

## 2023 “A” Prairie League Rules

1. Players cannot turn 15 before May 1<sup>st</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade level.
2. The Little Prairie League will allow both youth (2 1/4" barrel) and Youth Big Barrel (2 5/8" and 2 3/4" barrels) bats. All youth bats must be USSSA, BBCOR or USABat certified.
3. No metal cleats are allowed, no exceptions.
4. Bases are 75 feet apart; pitchers will pitch from 55 feet.
5. There will be no time limit on single games or final scheduled games unless agreed upon prior to game time with both coaches. Otherwise, all games are 6 innings with no new inning starting after 1 hour and 20 minutes (although extra innings can be used in a tied game, time permitting). 4 innings is considered a complete game. At the end of 4 innings, if any team leads by 10 runs, the game will end. Home team must bat before darkness, unless they are leading.
6. There may be up to 10 players playing in the field (using four distinct outfielders with 10 players). If you have 8 or 9 players, there is no automatic out for the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> position. Teams must have at least 8 players to start a game; any less is an automatic forfeit of the game.
7. Substitute players must come from a younger ~~Dyersville League team~~ **League team from the same town**. There will be no players allowed to play that are not involved in a ~~Dyersville League team~~ **League team from the same town**.
8. Catchers must wear a protective helmet with their facemasks whenever they catch a pitch, including warm up pitches. The batter at the plate and all base runners must wear a batting helmet.
9. A pitcher is limited to 4 innings per game; one pitch in an inning constitutes an inning. Once a pitcher is removed from that position, he may reenter as pitcher only once later in the game as long as he has not pitched more than 4 innings.
10. Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike and infield fly rule is in effect per Little League Rules.
11. If batter squares to bunt, he cannot swing away. Batter will be out if he swings.
12. The base runner must slide to avoid contact with opposing players when played upon; otherwise the base runner will be called out. Umpire discretion.
13. Runners are allowed to lead off.
14. Batter being walked may attempt second base on passed ball.
15. Home plate is open. Runner may steal all bases on overthrows and passed balls. The ball is also live when thrown back to the pitcher.
16. Umpire's decision on the field is final.
17. Free substitution on the field is allowed at any time.
18. Complete roster must be batted in order.
19. Extra innings will start with 0 outs and the last out placed on second base.
20. **Balk rule is enforced according to the NFHS Baseball Rules Book, excerpt below in italics for reference:**

*ART. 4... Balk. If there is a runner or runners, any of the following acts by a pitcher while he is touching the pitcher's plate is a balk:*

*a. any feinting toward the batter or first base, or any dropping of the ball (even though accidental) and the ball does not cross a foul line (6-1-4);*

*b. failing to step with the non-pivot foot directly toward a base (occupied or unoccupied) when throwing or feinting there in an attempt to put out, or drive back a runner; or throwing or feinting to any unoccupied base when it is not an attempt to put out or drive back a runner;*

*c. making an illegal pitch from any position (6-1, 6-2-1a-d);*

*d. failing to pitch to the batter in a continuous motion immediately after any movement of any part of the body such as he habitually uses in his delivery;*

*1. If the pitcher, with a runner on base, stops or hesitates in his delivery because the batter steps out of the box (a) with one foot or (b) with both feet or (c) holds up his hand to request "Time," it shall not be a balk. In (a) and (c), there is no penalty on either the batter or the pitcher. The umpire shall call "Time" and begin play anew. In (b), a strike shall be called on the batter for violation of 7-3-1. In (a), (b) and (c), if the pitcher legally delivers the ball, it shall be called a strike and the ball remains live. Thus, two strikes are called on the batter in (b). If the umpire judges the batter's action to be a deliberate attempt to create a balk, he will penalize according to 3-3-1n.*

*e. taking a hand off the ball while in a set position (6-1-3), unless he pitches to the batter or throws to a base or he steps toward and feints a throw to second or third base as in (b); or*

*f. failing to pitch to the batter when the entire non-pivot foot passes behind the perpendicular plane of the back edge of the pitcher's plate, except when feinting or throwing to second base in an attempt to put out a runner.*

***Cups and other safety equipment are strongly recommended!***