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## Murphy Ranch Little League Fall Ball Rules – 2025

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### Purpose

Fall-Winter Baseball is a non-competitive inter-league, inter-district baseball program conducted during the months of September through November each year. Programs are conducted on an informal basis with training and development emphasized. A **"SELECT"** competitive Division can be played in Fall Ball.

### Player Eligibility

Ages/Divisions are determined by the 2026 Little League age chart. The intent of the Fall Ball season is to prepare players for the next level of play in Spring. In 2025, there will be a "District 56 Select Division". This division will interleague within D56. Seniors and 50/70 may interleague outside D56.

Teams entering outside Little League divisions to play in tournaments MAY NOT wear LL uniforms or use LL-owned property/equipment, and must have their own insurance. All "Select" Fall Ball Teams will follow the 2026 age chart.

### Divisions

- **Seniors:** Will follow the LL 2025 rule book.
- **Juniors:** Any player that will turn (advanced 12) 13–15 years old. No balks will be called. Umpires call time out and explain infractions. 15-year-olds are allowed to pitch. Ages based on LL 2026 chart.
- **Majors:** Players that are at least 10 (advanced and per bylaws) through 12 years old, based on 2026 chart. No balks will be called. Umpires explain infractions. Placement may be restricted based on experience.
- **AAA:** Advanced 11-year-olds are NOT to play in this division. Pitch counts tracked per LL 2025 rule book. Ages based on LL 2026 chart.
- **AA:** For 9-year-olds and advanced 8-year-olds. Advanced 10s are NOT to play in this division. Pitch counts tracked per LL 2025 rule book. Ages based on LL 2026 chart.
- **Single A:** For 7-year-olds. Advanced 8-year-olds are NOT to play in this division. Pitch counts tracked per LL 2026 rule book.

- **Minor B:** For 6-year-olds. Coach Pitch division. Pitching Machine can not be used. Ages based on 2026 chart.
- **Tee Ball:** First-time 5 year-olds. Hit off tee all season. No coach pitch. Ages based on LL 2026 chart.

## Rules of Play

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The rules governing play shall follow the appropriate **Division in the LL 2025 Rule Book** with emphasis of modifications that convert traditional play to ***an instructional non-competitive sport for non- competitive teams***. All field decorum rules in the LL 2025 rulebook are to be followed as well as all pitching rules. All divisions INCLUDING JUNIORS WILL:

**All divisions** are required to **bat the entire line up roster** each game, following the rulebook of batting a continuous LINE UP-roster of players. **You bat the lineup, regardless of the amount of players on the opposing team. YOU KEEP BATTING THRU THE ROSTER YOU DO NOT STOP-SEE RULE #2**

1. All divisions bat the entire lineup (continuous batting order).
2. Free substitution applies except pitcher. Catchers recommended max 3 innings.
3. All divisions play 3 outs or 5 runs per inning (except last inning which is open).
4. Bunting is allowed in all divisions.
5. Base stealing allowed in Juniors, Majors, and AAA. In AA, stealing 2nd & 3rd is allowed; home plate closed except on hits or bases-loaded walks.
6. Single A: Home plate closed entire schedule and on any overthrow—no stealing home.
7. Mercy Rule: 15/10 only (no 8).
8. No official scorekeeping.
9. Pitch counts per LL 2025 rule book. Strong recommendation: 2 innings max per pitcher.
10. Catcher-to-pitcher and pitcher-to-catcher rules followed per 2025 rule book.
11. In Juniors and Majors: courtesy runner allowed for catcher/pitcher with 2 outs.
12. Juniors pitch from 60' mound, 90' bases. 15-year-olds may pitch.
13. Single A pitch distance: 46' No exceptions.
14. Minor B 4 outfielders evenly spaced. No rovers.

15. Single A: No stealing or advancing on overthrows or passed balls. Max 2 bases on a hit. No home runs.
16. Single A & AA: Any pitcher hitting 3 batters in one game must be removed from pitching that game.
17. Coaches when umpiring are to ump when the opposing team is up to bat, not their own team. Ump must be JDP background-checked. It must be a dad because the LL rule states that a coach must be in the dugout with the kids at all times. If you have a manager and two coaches and those two are base coaching, then there is no one in the dugout and no one left to ump. At NO TIME will there be anyone in the dugout, that has not been background checked including Team Moms. Calls should be fair (strike zone = chest to knees).
18. No infield fly rule in Single A & Minor B. Called in all other divisions.
19. Single A: No walks. After 4 balls, coach pitches remaining strikes. Batter continues until strikeout or hit.
20. Minor B: 10 players (4 Outfielders evenly spaced). Coach pitch. Rotation required. Max 2 bases on a hit. No stealing. No walks or HBPs. Batter must hit or strike out.
21. Minor B: Then the Manager or coach (who are JDP background checked), will stand on the rubber at 46 feet and pitch overhand (**no underhand pitching**) an additional pitch.
22. Minor B: If the batter fouls off the pitch he/she will get additional pitches until they strike out or hit the ball. The pitcher/player should be to the side of the mound.
23. Minor B: Two additional (JDP background checked) coaches may be on the field during defense to help direct. ONLY IF NEEDED
24. Scoring: Scores may be informally tracked but no standings kept
25. Forfeits: No team can forfeit. Borrow players if needed. Do not cancel games due to shortage.
26. Protests: None allowed. Ejections reported to DA. Discipline per LL rule book.

## Game Days & Time Limits

Game times set by field availability. Preferred start times are 11am or noon (before time change) and 11am after daylight savings ends.

- Tee Ball: 4 innings or 1 hr 30 min (drop dead).
- Minor B & Single A: 1 hr 45 min (drop dead).
- AA – Majors: 1 hr 45 min (drop dead).
- Juniors: 2 hr (drop dead).

## Uniforms & Equipment

Each league shall provide jerseys and hats, catcher's gear (with throat guards), and USA bats. All catcher masks must have dangling throat guards. 50/70 & Juniors: USA bats (any drop). Seniors: BBCOR drop 3.

## Conduct

All staff must be JDP background-checked. All players, managers, coaches, parents, and spectators are subject to discipline for conduct detrimental to the Fall Ball program by League Board of directors.

## Game Balls

The League will supply the umpire with 2 new and 2 slightly used Little League-approved baseballs.

## Field Restrictions

At La Habra City League fields: No steel cleats, only turf or regular cleats. Only water allowed in dugouts. No food, seeds, or sugary drinks. Teams must clean up trash and seeds. Murphy Ranch also requests no seeds or gum on their fields.

## Scheduling

Will be determined by the Board of Directors.

## Manager Responsibilities

Managers must treat Fall Ball as training and development, not as competitive regular season. Violations may result in reprimand, suspension, or removal.

## Select Division Rules

- Continuous batting lineup required.
- Games start/end with 8 players. Rosters recommended 10–12 players.
- Three outs end the inning.
- Mercy Rule: 15 after 3 innings, 10 after 4 (no 8-run).
- Pool players allowed. Selection handled by Local League Player Agent.
- Games can end in a tie.
- Infield fly rule in effect.

- No balks unless tournament rules require.
- Double hitters allowed.
- AAA & Majors: No new inning after 1 hr 45 min; 2 hr drop dead.
- Juniors: No new inning after 2 hr 15 min; 2 hr 30 min drop dead.
- No lead-offs or pickoffs in AAA or Majors.
- Rules may change when tournaments start.
- Protests settled before next pitch.
- Ejected players/coaches sit out next game (tournament rules may vary).