

## RLL Pee Wee Division Rules - 2017

1. Peewee division is an instructional league. The focus of each game should be to have fun. Instruction should focus on beginning fundamentals, good sportsmanship, teamwork and camaraderie. Coaches should begin to stress proper technique in throwing, fielding, batting and running bases. Players should begin to understand fundamental basics of how the game is played. Winning should not be an emphasis at this level.
2. No new inning will be started after 1 hour and 15 minutes from the scheduled start time of the game, or after 4 complete innings. The game will terminate at 1 hour and 30 minutes.
3. No league standings will be maintained.
4. Home team is responsible for field preparation for both pre and post game. Each team is responsible for the clean up of dugouts and bleacher areas. It is suggested that dugouts and bleacher areas be cleaned prior to snacks being distributed.
5. Peewee division will utilize a soft-core ball as supplied by the league. Hard balls are not permitted.
6. During play, one coach is permitted in the field of play for instructional purposes only. One coach, team mom or assigned parent must remain in the dugout at all times to monitor players not in the field.
7. No more than 10 players on defense allowed. If the 10<sup>th</sup> player is used, they will play in the outfield only.
8. Peewee division is coach pitch or approved machine pitch. However, on the on May 1, 2017, players age 7 or above this division will switch to player pitch for the remainder of the season. Players will throw 4 pitches to a batter. If the batter does not hit the ball or strike out, the coach may throw 3 additional pitches (no more than 7 pitches total). All inning count (SB) or pitch count (BB) applies and rest periods must be observed as listed in the rule book. The Little League 'Arm Band' rules will apply to all players under 7 years of age. Players that are 5-6 years old will be required to wear a green wristband and will not be pitched to by a player, only the coach or approved pitching machine will be allowed to pitch to these players. No exceptions.
9. Batters will get three strikes at the ball or a total of seven pitches. Three strikes or a total of seven pitches thrown will constitute an out and the batter shall return to the dugout. Foul balls are strikes. As in regulation baseball, a batter with two strikes will not be called out on a foul ball. All batters must wear league approved batting helmets. No exceptions. Only helmets, which are NOCSAE approved and exhibit the molded NOCSAE seal, are permitted.
10. Batters will be awarded first base if hit by pitch, by a player during player pitch. If a pitcher hits 3 batters during the course of the game, they will be replaced as a pitcher on the third infraction.
11. Batters should be instructed that **throwing of bats is strictly prohibited**. After striking the ball the batter should drop the bat where they stand. If a batter throws the bat, the game

should stop, the batter explained the offense and cautioned. If the batter repeats the offense in that game, the batter will be called out and must return to the dugout. This is strictly a safety rule and in no way is intended to humiliate the player.

12. Only one batter shall be out of the dugout at any time. No on deck batters are permitted. Batters should be lined up and ready to approach the plate after play has ceased in the field. No player shall have a bat in their hand unless they are next to bat. Bats not in use need to be placed in the bat holders in the dugouts or in the player's bag.

13. Base runners cannot run unless the ball is put in play by the batter. Base runners are not allowed to run on an overthrow or passed ball, unless the base runner is involved in a overthrow on a force play.

- As the Pee-Wee division is an instructional division, and as a matter of training and paying attention to gameplay and showing a consequence for not making a proper play (i.e. not correctly throwing a ball, or missing the ball from not paying attention to gameplay.) If a ball is overthrown on a play to 1<sup>st</sup> base after a hit, the baserunner is allowed to advance to 2<sup>nd</sup> base, only if the base is open. No other prior base runner can advance on the play.

14. If a player hits a fair ball in play to the outfield, the player can be allowed to try to take the chance to advance to 2<sup>nd</sup> base as a baserunner. Other existing baserunners can also be allowed to advance one extra base on the play. But the player(s) are still open in the live ball play and can be called out by being tagged by the defense players with the ball or the base is tagged in a force situation. The base runners cannot advance more than one additional base on the play.

15. A team will side out when a). The defensive team obtains three (3) outs in a single inning or b) the team at bat has scored five (5) runs. Should three (3) outs be obtained, the batting lineup shall resume with the next batter in line.

16. The pitcher's mound is considered a "neutral" zone. If defensive players return the ball to the pitcher (pitcher's helper), runners cannot advance. Should a runner advance after the ball has been returned to the "neutral" zone, the runner shall return to the previous base. Leading off the base and stealing is not permitted in the Peewee division. Runners must not leave their base until the ball is hit. Players at this level are encouraged to "make a play" to one of the bases in an attempt to get the out.

17. Any player catching behind the plate must wear full catchers gear to include padded face mask, chest protector, shin guards and a glove. NO EXCEPTIONS. A player's personal fielder's glove may be used to catch behind the plate at this level.

18. It is the manager's responsibility to remove from any game any broken, damaged or unsafe league issued or player owned equipment. Any league owned equipment, which is damaged, must be reported to the league equipment manager for immediate replacement. Additionally, managers should inspect any player owned equipment to make sure it meets minimum league requirements. If it does not, said equipment must be removed from play.

19. Personal batting helmets are permitted however; they must meet Little League standards and be NOCSAE approved. If the NOCSAE label is not molded in the helmet, league issued protection must be used. The coach should inform the parent of the rule and

request the helmet not be used at Little League events.

20. No umpires are required at this level.

21. No food is permitted in the dugouts. The league requests that children be fed prior to or after the game. Food in the dugout is a distraction to the team and the player.

22. Only players on the team roster are permitted in the dugout with the coaches and/or a designated parent or dugout monitor. Batboys and/or Batgirls are not permitted.

23. Managers/coaches must use each player and utilize an equitable rotation plan that will allow each player the opportunity to play various positions on a regular basis. Positioning will be determined by the manager/coach.

24. Parents/Spectators. This should be a positive learning environment for the children. With that in mind, it is imperative that parents and spectators respect the children and their abilities. Encourage them rather than discourage them. If a comment is not positive, please hold it. Likewise, it is important that parents and spectators allow the managers and coaches to perform their roles. They are volunteers and have the children's best interest at heart. If you feel something can or should be done differently please talk with the manager/coach in private. Remember, Ridgefield Little League is a volunteer organization and can use your talents in one area or another.

25. The Pee-Wee Division is not an Interleague division and will follow these rules within the RLL Pee-Wee season. These rules will be supplementary to the Official Regulations and Playing Rules of Little League Baseball & Softball and District 6 Interleague Rules. In case of conflict, the Official Regulations and Interleague Rules will take precedence, during any Interleague games if any.