Howard Suamico Baseball
Minor American League Rules

1. Primary rules – Official Little League Rules.
2. Only Little League-approved bats allowed.
3. Games are 6 innings with a time limit of 1 hour and 30 minutes. No new inning can begin after 1 hour and 20 minutes. No extra innings - games end in a tie. Official game start time is 5:00 p.m. for the first game no matter what time the game actually begins. Umpires will keep track of time.
4. Four innings (3½ if home team is ahead) is considered a complete game in cases of weather, time, or darkness.
5. The defensive team will play with 10 players in the field with 4 outfielders. The 4 outfielders must be on the grass. A roving 5th infielder is not allowed. Must have at least 8 players to start and continue a game. Play can continue with fewer than 8 players at the discretion of both coaches.
6. There is no infield fly rule.
7. Players pitch. A player can pitch a maximum of 3 innings per game (innings must be consecutive) OR the following pitch count, whichever comes first: No player can pitch more than 50 pitches in a day, or 90 in a calendar week. If a player pitches 41-50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed. If this occurs on a Tuesday, the player cannot pitch on Thursday. If a player pitches 11-40 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed. If this occurs on a Tuesday, the player will be allowed to pitch again on a Thursday. If a player pitches 1- 10 pitches in a day, no calendar day of rest is required before pitching again. One pitch is considered an inning. If a pitcher reaches the pitch limit imposed for his league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until that batter reaches base or is put out. However, if the pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Rule 7 on his last pitch to a particular batter, the pitcher must be removed before delivering a pitch to the next batter. Intentional walks are not allowed. There are no balks or intentional walks. It is suggested that you track opposing team's pitch count. ALL KIDS SHALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PITCH DURING THE SEASON IF THEY DESIRE.
8. There is a limit of two free passes per inning per team. A free pass is defined as a walk, hit-by-pitch, or catcher's interference. On the 3rd and subsequent free pass, the batter's coach will pitch to the batter (must be from the regulation 46-foot pitching rubber). The strike count remains with only strikes being called by the umpire. The player cannot walk but can strike out, including a called third strike. If a player is hit by a pitch and the player cannot bat, the 2 free pass rule may be waived by batters coaches' choice and the batter can take first base. Remember we want to encourage batting.
9. The entire roster will bat. Individuals arriving late will assume the last spot in the batting order; and any spots in the lineup vacated by someone that has previously batted (i.e., injury, etc.) will be bypassed without penalty.
10. Innings continue until 3 outs are recorded and do not automatically end when the team bats through their line-up.

11. Coaches are allowed to rotate players in the field in any manner they wish; however, it is REQUIRED to rotate players between infield and outfield positions to help them improve their ball handling skills. All players are required to play a minimum 1 infield inning and 1 outfield inning within the first 4 innings. In addition, a player cannot sit out defensively for a second inning until all players have sat out at least 1 inning.
12. Runners must slide feet first on all close plays at any base (including a runner returning to first base after safely getting there, but not the initial play at first). The runner is out for failing to slide if a play is made at that base (call is at the discretion of the umpire).
13. Stealing is not allowed on a ball caught cleanly by the catcher. Stealing of 2nd or 3rd base is allowed on a passed ball, bobbled catch or pitch in the dirt. There will be no extra bases on an overthrow by the catcher attempting to throw out a runner. Stealing home is not allowed. No stealing of any base on a ball misplayed on the throwback to the pitcher by the catcher. Stealing is not allowed on an issued free pass.
14. No leading off until the ball crosses home plate. Runners leading off will be given a warning by the umpire and sent back to the base they started from. However, if the ball is hit by the batter, and the runner led off before the ball crossed home plate, the runner can only advance the same number of bases the batter achieves. If the runner is out at first base, the runner can only advance 1 base. A 2nd team offense for leading off will result in the runner being called out no matter what the batter does.
15. Courtesy runners may be used for the pitcher and catcher and has to be used for the catcher with 2 outs. The courtesy runner will be the last out not to include the pitcher or catcher.
16. Bunting is allowed; however if a batter shows bunt, they cannot pull back and swing away. Batter will be called out and the ball becomes dead.
17. Absolutely no belittling of other players' efforts. Sportsmanship is a must. Any chatter on the field must be encouragement of teammates only. Sportsmanship/courtesy will also be shown towards umpires at all times!
18. There are no make-ups for games not completed.