

Rules Unique to the Lefty Grove Baseball League

This book of rules follows the construct of the high school rule book; any rules not covered in this book follows the current high school rule book.

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Rule 1: Players, Field, and Equipment

1. Team Composition

a. Ages for Divisions as of April 30th of the season's year

Bantam	7 and 8
Colt	9, 10, and 11
Junior	12 and 13
Senior	14, 15, and 16

- b. Each team shall have approximately 13 players. With manager's approval, a team may be requested to have more than 13 players
- c. During the season and tournaments, no player who signs a contract other than Lefty Grove contract may play in the Lefty Grove League without board approval
- d. Players on a Lefty Grove travel team may play on regular Lefty Grove teams. They are eligible to play in the All-Star game and tournament games if they are a member of a regular Lefty Grove season team. They may not be picked up for just All-Star or tournament games. A supplemental draft of these players will be held during the league's regular draft.

2. Field Etiquette

- a. Players do not go on the fields when the fields are wet without permission.
- b. Bicycles are never to be ridden on the fields. Violators could be subject to suspension from league
- c. Both teams are responsible for cleaning up the area around the field and dugouts after their game(s). Failure to do so may result in a forfeit for the offending team(s). This is not limited to picking up trash, throwing away stones, and sweeping.
 - i. Senior Division: home team is responsible for raking the field
- d. Cameras or other recording devices are not allowed inside the fences of the playing field during a game without league approval.

3. Uniforms

- a. All Players must wear pants or sweats that extend below the knees.
- b. All Players must wear unaltered, league issued shirt and hat. Shirts shall be tucked into pants.
 - i. Penalty: no player may participate that doesn't meet this rule
- c. Steel spikes are only authorized in Senior Division

4. Equipment

- a. Helmets:
 - i. Batting/running helmets must be worn for all practices and games. Batters and base runners must keep their helmets on until they reach the dugout
 - 1. Penalty: First infraction is a warning; second will be an out
 - a. Deliberate violations: out is called and player to be ejected
 - ii. Helmets in Bantam, Colt, and Junior must have face guards

b. Bat Sizes:

Division	Max Length	Max Diameter	Max Drop	Other
Bantam	29"	2-1/4"	n/a	No Big Barrel
Colt	31"	2-1/4"	n/a	No Big Barrel
Junior	31"	2-1/4"	n/a	No Big Barrel
Senior	36'	2-5/8 (non-wood) 2-3/4 (wood)	-8	n/a

- i. Any bat issued by Lefty Grove is considered legal
- ii. Penalty for use of illegal bat is the batter is out
 1. Use constitutes being in the batter's box and receiving a pitch with an illegal bat in hand. There is no penalty for having an illegal bat until it is used/attempted to be used.

c. Lefty Grove will provide team equipment and bags to managers at the beginning of season. This equipment is to be turned at the conclusion of the team's last game.

5. Field Layout

Division	Base Paths	Pitching Rubber
Bantam	60'	35'
Colt	60'	46'
Junior	70'	50'
Senior	High school rules apply	

a. All fields are equipped with a double first base for safety. See Rule 8, *Base running*, for guidance on usage.

Rule 2: Playing Terms and Definitions

1. Infield Fly Rule

a. Applies to Junior and Senior Divisions; high school rules apply

2. Balk

a. Only applies to Senior Division; high school rules apply

3. Game Limits

a. Below are the restraints on games by divisions; games will end when maximum innings or time is reached unless ties are allowed. Complete innings must be played and no new innings shall start after the time limit unless ties are not allowed.

Division	Maximum Innings	Maximum Time	Ties Allowed
Bantam	7	2 hours	Yes
Colt	6 (unless tied)	2 hours	Yes, after time limit reached
Junior	6 (unless tied)	2 hours	No, time limit to be exceeded if tie occurs
Senior	7	2.5 hours	No; time limit to be exceeded if tie occurs

b. All divisions have a 10-run rule after the fifth inning

- c. Colt and Junior Divisions: no team shall score more than 5 runs per inning. If the home team is losing by six or more runs after five innings, the game will still be completed.
- 4. Make Up Games
 - a. Played on Saturdays and are scheduled by the division president. The first starting time for games is 10 A.M.
 - b. Suspended games shall be continued from the point of suspension

Rule 3: Substituting, Coaching, Bench and Field Conduct, Conferences

- 1. Substitutions:
 - a. All players must play 3 innings in the field by the end of the 5th inning. By the 6th inning, if a player is removed from the field of play before three outs are recorded in any inning, the player must play a total of at least nine outs.
 - i. Penalty: manager suspended for one game
 - ii. Exception: player is removed due to injury, illness, ejection, or leaves at own will
 - b. Unlimited substitution for all divisions except where Rule 6, *Pitching*, Applies
- 2. Coaching
 - a. Only one coach may be in each coach's box; all others must be behind league fences.
 - b. If a player is used as a coach, he/she must wear a batting helmet
- 3. Bench and Field Conduct
 - a. All player of batting team must remain on their side of the diamond
 - b. All teams must have pitcher and catcher position occupied by players throughout the entire game
 - c. No designated hitters are authorized in any division
- 4. Conferences:
 - a. Colt, Junior, & Senior:
 - i. One per inning
 - ii. Second much constitute a pitching change
- 5. League's Harassment Policy
 - a. The league has a zero-tolerance policy for any type of bullying or harassment. We encourage every parent to sit down with their children and discuss with them how to choose kind words, how to follow expectations in other settings, and how to be respectful to others and to themselves. Bullying can come in many forms and can be very harmful to both the target and the bully. Please talk with your children about the different ways bullying can happen and what to do if they see it. We encourage you to talk with your children on what is appropriate and what is not when they are with their teams. It is the responsibility of all of us (parents, children, coaches, managers, and community members) to teach our children the importance of being kind and considerate to others. These are life skills which are greatly needed by all in our society.
 - b. Penalties:
 - i. First offense: suspension of one game

- ii. Second offense: removal from league

6. Attendance Policy

- a. It is very important that you as parents make certain that your children attend practices and games. Improvement for your children at playing baseball is dependent on regular attendance at these events. Team improvement is dependent on this as well. It is discouraging to players, coaches, and managers when a team’s full roster is not present for practices and games; more importantly it hurts your children as well. We understand that events and circumstances can happen that results in the need for a player not being able to attend practices and games; however, it is important that you contact your children’s team manager to let them know that your child will not be there. Not doing so will result in an unexcused absence.
- b. Penalties: The manager can restrict players to the minimum number of innings and/or reduce the number of at bats to one. This will be done by the manager reporting to the scorekeeper before the start of the game.

7. Other

- a. Any player, coach, or manager that is ejected must attend and sit out the next game
- b. If a player would be injured, either while playing Lefty Grove Baseball or otherwise requiring a physician’s care, the player must have a signed release from their physician before being allowed to rejoin their team. This is for the protection of the player.

Rule 4: Starting and Ending Game

1. Roster Requirements

- a. Maximum number of players on field is as follows:

Bantam	10 (4 outfielders)
Colt	10 (4 outfielders)
Junior	10 (4 outfielders)
Senior	9

- b. The required minimum number of players necessary to start and continue a game is 8 for all divisions; less than 8 is a forfeiture.
 - i. In order to avoid a forfeit, the team needing players can be given a maximum of 2 players from the bottom of the roster of the opposing team. The opposing team may not refuse to give players so long as they have enough to play as well
 - ii. I. (i.e.: Team 1 has 10 and Team 2 has 6; Team 1 will give Team 2 Two players to make 8 vs 8)
 - iii. If neither team has the minimum number of players, up to two members from other Lefty Grove teams within the same division can be borrowed with their manager’s permission.
 - iv. Players cannot be borrowed if the team already has enough to play
 - v. Borrowed players cannot be used as a pitcher
- c. All teams shall submit a complete team roster for each game and include the following:
 - i. Present players in batting order starting from 1.

- 1. Batting order must include all present players **No Exceptions!**
 - ii. Absent players with reason for absence
- d. All players must check in with scorekeeper before he/she takes the field
- e. Forfeits will be declared 15 minutes after official starting time and score will be annotated as 7-0.

Rule 5: Dead Ball & Suspension of Play

1. Dropped Third Strike

Bantam	Ball is dead; batter is out; no runners can advance
Colt	Ball is dead; batter is out; no runners can advance
Junior	High school rules
Senior	High school rules

Rule 6: Pitching

1. Warm-Ups

- a. During Warm-ups, new pitchers get 8 pitches or one minute; and recurring pitchers get 5 pitches between innings
- b. Between innings, catcher may throw down only once to a base

2. Required Innings Rest

Division	Pitched				Rest		
Bantam	Does not apply; coaches pitch						
Colt	One Inning Pitched				Zero		
	Two Innings Pitched				One day		
Junior	One Inning Pitched				Zero		
	Two Innings Pitched				One Day		
Senior	No more than 10 innings in a three-day period; use following examples:						
	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	0	0	7	0	0	7	0
	0	4	3	2	5	3	2
	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	0	10	0	0	7	0	3
	0	0	7	0	0	7	3
	0	0	0	0	0	6	4

- a. A pitch in an inning qualifies as an inning pitched
- b. Division presidents can make exceptions when rain out games are involved
- c. Colt and Junior Division: pitcher are only authorized 2 innings per game and do not have to be consecutive
 - i. Penalty: forfeiture of the game

3. Pitching Distances

Division	Distance	Caveat
Bantam	35'	Adult Picher
Colt	46'	All Players
Junior	50'	Al Players
Senior	60'	For all players

4. Note: 16-year-olds may pitch if they are not a pitcher for a high school team

Rule 7: Batting

1. There are no Lefty Grove Unique rules at this time other than what is in Rule 11, *Bantam Division Specific Rules*.

Rule 8: Baserunning

1. Leading off

- a. Only allowed in senior division
- b. All other leagues; runners must be on their achieved base when the pitcher is on pitching rubber. If needed, the defensive player with the ball may call time in order to achieve the runner going back to the base pending the umpire awards time.

2. Stealing

Division	Permitted	Caveat
Bantam	No	None
Colt	No	None
Junior	Yes	Once pitch crosses home plate
Senior	Yes	High School rules apply

- a. Penalty for early leaving: Dead ball replay pitch.

3. Although sliding is not a requirement in baseball, if a player chooses to slide, it must not be above the defensive player's knees.

- a. Penalty: out is declared and the player is ejected. If at home, the run does not count.

4. Double First Base

- a. All fields are equipped with double first base. The standard white base is in fair territory and the orange base is in foul territory. The following apply to the usage of the double base.
 - i. Since the orange base is not in the playing field, it can never be used by a defender to get an offensive player out.
 - ii. Batters running through first base when there is a force play on them at first must touch the orange base or the runner shall be called out regardless the play's result
 - iii. Batters rounding the base when there is not a force play on them at first can use the white base as normal

- iv. When the batter is safe on first base and he/she has returned to first base, the orange base is no longer a valid base for the runner; they must utilize the white base.

Rule 10: Umpiring

1. All home plate umpires shall wear umpire's equipment to include the face mask with attached throat protector, body (chest) protector, and protective shin guards.
 - a. Exception: Bantam Umpires must, at a minimum, wear the mask

Rule 11: Bantam Division Specific Rules

1. Each team shall have an adult designated to pitch to their own team and abide the following:
 - a. Pitching shall be overhand with no restrictions on height
 - b. Adult shall not display verbal or physical disagreement towards umpires
 - c. Adult can elect to wear a glove
 - d. May give instructions to his/her team when ball is dead
 - e. Any batted or thrown ball that hits the adult is dead and runners cannot advance and a pitch is declared. Exception is if it is the sixth pitch, the batter may have an additional pitch but no more than seven total.
2. Player designated as pitcher must stay within an eight foot circle until ball is hit by batter
3. Batters are out after three swinging strikes or 6 balls (exception of hitting adult pitcher)
4. Player is over on a ball hit to the outfield when an infielder in the infield has the ball in their possession or when the umpire has stopped the action.
5. There are no free bases awarded to batters
6. When the tenth batter of the inning is up to bat, the following occurs:
 - a. The number of outs are adjusted to two; regardless of how many there actually are
 - b. The inning is over when one of the following occur:
 - i. Any out is obtained since there are already two outs
 - ii. The tenth batter scores on the play he/she is up to bat
 - c. Rule 11.4 is not in play as part of this circumstance.

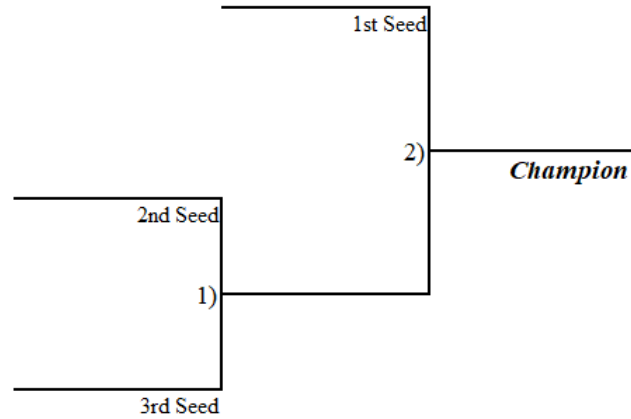
Rule 12: Lefty Grove Tournaments and All-Star Games

1. All-Star Games
 - a. As part of the regular seasons, All-Star games shall be held by the Lefty Grove Baseball League. Effective April 24, 2014, the Lefty Grove All-Star Games shall be called the Ike Liedorff All-Star Games
 - b. Selection of Players:
 - i. Bantam: all 8 year olds
 - ii. All other divisions are voted by team ballot system set up by the division presidents

- c. Selection of Managers will be done by division presidents
 - d. Flip of coin will decide home and visitors
 - e. Seven inning format for each division with no ties
 - f. All other questions shall be directed towards division presidents.
2. Tournaments
- a. Tournaments are concluded at the end of the season when the respective division finishes all games on the schedule.
 - b. Players must play a minimum of 50% of regular season games to qualify to play in a tournament game unless absent due to injury or illness.
 - c. Flip of coin will decide home and visitors
 - d. Brackets contained in this rule book shall be used to determine the order of play
 - e. Any other questions shall be directed towards division presidents.

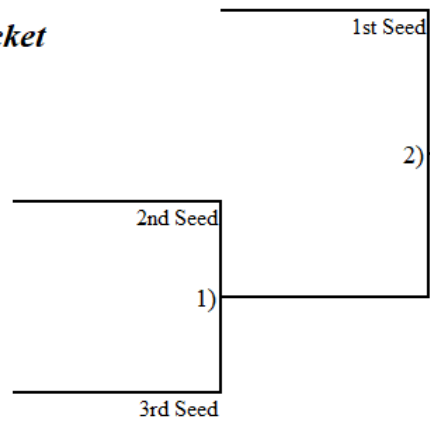
Tournament Bracket Examples

3 team single elimination bracket



3 team double elimination bracket

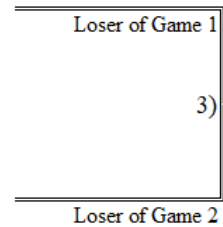
Winners Bracket



Black line: Winners bracket

Double line: losers bracket

Losers Bracket



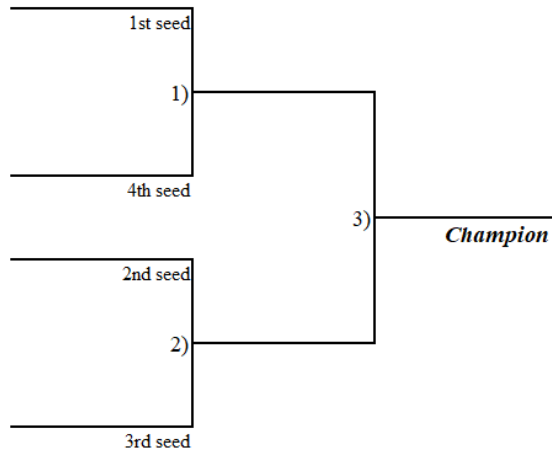
Champion

5) Champion

Loser of Game 4*

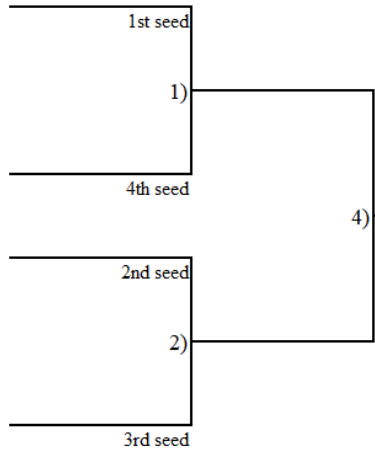
**Only if winners' bracket finalist loses against losers' bracket finalist in first match*

4 team single elimination bracket



4 team double elimination bracket

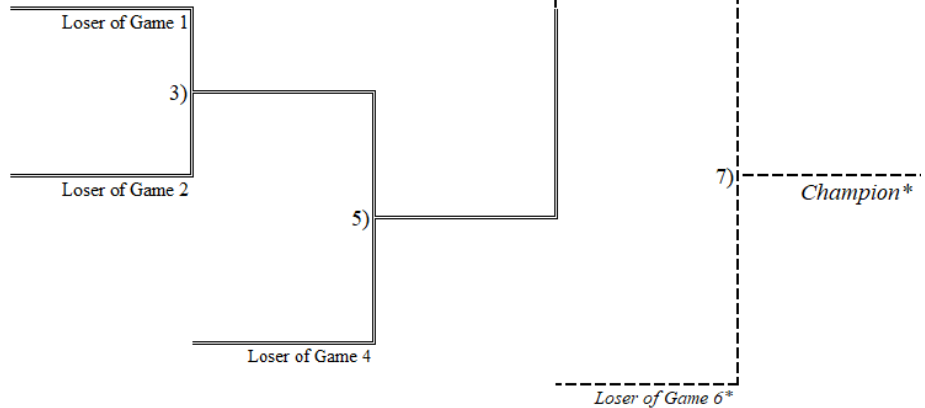
Winners Bracket



Black line: Winners bracket

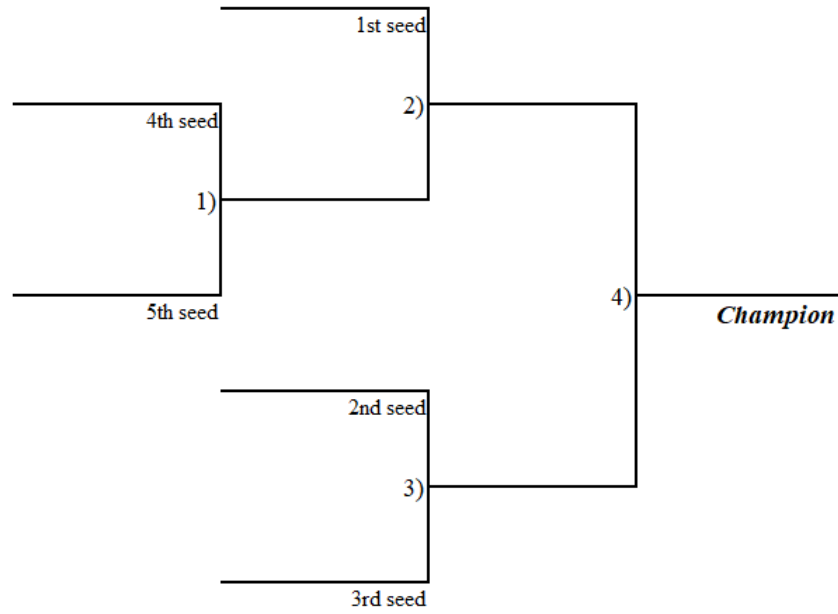
Double line: losers bracket

Losers Bracket



**Only if winners' bracket finalist loses against losers' bracket finalist in first match*

5 team single elimination bracket



6 team single elimination bracket

