified prior to the start of the game

5. BASE PATH, PITCHING DISTANCE, DROPPED 3RD STRIKE, INFIELD FLY

- 5.1. Bases and pitching rubbers will be placed at the following distances:

Majors	<u>Base Length</u>	<u>Pitching Distance</u>	<u>Advance on Dropped 3rd Strike</u>	<u>Enforce Infield Fly</u>
7 th /8 th Grade	90 feet	60 feet	Yes	Yes

- 5.2. First Base double base rule – the use of two bags at first base for the safety of players is in effect. On plays at first base the runner must use the outside or orange base. The fielder covering first base must use the inside base closest to second base. If the runner is rounding first base, then the runner may touch either base. The team will receive one warning for violation.

6. GAME LENGTH

- 6.1. Each game will be seven (7) innings in duration for the 7th/8th Grade League
- 6.2. Game time limits will be 2 hours.
- 6.3. A new inning will not start after the time limit has elapsed. In the event of a tie after 7 innings and time still remaining, additional innings may be played until a winner is determined or the time limit expires. Any inning started prior to the time limit expiring must be completed.
- 6.4. Each team is required to show up on time according to the schedule. There will be a 15 minute grace period for a team to field a compliant team. After 15 minutes the game is a forfeit.
- 6.5. In the case of rain during a game – 4 ½ innings or 1 hour of game play, whichever comes first

7. INNINGS

- 7.1. 7th/8th Grade – one inning is three outs

8. RAINOUTS

- 8.1 The home team coach will determine when conditions prevent the playing of a game and shall contact the visiting team's coach by 4:30 p.m. of game date. The home coach is responsible for verbally talking with the visiting coach—no emails, no postings on webs. The home team coach must take the initiative to communicate to the visiting coach and is responsible for notifying the Community Directors of the date and field of choice to insure availability.

- Coaches will make a good faith attempt to reschedule rained out games.

- Rained out games may be played at any LOH venue and also on Saturdays/Sundays.
- The home team from the original game will be responsible for baseballs and umpires.
- The home team shall provide a minimum of two alternate dates within 7 days of the rained out game.

9. RUN RULE

9.1. If a team is behind by 15 or more runs after four innings of play or 10 runs after 5 innings, it shall be considered a completed game.

10. FORFEITS

- 10.1. All forfeits must be submitted to and approved by the League Commissioner before being posted to the standings.
- 10.2. Every effort must be made to play every league game.

11. COURTESY RUNNER

- 11.1. A courtesy runner may be used at any time for the pitcher of record or the catcher of record. The same player may not be used for both in the same inning.
- 11.2. A courtesy runner for the catcher is mandatory after 2 outs.
- 11.3. Pitcher or catcher of record means the player in those positions the previous defensive inning. In the case of the visiting team, in the 1st inning, it is the player who will pitch or catch in the bottom of the inning.
- 11.4. For teams using a continuous batting order, the player making the last out *must* be used as the courtesy runner for either the pitcher or catcher, but not for both in the same inning.

12. LEADING OFF/STEALING

- 12.1. Leading off is allowed in 7th/8th grade leagues.
- 12.2. Stealing is allowed in 7th/8th grade league.

13. PLAYERS

- 13.1. There may be no more than 9 players in the field at one time for the 7th and 8th grade league
- 13.2. A minimum of three players must be positioned in the outfield and a minimum 30 feet behind the infield.
- 13.3. To start a game, a team must have a minimum of 7 players in the field. The 8th and 9th position is then an automatic out each time through the line up.
- 13.4. Teams will use a continuous batting order and bat their entire team.
- 13.5. A team utilizing a continuous batting order may also freely substitute their players on defense without regard to reentry rule.
- 13.6. If utilizing a continuous batting order and a player leaves the game, there is an automatic out for that player each time his spot comes up in the batting order.
- 13.7. Exception to 13.6 if a player is injured during the course of the game, the order continues without penalty.
- 13.8. Game reschedules are NEVER due to player shortage. If this takes place, the league committee will service the guilty team with a forfeit for the game.

14. PITCHERS

- 14.1. Pitchers in the 7th/8th Grade League may pitch up to 3 innings in one game
- 14.2. The maximum a pitcher can pitch during a week is 6 innings.
- 14.3. If there are more than two games in a given pitching week a pitcher's maximum will be increased to 9 innings per week
- 14.4. For the end of season tournament, pitchers must take a game off if they have pitched in 2 consecutive games.
- 14.5. The pitching week is Sunday through Saturday
- 14.6. One pitch constitutes an inning.
- 14.7. Once removed as a pitcher, a player may not return as a pitcher.
- 14.8. The pitchers foot must be touching the rubber when delivering a pitch. If the foot leaves the rubber during the wind-up before the ball is pitched, it is a dead ball, no pitch

15. BALKS

- 15.1. Balks will be called in the 7th/8th Grade League.
- 15.2. For the 7th/8th Grade League there will be one warning per team.

16. SLIDING

- 16.1. There is *NO* MANDATORY SLIDE RULE!
- 16.2. The sliding rules for the LOH are all the same as the NFHS book rules.
- 16.3. There are two main points:

16.3.1. The Force Play Slide Rule:

- 16.3.1.1. Any runner who is in a force play, must either slide directly into the base or run himself out of the play avoiding contact with the fielder. If this is not done, this is considered interference and the runner is out and the B/R is automatically out for a double play, and all other runners must go back to the base they occupied at the time of the pitch. The runner may not "take out the fielder to break up the double play." If the runner slides, it must be a legal slide according to book rule and if the second baseman is on the bag and the runner makes a legal slide into the bag and there is contact, interference should not be called.

16.3.2. Plays at the plate: Summary of the NFHS rule:

- 16.3.2.1. When there is a potential play at the plate, and the catcher is attempting to catch a thrown ball, the runner must either make a legal slide or avoid contact. The catcher has the right to be in the base-path to field the thrown ball. The runner is responsible for avoiding contact. If the catcher is not attempting to receive a thrown ball and is in the base path, then the catcher has committed obstruction and the runner is awarded home. The runner has the right to reestablish his base path by running no more than 3 feet to either side of the base path to avoid contact. If the runner does attempt to avoid contact and there is incident contact then this is a judgment call by the umpire. If the runner commits malicious contact, the runner is out and ejected.

17. EQUIPMENT

17.1. SPIKES:

- 17.1.1. No metal spikes are allowed.

17.2. HELMETS:

- 17.2.1. Helmets must be worn at all times by any offensive player on the playing field for any reason. Batboys must wear helmets at all times when on the field.

17.3. BASEBALLS:

- 17.3.1. Two league approved game baseballs will be provided by the home team.
- 17.3.2. Approved game balls will be determined by the League Committee.

17.4. BATS:

- 17.4.1. Bats are limited to a 2 5/8" maximum barrel diameter.

17.5. UNIFORMS:

- 17.5.1. All players on one team must have the same uniform if possible.

18. MISCELLANEOUS

18.1. FIELDS:

- 18.1.1. The umpires will have the right and the responsibility to end a game due to unsafe playing conditions. If a game is ended prior to seven innings, then five complete innings will constitute an official game. Four and ½ innings if the Home team is ahead at the time the game is ended

18.2. PROTESTS:

- 18.2.1. Protests are allowed, however, games must be played to completion. Protests are not allowed on judgment calls. The league commissioner will evaluate and rule on the protest. The league commissioners ruling will be final on all protests.

18.3. SCORING AND REPORTING

- 18.3.1. The home team will be the official scorekeeper for league games.

- 18.3.2. The winning team is responsible for reporting the score to ballcharts.com/LandOHills within 24 hours of the completed game.
Login: Username: LOH2023 Password: Homerun
Select: "Admin" and then "Add/Edit Games"
Choose the game to add and select "edit"
Add Runs scored for both teams and "Save Game and Exit".

18.4. EJECTIONS

- 18.4.1. Anyone ejected from a game will automatically be suspended for the next game. This is the *MINIMUM* punishment and the board may impose additional sanctions if deemed appropriate for the infraction.
- 18.4.2. For the 2nd ejection, there is an automatic 2 game suspension. This too is the *MINIMUM* punishment; it could be more if the board deems it appropriate.
- 18.4.3. For the 3rd ejection, the player, coach or fan will be removed from the league permanently.
- 18.4.4. Parent or coaches ejected must leave the vicinity of the playing field area including the stands and may not attend the game under suspension.
- 18.4.5. It is strongly recommended that a player serve his suspension by sitting on the bench, out of uniform and supporting his team.
- 18.4.6. The board of directors will, upon written documentation presented to the league commissioner, consider an appeal. The board of directors reserves the right by virtue of their position to uphold the decision of the umpire or overturn the suspension.

18.5. DUGOUTS

- 18.5.1. Home team takes 1st base dugout
18.5.2. Visiting team takes 3rd base dugout

19 COACHES/MANAGERS

- 18.6.1. Are responsible for the conduct of their team whether they are at the game or not.
- 18.6.2. Only two coaches are allowed on the field during play and must remain in the respective coaching box.
- 18.6.3. An adult supervisor must be present with each team throughout the entire game and practice. Failure to comply is cause for forfeiture.
- 19.7.3. The head coach/manager shall be the only person to address the umpire with

questions.

18.7 UMPIRE

19.7.4. The home plate umpire has the final say on all calls.

19.7.5. In the event the assigned umpire does not report, the coaches will be expected to make arrangements for an alternative umpire (parent). This individual must be acceptable to both team managers. Such games are official league games. The substitute umpire will be paid by assigning league (usually the home team or host league field), provided he/she signs the score sheet and includes an address where payment can be mailed. Home teams must notify the commissioner if an assigned umpire does not report.

Post Season

League Tournament : The League playoffs will take place between July 18 thru 22.

All regular season games that have a potential impact on playoff seeding must be played by July 15, 2023.
Regular season games not played by July 15 do not have to be played.

All teams will be seeded by their regular season league records. If all league games are played and reported.
Teams unable to complete all regular season games or do not have them reported will be issued a tie in the final standings.

Tiebreakers are based on:

1. Overall Record
2. Head-to-Head Match-ups
3. Winning Percentage
4. Coin Flip

All Star Game: Monday, July 24 - Monches

*Directions for All Star Selection will be emailed to the head coaches in early July.

The Season Ending Tournament will be July 21-23rd. The tournament will be hosted at North Lake, Erin and Monches.

All Star Game - Monday, July 25th in Monches