ABA Cheat Sheet - Little League Major
2026/2027 Season

Game Rules	Little League Major
Innings	6 (min 4)
Time (game)	2 Hours - (No new innings after 1 hour 50 mins)
Mercy rule	15 after 4 or 10 after 5
Runs per innings (max)	5 runs max (runs above 5 in the final play do not count) for first 4 Innings.
Tied game	Extra Inns (no max) – one runner (last batter from previous innings) on 2nd base. Batting order starts with the next batter in line-up from last 'at bat'.
Double Headers	Rules to be set by Competition Committee if DHs are scheduled
No. of Players / Line-up cards	8 min (9th is auto out) – players not physically present at the plate meeting, should NOT be entered on the line-up card. However, late players (once arrived at the park) can be added as the 9th player or to the substitutions list & play.
Continuous Batting line-up	Teams must follow a continuous batting order that will include all players on the team roster present for the game, batting in order. Regardless of substitutions and re-entries, each batter must bat in his/her original position in the batting order.
Pitcher max pitches (Note: may finish batter)	Ages 7-8yo = 50, 9-10yo = 75, 11-12yo = 85 Pitch count limits are determined by a player's age - DOB (not by the grade they play in). **Pitchers must pitch no more than 2 innings or max pitch count (Whichever comes first) in any game.**
Pitching in 2 games	**NO** – A player cannot pitch in more than one game in a day
Pitcher <u>maybe</u> can be catcher?	**YES,** but a pitcher who delivers 41+ pitches in a game cannot be catcher that **Day.** (Note: may finish batter and end on a count 41+ and still be eligible to play catcher) Catcher with 3 or less innings and delivering 21+ pitches may not return to Catcher that **Day**.
Catcher to Pitcher?	**YES**, only if the Catcher has not caught more than a maximum of 3 innings and not 1 pitch more. A player who has played the position of catcher in (4) or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar **Day**.
Catcher speed up rule?	**YES** – allows a courtesy runner to replace the catcher on base when there are two outs. Runner should be the last batter out.
Catcher Other	ALL catchers must have a throat guard. All warm-up catchers incl. in bullpens must have a mask. No skull caps.
Headfirst sliding	**NO** – unless returning to a base or in a rundown play.
Infield fly rule	**YES** - This is a judgement call of an umpire.
Dropped 3rd strike	**YES** - Batter is out if first is occupied with less than two outs. If first is unoccupied or there are two outs, batter becomes runner and defense must put batter out.
Stealing	**YES**– Runners can steal, but cannot take a lead and cannot leave base until the ball crosses home plate.
Balks	**NO**
	YES – dead ball – penalty is a Ball

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Intentional Walks	**YES -** Notification must come from the defensive manager only. A player may only be intentionally walked once per game. The appropriate numbers of balls must be added to the pitch count
Bats	**USABAT** (Max 33 inches long 2 5/8" barrel) - Refer logo below
Metal Cleats	**NO**
Balls	**As approved by the League.**
EH / DH allowed?	EH – Continual Batting order
Max player SIT time	No player can sit on the bench for more than 2 innings
Re-entry	**Free** Defensive Substitution for all positions except the pitcher. A starting pitcher cannot return to pitch in the same game.
Defensive conferences	Pitcher visits - 3 Free (45 secs max). 2 trips in same innings to same pitcher = auto pitcher swap. 2 trips to same pitcher on same batter – not allowed, warn, then eject. Pitcher swap is NOT a visit. Every trip after 3 = pitcher must be swapped. LL Rule 8.06 (d) A coach, granted time to talk to any defensive player will be charged a visit to the pitcher.
Offensive conferences	One offensive timeout per innings
Coach numbers	May have up to 3 coaches.
Dugout coach	1 Adult coach must be in the dugout at all times. Players can be base coaches but must wear a 2 eared helmet while performing this task.
Protests	**Playing rule or improper substitution:** Must be made before next pitch, play or attempted play. **Mandatory Play:** As soon as the facts become known. **Ineligible pitcher or player**: As soon as facts become known, but before either teams' next game.
Foreign Substances	Pitchers must not apply foreign substances (including saliva, dirt or sticky substances) to the baseball. A rosin bag may be used to dry the pitcher's hands. Pine tar and similar grip substances are permitted on bat handles only, provided they do not extend onto the barrel or taper or obscure certification markings.

<u>Bat allowed logo</u>