

LAFAYETTE LIGHTNING TOURNAMENT RULES

updated 4/1/09

Unless otherwise stated, 10U-12U Lightning Baseball Tournaments will be governed by Indiana High School rules. The following exceptions apply and may be further changed by an individual age group:

1. Teams must be ready to begin competition at the scheduled start time.
2. Game time starts on delivery of first pitch.
3. The Home team will be determined by coin flip only during Pool play. During Championship and/or elimination rounds, the “home” team will always be the higher seed. If both teams are the same seed, then a coin flip will be used to determine the home team. (Unless the teams have previously played and, if so, the “head to head” tie-breaker shall determine the “home” team. An umpire need not be present for a coin flip.
4. A team must start with nine (9) players, however, may finish a game with eight players. If only 8 players are available for the game it will be considered a forfeit.
5. There will be a One Hour and Forty-Five minute time limit for all Pool play games. No time limit for semi final or championship games. Game length will be 6 innings. Please hustle on and off the field.
6. There will be no pre-game warm up on the field of play.
7. Metal cleats will not be allowed.
8. High school bat/weight differential rule will be waived.
9. Base distances:
 - 10U-60 feet
 - 11U-70 feet
 - 12U-70 feet
10. Pitcher’s mound:
 - 10U-46 feet
 - 11U-48 or 50 feet
 - 12U-48 or 50 feet
11. Courtesy runners will not be used.
12. Lead offs and steals will be allowed in all divisions.
13. No game will end in a tie. California Tie Breaker rules apply if after 6 innings the score is tied. A new inning will be started and, the last batted out for the visitors will be placed at 2nd base. The next batter in the order will begin with a 1-1 count and 1 out. After 3 outs the Home team will follow the same procedure until a winner is determined.
14. There will be no pitching limitations- the coaches are responsible for their pitchers.
15. A pitcher once removed from the mound may not return to the mound in that game.
16. All pitchers warming up in the bullpen must be protected by another player with a helmet and a glove. Catchers will wear a mask warming a pitcher in the bullpen.

17. Infield fly rule and drop third strike will apply.
18. Mercy Rules – 10 runs after the completion of 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings.
19. There will be no warning for balks. Exception may be in the Early Bird tournament.
20. Teams will have the option of batting 9 batters, the entire line up, or 9 batters with an EH (extra hitter). The use of an EH will limit the EH to offense only. Otherwise, free defensive substitution will apply. With 9 batters or 9 batters and an EH, normal substitution rules will apply. Starters in the batting order may re-enter once in the same position in the order.
21. Pinch runners may be inserted into the lineup when batting 9 or 9 w/EH.
22. The home team will be the official book. Please cross check frequently.
23. Pool Tie Breaker Rules:

All ties and seeding for championship rounds will be settled as follows: (in order)

 - a. Head to Head competition.
 - b. Fewest runs allowed.
 - c. Runs scored.
 - d. Run differential – teams will be awarded up to plus 10 points for victories and minus 10 points for a loss. If team A beats team B by 7 runs, team A will have a plus 7 and team B will have a minus 7. If three or more teams are tied for a position, the tie-breaker shall no longer be head to head, but shall start with runs allowed. Once the winner is determined from those three teams using runs allowed, the 2nd place team shall be determined by head to head competition. If head to head cannot determine the 2nd place team then we will proceed to fewest runs allowed, runs scored and run differential.
24. Adverse weather or rain. Our tournaments may be played in adverse weather conditions. In the event of rain or other matters beyond the control of the Tournament Director, the Tournament Director reserves the right to change the tournament format as he sees fit in order to complete the tournament in the scheduled time period.
25. Please note that if for some reason a team only plays 1 game because of inclement weather, those teams shall be invited to attend a future Lightning Tournament or given a \$100 refund. Once a team's 2nd game begins there shall be no refund.
26. Any suspended game shall be ruled as official and complete if it called by umpires or the Tournament Director due to rain, inclement weather, lightning, or other reasons beyond our control, provided 4 innings have been completed. If four innings have not been completed, the game shall be suspended and resumed from that point when safe play is available.
27. There are no refunds for withdrawal within 30 days of the start of the tournament. Tournaments schedules will not be posted until each age division is full and each team has paid in full. All tournament fees must be paid at least one month prior to the start of a tournament.
28. Birth certificates must be in the possession of the Manager at all times. Birth certificates must be made available upon request of the other team.
29. Proof of insurance must be presented before playing of any game.

30. All teams will be required to clean up their area after each game.
31. We have a full service concession stand and would appreciate if visiting teams would use our facilities.