



Laguna Beach Little League Single A Division Rulebook

Division Rulebook, Version 1.0

Updated January 6, 2026

Introduction

Welcome to the Laguna Beach Little League (LBLL) Single A Division Rulebook, designed to guide players, parents, and coaches through an exciting, competitive, and skill-building baseball experience. This division, crafted for players transitioning from the Rookie Division, introduces a heightened competitive edge while continuing to emphasize fundamental baseball skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Our 10-game season, provides more opportunities for growth, incorporates a mix of kid and machine pitching starting halfway through to prepare players for the next level of play. Aligned with official Little League guidelines, this rulebook outlines clear rules and recommendations to foster a love for the game, build confidence, and create a supportive community. Whether you're a player, parent, or coach, this document serves as your guide to a season filled with development, competition, and memorable moments. Let's play ball and strengthen our baseball community together!

How to Use This Rulebook:

- **League Goals:** Understand the core objectives driving the Single A Division's approach.
- **Basic Rules of Play:** Review detailed regulations for game structure, field setup, and offensive/defensive play.
- **Team & Community Building:** Explore recommendations to enhance sportsmanship, teamwork, and community engagement.
- **Closing Note & Contact Information:** *Learn about our commitment to continuous improvement and how to connect with LBLL leadership. This rulebook is a living document, reviewed annually to reflect the evolving needs of our players and community. For additional resources, visit www.beachbaseball.com.*

LEAGUE GOALS

1. **Competitive Enjoyment:** Emphasize fun while cultivating a slightly competitive environment that encourages effort, teamwork, and active engagement in baseball, fostering a love for the game.
2. **Skill Mastery for Advancement:** Focus on developing core baseball skills (hitting, pitching, fielding, and base running) through structured practice and slightly more competitive play than lower divisions, preparing players for higher divisions.
3. **Practice-to-Succeed Mindset:** Players begin to learn that dedicated practice, active listening, hustle, and a positive attitude earn opportunities to play key positions, cultivating perseverance and lifelong skills while ensuring all participate meaningfully.
4. **Parent Involvement:** Parents serve as active supporters, assistants, and role models during practices and games, strengthening the community and player development with an emphasis in providing the “major league experience”.
5. **Coaches as Mentors:** Coaches guide players in mastering kid and machine pitching, fostering a competitive yet supportive environment for learning and growth.
6. **Safety and Confidence:** Maintain a safe, encouraging environment where players are supervised, guided, and celebrated to build confidence and resilience.

BASIC RULES OF PLAY

General Game Structure:

- **Season Length (LBLL Rule):** The Single A Division plays a 10-game season, while aiming to be slightly more competitive than the Rookie Division, with extended opportunities for skill development and competitive play to prepare players for higher divisions.
- **Teams:** 8–12 players per team, with a minimum of three outfielders required in the field to ensure balanced defensive coverage.
- **Minimum Players (LBLL Rule):** Teams with fewer than 9 players may still play the game, with defensive adjustments (e.g., fewer outfielders permitted if necessary) to ensure participation, but all present players must bat in the continuous order.
- **Game Duration (LBLL Rule):** Games are 4–6 innings or limited to 90 minutes, whichever comes first. No new inning starts after the time limit.
- **Speed of Play (LBLL Rule):** Transitions between innings must be completed within 2 minutes, including defensive huddles, throwing practice, and field setup, to maintain game flow.
- **Pre-Game Arrival (LBLL Rule):** Parents must arrive 30 minutes before the scheduled game time to support players during warm-ups, strategy discussions, and equipment checks to ensure readiness and team cohesion.
- **Scorekeeping (LBLL Rule):** Official scorekeeping is maintained to track runs, outs, and key plays, with an emphasis on teaching players game awareness while celebrating skill development.
- **Field Setup (LL Rule 1.04):** Use a diamond with 60-foot bases and a pitching distance of 46 feet for kid/machine pitching, as specified in the official Little League Rulebook for Single A/Machine Pitch divisions.
- **Ball Type:** Only Little League-approved Level 1 or Level 2 safety baseballs are permitted during games and practices. Softer balls may be used in practice for drills.

- **Pitching (LBLL Rule):** For Games 1–5, coaches use a pitching machine to pitch the balls to their own team, delivering up to 6 pitches per batter. Starting at Game 8, kid pitchers deliver up to 3 pitches per batter; if no fair ball is hit or the at-bat is not resolved (hit, walk, or strikeout), the count resets, and machine pitching is used until a hit, walk, or strikeout occurs, following standard batting count rules (3 strikes = out, 4 balls = walk).
- **Inning Structure (LBLL Rule):** Innings end after three outs or when 5 runs are scored (run limit) to maintain competitive balance. For Games 1–5, all players bat once per inning if three outs are not recorded. Starting at Game 6, innings end strictly after three outs to align with competitive play.
- **Pre-Game Inspection (LBLL Rule):** Coaches or managers inspect equipment, verify player counts, and ensure helmets and bats meet safety standards before games.
- **Parent Presence (LBLL Rule):** A parent or guardian must be present at all practices and games for supervision and support.
- **Game Start (LBLL Rule):** Games begin with a joint team cheer led by coaches or parents to promote sportsmanship, followed by a team huddle to discuss strategy.

Field Measurements/Regulations:

- **Base Distances (LL Rule 1.04):** Bases are set at 60' apart, with the following measurements:
 - Home → First: 60 ft
 - First → Second: 60 ft
 - Second → Third: 60 ft
 - Third → Home: 60 ft
 - Home → Second: 84.85 ft (diagonal)
 - First → Third: 84.85 ft (diagonal)
- **Pitching Distance:** The pitching rubber is set at 46 feet from the back of home plate for kid/machine pitching; 35 feet for coach pitching (Games 1–7).

- **Outfield Boundary:** The outfield fence or boundary (cones) is set at 180-200 feet from home plate, as per Little League Single A/Machine Pitch standards, adjusted based on field availability.
- **Pitching Machine Setup (LBLL Rule):** When used (practice or games), the pitching machine is placed at 46 feet and set to a speed of 30–35 mph to ensure hittable pitches.

Offensive Rules:

- **Batting Stance Guidance (LBLL Rule):** Coaches refine batters' stance, grip, and swing mechanics only as needed to improve hitting consistency, allowing players with established techniques to proceed independently.
- **Continuous Batting Order (LL Rule 4.04):** All players present bat in a continuous order, ensuring equal batting opportunities, regardless of fielding status.
- **NO On-Deck Batter (LBLL Rule):** All players must remain in the dugout during offensive play and wear NOCSAE-approved helmets in preparation for their at-bat. The dugout coach manages the players to ensure no bats are held until the players are at-bat.
- **Batter's Turn at Bat (LBLL Rule):** For Games 1–5, coaches machine pitch up to 6 pitches per batter; if no fair ball is hit, the at-bat continues until a hit, walk, or strikeout occurs, following standard batting count rules (3 strikes = out, 4 balls = walk).

Note: For Games 6-10, kid pitchers deliver up to 3 pitches per batter; if the at-bat is not resolved (hit, walk, or strikeout), the count resets, and machine pitching is used until a hit, walk, or strikeout occurs, following standard batting count rules. No tee is permitted in this division.

- **Foul Balls and Strikes (LBLL Rule):** Strikes are called starting at Game 8 (3 strikes = out). Foul balls allow the batter to continue until a fair ball, strikeout, or walk occurs.

- **Hit/Run Rule (LBLL Rule):** Runners advance one base on an infield hit and up to two bases on an outfield hit.

Note: Starting at Game 6-10, runners may advance on overthrows (one base maximum) to encourage strategic play.

No Base Stealing (LBLL Rule): Base stealing is not permitted during the Single A season. Runners must remain on their base until the ball is hit by the batter, ensuring focus on hitting and fielding skills while maintaining game flow.

- **Base and Bench Coaches (LBLL Rule):** Two adult base coaches (at first and third bases) guide runners, teach base-running strategy, and ensure safety. A dedicated bench coach must manage the dugout, track rotations, and oversee bat safety; if a team has two or fewer coaches total, one must serve as bench coach. The Manager oversees home plate for bat safety and pitching adjustments.

- **Pinch Runner (LBLL Rule):** If the catcher is on base, a pinch runner may be substituted (last out or fastest runner) to allow the catcher time to suit up fully before the next defensive half-inning.

- **Played Outs (LBLL Rule):** Outs are counted, and runners called out return to the dugout. Coaches and parents encourage high-fives between the out player and the defensive player to promote sportsmanship.

- **Counting Outs (LBLL Rule):** Outs are tracked to teach game structure. Innings end after three outs or 5 runs scored (run limit). For Games 1–5, innings may continue until all players bat once if three outs are not recorded.

- **Home Runs (LBLL Rule):** No automatic home run hitter is permitted. Home runs must be earned by hitting the ball over the outfield boundary on a fair ball; no courtesy or given home runs.

- **Bat Regulation (LL Rule 1.10, Updated with USABat List):** All bats must meet the USABat standard, featuring the USA Baseball mark, and be listed in the provided USABat Approved Bat List. Bats must be 33 inches or shorter, with a maximum diameter of 2-5/8 inches, and made of metal or composite materials as specified in the list.

USABat Approved bat finder: <https://usabat.com>

- **Batting Helmets (LL Rule 1.16):** All batters, runners, and players in the dugout or on-deck circle must wear NOCSAE-approved helmets, checked for proper fit by coaches or managers.
- **Bat Safety (LBLL Rule):** A coach or manager maintains bat safety in the dugout, ensuring only the on-deck batter hold a bat. In compliance with *Little League Rule 1.10*. *Bats must be stored securely in a designated area within the dugout under coach or manager supervision*
- **Runners Touching Home Plate (LBLL Rule):** A coach oversees bat safety at home plate, ensuring the batter drops the bat safely after a hit. The runner scoring at home plate picks up the previous hitter's bat on their return to the dugout, promoting teamwork and field safety.
- **No Throwing Bats (LBLL Rule):** Batters must drop or toss the bat gently within three feet of the batter's box. A warning is given for the first offense; subsequent violations result in the batter being called out to promote safety.

Defensive Rules:

- **Pre-Inning Huddle (LBLL Rule):** Before each defensive inning, coaches hold a brief huddle to assign positions, discuss situational awareness (e.g., where to throw the ball based on runners), and reinforce one key defensive skill (e.g., "keep the ball in front of you").
- **Throwing Practice (LBLL Rule/ Ref LL Rule 3.09):** Between innings, defensive players practice controlled throws to develop accuracy and arm strength. The first baseman throws to the third baseman, shortstop, and second baseman. The center fielder throws to the right fielder and left fielder until the catcher calls "balls in!" to signal the end of the practice.
- **Catcher Position (Ref LL Rule 1.17):** A player may be positioned as a catcher (with full protective gear) for kid and/or machine pitch.
- **Catcher Safety (Ref LL Rule 1.17 & 4.03(a)):** The catcher must wear full protective gear, including a helmet, mask, chest protector, shin guards, and a protective cup. The catcher positions themselves in the catcher's box, approximately 3–5 feet behind home plate, adjusted based on the batter's size and stance to avoid contact with the batter's swing. Coaches ensure the catcher maintains a safe distance from the batter, typically

aligned with the back of the batter's box, and instruct catchers to crouch low to minimize interference while maintaining visibility of the pitch.

- **Minimum Outfielders (Ref LL Rule 4.03(c))**: At least three outfielders must be positioned in the outfield to ensure balanced field coverage and develop outfield skills.
- **Active Base Play (LBLL Rule/Ref LL Rule 4.03)**: Players must cover bases by stepping on them with the ball, guided by coaches to improve footwork and game awareness.
- **Backup Responsibilities (LBLL Rule)**: Players must back up throws to bases (e.g., outfielders backing up infield throws, infielders backing up the catcher on plays at home). Coaches emphasize positioning and alertness to reduce errors and build teamwork.
- **Skill Drill Retreat (LBLL Rule)**: If a player misses a play, the coach may provide a quick skills debrief (e.g., fielding or throwing) to turn mistakes into learning opportunities.
- **Rotational Fielding (LBLL Rule)**: Every player must play at least one inning in both an infield and outfield position during each game to promote versatility and exposure to different defensive roles. Coaches should track rotations to ensure fairness.
- **Defensive Communication (LBLL Rule)**: Players are encouraged to call for balls (e.g., "I got it!" for fly balls or "Mine!" for grounders) to develop communication skills and prevent collisions. Coaches may pause play to reinforce this habit if needed.
- **Player Encouragement (LBLL Rule)**: If a player becomes frustrated with a teammate's performance, coaches must intervene to foster a positive environment. Coaches emphasize encouragement over discouragement, guiding players to offer constructive support (e.g., "You'll get it next time!") to build team morale and resilience.

Pitching Rules (games 6-10)

(Defense sub-section)

- **Daily Pitch Limits (LBLL Pitching Rule/ Ref LL Reg VI(c))**: Pitchers league age 6-8 limited to 1 inning or 50 pitches per day. Remove pitcher at limit, but may finish current batter until batter on base, out, third out, or removed from mound. No multiple games per day.

- **Rest Requirements (LBLL Pitching Rule/ Ref LL Reg VI(d)):** Pitchers follow calendar rest days by pitches thrown; no pitching three consecutive days. Ages 6-8: 36-50 pitches = 2 days; 21-35 = 1 day; 1-20 = 0 days. Thresholds by first pitch to batter; no new batter after daily limit.

- **Catcher-Pitcher Restrictions (LBLL Pitching Rule/ Ref LL Reg VI(a)):** Player catching 4+ innings (even one pitch in fourth) ineligible to pitch that day. Pitcher throwing 41+ pitches ineligible for catcher; exception at 40 mid-batter to retain eligibility. Catcher 3 innings or less pitching 21+ ineligible to return; exception at 20 mid-batter.

- **Removal from Mound (LBLL Pitching Rule/ Ref LL Reg VI(b)):** Pitcher removed from mound cannot return to pitch that game, but may play other positions.

- **Pitch Count Enforcement and Recording (LBLL Pitching Rule/ Ref LL Reg VI(e)-(h)):** Designate official recorder (e.g., scorekeeper) to track pitches. Managers request counts, remove at limits; umpire informed at limit, but no excuse for violations. Violations lead to protest per LL Rule 4.19.

- **Suspended Games and Pitch Eligibility (LBLL Pitching Rule/ Ref LL Reg VI Notes):** Pitches in suspended/tie games count toward limits/rest. Resume pitching only after required rest; e.g., 40 pitches Monday suspended: ineligible Wednesday, eligible Thursday (up to 50 more).

- **Additional Safety Guidelines (LBLL Pitching Rule/ Ref LL Pitch Smart Alignment):** Stress proper mechanics (e.g., 35 pitches in practices). Warm-ups excluded from limits; no age 9+ pitchers in Single-A for age-appropriate play.

Team & Community Building Recommendations:

- **Team Spirit Boost:** Players and parents are encouraged to actively take part in cheering for players/teammates' plays (e.g., "Great catch!" or "Strong throw!") to foster a competitive yet supportive environment.
- **Sportsmanship Cheer for Opponents:** Both teams huddle for a joint cheer before or after the game, followed by high-fives and "Good game" to promote respect and sportsmanship.

Suggested cheers:

- "2, 4, 6, 8, who do we appreciate [opposing team]!"
- "Give a shout, give a cheer, [opposing team], we're glad you're here!"
- "Hey, hey, what do you say, great game to [opposing team] today!"
- "Clap your hands, stamp your feet, [opposing team], you can't be beat!"
- **Post-Game Parent Tunnel:** Parents from both teams form a tunnel after the game, allowing players to run through as a celebratory conclusion before snacks, fostering team spirit.
- **Snack Thank You's:** Players receiving snacks should verbally thank the providing parent, promoting gratitude and social skills. NO THANK YOU, NO snack until appreciation is shown.
- **Team Cheer Practice:** Players, coaches, and parents gather for an energetic team cheer after games or practices to enhance teamwork, vocal coordination, and morale.

**MANAGER'S CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE AND
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OBLIGATIONS**

I, _____ (Full Name), in my capacity as Manager of the _____ (Team Name) in the Laguna Beach Little League (LBLL) Single A Division, do hereby certify that I have carefully reviewed and fully comprehend the provisions, regulations, and objectives set forth in the Laguna Beach Little League Single A Division Rulebook (EST 2025, Version 1.0).

I acknowledge my responsibility to strictly adhere to, consistently enforce, and actively promote all rules, safety protocols, and league goals throughout the entirety of the 2025 season. I further commit to fostering an environment of competitive enjoyment, skill advancement, sportsmanship, and community engagement, in full alignment with the mission of LBLL to provide a positive, developmental, and enriching baseball experience for all players, families, and volunteers.

Manager Signature: _____

Date: _____

Closing Note

This Single A Division Rulebook, tailored for the Laguna Beach Little League (LBLL) and aligned with official Little League guidelines, balances competitive play with skill development and sportsmanship for young athletes. As of October 23, 2025, these rules reflect our commitment to fostering a love for baseball while preparing players for higher divisions through kid and machine pitching. We aim to make every practice and game a positive, growth-oriented experience. For updates or resources, visit littleleague.org or contact LBLL leadership. Let's build a vibrant, competitive baseball community—play hard, compete smart, and support each other!

- **Contact Information:** Reach out to LBLL at info@beachbaseball.com or check league announcements.
- **Review Date:** This rulebook will be reviewed annually in Q4 to incorporate new insights and meet players' evolving needs.