

# BG East Little League Rules FAQs

## Q: What is the mandatory play rule for the Major League?

A: Bowling Green East Little League has the following mandatory play rule for the **Major League**:

- 1) The mandatory play rule is in effect—each player must play 6 consecutive defensive outs and have at least one appearance at the plate with a count of 0-0. The mandatory play rule is not in effect if a game is shortened because of the 10-run rule, rain, etc. The game is not considered shortened if the home team doesn't bat in the bottom of the 6th because they won the game in the top of the 6th.
- 2) Once a starter is removed for a substitute, the starter can't re-enter until the substitute has met the mandatory play rule. The starter can re-enter in any position in the batting order.
- 3) Once all players have met the mandatory play rule, you can freely substitute anywhere in the lineup. The only stipulation is that any player on the bench can't reenter until their sub has batted and/or played 3 defensive outs.
- 4) Example:
  - a. Johnny is a starter, bats in the 2nd inning and plays 6 consecutive defensive outs in the 1st and 2nd innings.
  - b. Billy is the only substitute for his team and he subs for Johnny at the start of the 3rd inning. Billy has to play 6 consecutive defensive outs and bat once before Johnny can return to the lineup.
  - c. After Billy plays defense in the 3rd and 4th and bats in the 4th, Johnny can re-enter the game in any batting position and goes in for Fred in the top of the 5th. Fred can't return to the lineup until Johnny bats or plays 3 defensive outs.
  - d. Johnny plays defense for 3 outs in the 5th.
  - e. Fred can re-enter the game in any batting position and bats for Tommy in the bottom of the 5th.
  - f. Since Tommy's sub batted for him in the 5th, Tommy can re-enter the game in any batting position and goes in for Joey in the top of the 6th, etc. etc.
  - g. In this example, instead of only Johnny and Billy being subs, this rule allows for 5 players to share the playing time.
- 5) In the above example, if the team had more than 1 substitute, all subs would have to meet the mandatory play rule before free substitution takes place.
- 6) This rule is not intended for coaches to manipulate it so that their better players could come out of a game and re-enter in a more critical spot in the lineup late in a game. This rule should primarily only involve those players in the bottom of the lineup (6- 9).

**Q: What is the mandatory play rule in the Minor League?**

**A:** In the Minor League there will be a standing batting order meaning all players must bat. For example, if you have 11 players on your roster, you will have 11 players in your batting order. 2) Defensively, no player should sit out for 2 consecutive innings. If Player A sits out in the 2nd inning he/she should be reinserted into the field in the 3rd inning. Player A may then sit in the 4th inning if indicated, but must be reinserted in the 5th inning.

**Q: What type of helmet will be required in the Major Division?**

**A:** Players in the Major League will be required to use a Little League approved jaw guard at a minimum.

**Q: What type of batting helmet will be required in the Minor Division?**

**A:** In the Minor League, players will be required to use a full cage/mask.

**Q: Are the pitchers required to wear head protection?**

**A:** Minor league pitchers are required to wear protective head gear while pitching. Major league pitchers are not required to wear protective head gear, but it is recommended.

**Q: What is the required rest for a pitcher between outings?**

**A:** Bowling Green East Little League adopts the following requirements for the amount of rest required between pitching appearances, based on the number of pitches thrown:

1. If a pitcher throws 66 or more pitches, the pitcher must have at least 4 calendar days of rest before the pitcher is eligible to throw;
2. If a pitcher throws 51-65 pitches, the pitcher must have at least 3 calendar days of rest before the pitcher is eligible to throw.
3. If a pitcher throws 36-50 pitches, the pitcher must have at least 2 calendar days of rest before the pitcher is eligible to throw.
4. If the pitcher throws 21-35 pitches, the pitcher must have at least 1 calendar day of rest.
5. If the pitcher throws less than 21 pitches, no calendar day of rest is required. Though eligible, a pitcher may not pitch on three consecutive days. If a pitcher reaches a pitch count threshold after at least one pitch to a batter, the pitcher may continue until the at-bat is completed and the pitcher's rest will be determined by the pitch count before that batter came to the plate.
6. 11 and 12 year olds can pitch a maximum of 85 pitches per day; 9 and 10 year olds can pitch a maximum of 75 pitches per day; 8 year olds can pitch a maximum of 50 pitches per day.

If a pitcher reaches a pitch count threshold after at least one pitch to a batter, the pitcher may continue until the at-bat is completed and the pitcher's rest will be determined by the pitch count before that batter came to the plate.

**Q: What are the rules for the same player pitching and catching in the same game?**

**A:** A player who played the position of catcher for three (3) innings or less, can move to the position of pitcher in the same game.

A pitcher can pitch up to the 40 pitch threshold and move to the position of catcher in the same game.

If a pitcher reaches 40 pitches while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day, until any one of the following conditions occurs: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game. The pitcher would be allowed to play the catcher position provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter. If a player delivers 41 or more pitches, and is not covered under the threshold exception, the player may not play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.

A player who played the position of catcher for three (3) innings or less, moves to the pitcher position, and delivers 21 pitches or more in the same day, may not return to the catcher position on that calendar day. **EXCEPTION:** If the pitcher reaches the 20-pitch limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to return to the catcher position, until any one of the following conditions occur: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game.