

PATRIOT LEAGUE

2026 GROUND RULES

1. No gum, seeds or food allowed on the field of play.
2. Only water & sports drinks are allowed in the dugouts. No food!
3. Only Players (with helmets on) may act as bullpen spotters.
4. Managers and coaches are limited to:
 - a. accessing the dugout,
 - b. serving as a base coach,
 - c. talking with a pitcher during a charged conference,
 - d. asking for a pitch count,
 - e. checking on an injured player,
 - f. making a lineup change or discussing a rules decision with the umpire.
5. Managers, coaches and players may only leave the field to use the restroom or to retrieve ice from the snack bar for an injured player. No snack bar runs for food!
6. Team members & league officials only are allowed in dugouts; no unregistered players, siblings, uncleared parents, etc.
7. No one other than league approved volunteers are allowed on the field at any time. Photographers wanting on-field access to shoot photos during games must be approved by D33 or the Patriot League and cleared as a volunteer based on Little League and State of California youth volunteer mandates prior to game.
8. Only one player and bat allowed in on deck circle. No weighted donuts.
9. Buckets/alternative seating must remain inside the dugout while the game is in progress. No one shall sit on a bucket or stand outside the dugout at any time during a game. The only time managers and/or coaches are allowed outside of the dugout include:
 - a. In-between innings; however, an adult must be in the dugout at all times if occupied by a player,
 - b. when coaching a base,
 - c. when talking with an umpire after time has been called,
 - d. when presenting changes to the scorekeeper, and
 - e. during mound visits.
10. Managers and/or coaches may warm up a pitcher in-between innings; protective mask and cup are recommended.
11. Players may not wear mirrored sunglasses while pitching.
12. A ZERO tolerance policy will be enforced against anyone violating Little League Regulation XIV, Field Decorum, from field or stands. There will be no verbal abuse towards umpires, managers, coaches or players. Foul language from managers, coaches, players, fans in the stands will not be tolerated at any time. Positive sportsmanship will be expected and enforced at all times. If there is a disturbance in the crowd that cannot be controlled by a board member, it is requested that umpires clear the field and ask players to remain in the dugout until order is restored.
13. Squirrel/Rabbit Rule: If an animal on the field does not allow a defensive player to retrieve a fair ball, the player will raise his/her hands and the umpires will award bases based upon their judgment. If an animal is disabled due to being hit by a fair ball, the play will continue, and time is allowed once the play is completed.
14. Dead balls: in the event a ball rolls under a fence, into a hole or goes into foul territory or over the fence on a ground-rule double, a player will raise their hands immediately to indicate the ball is out-of-play.

15. Along the right field line, tree branches are located in Fair territory. Based upon the umpire judgment, if a ball in flight is in fair territory and is obstructed by the tree branches and settles in fair or foul territory a two base award is given. If foul territory is in flight and is obstructed, then it is foul. If a fair ball in flight is obstructed and continues over the fence in fair/foul territory a home run is given.
16. There is a gap between the 14 ft fence and foul pole. If a ball in flight goes in this gap over the fence a home run is awarded.
17. Time Limits: WEEKNIGHT GAMES – The drop-dead time will be 7:10 p.m. with no exceptions, including but not limited to letting the next batter bat. No new innings will start after 7:00 p.m. due to the lack of lighting and park hours and in order to break down the field and vacate the premises.
WEEKEND GAMES: Game clock starts when Plate Meeting is finished. From that moment “no new inning” applied two hours from start. Drop dead time is 2 hours and 10 minutes from start to allow the next games’ teams to warm-up and prep the field. The last game on weekends is held at the same time-restraints out of respect for the umpires and snack bar volunteers’ time.

REVISED 3/12/2026