

Tri-County Little League Playing Rules
Willie Mays 2009

1. The Tri-County Little League Baseball Association playing rules shall be in accordance with the National League Official Baseball rules and the Official USSSA playing rules with the exception of the modifications herein.
2. Willie Mays: Cannot be 11 years of age prior to May 1st of current year. May 1st birthday is okay.
3. Metal cleats are prohibited in all divisions of play. Molded rubber or plastic cleats or tennis shoes are the only approved footwear.
4. Free defensive substitution for all divisions in pre-season tournament and regular season play. Starters and substitutes are locked into batting position. Defensive substitutions do not need to be reported, offensive substitutions shall be reported to the scorekeeper and the umpire.
5. Pitching substitution: A relief of substitute pitcher must pitch to at least one batter he/she can be substituted for. Pitching to one batter shall be interpreted as: the batter shall either record an out or become a runner.
Note: The pitching position is a defensive position.
6. Official Baseball rule 6.08: Change to State "all baserunners who are forced to vacate their base when the batter receives four balls may do so without liability of being tagged/forced out. If they leave base before the batter touches first".
7. **Slaughter rule for Willie Mays:** One and one half hours or 6 innings shall constitute a complete game, whichever occurs first.
 - a. If the home team is leading by 15 or more runs after 3 ½ innings of play or the visiting team is leading by 15 or more runs at the start of the 4th inning of play, the game shall be considered a complete game.
 - b. If the home team is leading by 8 or more runs after 4 ½ innings of play or the visiting team is leading by 8 or more runs at the start of the 5th inning of play, the game shall be considered a complete game.
8. Any runner is out if in the opinion of the umpire if he/she does not slide or attempt to avoid a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to tag a runner or if the runner maliciously runs into any fielder.
9. Optional courtesy runner for the catcher: a runner designated at the start of the game can be used to run for the catcher. However if designated runner enters the game as a substitute, the catcher then must run for himself.
10. Doubleheader games: In the event a doubleheader is played for whatever reason, the game shall be limited to two 5 inning games. **Slaughter rule**, is applicable after four complete innings. Doubleheader refers to 2 teams playing each other twice on the same day.
11. During league play, a team may participate with one less player than required, but must take an out in the empty position of the batting order.
12. The home team shall provide a minimum of two new baseballs for each game, and two umpires for each regular season home game.
13. Each team shall provide one new baseball for each Tri-County League tournament game.
14. Each team in tournament play is required to provide one umpire.
15. All coaches must be 18 years of age or older. Umpires may be less than 18 yrs of age if both coaches agree. Scorekeeper must note this agreement in the scorebook prior to the start of the game (amended 1990)
16. Teams shall be permitted a ten minute grace period after which the game may be forfeited .
17. Finish suspended game at home if possible before complying with 4.12 (C) (3) League president shall be contacted prior to changing the scheduled site of all games.

18. A coin toss shall be utilized to determine the home team in all Tri-County League tournaments .
19. Slinging the bat: First offense the umpire shall issue a warning to that batter additionally the coach and official scorekeeper shall be notified. Scorekeeper shall record the warning in the scorebook. Second and subsequent infractions, the batter shall be declared out. This rule applies to each batter and not toward the team.

NOTES:

20. Incomplete games: Games shall not be declared a complete game if the game is called Due to bad weather, darkness or any other unforeseen circumstance. Games called shall be considered a suspended game and shall resume from the point where the stoppage occurred.
21. Rescheduling of games or incomplete games:
 - a. The game in question shall be rescheduled within one week and shall be Played within two weeks of original date:
 - b. The visiting coach shall contact the home coach for rescheduling , In the event An agreement cannot be reached the visiting coach shall contact the president who will reschedule the game.
22. No scorekeeper or umpire shall call to the attention of the umpire or member of either team of a player batting out of order. The penalty shall be loss of appeal with the batter becoming the legal batter.
23. When playing with less than the required nine (9) players and out shall be recorded when that ninth players turn at bat comes up. Coach may schedule the ninth player to bat at any spot in the line up by simply leaving a batting position blank in his batting rotation.
24. All appeals shall be made by the Head Coach (NO ONE ELSE)
25. Protest, Tri-County League rules shall apply for all protest.