

2019 Little League® Rule Changes and Clarifications

Policies

[Little League Policy and Procedure for Considering Waivers of Rules to Accommodate Gender Identity](#)

[Little League Policy and Procedure for Considering Waivers of Rules Due to Participant's Disability](#)

[Learn more about all Little League's Position and Policy Statements.](#)

Regulations

Regulation I(c)(9) – The League [Baseball, Softball, Challenger]

Divisions: All divisions of Baseball, Softball, and Challenger

Synopsis: Requires leagues to contact the Security Manager at Little League International if a potential volunteer appears on the National Sex Offender Registry prior to the volunteer being appointed.

Regulation I(c)(9) [Regulation I(d)(7) for Challenger]

No local league shall permit any person to participate in any manner whose background check reveals a conviction, guilty plea, no contest plea, or admission to any crime involving or against a minor or minors. If a potential volunteer appears on the National Sex Offender Registry, the league must contact the Security Manager at Little League International prior to appointing the volunteer to participate in any capacity in the league. All local leagues must take into consideration criminal records when making the determination whether the individual is unfit to participate in any manner in the league.

Regulation VI(a), (c) NOTE, (k); 4.12; and Tournament Rule 4 – Pitching Thresholds [Baseball, Challenger]

Divisions: All divisions of Baseball and Challenger

Synopsis: Provides a threshold for pitchers moving to the catcher position.

Regulation VI(a) [Regulation VI(c), (d) NOTE for Challenger]

(a) Any player on a regular season team may pitch. **Exception:** Any player who has played the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar 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 (**15- and 16-year-olds:** 31 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 (**15- and 16-year-olds:** 30-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.

(c) The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

League Age:

13 -16	95 pitches per day
11-12	85 pitches per day
9-10	75 pitches per day
7-8	50 pitches per day

EXCEPTION: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Regulation VI(c) for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs:

1. That batter reaches base;
2. That batter is put out;
3. The third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game.

NOTE: 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.

(k) Pitching in more than one game in a day:

Minor League, Little League (Majors), and Intermediate (50-70) Division — A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day;

Junior League and Senior League — A player may be used as a pitcher in up to two games in a day. **NOTE: If a pitcher reaches 30 pitches while facing a batter in the first game, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to pitch in the second game on 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 pitch in a second game provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter. If a player delivers 31 or more pitches in the first game, and is not covered under the threshold exception, the player may not pitch in the second game that day);**

Rule 4.12

Tie games halted due to weather, curfew, or light failure shall be resumed from the exact point at which they were halted in the original game. It can be completed preceding the next scheduled game between the same teams. A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day. **(EXCEPTION: Junior and Senior League: If a pitcher reaches 30 pitches while facing a batter in the first game, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to pitch in the second game on 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 pitch in a second game provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter. If a player delivers 31 or more pitches in the first game, and is not covered under the threshold exception, the player may not pitch in the second game that day).**

Playing Rules

Rule 1.10 – Approved Bat [Baseball]

Divisions: Baseball Divisions - Tee Ball, Minors, Intermediate (50-70), Junior League

Synopsis: Allows Tee Ball bats to be used in the Coach Pitch/Machine Pitch Divisions. Additionally allows bats meeting the BBCOR standard to be used in the Junior and Intermediate (50-70) Division.

Rule 1.10

Tee Ball; NOTE 2: Approved Tee Ball bats may also be used for Coach Pitch/Machine Pitch Minor Divisions only with the use of [approved Tee Balls](#).

Minor/Major Divisions; NOTE 2: Approved Tee Ball bats may also be used for Coach Pitch/Machine Pitch Minor Divisions only with the use of [approved Tee Balls](#).

Intermediate (50-70) Division and Junior League; NOTE 2: Also, permitted for the Intermediate (50-70) Division and Junior League Division are bats meeting the BBCOR performance standard, and so labeled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color. Aluminum/ally and composite bats shall be marked as to their

material makeup being aluminum/alloy or composite. This marking shall be silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one-half-inch on each side, and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color.

Rule 2.00 – Dead Ball Territory [Baseball, Softball, Challenger]

Divisions: All divisions of Baseball, Softball, and Challenger

Synopsis: Defines Dead Ball Area

Rule 2.00

DEAD BALL AREA is the area beyond any intended physical boundary, such as a fence, rope, chalk line, any stands, bleachers, dugouts, player's benches, or designated media areas, or any other boundary line as determined in the pregame conference. If a ball becomes lodged in a fence, backstop, umpire's equipment, or catcher's equipment, it is considered to be in a dead ball area.

Rule 3.11 – Double Headers [Baseball, Softball, Challenger]

Divisions: All divisions of Baseball, Softball, and Challenger

Synopsis: Intentionally deleted Rule 3.11. Rule 4.13 remains and provides the same guidance concerning number of games per day for teams.

Rule 3.11 – Double Headers

~~**Little League (Major) Division:** A team may play one (1) doubleheader in a calendar week. No team shall play three games in a day. (Exception under condition of Rule 4.12.)~~

~~**Tee Ball and Minor League:** No team shall be scheduled to play two games in one day. (See Rule 4.12).~~

~~**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** Doubleheaders are permitted.~~

Rule 8.01 (g) AR – The Pitcher [Softball]

Divisions: All divisions of Softball

Synopsis: Provides guidance on how a pitcher may remove himself/herself from the pitcher's plate after the hands have been brought together while in contact with the pitcher's plate.

Rule 8.01 (g)

A.R. 2 – For the pitcher to remove himself/herself from the pitching position after the hands have been brought together but prior to the start of the pitch as noted in 8.01(k), the pitcher must legally step back from the pitcher's plate with the pivot foot first.

Rule 8.02(a)(1) – The Pitcher [Baseball, Softball]

Divisions: All divisions of Baseball and Softball

Synopsis: Provides guidance on when the pitcher's hand may come in contact with the pitcher's mouth or lips.

Rule 8.02(a)(1)

Baseball:

(1) bring the pitching hand in contact with the mouth or lips while in contact with the pitcher's plate. **EXCEPTION:** The pitcher may bring the hand in contact with the mouth or lips while in the 10-foot circle (**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior:** 18-foot circle) surrounding the pitcher's plate provided he/she distinctly wipes off the pitching hand before contacting the ball.

Softball:

(1) apply a foreign substance of any kind to the ball, pitching hand, or fingers. The pitcher may bring the hand in contact with the mouth or lips provided he/she distinctly wipes off the pitching hand before contacting the ball. Under the

supervision of the umpire, powder rosin may be used to dry the hands; **NOTE:** A pitcher may use a rosin bag for the purpose of applying rosin to the bare hand or hands. Neither the pitcher nor any other player shall dust the ball with the rosin bag; neither shall the pitcher nor any other player be permitted to apply rosin from the bag to their glove or dust any part of the uniform with the rosin bag.

PENALTY: Illegal Pitch - See 8.05(b).

Rule 8.06 AR – The Pitcher [Baseball, Softball]

Divisions: All divisions of Baseball and Softball

Synopsis: Provides guidance on what is considered a visit to the pitcher.

Rule 8.06

Baseball:

A.R. 1 - When a manager requests timeout to make a pitching change, it shall not be considered a visit to the pitcher provided the manager makes the pitching substitution prior to speaking to any defensive player. **Intermediate (50-70)**

Division/Junior/Senior: This applies when a pitcher moves to another position and returns as a pitcher later in the same game.

Softball:

A.R. 1 - When a manager requests timeout to make a pitching change, it shall not be considered a visit to the pitcher provided the manager makes the pitching substitution prior to speaking to any defensive player. This applies when a pitcher moves to another position, **Junior/Senior:** or removed from the game, and returns as a pitcher later in the same game.

Tournament Rules and Guidelines

Managers and Coaches [Baseball, Softball]

Divisions: All divisions of Baseball and Softball

Synopsis: Restricts the number of adults in the dugout or on the field to one manager and one coach when a tournament team has eleven (11) or fewer eligible players are at the game site at the start of a game.

Managers/Coaches in the Dugout

If a tournament team has twelve (12) or more eligible players in uniform at the game site at the start of a game, then the maximum of three (3) adults who are named on the affidavit (or authorized replacements as noted on the affidavit) will be permitted to act as manager/coaches for that game. However, if a tournament team has eleven (11) or fewer eligible players in uniform at the game site at the start of a game, then a maximum of two (2) adults must be named at the start of the game as manager and coach. The two named adults must be listed on the affidavit, or must be authorized temporary replacements as noted on the affidavit. If there is a third adult listed on the affidavit, that adult is not permitted to be in the dugout or on the field during that game. **NOTE:** Base coaches may be adults and/or players provided at least one adult manager or coach remains in the dugout. See 4.05(b).

Schedules [Baseball, Softball]

Divisions: All divisions of Baseball and Softball

Synopsis: Revises the date for tournament schedule submission to be two (2) weeks prior to the start of tournament or June 15, whichever is earliest.

Schedules

Each District Administrator must finalize tournament schedules two (2) weeks prior to the start of the tournament or June 15 (whichever is earliest). Schedules for each level (District, Section, Division, State, Regional) must utilize Little League International approved single elimination brackets, double elimination brackets, modified double elimination

brackets, or pool play/elimination format with pool play tie breaker format as noted in this section. All other tournament formats must be approved by the Tournament Committee. NOTE: Schedules shall not be altered once a tournament starts without Tournament Committee approval.

Tournament Rule 14 – Tie Breaker [Baseball, Softball]

Divisions: All divisions of Baseball and Softball

Synopsis: Added a rule concerning tie games after 6 innings for 8- to 10-, 9- to 11-, and Major Division, and 7 innings for Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, and Senior League Divisions.

Tournament Rule 14

14. **TIE GAME:** When the completion of six innings [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/ Junior/Senior League:** seven innings] and the score is tied, the following tie-breaker will be played to determine a winning team:

- a. The seventh inning [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** eighth inning] will be played as normal.
- b. Starting in the top of the eighth inning [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/ Junior/ Senior League:** ninth inning], and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base. **EXAMPLE:** If the number five batter is the lead-off batter, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base. An eligible substitute or special pinch runner may be inserted for the runner.