



Southwest Licking Youth
Baseball League

COACHES HANDBOOK

2025 Edition



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2025 IMPORTANT DATES

December (2024)		Location
1st - 31st	Early registration open	Online
January		Location
1st	Normal registration open	Online
February		Location
23rd	Coaches meeting	Curry Hall
March		Location
2nd	Coaches Meeting	Curry Hall
1st	Late registration/waitlist open	Online
5th	All registration closed	
9th	Player evaluation day	WMMS Gym
9th	Minors draft	Curry Hall
10th	Preps & Majors drafts	Curry Hall
15th	Tee Ball and Rookie parent meetings	WMMS Cafe
17th	Practices begin	Lion's Park
April		Location
26th	Opening Day Ceremonies/Games begin	Lion's Park
28th - 29th	Picture Days	TBD
May		Location
3rd	All-star nominations by coaches due	Google Form
17th	All-star tryouts	Lion's
Park		
June		Location
16th - 20th	Tournament week	Lion's Park
20th	Closing Ceremonies	Lion's Park
July		Location
10th - 13th	SWLYB 8U All-Star tournament	Lion's Park

SOUTHWEST LICKING YOUTH BASEBALL 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Andrew Yakubessin
VICE PRESIDENT	David Webb
TREASURER	Baron Smith
SECRETARY	Bo Ramsey
SPONSORSHIPS	Frank Krouse
COACHES REPRESENTATIVE	Kevin Skinner
PLAYERS REPRESENTATIVE	Jake Ratliffe
GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE	Caleb Krites
UMPIRE COORDINATOR	Brandon Walsh

Please send all inquiries to info@swlyb.com

DEAR COACH,

Welcome to the Southwest Licking Youth Baseball League. I am pleased to invite you as a coach in our program and hope that you have a terrific season. Our website www.swlyb.org is filled with information including schedules, calendars and a section just for coaches. We encourage you to spend some time online for resources and tips on planning and conducting practice.

We believe a successful coach can teach players how to play the game and develop a player's self-esteem and confidence by helping them succeed at the sport.

Whether you are new to coaching or have been coaching for several years, we believe learning how to instruct will enhance your abilities. Everyone's level of baseball knowledge is different. But what we have in common is a desire to help our players, and gaining knowledge can only help.

It is a coach's responsibility to create an atmosphere that is positive and enjoyable. Encourage players to be supportive of each other by congratulating teammates when they perform well, hustle, or give good efforts. Attitude and morale can be improved by giving every player an opportunity to contribute to the team.

This Handbook has been prepared to give you the objectives for your season and the tools you need to manage a team. You are the go to person for the SWLYB Board and the face of the league to your team's families. The Board is here to help you. Your Team Parent is available to help you but you will be the one your team looks to for leadership and clarity throughout the season.

As coaches, it is your responsibility to be familiar with the supplemental rules that govern our league and your game. This requires a bit of study! Like the kids we lead, we as coaches must be diligent in our effort.

Thanks again for your commitment to the program and the kids.

ANDREW YAKUBESIN

Andrew Yakubesin, League President
Southwest Licking Youth Baseball

ROLE OF THE COACH

SWLYB coaches must be leaders. All must recognize that they hold a position of trust and responsibility in a program that deals with a sensitive and formative period of a child's development.

It is required that the coach have understanding, patience and the capacity to work with children. The coach should be able to inspire respect. Above all else, coaches must realize that they are helping to shape the physical, mental and emotional development of young people.

The youth coach must be something more than just a teacher. Knowledge of the game is essential, but it is not the only badge of a youth league coach.

While an adult with training and background in the game is a desirable candidate for manager or coach, our league looks for other important qualities as well. Screening of managers, coaches and other volunteers who have contact with children is important in attempting to discover those with a history of child abuse. We conduct background checks on all volunteers.

The heart of youth baseball is what happens between the adult coach and player. It is the manager more than any other individual who controls the situation in which the players may be benefited.

Improving the level of leadership in this vital area must be a continuing effort.

Children of youth league age are strongly influenced by adults whose ideals and aspirations are similar to their own. The coach and player share a common interest in the game, a desire to excel, and determination to win. Children often idolize their coaches, not because the adult is the most successful coach or mentor, but because the coach is a source of inspiration.

Coaches must be adults who are sensitive to the mental and physical limitations of children of youth league age and who recognize that the game is a vehicle of training and enjoyment, not an end in itself. It has been stated many times that the program of youth sports can only be as good as the quality of leadership in the coaching personnel.

COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

Coaches are the leaders for each team. Coaches will not only coach the kids but also encourage the participation of parents, enforce rules of play, insure that the guidelines and requirements of play are met and that the team is following the SWLYB rules, regulations and principles. Coaches will need to delegate, but it is a coach's responsibility to ensure that everything is handled according to the rules and requests of SWLYB.

Communications: Get to know your kids and their families early and often. Emails and phone calls are great, but face-to-face, clear understandings between you and your team is the best way to develop the expectations and goals for your season. Never underestimate the value of excitement in your voice. Don't forget to have fun – youth baseball is a great journey for everyone involved.

Team Sideline: Team Sideline is the primary source of communication for the Coach and team. Please be sure to use the app to contact parents with any changes as the season goes on. It is also a great tool to send encouragement to the team after games. This will help build the relationship between the Coach and the players and families. All important team information can be found on Team Sideline from schedules to roster and contacts.

Practices: Schedules are assigned by SWLYB. Changes in practice schedules should be handled through the Board to ensure that all available times are updated. Coaches will ensure that practices are designed to meet the skill development for the specific age group. "Practice Plans" should be developed and communicated clearly to the kids and the parents. Setting clear expectations for one's self, each coach, each player, and the team (including the parents) will set the stage for a confident and productive season for all.

Games: Coaches will communicate the game schedule with players and parents, including early arrival for warm-ups. The team parent should work with families to have snacks for the post-game meeting. Head Coaches will name the coaches who are on the field during the game. Each age group limits the adults on the field and in the dugout during play and the Head Coach must designate these individuals. Coaches will provide scorekeepers and/or pitch count recorders and coaches from both teams (Rookie and above) must report final scores and pitch counts (Preps and Majors) to the league as directed.

Rainouts and League Alerts: League updates, field conditions, rainouts, "heat exhaustion" alerts, and other SWLYB news will be posted at www.swlyb.com.

Team Parent: The Team Parent is selected by the Coach and should be an organizing and inclusive force for the team. Team parents will assist Coaches in completing paperwork, notifying parents of activities and coordinating team snacks. At games, he/she should be a positive role model and culture keeper for the team.

Background Checks: Any adult working with the kids MUST complete a volunteer application on an annual basis, including team volunteers and any other persons and/or hired workers working with kids. It is the Coaches responsibility to ensure that this is done. Volunteers can submit their application and background check (at no charge) by enrolling as a volunteer when they register their child for play at www.swlyb.com. No adult should be working at a practice until his/her application is submitted and the background check has cleared.

Uniforms/Equipment: SWLYB provides team hats and jerseys for each player, plus catcher's gear and baseballs for each team. Parents should be made aware of League-approved equipment. It is the coaches responsibility to ensure that equipment provided by the league for the team is maintained and returned at the end of the season. Coaches need to double check uniform orders and communicate with their families the colors for pants, belts and socks required.

End of Season Team Party: The league will host a Closing Day celebration but, the team parent will work with the manager and families to coordinate the team party should they choose to have one. Team parties are not required but do help build unity within the team, our supporters, and our league.

SWLYB COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

Southwest Licking Youth Baseball is concerned about the conduct of all coaches, officials, players and fans during practices and games at all levels. SWLYB seeks to ensure that games are a fair, positive and an enjoyable experience for all of the children and adults involved. SWLYB expects all coaches to conform to this code of conduct, at all times.

1. As a Coach with SWLYB, it is your responsibility to ensure that you create a positive environment of safety, learning, fun and reinforcement.
2. The Coach will treat all of his/her players fairly and with respect at all times.
3. The Coach will communicate his/her expectations to the players and their parents as clearly, consistently, and as early as possible.
4. The Coach is expected to advise parents/guardians of the players on his/her team to be timely and responsible in dropping off and picking up their children for all practices and games. SWLYB seeks to maintain player safety at all times.
5. The Coach is an example of dignity and patience, and a role model to players.
6. The Coach should introduce himself/herself to officials and opposing coaches before the game.
7. The Coach is responsible for the sportsmanship of the players during the game.
8. The Coach is responsible for the conduct of the parents of his/her players during the game. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting. Encourage them to applaud and cheer good plays by either team. Clearly, forcefully, and directly discourage them from being derisive toward officials or opposing players.
9. The Coach is responsible for the conduct of spectators rooting for his/her team during the game.
10. During the game, the Coach will not address the officials of the game inappropriately. If there is an issue or dispute, discuss it with the official calmly and patiently. If the complaint is unresolved, or if the Coach thinks the official was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, the Coach should report his/her opinion in writing to the League President.
11. After the game, the Coach and his/her players should thank the officials, opposing players, and coaches.
12. Coaches are required to familiarize themselves with SWLYB by-laws pertinent to their responsibilities and to adhere to the requirements of those by-laws and to conduct all practices and games in strict conformance with SWLYB playing requirements and guidelines.

The example of a Coach is powerful. As a Coach with SWLYB, your role is to ensure fair play, support the officials, and focus on the players' enjoyment of the game and their overall long term development. Coaches who do not follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed in accordance with SWLYB by-laws.

SWLYB PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Southwest Licking Youth Baseball is committed to the physical and emotional well-being and safety of all of the children in its program, as well as to its managers, coaches, umpires, volunteers, and parents and fans attending SWLYB events including games, practices and any other league sponsored and/or affiliated events.

SWLYB adheres to essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and the core principles of: respect, trustworthiness, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these “six pillars of character.”

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate in sports to have fun and develop friendships and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the manager or coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others in a timely manner.
4. I will endeavor to learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
5. I will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, managers, coaches, umpires, officials, parents and spectators at every game, practice, or other league sponsored and/or affiliated events.
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any players, managers, coaches, umpires, officials, parents and spectators including, but not limited to, physically and/or verbally harassing, taunting, booing and otherwise in any way demeaning or insulting; refusing to shake hands; using profane or crude language and/or gestures; any other inappropriate behavior.
7. I will not exhibit and/or display any behaviors, language and/or other practices that would, or even potentially could, endanger the physical and/or emotional health, well-being and/or safety of any players, managers, coaches, umpires, officials, parents and spectators.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts in a safe and respectful manner without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, managers, coaches, umpires, officials, parents and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, religion, age, or ability.
10. I will teach my child that trying and doing one's best and improving is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and help instill a sense of Pride and confidence for working hard.
12. I will never ridicule, yell at, berate, antagonize and/or otherwise degrade my child or any other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over

winning.

14. I will deemphasize games and competition in the lower age groups, and place them in the proper perspective in all other groups.
15. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child and/or his/her team to win.
16. I will respect the umpires and other officials and their authority during games and practices and will never question, discuss, and/or confront umpires, officials, managers and/or coaches at the game field, and will take the time to speak in a respectful and civil manner to officials, managers and/or coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
17. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and I will refrain from their use at all games and practices.
18. I will refrain from coaching and/or instructing my child or any other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.
19. I will not incite, participate in and/or otherwise condone any unsportsmanlike conduct at any time.
20. I will accept all decisions of umpires and game officials as being fair and judged to the best of their ability, regardless of whether I agree with them.
21. I will act as an adult and strive to set a positive role model and example for my child and other players.
22. I will not do or say anything that will cause my child to feel embarrassed, shamed, belittled or disrespected.

Introducing yourself to the team

Once the draft is completed (or your team has been selected), the next step is to get the team together and get the season started. The first step in this process is to notify the parents, by email and/or Team Sideline.

Once the initial introduction is completed, it is a good idea to send an email to the parents with a letter attached introducing yourself. The goal of the letter is to communicate to parents and coaches something about your background, coaching experience, why you love coaching and some goals for the upcoming season.

Also, a team meeting is a good idea as a “meet and greet” as the season is getting underway. This meeting is a good opportunity for you, the players, and their parents to get to know each other. You can take some time in a relaxed atmosphere to tell them about yourself, your coaching philosophy, playing rules, your philosophy about how playing time is handled, get most of the questions answered before the team starts practicing, etc.

It is important to let parents know that you are the coach and under no circumstances will you tolerate coaching by parents (or siblings) from the stands during games. In a positive way, you can let them know that players get confused when they are being coached by parents and coaches at the same time. You might have told the player to do something completely different from what the parent or sibling is telling him.

Having an open line of communication with the parents is extremely important. Frequent Emails are a good way to keep parents updated on what is going on with the team.

Encourage open communication with parents and that you will answer any questions they may have. However, it is fair to let them know that you will not stop practices to answer questions, but will give them all the time they need at a mutually convenient time. With field space at a premium and practice time precious, the message will be sent that you are putting the team first.

Topics to cover in the initial team meeting (see sample agenda on next page):

- Tell them about you – why you coach, your experience and philosophy
- Introduce your assistant coaches
- Go over your communication methods: email, Team Sideline, phone chain, etc.
(get all parent cell phone numbers)
- Review your expectations with respect to practice attendance
- Explain your philosophy and rules about playing time, positions, etc.
- Secure volunteers to fill key roles including:
 - Coaches (if you haven't already)
 - Team Parent

- Field preparation and post-game trash pickup (dugout clean)
- Snack bar help
- Scorekeeper for divisions that keep score (consider using the free GameChanger app for scoring, automatic statistics, etc.)
- Game Day snacks and drinks
- Logistics (practice/game schedules, equipment and uniform needs, etc.)

Sample Agenda for First Team Meeting

1. Welcome & Introductions (15 minutes).

Use this time to break the ice. Have each person go around the room, say their name and something interesting that most people don't know about them. Ask the kids to say their favorite baseball player or team.

2. Coaching Experience and Philosophy (5 minutes).

Let the parents know what your coaching philosophy is and how long you have been coaching the sport. Emphasize things like good sportsmanship, honoring the game, focusing more on effort than winning, learning the sport, and “flushing” mistakes. Tell the parents you expect them to be excellent role models and to help you fill the kids’ “emotional tanks.” If it’s your first year as a coach, big deal. Just tell ‘em that. They’ll be more forgiving if you make a mistake during the season and they’ll also be more apt to volunteer to help you out in whatever way possible.

3. Goals for the Season (15 minutes).

Review your goals and hopes for the upcoming season. (Examples: Players will love the sport at least as much at the end of the season as at the beginning; All players’ knowledge of the sport will improve; All players will get as much meaningful playing time as possible; The parents will enjoy the season as much as the players.)

4. Logistics (10 minutes).

Announce your practice and game schedules (you can use Team Sideline to email team events out and/or print out your schedule ahead of time and distribute it during the meeting). Tell the parents what equipment their child will need (examples: glove, baseball bag, cleats, cup, etc.). Tell them what color baseball pants, socks, belts to purchase and where to get them (Amazon, Dick’s Sporting Goods, etc.).

5. Ask for Volunteers (15 minutes).

Save this one until the end. Use the sample volunteer sign-up sheet in this packet, put it on a clipboard, and pass it around the room while you discuss the importance of having everyone participate as part of the team. While the clipboard is going around, read aloud the descriptions of each of the various volunteer roles available on the team. Do not let the clipboard come back to you with empty slots. If it does, send it around again and tell the parents that it looks like a few people may have missed the clipboard going by. (Re-emphasize that this isn’t babysitting and you don’t plan to do this alone.)

Volunteer Roles and Descriptions

Use this section to answer any questions parents might have about the various volunteer positions you have on your team. Print out multiple copies as handouts for parents.

Role: Head Coach (You!)	Approximate Time Commitment: 6-20 hours per week
<p>Duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complies with the SWLYB Coaches Code of Conduct• Creates & maintains an environment of safety, learning, fun, and positive reinforcement• Conducts a preseason team meeting with parents and players to explain acceptable player and parent behavior and to communicate his/her expectations to the team as clearly, consistently, and as early as possible• Serves as an example of dignity and patience to all players, families, officials, and fans• Seeks to maintain player safety at all times• Treats all players fairly and with respect at all times• Advises parents/guardians to be timely and responsible in dropping off and picking up their children for practices and games• Introduces himself/herself to officials and opposing coaches before the game• Is responsible for the sportsmanship of the players during games and practices• Is responsible for the conduct of the parents and spectators rooting for his/her team during games and practices• Encourages parents to applaud and cheer good plays by either team• Clearly, forcefully, and directly discourages parents from being derisive toward officials or opposing players• Does not address the officials (umpires) of the game inappropriately• If there is an issue or dispute, discusses it with the official calmly and patiently• If the complaint is unresolved, or if he/she believes the official was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, reports his/her opinion in writing to the SWLYB Board of Directors• After each game, thanks the officials, opposing players, and coaches (and instructs his/her players to do the same)• Familiarizes himself/herself with SWLYB by-laws pertinent to his/her responsibilities and adheres to the requirements of those by-laws• Conducts all practices and games in strict conformance with SWLYB's playing requirements and guidelines• Attends all mandatory coach meetings and ensures that assistant coaches attend mandatory coaches meetings• Understands, complies with, and enforces all SWLYB rules, regulations and policies	

Role: Assistant Coach (3 per team)	Approximate Time Commitment: 6-8 hours per week
Duties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complies with the SWLYB Coaches Code of Conduct • Acts as Head Coach in his/her absence • Helps to conduct practices and drills • Serves as bench coach and/or base coach during games • Attends mandatory coaching clinics • Understands, complies with, and enforces all SWLYB rules, regulations and policies 	
Role: Team Parent (1 per team)	Approximate Time Commitment: 2-6 hours per week
Duties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicates with parents about team and league events • Organizes post-game snacks with team families • Coordinates parent volunteers for concession stand and other league events (closing ceremonies, tournaments, etc.) • Organizes team and players for Picture Day and reminds players/parents of assigned time and location for photos • Coordinates Manager/Coach's gifts and organizes team's End of Season Party • Attends SWLYB Team Parent Coordinator meeting 	
Role: Scorekeeper (1 per team)	Approximate Time Commitment: 2-4 hours per week
Duties (for divisions that keep score only): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrives to field 20 minutes prior to game time • Obtains lineup cards from both managers and records team names, players' names, jersey numbers, batting order, and today's date, and time of first pitch in the official scorebook (or GameChanger app) • Serves as official scorekeeper for all home games • Records the game on official scorebook or GameChanger app (e.g., balls and strikes, how player reached base, runs and outs, runs batted in, trips to the mound by the Coach, innings pitched, pitch count, etc.) • Uses Pitch Count Log to keep track of pitch counts for both teams (Preps and Majors only) • Serves as official timekeeper for home games 	

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARENTS:

Please review the descriptions and time commitments for our team's volunteer needs listed below. Place your name in the box(es) for the position(s) you wish to fill this season.

Assistant Coaches (3)

6-8 hours per week. Help conduct practices and drills (including pre-game); help coach games; fill in for manager as needed

#1
#2
#3

Team Parent (1)

2-6 hours per week. Communicate with parents about team/league events; coordinate concession stand help with parents; collect money from parents for various items (e.g., Field Day, league spirit wear, coach's gifts, etc.)

#1

Scorekeeper (1)

2-4 hours per week. Serve as official scorekeeper for all home games (and keep score for Head Coach as requested when we are the visiting team). Attend SWLYB Scorekeepers Clinic and Rules Clinic.

#1

EQUIPMENT

Southwest Licking Youth Baseball League provides each Team with an equipment “starter kit” which includes catcher’s gear (chest protector, catcher’s helmet, shin guards, mitt - Preps and Majors only), 1-2 dozen balls, a first aid kit, and a tote to carry it all. Equipment must be picked up on the designated date and all inventory returned at the end of each season. If equipment becomes lost or is in need of repair, please contact the league immediately.

Before purchasing any personal equipment for use in SWLYB, please review the following guidelines taken from the Little League Rule Book. Unacceptable or illegal equipment will be removed from play. This summary is intended to assist in the purchasing of equipment only. It is not comprehensive, nor a summary of all applicable rules.

BATS

- If you play baseball at SWLYB you need to use a bat marked with a USA Baseball stamp. Bats marked with a 1.15BPF stamp are no longer legal for play.
- SWLYB regular season games & division tournament play.
 - USA marked 2 5/8” & 2 1/4” bats are legal for league & division playoff play.
 - Any bat marked with the 1.15BPF stamp is ILLEGAL and is NOT allowed in play.
- Pre-season & All-Star tournaments will comply with the organization hosting the tournament.
 - No assurances can be provided as to the bat rules of other organizations.
- Only 2 1/4” youth wood bats are approved for play, although they are discouraged for use.
- Tee Ball bats (26" & shorter) are approved for use.
- Any bat discovered prior to the game that does not conform to the above rule shall be removed immediately & not be allowed for use during the game.
- If an illegal bat is discovered prior to a batter completing his at bat the bat will simply be removed from play & the at bat continues.
- If a player using an illegal bat or non-conforming barrel dimension hits a fair ball it will be ruled an out
 - No advancement on the bases will be allowed & any outs during the play stand.
- Multiple or continued infractions will result in discipline of coaches and/or players on a case-by-case basis.
- If you have any questions on approved or non-compliant bats, contact the SWLYB board.

HELMETS

- Helmets must bear the NOCSAE stamp.
- Helmets must have no visible stress, damage or cracks and the internal foam padding must not be damaged.

CLEATS AND JEWELRY

Cleats: Shoes with molded cleats are permitted at all levels.

Metal Cleats: No metal cleats are allowed

Jewelry: Players must not wear any watches, necklaces, bracelets, rings, pins, or other jewelry. Jewelry is not allowed regardless of material (metallic or non-metallic). However, jewelry that alerts medical personnel to a specific condition is permitted (manager must inform umpire during plate conference).

GLOVES AND MITTS

Fielder's Glove: All fielders other than the catcher must wear a glove or mitt not more than 14" long from top to bottom, not more the 8" wide across the palm, with webbing not more than 5-3/4" wide at the top.

Pitcher's Glove: The pitcher's glove may not, exclusive of the piping, be white or light gray, nor in the judgment of an umpire be distracting in any manner. No pitcher shall wear sweat bands on their wrist or arm.

Mitt: The catcher must wear a catcher's mitt (Preps and Majors only).

CATCHER'S EQUIPMENT

Required Protection: Chest protector with neck collar, throat guard, shin guards, and a catcher's helmet with mask must be worn at all times while playing the catcher position.

Catcher's Helmets: Must bear the NOCSAE stamp (skull caps are not permitted). Helmets must be worn during infield/outfield practice, pitcher warm-ups, and games.

GENERAL GAME RULES

- Most general playing rules will be governed by rules as detailed in the Little League Rule Book
- The SWLYB Board reserves the right to enact special playing rules appropriate to each division.
- Home Team book is always the official book of record for games, pitch counts & any other statistics that come into question.
- Umpire rulings are always considered final, no games can be played under protest.
 - The head coach is the only individual allowed to approach the umpire about any game play rulings.
- We encourage all players to wear a protective cup and chest protection shirt under their uniforms.

Base Awards:

- Any fair ball hit under, through or over the fence on a bounce will be a ground rule double.
- Any fair ball that hits the power line on D1 or D2 shall be ruled a ground rule triple.

Game Stoppages:

- If a game is suspended for any reason within the 1st inning and play cannot resume that day, the make-up game will be deemed a restart
- Once the 1st inning has been completed, the makeup game will pick up from the exact spot in which the game was suspended.
- If play is suspended after 4 complete innings or 3½ innings when the home team is ahead, the game is considered completed and no make-up game will be scheduled
- All games are governed by a time limit of 1 hr & 45 min with no new inning after 1 hour 45 minutes
 - If the time limit is reached with the game still tied, the game ends in a tie. If the game ends early due to weather the remainder of the game will be played at a later date. The pitch count in that game stands for the rescheduled date.
 - Tee Ball games are a maximum of 2 innings
 - Rookie games are a limit of 1 hour and 15 minutes

Substitute players from lower divisions:

- Head coaches must notify the opposing head coach of all sub-player's pre-game.
 - A sub-player can only be pulled from the division immediately beneath
 - A sub-player cannot pitch & must bat last.
 - A sub-player may not be used if you have enough players for your team.

Warming-up players:

- Teams are encouraged to warm-up & start games on time or early whenever possible.
- On deck batters may warm-up while wearing a helmet in foul territory in the outfield
- Coaches can warm-up pitchers inside the fence if there is no game in progress.
 - If there is a game in progress, coaches will warm-up players outside of the fence.

Lightning Guidelines:

- All individuals are ultimately responsible for their own safety & should monitor threatening weather conditions. The same guidelines used by the OHSAA will be used by SWLYB.
- If any board or committee member asks teams to clear the field, coaches must honor that request.

NO LIGHTNING SAFETY GUIDELINES CAN GUARANTEE ABSOLUTE SAFETY. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY PERSON TO BE AWARE OF WEATHER CONDITIONS & TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO BE SAFE

Stoppages:

- Umpire(s) & head coaches are responsible to make the call to stop play, remove individuals from the field & announce a warning to the spectators.
- If a thunderstorm appears imminent before or during any activity (regardless of whether lightning is seen, or thunder heard), postpone or suspend the activity until the hazard has passed. Even storms that are many miles away can pose a danger from lightning.

Sheltering:

- Generally, a fully enclosed vehicle with the windows rolled up tends to be safer than being outside so long as contact with metal surfaces inside & outside the vehicle is avoided.
 - Dugouts, picnic pavilions & rain shelters are not appropriate shelters.
- All individuals have the right to leave, without fear of repercussions or penalty, to seek a safer structure or location if they feel they are in danger from impending lighting activity.
 - Safety is the number one consideration; any activity can be made up later.

Wait Time:

- Once an activity has been suspended due to thunder or lightning, at least 30 minutes are required prior to resuming activity.
- The 30-minute waiting period shall reset each time additional thunder or lightning is observed.
 - A clear sky or lack of rainfall are not adequate indicators for resuming play.
 - The minimum 30-minute return-to-play waiting period shall not be shortened.

- If any signs of thunderstorm activity remain in the area or if the weather forecast indicates the threat is not over, play should not be resumed even after the 30-minute waiting period.

TEE BALL RULES

- The T-Ball Division will play at least 10 games per team per season.
- The team at bat may use a 1st & 3rd base coach in addition to a batting coach & coach pitcher.
 - The team in the field may use a reasonable number of coaches in the field while playing defense.
- There is no scorebook & no official score for any T-Ball games.

Batting:

- Teams will roster bat for 2 innings per game
 - Coaches can use their discretion in deciding to end games early.
- All players must be placed in the batting order to be used for the entire game.
 - Any player arriving late shall be placed on the bottom of the batting order.
- Full face masks are required for all batting helmets in Tee Ball. Chin protectors are NOT counted as facemasks.
- Coaches shall pitch to the kids overhand.
- Every batter shall get (3) pitches from their coach.
 - If they fail to put a pitched ball in play, they shall hit from the Tee until they do so.
 - There are no strikeouts.

Baserunning:

- Runners may not leave their base until the batter has hit the ball.
- Runners shall not advance more than 1 base on any batted ball unless the ball was hit by the last batter of the inning.

Fielding:

- Players should not run the ball to a base when another player is covering the base.
 - If this happens, educate the child making the play & the base runner is called safe.
- All players shall play defense each inning.
 - The defense may play (1) infield “rover” in addition to a pitcher, catcher, shortstop, 1st, 2nd & 3rd basemen.
 - The remaining defensive players must be placed in the outfield & must be positioned a minimum of 5’ deep on the outfield grass.
 - No fielders shall begin play in foul or fair territory closer than 35’ to home plate.
- Fielding pitchers must be in-line with the pitching rubber and **MUST wear a helmet with a facemask. THE HELMET RULE HAS ZERO EXCEPTIONS**
- Coaches should use caution when positioning players whose skill level may put them at risk of injury.
 - Example: 1st base should be reserved for players who can protect themselves from a thrown ball.

ROOKIE RULES

- Rookie league will be coach pitch all season.
- Rookie league will have up to (4) coaches.
 - The team at bat may use a 1st & 3rd base coach in addition to a batting coach & coach pitcher.
 - The team in the field may use no more than 3 coaches in the field while playing defense and must be positioned behind the outfielders to prevent any opportunities for interference to game play.
 - The defensive “Head Coach” will serve as the umpire.
 - Additional Coaches and/or Scorekeepers shall be outside the fences.
- Every player must participate in each game defensively for a minimum of (6) outs.
 - They do not have to be consecutive.

Batting:

- Each team will provide the opposition with their batting order & players’ numbers.
- Full face masks are required for all batting helmets in the Rookie division. Chin protectors are NOT counted as facemasks.
- All teams shall roster bat for the entire game.
 - Any player arriving late shall be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
- Teams must start the game with a minimum of 8 players.
 - If for any reason a player cannot finish the game, an out will be taken for that player’s place in the order except for players who leave the game due to injury.
- Each batter will receive up to 5 pitches. Foul balls count as a pitch.
 - The 6th “Pitch” will be hit off the Tee. There are no “do over” or bad pitch rules in effect.
- A maximum of 5 runs can be scored in each inning.

Baserunning:

- Runners are not allowed to lead off or steal a base.
- Runners may not advance on overthrows
- On a ball hit to the outfield, once the ball is returned to the infield, baserunners may not advance beyond the base they are currently running to. The ball does not need to be controlled by a player in the infield.

Coach Pitcher & Fielding Pitchers:

- Coach pitchers must use a baseball glove.
 - A batted ball which hits the coach on the mound, is a dead ball & the pitch will not count.

- Coach pitchers must start their throw from a line 30ft from home plate & must pitch overhand to each batter.
- Fielding pitchers must be in-line with the pitching rubber (38' from home) & within 5' of the center of the pitching rubber (to the left or right of the coach pitcher)
 - They may not interfere with the opposing team's pitching coach.
 - All fielding pitchers must wear a batting helmet with a facemask.
- No player will play in front of a line 38 feet from home plate.

Fielding:

- Rookie teams may play with (9) (No Catcher needed)
- Outfielders must be positioned a minimum of 10' deep in the outfield grass & will consist of (4) players whenever the roster allows.
- Outfielders can not run the ball to the infield to make a play at a base or to create a dead ball.
- Each player must play at least 3 outs at an infield position in every game.
- No player may play more than 6 outs at any one specific position in a game.

MINORS RULES

- Minors division will be “coach pitch” all season.
- Minors will play on a field with 60’ bases and 46’ pitcher’s mound
- Minor league has up to (4) coach / assistant coaches per team
- No coach is allowed on the field while their team is on defense. (Except as below)
 - (1) Coach may position behind the batter’s box to help speed the game up on missed or passed balls.
 - (1) Defensive coach will serve as the umpire in the field.
- Additional coaches and/or scorekeepers shall be outside the fences.
 - Every player must participate in each game defensively for a minimum of (6) outs.
- Teams with 8 or less players will be a forfeit and head coaches can agree to scrimmage in place of the game. The game will not be rescheduled.
- A maximum of (5) runs can be scored in each inning.
- Mercy rule for Minors will be 11-runs after 4½ complete innings or 6-runs after 5 complete innings.

Batting:

- Each team will provide the opposition with their batting order & players’ numbers.
- Full face masks are required for all batting helmets in the Minor League. Chin protectors are NOT counted as facemasks.
- All teams shall roster bat for the entire game.
 - Any player arriving late shall be placed on the bottom of the batting order.
- Teams must start the game with a minimum of 9 players.
 - If for any reason a player cannot finish the game, an out will be taken for that player’s place in the order except for players who leave the game due to injury.
- Each batter may receive (6) pitches.
 - (3) Missed swings by a batter will make the batter out
 - There are unlimited fouls on the 6th pitch & after
- The “bad last pitch rule is in effect.” Per the umpire’s discretion one additional pitch may be given if the final pitch is deemed bad (Pitch hits the batter, bounces in front of the plate or is over the child’s head)

Baserunning:

- Runners are not allowed to lead off or steal a base.
- A batter or runner may not advance on an overthrow.
- On a ball hit to the outfield, once the ball is returned to the infield, baserunners may not advance beyond the base they are currently running to. The ball does not need to be controlled by a player in the infield.

Coach Pitcher & Fielding Pitchers:

- Coach pitchers must use a baseball glove.
 - A batted ball which hits the coach on the mound, is a dead ball & the pitch will not count.
- Coach pitchers must start their throw from behind a line at 40ft from home plate & must pitch overhand to each batter. Coaches MUST be standing when pitching.
- Fielding pitchers must be in-line with the pitching rubber (46' from home) & within 5' of the center of the pitching rubber (to the left or right of the coach pitcher)
 - They may not interfere with the opposing team's pitching coach.
 - Fielding pitchers must wear a batting helmet with a facemask or equivalent face guard.
- No player will play in front of a line 45 feet from home plate.

Fielders:

- Minors will play with 10 players in the field (4 outfielders only, no "rover" positions)
- Outfielders must be positioned a minimum of 10' deep in the outfield grass & will consist of (4) players whenever the roster allows.
- Outfielders can not run the ball to the infield to make a play at a base or to create a dead ball.
- Outfielders may field a ball at the edge of the grass to prevent it from touching the grass but they must remain in the outfield while doing so.
- Each player must play at least 3 outs at an infield position in every game.
- No player may play more than 9 outs at any one specific position in a game.

PREPS RULES

- The Preps division plays 10 defensive players in the field (4 outfielders)
 - Teams may start with 8 but must take outs for their missing 9th and 10th batter.
 - No defensive Rover position is permitted
 - Teams with 7 or less players will be a forfeit and head coaches can agree to scrimmage in place of the game. The game will not be rescheduled.
- Preps will play on a field with 65' bases and 46' pitcher's mound
- A maximum of (5) runs can be scored in each inning.
- Prep mercy rule is 11-run lead after 4½ complete innings or 6-run lead after 5 complete innings.
- Only (4) coaches/assistant coaches are allowed on the field & in the dugout.
 - Additional coaches and/or scorekeepers shall be outside the fences.

Batting/Baserunning:

- Teams are required to roster bat.
 - A team must end the game with the same number of batters in the lineup as when the game started or take an out for the vacated batter, only exception is for a player injury during the game.
- No dropped third strike, infield fly, or balk rules
- Baserunners cannot attempt to steal a base until the pitch crosses the front edge of home plate, no lead offs are permitted.
 - Any runners attempting to lead off or steal early can be called out. (Umpires decision)
- No player shall slide headfirst into any base unless the runner is returning back to the previous base on a throw.
- Players MUST slide if the defense is making a play at that base. Failure to do so will result in the runner being called out.
- No slug bunting, any player that slug bunts will be called out.

Fielding:

- Every player must participate in each game defensively for a minimum of (6) outs.
 - They do not have to be consecutive.

Pitching:

- Once a pitcher is removed from a game, they cannot re-enter the same game as a pitcher, regardless of the number of pitches thrown.
- Pitchers who reach or go over 35 pitches in an inning on the last batter of the inning may pitch the next inning.
- Pitchers may finish the batter that they reach 75 pitches on.

- Each team will only be permitted 2 trips to the mound per game, this only applies to trips that do not result in a pitching change.
- Hit by Pitch Rule; 2 max per inning, 3 max per game per pitcher.
 - Unless it is determined batters are intentionally turning into the pitch (Umpires ruling)

Majors Division:

- The Majors division will play 9 defensive players in the field.
 - Teams may start with 8; but must take an out for their missing 9th batter.
 - Teams with 7 or less players will be a forfeit and head coaches can agree to scrimmage in place of the game. The game will not be rescheduled.
- Only (4) Coaches/Assistant Coaches are allowed on the field & in the dugout.
 - Additional Coaches and/or Scorekeepers shall be outside the fences.
- Majors division will play on 70' bases with a 50' pitcher's mound
- Majors mercy rule is a 15-run lead after 3 complete innings 10-runs after 4 complete innings or 8 runs after 5 complete innings. There is no maximum run limit per inning.

Batting/Baserunning:

- Majors division will roster bat all season with free defensive substitutions
 - A team must end the game with the same number of batters in the lineup as when the game started or take an out for the vacated batter, only exception is for a player injury during the game.
- No slug bunting, any player that slug bunts will be called out.
- Dropped 3rd strike rule and infield fly rule are in play
- Lead offs and steals are permitted in the Majors division
- Courtesy runner will be allowed for the catcher only with 2 outs. The courtesy runner must be the last recorded out.
- No player shall slide headfirst into any base unless the runner is returning back to the previous base on a throw.
- Players MUST slide if the defense is making a play at that base. Failure to do so will result in the runner being called out.

Fielding:

- Every player must participate in each game defensively for a minimum of (6) outs. They do not have to be consecutive.
- Any 10-year-old drafted to the Majors must participate in each game for a minimum of (12) outs This is based on a 6 inning game. They do not have to be consecutive.

Pitching:

- Balk rule will be in play with each individual pitcher getting 1 warning
- Each team will only be permitted 2 trips to the mound per game, this only applies to trips that do not result in a pitching change.
- Pitchers who reach or go over 35 pitches in an inning on the last batter of the inning may pitch the next inning.

- Pitchers may finish the batter that they reach 85 pitches on.
- Once a pitcher is removed from a game, they cannot re-enter the same game as a pitcher, regardless of the number of pitches thrown.
- Hit by Pitch Rule; 2 max per inning, 3 max per game per pitcher.
 - Unless it is determined batters are intentionally turning into the pitch (Umpires ruling)

PITCH COUNT RULES

Pitch Counts for the Preps Division

<u>Pitches</u>	<u>Days</u>
0-20 pitches	0 days rest
21-35 pitches	1 day rest
36-50 pitches	2 days rest
51-65 pitches	3 days rest
66+ pitches	4 days rest
Inning maximum = 35 pitches / Game maximum = 75 pitches	

Pitch Counts for the Majors Division

<u>Pitches</u>	<u>Days</u>
0-20 pitches	0 days rest
21-35 pitches	1 day rest
36-50 pitches	2 days rest
51-65 pitches	3 days rest
66+ pitches	4 days rest
Inning maximum = 35 pitches / Game maximum = 85 pitches	

Rest days start the day AFTER the game is played. EXAMPLE: Game played on Monday, a pitcher who threw 55 pitches can pitch again on Friday (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday = 3 days rest).

There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this rule.

PLAYOFF TIEBREAKERS

SWLYB will utilize the following tie-breaker procedures to determine final standings at the end of the regular season.

Two teams:

If two teams are tied in the standings, the following procedures will be used to determine the higher seeded team:

1. Head-to-head win-loss results during the regular season
2. Head-to-head fewest runs allowed during the regular season
3. Total runs scored during the regular season
4. The higher seed will be decided by a coin toss conducted by the SWLYB Board of Directors

Three or more teams:

If three or more teams are tied in the standings, the following procedures will be used to determine the higher seeded team:

1. Combined Head-to-head win-loss results during the regular season; if still tied:
2. Combined Head-to-head fewest runs allowed during the regular season
3. Total runs scored during the regular season
4. The higher seed will be decided by a coin toss conducted by the SWLYB Board of Directors

PLAYOFF RULES

SWLYB will utilize the following procedures to determine playoff seeding and schedules.

Round 1 (highest-seeded team is home team)

- If there are less than 8 teams and Byes are needed, the top seed will get the first bye, second seed will get the second bye, and so on.
- With no byes the 1st place team will play the 8th place team, 2nd place vs. 7th place, 3rd place vs. 6th place, 4th place vs. 5th place

Round 2 – Semifinals (highest-seeded team is home team)

- Winner of 1 vs 8 game will play the winner of the 4 vs 5 game
- Winner of the 2 vs 7 game will play the winner of the 3 vs 6 game

Round 3 – Championship (highest-seeded team is home team)

- Winners of both Semifinal games play each other for championship

All game dates, times and locations will be determined by the SWLYB Board of Directors.

Championship games will be played on the night of closing ceremonies.

HANDLING DISPUTES

As part of the registration process, all volunteers and parents acknowledge their support of the Southwest Licking Youth Baseball League Code of Conduct.

While the vast majority of our parents conduct themselves properly, sometimes conflicts and disputes arise – between coaches, between players, and with umpires, parents and spectators. SWLYB is not alone. A recent Google search for the term “little league parents fight” returned over 9.7 million results!

Coaches must be prepared to resolve conflicts through dialogue based upon mutual respect.

Conflicts with Parents

As much as parents strive to avoid disagreements with their child’s coach (and vice versa) it is inevitable that there will be differences of opinion during the course of the season. Typically, these differences involve issues such as coaching style or game strategy. Perhaps the most potentially volatile subjects, however, are disagreements over coaching philosophy, assigning positions or the allocation of playing time. Nothing irritates parents more than watching their child sit on the bench or “always playing right field.”

When conflict between coaches and parents is not adequately resolved, communication stops and animosity develops. Parents who think their child is not being treated fairly often feel “powerless” and frustrated that their concerns are not being addressed. Coaches who sense parental discontent often feel “persecuted” and unappreciated for all the time and effort that they devote to coaching young athletes. Left further unresolved, conflicts can escalate to verbal and, in rare cases, physical altercations that not only reflect poorly upon the individuals involved, but can also tarnish the sport, embarrass the sponsoring organization, and divide an entire community.

It is important that managers be able to identify some of the factors that can lead to conflict between coaches and youth sport parents, particularly, the misguided behavior of well meaning volunteers and the unrealistic expectations of overprotective parents, and to be able to implement strategies for avoiding disputes or resolving disagreements before they become headline news.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The vast majority of our parents conduct themselves properly. Thankfully, there are only a few who do not understand that the enjoyment of children is the goal of Little League.

The SWLYB Board of Directors aspires to promote the health and well-being of our community's children. When disagreements cannot be resolved, the league will intervene and act impartially. Accordingly, the league believes that violating the Code of Conduct is a serious offense and will not be taken lightly.

It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to understand the consequences of violating the Code of Conduct. Due to the extreme nature of some consequences, managers should educate parents, guardians and spectators on their teams about the consequences of unacceptable behavior at the beginning of each season and throughout the season as warranted.

Southwest Licking Youth Baseball encourages parents, coaches and umpires to report unacceptable behavior to the Board. (The best way to do this is through our email, info@swlyb.com.) Of course, serious infractions involving violence, threats of violence, or use of illegal substances and/or alcohol should be immediately reported to local law enforcement authorities.

Any person found to be in violation of the Southwest Licking Youth Baseball Code of Conduct will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including removal, in accordance with SWLYB by-laws.

Some of the more common infractions include (but are not limited to):

- (1) Display of poor sportsmanship or disrespectful behavior, including arguing or "baiting" the umpire;
- (2) Loss of temper and/or self-control;
- (3) Demonstrating an obvious lack of integrity by intentional manipulation of the rules, and/or cheating;
- (4) Playing players less than Minimum Play Requirements;
- (5) Use of bad language, including derogatory remarks made toward a player or another adult;
- (6) Allowing players to "trash talk" other players or umpires;
- (7) Use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco while around the team.

The SWLYB Board of Directors meets regularly to review and investigate all allegations of misconduct and unacceptable behavior. The Board reserves the right to recommend disciplinary action up to, and including, lifetime suspension from SWLYB based on (a) the severity of the specific incident, (b) past actions (during current or prior seasons) by the individual, and/or (c) other egregious behavior by the individual.

Safety

SWLYB's Culture of Safety is at the forefront of everything we do. We believe that children are our greatest assets and we are committed to their well-being. We will never ignore or intentionally disregard anything that would compromise the safety of any player, coach, volunteer, or spectator. We take proactive steps to identify and correct safety issues, prepare for emergencies and work to continually improve the safety plan we have in place.

Please take a moment to review the information on this page to find out more about our Safety Program.

2025 Safety Plan

Accident Reporting Procedures

Any incident that causes any player, manager, coach, umpire or volunteer to receive medical treatment and/or first aid must be reported to the SWLYB Board. This includes even passive treatments such as the evaluation and diagnosis of the extent of the injury or period of rest. Any player who, in the opinion of an umpire, coach or manager, suffers loss of consciousness or memory loss due to an accident should be immediately removed from the game and the parents or guardians advised to seek a medical evaluation immediately.

All such incidents described above must be reported to the SWLYB Board within 48 hours of the incident.

Reporting incidents can come in a variety of forms. Most typically they are telephone calls, texts or emails. At minimum, the following information must be provided:

The name and number of the individual involved

The date, time and location of the incident

As detailed a description of the incident as possible

The preliminary estimation of the extent of injuries

The name and phone number of the person reporting the incident

Within 48 hours of receiving the incident report, the SWLYB Board will contact the injured party or the party's parents and:

Verify the information received

Obtain any other information deemed necessary

Check on the status of the injured party

Complete and file an Incident/Injury Tracking Form and/or an Accident Notification Form, if medical treatment was sought.

Returning from Injury

Any player who is removed from a game due to injury and who receives professional medical treatment will not be able to return to baseball activities until a doctor's note releasing the player has been submitted to the SWLYB Board. A copy of the doctor's note can be emailed to info@swlyb.com.

Concussions

If an athlete is suspected to have possibly suffered a concussion during a game or practice, the player must be removed from action and medical attention shall be sought. Managers and coaches should never try to judge the severity of the injury themselves. The athlete should be kept out of play for the remainder of the day of the injury and until a healthcare professional, experienced in evaluating for concussions, states that the player is symptom-free and it is OK to return to action. A copy of the doctor's note can be emailed to info@swlyb.com

Prior to each new season, all parents/legal guardians are required to submit a signed, Parent/Athlete Concussion Information Sheet before the athlete can participate.

Annual First Aid and CPR Training

At least one representative (either a head coach or assistant coach) from each team is required to complete First Aid and CPR education.

Coaches who have taken a First Aid and CPR course and are still current can forgo the First Aid and CPR training by providing the league with a copy of the certification.