

Conejo Valley Little League

Coaching Guide – Playing Divisions

Playing Divisions

Players are assigned a division based on their Little League Age. The Little League Age is their age as of April 30. For example, your child is 6 years old on December 30th when you sign up for CVLL. Your child turns 7 years old on May 1 during the season. For assignment of divisions, your child is Little League Age 6 (age as of 4/30). This equates to the Peanut division.

Players aged between 4 – 7 yrs., do not have to try out for teams. Starting at 8 years old and older, players try out for teams. The purpose of tryouts is to ensure the league has balanced teams. If a younger player (age 7) wants to play up a division, they may do so provided they: (1) petition to play up (send form to Player Agent) and (2) attend tryouts. This is a common request for more skilled players.

CVLL has eight playing divisions. The league's goals and philosophy are:

- Recreation league, everyone plays, balanced teams
- Safety and learning fundamentals of baseball
- Sportsmanship/teamwork/fair play
- Keep winning in perspective
- Have fun

The goals of Team Manager and Coach are to instill the joy of playing baseball while preparing players to progress to the next level of play. Skill mastery comes from repetition and understanding solid fundamentals. Players will develop confidence and joy of the game as they develop skills. Baseball requires the development of many fine motor skills and these take time/repetition to develop.

The following are overviews of the CVLL playing divisions. For more detailed information, refer to the **Manager's Notebook**, section titled, *Supplemental Playing Rules*. Supplemental Playing rules can change from year to year, as decided by the CVLL Board of Directors. For more specific information on official Little League playing divisions and rules refer to the **Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules**, also known as the "**Green Book**", or visit the website at, www.littleleague.org.

Challenger Division, ages 5 – 18 yrs. (Developmental Opportunity)

- Objective – To provide a unique opportunity for mentally and/or physically challenged youth to experience the therapeutic and socialization benefits of playing sports
- Play Format
 - Offense - bat through entire line up each inning
 - Defense – All players on the field
 - Playing time – 1 hr., on Saturday mornings, Fiore field #1
- Practice time – 1 hr. during week, TBD by Team Manager, held at location determined by Team Manager

CVLL Coaches Guide – Playing Divisions, continued

Peanut Division, ages 4 – 6 yrs. (Tee Ball)

- Objective – To provide a safe environment for an introduction to the game of baseball, teaching fundamentals, sportsmanship, and team play, while having fun
- Play Format
 - Offense
 - Hit from tee, no strike outs, as the season progresses, some players may be ready for soft toss up to discretion of Manager
 - Bat through entire line up each inning
 - No score keeping
 - Defense
 - 7 players infield, remaining players on the team in the outfield
 - Rotate positions between infield/outfield each inning
 - Forced and put outs
 - Playing time – 1 hour, Saturdays, Fiore field #1, up to four innings
- Practice time – 1 hour during week, TBD by Team Manager, held at Acacia Elementary School

CVLL Coaches Guide – Playing Divisions, continued

Minor International Division, ages 6 – 8 yrs. (Combination machine/kid pitch)

- Objective – To provide a safe environment to continue to learn baseball fundamentals and develop basic skills, introducing kid pitch and consistent pitches via a pitching machine, while emphasizing fun, this division also has many first time players
- Play Format
 - Offense
 - No score kept, outs tracked by inning
 - 5 run rule in place innings 1 - 5, 6th inning is unlimited runs
 - (First half of season) Hit from pitching machine (set at 35 – 40mph), balls and strikes are called by umpire, (Second half of season) Hit from machine , first 4 or 5 innings and then live pitch, up to 2 innings as determined by the league VP
 - Bat through entire line up, as listed on line up sheet
 - No stealing or bunting
 - Defense
 - 6 players infield, 4 players in outfield (Outfield Rover)
 - (First half of season), No kid pitch, all machine pitch (Second half of season) machine pitch first 4-5 innings, then kid pitch remaining inning, a pitcher is limited to one inning per game, if pitched four balls, coach will finish the batter (hit or strike out)
 - Minimum play rule, 9 defensive outs, 6 must in the infield
 - Playing time (6 innings)
 - No new inning starts 1 hour and 30 minutes from official start time, games end 1 hour and 45 minutes, (6 innings)
 - Games played on Saturdays and one other day during the week at Fiore field #4
 - Practice time – at least 1 hour during week, TBD by Team Manager, held at Aspen or University Elementary Schools or Fiore Field

Minor National Division, ages 8 – 9yrs (Combination coach/kid pitch)

- Objective – To provide a safe environment to learn baseball fundamentals, continue developing understanding of game and skill development, introducing kid pitching, bunting, stealing and keeping score, while emphasizing fun
- Play Format
 - Offense
 - Score kept
 - 5 run rule in place innings 1 - 4, 5th inning is unlimited runs
 - (First half of season) Hit from kid/coach pitch (comes in on ball 4), (Second half of season) all kid pitch
 - Bat through entire line up, as listed on line up sheet
 - Bunting allowed
 - Stealing 2nd/3rd base allowed
 - Defense
 - 6 players infield, 4 players in outfield, total 10 defensive players (Outfield Rover), teams can play with minimum of 9 players (Second half of season) only 3 outfielders or total of 9 defensive players
 - (First half of season) Kid pitch up to ball four, then coach pitch with strike count carried over, (Second half of season) Kid pitch entire game, pitcher limited to two innings per game, pitching distance 44 feet
 - Minimum play rule, 9 defensive outs, 6 must in the infield
 - Playing time (5 innings)
 - Prior to day light savings – no new inning starts 1 hour and 45 minutes after official start time
 - After day light savings – no new inning starts 2 hours after official start time
 - Games played on Saturdays and one other day during week, Fiore field #3
 - Practice time – at least 1 hr. during week, TBD by Team Manager, held at Aspen, University Elementary Schools or Fiore Field

Minor American Division, ages 9 – 12yrs (Kid pitch)

- Objective – To provide a safe environment to learn baseball fundamentals, continue skill development, introducing full kid pitching, bunting and stealing, while emphasizing fun. If players are needed for the Majors division to maintain rosters due to injury or other reason, Minor American Division players can be moved up to Majors
- Play Format
 - Offense
 - Score kept
 - 5 run rule applies to innings 1 – 4, unlimited runs, inning 5
 - Hit from kid pitch
 - Bat through entire line up, as listed on line up sheet
 - Bunting allowed
 - Stealing allowed
 - Defense
 - 6 players infield, 3 players in outfield
 - Kid pitch, pitchers limited to pitch count rules, pitching distance, 46 feet
 - Minimum play rule, 12 defensive outs, 3 must in the infield
 - Playing time (6 innings)
 - Prior to day light savings – no new inning starts 2 hours after official start time
 - After day light savings – no new inning starts 2 hours and 15 minutes after official start time
 - Games on Saturdays and one other day during week, Fiore field #2
 - Practice time - at least 1 hr. during week, TBD by Team Manager, held at Aspen, University Elementary Schools or Fiore Field

CVLL Coaches Guide – Playing Divisions, continued

Majors Division, ages 10 – 12 yrs.

- Objective – To provide a safe environment to learn baseball fundamentals while emphasizing fun
- Play Format
 - Offense
 - Score kept
 - No minimum run rule in place
 - Hit from kid pitch
 - Bat through entire line up, as listed on line up sheet
 - Bunting allowed
 - Stealing allowed
 - Defense
 - 6 players infield, 3 players in outfield
 - Pitcher are limited to pitch count rules, pitching distance 46 feet
 - Minimum play rule, 9 defensive outs
 - Playing time (9 innings)
 - No time limits
 - Games played on Saturdays and one other day during week, Dover & Hendrix Field
 - Practice time – at least 1 hr. during week, TBD by Team Manager, held at Redwood Middle School or Dover & Hendrix Play Field

CVLL Coaches Guide – Playing Divisions, continued

Junior Division, ages 13 – 14 yrs. (Interleague play)

- Objective – To provide a safe environment to learn baseball fundamentals while emphasizing fun and interleague play
- Play Format
 - Offense
 - Score kept
 - No minimum run rule in place
 - Hit from kid pitch
 - Bat through entire line up, as listed on line up sheet
 - Bunting allowed
 - Stealing allowed with lead offs
 - Defense
 - 6 players infield, 3 players in outfield
 - Pitcher are limited to pitch count rules, pick offs allowed, pitching distance, 60 feet, 6 inches
 - No minimum play rule
 - Playing time (9 innings)
 - No time limits on week nights, on Saturdays, no new inning shall start 3 hrs after official start time
 - Games played on Saturdays and one other day during week, Waverly Field
 - Practice time – at least 1 hr. during week, TBD by Team Manager, held at Waverly Field

CVLL Coaches Guide – Playing Divisions, continued

Senior Division, ages 14 - 16yrs (Interleague play)

- Objective – To provide a safe environment to learn baseball fundamentals while emphasizing interleague play and fun
- Play Format
 - Offense
 - Score kept
 - Ten run rule in place
 - Hit from kid pitch
 - Bat through entire line up, as listed on line up sheet
 - Bunting allowed
 - Stealing allowed with lead offs
 - Defense
 - 6 players infield, 3 players in outfield
 - Pitcher are limited to pitch count rules, pick offs allowed, pitch distance, 60 feet, 6 inches
 - No minimum play rule
 - Playing time (9 innings)
 - No time limits
 - Games played on Saturdays and one other day during week, Waverly Field
 - Practice time – at least 1 hr. during week, TBD by Team Manager, held at Waverly Field