

Danvers National Little League Division Game Rules & Skill Sets AAA Division

Overview:

The AAA division is developmental yet competitive. **Player ages range from Little League 9 – 12 years old.** Managers draft (+/-) 12 players based upon evaluation ratings. Great effort is made to balance skill levels equally for each team in the division. Coaches focus on developing individual and team skills to field a team with advanced baseball ability and prepare them for the Majors Division. There is a continuous batting order and each player must play a minimum of four defensive innings in a six-inning game. No player will sit more than one defensive inning at a time. Nine players are assigned to field positions. Pitch counts are kept. This Division introduces bunting and base stealing (no delayed steals) and there is no limitation on the number of batters that can bat per inning. One adult and one child base coach will be used. Game scores and standings are recorded. The regular season First-place team as well as a post-season playoff winner is awarded trophies.

Game Rules:

AAA Division play is governed by the Official Little League Rule Book & DNLL Code of Conduct.

Stealing of home will not be allowed by any team with a five run advantage.

In the event there is a ten run score differential at the end of a regulation game (four innings or 3 ½ if the home team has the lead) the game will be considered complete. If the visiting team has the lead the home team must bat in their half of the inning, before the game would be considered complete. Although the game is considered complete, the remaining innings will be played.

Skill Sets:

- Continued focus on good sportsmanship and team play!
- Batting skills development including bunting, pitch selection and reading signals from Manager/Coach.
- Pitching emphasis on good mechanics, injury prevention, and development of pitching variety (fastball, change-up, location).
- Fielding emphasis on getting behind the ball and setting up the throw, getting ball to the correct position for the out or to keep the runners from advancing.
- Increased development of catchers (signals, blocking, pass balls, making the throw from home to second, good throws back to pitcher on the mound and when pitcher is covering home plate) as the importance of this position increases at the AAA level.
- Develop base running skills for situational play.
- Arm strengthening through practice (long toss)
- Stress the basics, while adding complex drills & practice stations
- Work on players weaknesses
- Develop confidence at a position.