



2019 Annual Early Bird Baseball Tournament

9U, 11U and 13U – April 12th – 14th
8U (CP), 10U & 12U – May 3th-5th

TOURNAMENT RULES

Before You Play:

- Entry fee is \$350 per team, \$275 for 8U. Includes umpires, game balls, and trophies for 1st & 2nd place. Send with your registration, team roster and payment to:

Eric Tackett

407 Heathrow Dr. Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

Checks Payable to CFLLN

- This Tournament is open to all Community Teams. This is NOT a Nations qualifying tournament.
- Teams must provide their own insurance.
- Birth Date cut off is player's age on April 14th.
- Birth Certificates must be available in the event of a protest. If a manager cannot produce a player's BC upon request, his team will forfeit that game and player will remain ineligible until a BC is produced. Copies are acceptable, as long as they are legible. Any illegible copies will be considered unacceptable.
- Little League Rules will apply, except where noted differently below.
- Players' jerseys do not have to be identical but must have a different number.
- Weather Cancellation Policy:
 - 0 games played = \$250 refund (8U \$150)
 - 1 game played = \$150 refund (8U \$100)
 - 2 games played = Tournament considered complete.
- Cancellation Policy if team backs out prior to tournament: 100% refund if prior to March 1st. 50% refund if team resigns after March 1st, 2019. \$0 if after April 1st.



Tournament Structure:

1. Tournament Director: Eric D. Tackett- 330-475-4229; erictackett@me.com.
2. All teams must be ready to begin play within 15 min after end of previous game.
3. Teams may play with a minimum of 7 players, maximum of 14. If a player shows after first pitch, he may enter the game, but must be added to the bottom of the batting order.
4. Home/Visitor by coin flip in pool play. In bracket play, the higher seed is the Home team.
5. Home team is the official scorer. Scorekeepers need to confirm score every inning.
6. Winning team must report final score to the Concession stand/Field Director.
7. Warmups are permitted in the outfield and foul territory of the infield ~~only~~.
8. No hit sticks outside of the fences. All kids with a bat must have a helmet on.
9. Pool games – 1 hr 45 min time limit. No inning shall start after 1 hr 45 min. Once started, the inning must finish. New innings starts when the last out is made of the previous inning.
*Shootout if regulation game ends in a tie or time limit is reached.
No time limit on Championship game.
10. Pool play consists of 2 games. Pool record will determine seeding.
11. Bracket seeding will be determined in this order:
 - W-L record
 - Head to Head
 - Highest run differential (Max of 10 per game)
 - and if still needed, a Coin Flip
12. Any player, Coach, or Fan ejected from the game will NOT be permitted to be present at the team's next game. This is non-negotiable. If player, Coach, or Fan is found on premise after being ejected, then that team will be forced to forfeit that game.

1. Little League Rules will apply, except where noted differently.
2. 8U will be coach pitch circle ball
3. 9U – 11U will be played 46/60 pitching and base distances
4. 13U will be played on 50/70 pitching and base distances
2. Maximum of 14 on roster, (you can have more, but I can only guarantee 14 Trophies).
3. Continuous batting order.
4. Minimum Playing Time: 2 defensive innings/game, unless game is ended due to mercy rule.
5. Pitchers: 3 innings/game, 6/day, 9/tournament.
6. Pool/Bracket games = 6 innings. 1hr 45 min time limit. No new inning after 1 hr 45 min. If tied at time limit or end of 6 innings, then *Shootout.
7. No time limit in the Championship game. *Shootout if tied after 8 innings. (start the 9th inning with the shootout).
8. Courtesy runner for Catcher is allowed with 2 outs. Runner must be the player who made the last out.
9. Dropped 3rd strike will be in effect for 11U & 12U. No dropped 3rd strike for 9U & 10U.
10. No leadoff/stealing until the ball reaches the plate.
If player leaves early: 1st offense = Team warning. 2nd = runner is out.
11. Base runners can score on passed ball/Wild pitch.
12. Bat Restrictions: "USA" approved bats will be in effect this year.
13. No run limit per inning in 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U and 13U.
14. **Mercy Rule:** 15 runs after 3 innings; 12 after 4 innings. 10 after 5.
15. Player Injury: If a player is injured and unable to bat the remainder of the game, then he will be skipped in the batting order without being considered an out.
16. Protest Fee: \$100 cash, paid at time of protest. Protest must be filed prior to next pitch.
Tournament Director will be judge of final decision. If Tournament Director is unavailable, then succession will be as follows: CFLNLL President, VP, or Field Manager.
17. ***Shootout Rules:** If last inning ends in a tie, or if time limit is up, the game will finish with a
Shootout. Visiting team starts extra inning with the player who was their last out (previous inning) on 2nd base. Each Batter steps to the plate with a 3-2 count. Play continues until 3 outs. Home team then bats with same rules. Game continues until inning ends with a winner.
18. In case of rain shortened game: Games deemed official after 2 ½ innings of play, if home team winning, 3 innings if home team losing. Tie is an option in pool play in this scenario.
19. Bracket play is single elimination.

1. Pitching Restrictions:

3 innings per game.

6 innings per day. 9 per tournament.

2. Pitcher may return to the mound during a game if he has not pitched his 3 innings.
3. No Balks.
4. One pitch in an inning = 1 inning pitched. (no 1/3 innings). This applies in a *Shootout too.
5. Manager/Coach must initial opposing teams Pitcher's log - which must indicate who pitched and number of innings pitched. Shootout ~~do~~ count as innings pitched.
6. Pitching distance: 46 feet, Bases = 60 ft.
7. Pitcher must be removed if he hits 3 batters.
8. Manager/Coach mound visits allowed. 1 per inning, if 2, then pitcher must be removed.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the tournament director.

8U

Coach

Pitch

Game play:

1. All players present must bat
2. There will be no infield practice prior to a game. The coach may hit grounders in foul territory
3. If a player leaves for injury or illness, he will be skipped in the lineup. The other manager must be notified. If a player leaves for a reason other than injury or illness an out will be declared at is spot in the order.
4. We try to keep the pace of the game moving. Please have catchers ready. A courtesy runner (last out) should be used if there are two outs and the catcher is on base. No new inning may begin after 100 minutes (1 hour, 40 minutes) after the first pitch during pool play.
5. USA approved as those could be $2\frac{3}{4}$ now)
6. All batters, runners, and on-deck batters must wear helmets
7. Bases are at 60'. The pitching circle is 12' in diameter and extends from 34' to 46' from home plate.
8. The adult pitcher can either stand or kneel. If standing, he must initiate the delivery with both feet inside of the circle (his follow-through may include a step outside of the circle). All pitches must be overhand.
9. A batted ball that strikes an adult pitcher is dead and does not count as a pitch. A thrown ball in play touching the adult pitcher is dead immediately.
10. The player with the position of pitcher must begin the play with both feet inside or on the circle.
11. A batter is allowed up to five pitches. If the fifth pitch (or subsequent pitches) is fouled off, the batter continues. A fifth pitch caught foul by the catcher will be an out.
12. Play continues until the ball is in the pitching circle, clearly controlled by a defensive player (it does not have to be the pitcher) with both feet in the circle. The ball is then dead. No subsequent play may be made by the pitcher (note: if an initial batted ball is hit to the pitcher, he may make a play without the ball being dead).
13. Markings are made halfway between bases. When the ball is dead, if the player is on or past the line, the player will continue to the next base. If he has not reached the line, he must return to the previous base. This is solely based on the judgment of the umpire.
14. There will be a 5' arc in front of home plate. Any batted ball coming to rest or touched by a defensive player while within the arc shall be declared foul (the pitch counts). If touching the line, the ball shall be fair. A batted ball hitting the batter-runner within the arc is considered dead and the runner is not out.
15. No player may slide into first base. He will be declared out.
16. No player may slide head first approaching any base. He will be declared out. A player may dive back head first when returning to a base.

17. No malicious contact may be made by a runner or defensive player. This is solely a judgment call by the umpire. If a play is imminent at any base except first, it is strongly recommended the runner slide or give themselves up.
18. If in the judgment of the umpire, a runner was sufficiently impeded by a defensive player, an "obstruction" call may be made. This is solely a judgment call by the umpire. We realize this is an 8U tournament and players are still very much learning, but please try to encourage defensive players not to stand on a base if no play is imminent.
19. For bat throwing, one warning per team. Subsequent infractions will result in an out.
20. No leading or running starts. Each team will receive one warning. Subsequent infractions will result in an out.
21. One adult coach may be in the outfield.
22. No bunting.
23. There is no infield fly rule.
24. At the time of the pitch, a team must have four players (assuming all ten players are in the field) in the outfield grass.
25. Tagging up is allowed for any ball hit to the outfield. "Outfield" in this case is defined as the defensive player having at least one foot in contact with the grass.
26. While runners may not tag on fly balls to the infield, the throw to the pitcher is a separate and distinct event. In order for the runner to advance, he must be in contact with the base at or after the catch and then advance if the player does not control the ball in the circle.
27. If for some reason a runner misses a base or leaves a base early on a tag play and the defensive team would like to appeal, they have the right to do so. The defensive manager would ask for time at the completion of play then ask the coach-pitcher from the opposing team to give the ball to the pitcher to complete the appeal (in this case, the ball does not need to be "live" to complete the appeal). This must be done before a subsequent play is made.
28. In the unlikely event an outfielder catches a fly ball while runners have left early AND the ball is made dead by reaching the pitching circle, no appeal will be made and the runners will return to their original position.
29. OVERTHROWS: As with "regular" baseball, the first throw by an infielder that goes out of play will result in a two-base award *from the time of the pitch*. Any other ball that goes out of play will be awarded one base *at the time the ball goes out of play*.

Any rule not specifically covered should be addressed to the umpire, or if possible, the tournament director. The director reserves the right to make any specific rule interpretation not addressed by Little League baseball.

Addendum

1. For 8^U - A maximum of five runs may be scored in innings one through five. A team may score ten runs in the sixth inning.
2. For 8U - Mercy rule is 16 runs after four innings and 11 after five (i.e. when the trailing team cannot mathematically score enough runs to win).
3. For 8U - There may be up to 4 outfielders. All outfielders must start play in the grass.

2019

Waiver Form

CFLLN Early Bird Baseball Tournament

TEAM NAME:

DIVISION:

MANAGER/COACH NAMES:

MANAGER PLEASE READ AND UNDERSTAND BEFORE SIGNING: I understand that participation in the CFLLN Early Bird Baseball Tournament events and activities involves risks and dangers of serious and permanent bodily injury and death. I hereby release, hold harmless, discharge and agree not to sue the members of the CFLLN Little League and affiliates, including, but not limited to its managers, coaches, volunteers, and associates connected with the tournament or events for all liability from participation in the CFLLN Early Bird Baseball Tournament, and all tournament related travel and activities. In addition, I do hereby state that I, and my player's parents/guardians, have our own method of payment for any injuries incurred during participation in the event. I do have an individual team insurance policy which covers my players/team members/families in case of harm or injury.

I agree to hold the volunteers associated with the CFLLN Early Bird Baseball Tournament Harmless in Law and Equity for all claims arising out of any injury associated with this tournament or inherent within the risks of playing baseball. By signing below, I understand that I am waiving all rights of mine, my coaches, players, parents, and affiliates, to make any claims for damages or injury even if it is determined that such injury was caused by an umpire, manager, coach, volunteer, representative, heir, assign or anyone whatsoever who may be affiliated with The CFLLN Early Bird Baseball Tournament in any capacity.

Manager's Printed Name: _____ M.I.: _____ Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Manager's Signature:

Date:

*Registration must include your current insurance form.

