



**Virginia District 15  
Baseball**

**Pre-Tournament Meeting**



# Agenda



- Points of Emphasis
- Pre-Game Activities
- Playing Rules and Pitching Rules
- Forfeits and Bench/Dugout
- Visits Injuries
- Mandatory Play
- Substitution/Re-Entry
- Suspended Games and Run Rule
- Regulation Game
- Altercations/Ejections
- Protests
- Proper Attire and Behavior
- Summary and Safety Reminder



# Points of Emphasis



- All International Tournaments are authorized by the International Board of Directors of Little League
- Leagues opting to participate must do so with full understanding of the rules and regulations
- Once the Tournament season starts, authority is vested solely in the Tournament Committee in Williamsport
- District Administrator is responsible for scheduling and supervising all District Tournament games
- There will be no waivers or resorting to local rules or other variation unless granted explicitly from the Tournament Committee in Williamsport
- Revocation of Tournament privileges or forfeiture of a tournament game may be decided only by the Tournament Committee in Williamsport



# Pre-Game Activities



- Arrive at the field at least one hour before game time
  - Check field conditions and other site activities for readiness
- Conduct the coin toss with Assistant Tournament Director/ Site Coordinator approx. 45 minutes prior to start of game
  - **Home team will occupy first base dugout--no exceptions**
  - **Visitor team will occupy third base dugout—no exceptions**
- Get ground rules from the host (should be written)
- Provide tournament affidavits (**ONLY**) to the Site Coordinator
  - Site Coordinator will verify completeness, accuracy, and signatures
  - Do not provide tournament team binders or Player Verification Forms
  - Keep sleeve of Medical Releases with you in the dugout



# Pre-Game Activities



- Confirm eligibility of pitchers
  - Opposing Manager does NOT get to review Affidavit or Pitch Count; however, it is good form for each manager to state which pitchers are ineligible or state at the Plate Conference with Game UIC
- Provide the names, numbers, and positions of the players for the Site Coordinator to provide to announcer – best at coin toss time
- Occupy dugout when requested or when previous team has vacated
  - Parents may help with equipment but must leave the field immediately
- Place all equipment in front of dugout for safety inspection
- Thirty minutes before game time the home team will take the field for 10 minutes
- Twenty minutes before game time the visiting team will take the field for 10 minutes



# Pre-Game Activities



- Ten minutes before game time the announcer will:
  - Welcome the fans to the game
  - Introduce the home team players, coaches, manager and League representative(s)
  - Introduce the visiting team players, coaches, manager and League representative
  - Introduce the umpires
  - Introduce the Assistant Tournament Director on site
- Play the National Anthem or lead the Little League Pledge
- Turn the game over to the umpires
  - Players and coaches return to dugouts
  - UIC conducts Plate Conference



# PLAYING RULES



- All Tournament play shall be governed by the 2021 Little League Baseball® Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Policies
- Little League, Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League, and Senior League Rules
- Tournament Rules and Guidelines
- Written ground rules established by the Tournament Director or Site Coordinator must be reviewed with both managers and Umpire-in-Chief at least ten (10) minutes prior to the start of a game.



# PLAYING RULES



- a. After entering the batter's box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat.

## EXCEPTIONS:

- i. On a swing, slap, or check swing
- ii. When forced out of the box by a pitch
- iii. When the batter attempts a "drag bunt"
- iv. When the catcher does not catch the pitched ball
- v. When a play has been attempted
- vi. When time has been called
- vii. When the pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five (5) feet from the pitcher's plate after receiving the ball or the catcher leaves the catcher's box
- viii. On a three ball count pitch that is a strike that the batter thinks is a ball

**PENALTY:** If the batter leaves the batter's box or delays play and one of the exceptions apply, the umpire shall warn the batter. After one warning on a batter, the umpire shall call a strike. Any number of strikes can be called on each batter.

**Minor/Major Division:** No pitch has to be thrown, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

**Intermediate Division/Juniors/Seniors:** No pitch has to be thrown and the ball is live.





# PLAYING RULES



- b. In all Tournament levels and divisions, the penalty for use of an illegal bat [see Rule 6.06(d)], if discovered before the next player enters the batter's box following the turn at bat of the player who used an illegal bat, is:
  - i. The batter is out (**NOTE:** The manager of the defense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline this portion of the penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play), and;
  - ii. The manager of the team will be ejected from the game, the batter who violated the rule will be ejected from the game, and the offensive team will lose one eligible adult base coach for the duration of the game.
- c. **9-11 Year Old Division:** the batter may advance on an uncaught third strike (6.05/6.09). This rule will not apply for the 8-10 Year Old Division.
- d. Twice a game but not more than one time per inning, a team may utilize a player who is not in the batting order as a special pinch-runner for any offensive player. A player may only be removed for a special pinch-runner one time during a game. The player for whom the pinch-runner runs is not subject to removal from the lineup. If the pinch-runner remains in the game as a substitute defensive or offensive player, the player may not be used again as a pinch-runner while in the batting order. However, if removed for another substitute that player or any player not in the line-up, is again eligible to be used as a pinch runner. **There is NO Courtesy Runner in Tournament Play.**



# PLAYING RULES



- e. Each umpire has the authority to disqualify any player, coach, manager, or substitute for objecting to decisions or for unsportsmanlike conduct or language and to eject such disqualified person from the playing field. If an umpire disqualifies a player while a play is in progress, the disqualification shall not take effect until no further action is possible in that play. The stealing and relaying of signs to alert the batter of pitch selection and/or location is unsportsmanlike behavior. If, in the judgement of the umpire, this behavior is occurring, both the player and the manager may be ejected from the game.



## PITCHING RULES – LL BASEBALL, 8-10, 9-11 YEAR OLD DIVISIONS, INTERMEDIATE DIVISION AND JUNIOR LEAGUE



These rules replace the regular season pitching regulations. ***Violation of these pitching rules is subject to protest and action by the Tournament Committee in Williamsport if protested or brought to the Tournament Committee's attention.***

- a. Any player on a tournament 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 batter reaches base, batter is retired, or 3<sup>rd</sup> out is made to complete the half-inning.*

- b. A tournament pitcher may not pitch in regular season or Special Games while the team is still participating in the tournament.



## PITCHING RULES – LL BASEBALL, 8-10, 9-11 YEAR OLD DIVISIONS, INTERMEDIATE DIVISION AND JUNIOR LEAGUE



- c. Pitchers once removed from the mound may not return as pitchers.  
**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior League:** A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game.
- d. The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the pitch limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

League Age:

13-14	95 pitches per day
11-12	85 pitches per day
9-10	75 pitches per day
6-8	50 pitches per day

**Exception:** If a pitcher reaches the pitch limit imposed above 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 retired; (3) The third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game.



## PITCHING RULES – LL BASEBALL, 8-10, 9-11 YEAR OLD DIVISIONS, INTERMEDIATE DIVISION AND JUNIOR LEAGUE



**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 of 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.



## PITCHING RULES – LL BASEBALL, 8-10, 9-11 YEAR OLD DIVISIONS, INTERMEDIATE DIVISION AND JUNIOR LEAGUE



- e. Pitchers league age 14 and under must adhere to the following rest requirements:
- If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 51 to 65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 36 to 50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 21 to 35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 1 to 20 pitches in a day, no (0) rest is required.

**Note: Under no circumstances shall a player  
pitch in three (3) consecutive days.**



## PITCHING RULES – LL BASEBALL, 8-10, 9-11 YEAR OLD DIVISIONS, INTERMEDIATE DIVISION AND JUNIOR LEAGUE



**EXCEPTION:** If a pitcher reaches a day(s) of rest threshold 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 retired; (3) The third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game. The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he/she reached during that at-bat, provided that pitcher is removed or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter.

- f. A player cannot pitch in two games in a day. (**Exception: A 12-year-old playing in the Junior Division is not eligible to pitch in two games in a day.** **Note: Junior League**—If a pitcher reaches 30 pitches while facing a batter, 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 of 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 of that day.



## **PITCHING RULES – LL BASEBALL, 8-10, 9-11 YEAR OLD DIVISIONS, INTERMEDIATE DIVISION AND JUNIOR LEAGUE**



- g. In a game suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed the following calendar day, the pitcher of record at the time the game was halted may continue to the extent of his/her eligibility, provided he/she delivered less than 40 pitches, and subject to each of these conditions:
1. If the pitcher delivered 20 or less pitches before the game was suspended, that pitcher's pitch count will begin at zero for the continuation portion of the game.
  2. If the pitcher delivered between 21 and 40 pitches before the game was suspended, that pitcher's count will begin with the number of pitches delivered in that game.





## PITCHING RULES – LL BASEBALL, 8-10, 9-11 YEAR OLD DIVISIONS, INTERMEDIATE DIVISION AND JUNIOR LEAGUE



- h. In a game (“Game A”) suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed more than one calendar day later, the provisions of (g) above shall apply, unless the pitcher of record pitched in another game or games after Game A was halted.
- i. Failure to remove a pitcher who has reached his/her maximum number of pitches required by league age or use of an ineligible pitcher is basis for protest. Violations protested or brought to the Tournament Committee’s attention, shall result (by action of the Tournament Committee) in the suspension of the team’s manager for the next two scheduled games, even if those games are played at the next level.



## PITCHING RULES – SENIOR LEAGUE



These rules replace the regular season pitching regulations. ***Violation of these pitching rules is subject to protest and action by the Tournament Committee in Williamsport if protested or brought to the Tournament Committee's attention.***

- a. Any player on a tournament 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 batter reaches base, batter is retired, or 3<sup>rd</sup> out is made to complete the half-inning.*



## PITCHING RULES – SENIOR LEAGUE



- b. A Tournament pitcher may not pitch in regular season or Special Games while the team is still participating in the Tournament.
- c. A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game.
- d. The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the pitch limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

League Age:

12 (Senior League) 85 pitches per day

13 – 16 (Senior League) 95 pitches per day



## PITCHING RULES – SENIOR LEAGUE



**Exception:** If a pitcher reaches the pitch limit imposed above 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 retired; (3) The third out is made to complete the half-inning. **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 of 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.

# PITCHING RULES – SENIOR LEAGUE



e. **Pitchers league age 15-16 must adhere to the following rest requirements:**

If a player pitches 76 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 61 to 75 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.

- If a player pitches 46 to 60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 31 to 45 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1 to 30 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.

**Note: Under no circumstances shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days.**



## PITCHING RULES – SENIOR LEAGUE



- e. **Pitchers league age 12 - 14 must adhere to the following rest requirements:**
- If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 51 to 65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 36 to 50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 21 to 35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 1 to 20 pitches in a day, no (0) rest is required.

**Note: Under no circumstances shall a player  
pitch in three (3) consecutive days.**

# PITCHING RULES – SENIOR LEAGUE



**EXCEPTION:** If a pitcher reaches a day(s) of rest threshold 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 retired; (3) The third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game. The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he/she reached during that at-bat, provided that pitcher is removed or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter.

f. A player may be used as a pitcher in up to two games in a day. **Exception:** A 12-year-old playing in the Senior Division is not eligible to pitch in 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 of 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 of that day.



## PITCHING RULES – SENIOR LEAGUE



- g. In a game suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed the following calendar day, the pitcher of record at the time the game was halted may continue to the extent of his/her eligibility, provided he/she delivered less than 40 pitches, and subject to each of these conditions:
1. If the pitcher delivered 20 or less pitches before the game was suspended, that pitcher's pitch count will begin at zero for the continuation portion of the game.
  2. If the pitcher delivered between 21 and 40 pitches before the game was suspended, that pitcher's count will begin with the number of pitches delivered in that game.



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## PITCHING RULES – SENIOR LEAGUE



- h. In a game (“Game A”) suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed more than one calendar day later, the provisions of (g) above shall apply, unless the pitcher of record pitched in another game or games after Game A was halted.
- i. Failure to remove a pitcher who has reached his/her maximum number of pitches required by league age or use of an ineligible pitcher is basis for protest. Violations protested or brought to the Tournament Committee’s attention, shall result (by action of the Tournament Committee) in the suspension of the team’s manager for the next two scheduled games, even if those games are played at the next level.



# FORFEITS & BENCH/ DUGOUT



5. **FORFEITS:** No game may be forfeited or a team disqualified without the authorization of the Tournament Committee. Violations which may result in forfeiture or disqualification must be reported immediately to the Regional Director before further play takes place which would involve a team or teams affected by such action.
6. **BENCH/DUGOUT:** No one except the players, manager and coach(es) shall occupy the bench or dugout during a game. Base coaches may be players or adults. Two (2) adult base coaches are permitted at all levels subject to playing rule 4.05(2).

**Note: Only Rostered Managers, Coaches, and Players shall be on the field of play, including the dugout, during a tournament game**



# VISITS



- 7. VISITS:** A manager or coach may not leave a dugout for any reason during a game without receiving permission from an umpire. The manager or coach may be removed from the field for the remainder of the game for violation of this rule.

When permission is granted, the manager or coach will be permitted to go to the mound to confer with the pitcher or any defensive player(s). A manager or coach who is granted a time out to talk to any defensive player will be charged with a visit to the pitcher.

**9-11 Year Old Division, Little League, Intermediate Division, Junior and Senior League:** A manager or coach may come out **once** in one inning to visit with the pitcher, but the **second** time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. The manager or coach may come out **twice** in a game to visit with the pitcher, but the **third** time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. The rule applies to each pitcher who enters a game.



# VISITS



**8-10 Year Old Division:** A manager or coach may come out twice in one inning to visit with the pitcher, but the **third** time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. The manager or coach may come out **three** times in a game to visit with the pitcher, but the **fourth** time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher.

This rule applies to each pitcher who enters a game.



# INJURY/ILLNESS



- 8. INJURY/ILLNESS:** If a player is injured or becomes ill during a game, the decision of a doctor (if present) or medical personnel will be final as to whether or not the player may continue in the game.

**Note:** This is interpreted as any player leaving the game due to illness or injury must have a written note from a medical professional to return to play in the tournament.



## **MANDATORY PLAY: 8-10, 9-11 Year Old Divisions, Little League, Intermediate Division and Junior League**



**Mandatory play is in effect for all divisions, except Senior League**

- **For teams with 13 or more players in uniform at the start of game**
  - Every player on a team roster shall participate in each game for a minimum of one (1) at bat
- **For teams with 12 or less players in uniform at the start of game**
  - Every player on a team roster shall participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) consecutive defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time



## **MANDATORY PLAY: 8-10, 9-11 Year Old Divisions, Little League, Intermediate Division and Junior League**



### **Six (6) consecutive defensive outs is defined as:**

- A player enters the field in one of the nine defensive positions when his/her team is on defense and occupies such position while six consecutive outs are made

### **•Bat at least one (1) time is defined as:**

- A player enters the batter's box with no count and completes that time at bat by being retired, retired as a batter-runner or runner, scores, or the inning or game ends



## MANDATORY PLAY: 8-10, 9-11 Year Old Divisions, Little League, Intermediate Division and Junior League



- Prior to the start of play in the top of the fourth inning [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior League**: fifth inning], the umpire-in-chief or other individual designated by the game Tournament Director in consultation with the official scorekeeper, shall advise both team managers of their obligation to insert all players who have not completed their mandatory play requirement into the lineup as outlined
- A manager's failure/refusal to insert players into the line-up as outlined shall result in immediate ejection of the manager and removal for the remainder of the International Tournament
- An ejection is made if informed that a player must be inserted in the spots as outlined and he/she refuses to do so





## MANDATORY PLAY: 8-10, 9-11 Year Old Divisions, Little League, Intermediate Division and Junior League



If a team has 12 or fewer players in uniform at the start of a game, and is:

- **Visiting Team:** Any player(s) who has yet to enter the game to meet the defensive requirement of mandatory play must be inserted prior to the first pitch or play in the bottom half of the fourth inning [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior League:** fifth inning] into one of the next six (6) positions in the line-up, that will ensure all requirements of mandatory play will be satisfied, absent a shortened game, including one at-bat
- **Home Team:** Any player(s) who has yet to enter the game to meet the defensive requirement of mandatory play must be inserted prior to the first pitch or play in the top half of the fifth inning [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior League:** sixth inning] into one of the next three (3) positions in the line-up, that will ensure all requirements of mandatory play will be satisfied, absent a shortened game, including one at-bat



## MANDATORY PLAY: 8-10, 9-11 Year Old Divisions, Little League, Intermediate Division and Junior League



If a team has 13 or more players in uniform at the start of a game, players must be inserted into the line-up to bat offensively as outlined:

- **Visiting Team:** fourth or fifth inning, or as one of the first three batters in the sixth inning [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior League:** fifth or sixth inning, or as one of the first three batters in the seventh inning], that will allow their one at-bat to be satisfied
- **Home Team:** fourth inning or as one of the first three batters in the fifth inning [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior League:** fifth inning or as one of the first three batters in sixth inning], that will allow their one at-bat to be satisfied.



## MANDATORY PLAY: 8-10, 9-11 Year Old Divisions, Little League, Intermediate Division and Junior League



- Managers are solely responsible for ensuring that all players fulfill the requirements of mandatory play, even if notification is not made.
- There is no exception to this rule unless the game is shortened for any reason.
- A game is not considered shortened if the home team does not complete the offensive half of the sixth or seventh inning (or any extra inning) due to winning the game.
- Failure to meet the mandatory play requirements in this rule is a basis for protest. If one or more players on a roster do not meet this requirement, and if protested or brought to the Tournament Committee's attention, in the removal of the team's manager, without replacement, for the remainder of the International Tournament
- The Tournament Committee reserves the right to impose additional penalties

An ejection is made if informed that a player must be inserted in the spots as outlined and he/she refuses to do so



## MANDATORY PLAY: 8-10, 9-11 Year Old Divisions, Little League, Intermediate Division and Junior League



For the purposes of this rule, “six (6) consecutive defensive outs” is defined as: A player enters the field in one of the nine defensive positions when his/her team is on defense and occupies such position while six consecutive outs are made; “bat at least one (1) time” is defined as: A player enters the batter’s box with no count and completes that time at bat by being retired, retired as a batter-runner or runner, scores, or the inning or game ends

An ejection is made if informed that a player must be inserted in the spots as outlined and he/she refuses to do so



# SUBSTITUTIONS/RE-ENTRY



Any player who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game in the **SAME** position in the batting order

- A player who has met the mandatory play requirements, and is a pitcher at the time she/he is removed, may be removed for a substitute batter and re-enter the game as a pitcher once, provided the pitcher was not physically replaced on the mound.
- If a team has thirteen (13) or more players in uniform at the start of a game and is the visiting team, they may substitute a batter for the starting pitcher listed in the line-up prior to the pitcher facing a batter without violating Rule 3.03(c) provided that the pitcher of record pitches to the first batter in the bottom of the first inning in accordance with Rule 3.05.
- All other rules governing the pitcher are still in effect.
- Does not apply to Senior League



# SUBSTITUTIONS/RE-ENTRY



**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League only:** A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game.  
**Senior League only:** Rule 3.03, Designated Hitter, WILL apply during the tournament.

**Senior League:** Any player in the starting line-up, including the designated hitter, who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game ONCE, provided such player occupies the same batting position as he or she did in the starting line-up. A substitute (non-starter) may not re-enter the game in any position once that player is removed from the line-up.



# SUBSTITUTIONS/RE-ENTRY



- Rule 7.14, Special Pinch Runner, will apply during tournament.
- **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League only:** A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game. **Senior League only:** Rule 3.03, Designated Hitter, **WILL** apply during the tournament.
- **Senior League:** Any player in the starting lineup, including the designated hitter, who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game **ONCE**, provided such player occupies the same batting position as he or she did in the starting lineup. A substitute (non-starter) may not re-enter the game in any position once that player is removed from the line-up.



# SUSPENDED GAMES



**SUSPENDED GAMES:** Any game in which a winner cannot be determined in accordance with the playing rules shall be resumed from the exact point at which it was suspended regardless of the number of innings played. Incomplete (not regulation) or tie games are considered suspended games.

**NOTE:** A contest decided by forfeit does not constitute a “game” for the purposes of this rule, unless one complete inning was physically played before the game was forfeited. (Forfeits are only by decree of the Tournament Committee in Williamsport.)





# RUN RULE



**RUN RULE:** If at the end of three (3) innings (**Intermediate Division/Junior/Senior League:** four innings), two and one-half innings (**Intermediate Division/Junior/Senior League:** three and one-half innings), if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede victory to the opponent. If at the end of a regulation game, one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent.

**NOTE 1:** If the visiting team has a lead of fifteen (15) or ten (10) or more runs respectively, the home team must bat in their half of the inning.

**NOTE 2:** A game determined by the 15-run rule, shall be considered a regulation game.



# REGULATION GAME



**REGULATION GAME:** Each tournament game must be played to the point of being an official game:

Regulation games are of four or more innings (five or more innings for **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**) in which one team has scored more runs than the other (three and one-half (3 1/2) if the home team is ahead or four and one-half (4 1/2) if the home team is ahead in **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**).

Regulation games (when a winner can be determined) terminated because of weather, darkness or curfew must be resumed if the visiting team ties the game or takes the lead in their half of the inning and the home team does not complete their at bat or take the lead in an incomplete inning. This does not apply to games suspended or delayed by weather that may still be resumed before darkness or curfew (as defined in Tournament Rules and Guidelines – Curfew) on the same day.

If two games are scheduled for the same site, no “time limit” may be imposed on the first game.



# ALTERCATIONS



**ALTERCATIONS:** A manager, coach, or player shall not leave their position in the field or bench area during a fight or physical altercation; a manager or coach who attempts to prevent a fight or restore order, in the umpire's judgement, is not in violation of this rule.

**Penalty:** The umpire shall eject the offender(s) from the game immediately. Failure to comply with the ejection may result in the umpire suspending the game. The Tournament Director shall refer all incidents to the Tournament Committee who may impose additional penalties and/or actions towards the individuals and/or teams up to and including forfeiture of a game, further suspension and/or disqualification.



# Suspensions



A manager or coach suspended for any reason is not permitted to be at the game site and must not take any part in the game, nor have any communications whatsoever with any persons at the game site.

This includes pregame and postgame activities.

Violation may result, by action of the Tournament Committee, in further suspension; forfeiture of a game; and/or disqualification of the team, managers, or coaches from further tournament participation.



# Replacements



- Players, managers, and coaches listed on the tournament affidavit may be permanently replaced
- If a player, manager, or coach is replaced, that person may not be returned to the Tournament Affidavit
- Permanent replacements must be from the league's regular season teams and shall be recorded and approved by the District Administrator or Tournament Director in the space provided on the Eligibility Affidavit
- Any player, manager, or coach who has been replaced/removed shall be marked through with heavy black line
- Individuals suspended for any games may not be replaced



# Temporary Replacements



- If a manager or coach is unable to attend a game for a justifiable reason, a Tournament Director could approve a temporary replacement
- Managers or coaches suspended for any games may not be replaced for the team's next physically played game
- Temporary replacements do not have to come from regular season teams
- Temporary manager or coach replacements may only be used once, unless a Little League Volunteer Application is completed, and the league president or tournament director conducts a background check in accordance with Little League Regulations and any respective state laws
- Temporary replacement of a manager or coach must be entered on the Eligibility Affidavit



# Starting Games and Curfew



- A game shall not be started unless the Tournament Director or assistant judges there is adequate time to complete the game before darkness or curfew
- No inning shall start after midnight prevailing time
- 12:30 a.m. for Intermediate (50-70) Division Baseball and Junior League Baseball/Softball
- 1:00 a.m. for Senior League Baseball/Softball
- NOTE: An inning starts the moment the third out is made completing the previous inning.
- Neither the Tournament Directors and officials nor tournament teams are permitted to circumvent the curfews established above by continuing, suspending and restarting, or starting a game after curfew has been reached and play is required to be terminated. If the curfew noted above occurs during a game suspended in accordance with Tournament Rule 11, that game must not be continued after the curfew. It must either be resumed on a subsequent day, or declared ended, as determined by rule.



# Inclement Weather



- All tournament games must be played as scheduled, and every attempt must be made to stay on schedule
- All attempts must be made for games suspended by weather
- Games that have become a regulation game and can't be resumed due to unplayable field conditions prior to curfew are over and may not be resumed to following day
- Same applies if darkness and no lights are available
- Games halted by light failure, a locally imposed curfew on the lights, sprinkler malfunction, or some other human-error condition, must be suspended and resumed the next available day
- Tournament directors reserve the right to move game sites or adjust game times to equate for inclement weather
- Schedules may not otherwise be altered





# Protests



All officials, including all managers, coaches, scorekeepers, umpires, Tournament Directors, District Administrators, etc., should make every effort to prevent a situation that may result in the forfeiture of a game or suspension of tournament privileges. However, failure by any party to prevent such situations shall not affect the validity of a protest



# Protests



- Replaces rule 4.19
- Considered only when based on:
  - Violation or misinterpretation of playing rule;
  - Use of ineligible pitcher;
  - Use of ineligible player;
  - Violation of mandatory play
- Tournament Officials are encouraged to avoid circumstances that might lead to a potential protest.

**Note:** Umpires, Site Coordinators and District Administrators do not have the authority to declare a forfeiture under any circumstances.



# Protests - Misinterpretation of Playing Rule



A manager claims that a decision is in violation of the playing rules

- The protest must be made before the next pitch or play
  - If not, the protest shall not be considered
1. Verbal protest made to the Umpire-in-Chief
    - U.I.C. confers with all umpires on the field
  2. If decision by umpires is not resolved to the satisfaction of the managers, the Umpire-in-Chief shall be required to consult with the Tournament Director or District Administrator
  3. If the managers do not accept the decision of the Tournament Director, either manager may elect, without penalty, to discontinue play until the matter is referred to the Regional Headquarters
    - Either the Umpire-in-Chief, Tournament Director or District Administrator will call the Regional Headquarters
  4. If the managers do not accept the decision from the Regional Headquarters, either may insist that the matter be referred to the Tournament Committee in Williamsport
    - The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final and binding



# Protests - Misinterpretation of Playing Rule



Failure to meet the mandatory play requirements in this rule is a basis for protest

- Does not have to be protested but can be brought to the attention of the tournament committee through the chain of command
- Any mandatory play violations shall be reported to the Region offices
- Improper substitution is a basis for protest
- Must be presented and protested before next pitch or play
- Improper substitution protests not resolved before the next pitch or play shall not be considered
- Improper substitutions regarding a player being removed prior to completing his/her mandatory time of base (after an at-bat) shall be resolved regardless if a pitch or play has occurred



# Protests - Use of Ineligible Pitcher



Ineligibility refers to the Tournament Pitching Rules (Tournament Playing Rule 4)

- A game in which any player who is ineligible to pitch in a game and throws at least one pitch is subject to protest
- If during a game an ineligible pitcher participates in a game:
- A protest may be lodged by the manager or coach with the Umpire-in-Chief
- U.I.C. shall consult with the Tournament Director or District Administrator
- The Tournament Director or District Administrator must contact the Regional office
- The Regional office will contact the Tournament Committee for a decision
- The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final and binding
- All play must be stopped at the time of the protest and not resume until a decision is provided



# Protests - Use of Ineligible Pitcher



If after a game, it is known an ineligible pitcher participates in a game:

- A protest may be lodged by the manager or coach with the Tournament Director or District Administrator
- Such protest must be made before either team affected by the protest begins another game.
- The Tournament Director or District Administrator must contact the Regional office
- The Regional office will contact the Tournament Committee for a decision
- The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final and binding
- Violations of the Tournament Pitching Rules may also be brought to the attention of the Tournament Committee (through the chain of command)
- Use of an ineligible pitcher will result in the suspension by the Tournament Committee of the team's manager for the next two scheduled tournament games
- The Tournament Committee reserves the right to impose additional penalties

# Protests - Use of Ineligible Player



- Ineligibility under this rule applies to league age, residence or school attendance (as
- defined by Little League Baseball, Incorporated), participation in other programs, or
- participation as an eligible player for eight (8) [**Senior:** six (6)] games during the
- regular season in the proper division
- An ineligible player protest may be filed after such player participates in a game under these sceneries:
  - A manager may lodge a protest with the umpire-in-chief
  - Tournament Director, District Administrator or Tournament Official becomes aware of the circumstances by any means

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# Protests - Use of Ineligible Player



- Any claim of an ineligible player must be reported to the Tournament Committee through the chain of command and Region offices
- Any claim that is established or verified by the Tournament Committee will result in that team being disqualified and removed from the International Tournament
- The Tournament Director or District Administrator shall receive from the Region office how to proceed with games and the tournament following an ineligible player protest





# Protests



**In addition to the penalties described in the three types of protests, the Tournament Committee may disqualify a player, team, or entire league from tournament play. The Tournament Committee may take action as a result of a protest or on its own initiative. Disqualification of a team or player(s) and/or forfeiture of a game must be the decision of the Tournament Committee at Williamsport, and such decisions will be made prior to the continuation of the affected team(s) or player(s) in further tournament play**



# Notable Rules and Differences



- Baseballs must have RS-T designated printed on the ball
- A 11-inch softball is used in the 8-to 10-year-old Softball Division
- A 12-inch softball used in all other divisions
- Each player on tournament teams must wear a conventional uniform that includes the Little League patch
  
- Uniforms do not have to match
- The 8-10-year-old division does NOT use Minor League rules
- Little League (Major) Division rules applies when not addressed in the tournament playing rules
- 10-run and 15-run rules apply in all divisions of play



# Proper Attire



ALL MANAGERS AND COACHES THAT PARTICIPATE IN ANY ALL STAR TOURNAMENTS, OR TOURNAMENTS THAT ARE LITTLE LEAGUE APPROVED INCLUDING BASEBALL & SOFTBALL MUST BE DRESSED APPROPRIATELY.

**ACCEPTABLE WEAR:** TEAM HATS/VISORS, TEAM LOGO SHIRTS, COLLARED SHIRTS, SLACKS, SHORTS, SHOES, (SUCH AS TENNIS, SPORT, OR DRESS).

**UNACCEPTABLE WEAR:** T-SHIRTS, CUTOFFS OF ANY TYPE, BARE FEET OR ANY CLOTHING THAT HAS UNACCEPTABLE WORDING OR GRAPHICS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL/SOFTBALL.

**ANY DRESS:** THAT IS IN QUESTION, MUST BE APPROVED BY THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR PRIOR TO PARTICIPATING IN ANY TOURNAMENT.



# Proper Behavior



Manager responsible for behavior of coaches, players and fans

- Tournament Directors will be walking around and observing the spectators for problems. Fans may be asked to calm down their fans if they get unruly.
- No tobacco (including vaping), illegal drugs, or alcohol at tournament site
- No inappropriate or foul language will be permitted from players, managers, coaches, or fans
- Ensure fans are aware of the Parent Code of Conduct and let them know they are expected to behave accordingly
  - Fans may be asked to leave the tournament site



# Team Managers and Coaches



- Have their teams at the field at least 1 hour before the first game they play and 45 minutes before each successive game time.
- Give the affidavit only, to the Site Coordinator/Assistant TD
- Give complete lineup all starters and subs to Assistant TD/Announcer
- Ensure all equipment meets Little League specifications - HELMETS
- Have all players in appropriate uniform – LITTLE LEAGUE PATCHES
  - (2021 ONLY: Little League Baseball and Softball ONLY)
- Be dressed in appropriate attire
- Have medical release forms for each player
- Have a first aid kit
- **ENSURE THAT YOU AND YOUR TEAM CONDUCT YOURSELVES ACCORDING TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF SPORTSMANSHIP AND FAIR PLAY (See LL Pledges and Parent Code of Conduct)**



# Team Managers and Coaches



- Have all equipment out for inspection – only equipment being used
  - Approved Bats ONLY – Manager responsible – severe penalty for illegal bat
  - Catcher’s Helmet must have dangling throat protector
  - Helmets – no stickers, paint, air brushing allowed unless approved by manufacturer
  - Equipment removed from the game will be returned when team exits tournament
- Managers, Coaches, and Players may not mingle w/ spectators (3.09)
- **Coaches may not warm up pitchers before or during game (3.09)**
- **Coaches (and spectators) will not “work” the umpires**
- Base Coaches respect the Coach’s Box
  - Only 1 offensive timeout per half inning



# After the Game



At the end of the game, make sure the pitchers' records are accurately recorded on the back of the affidavits (Managers must sign) and retrieve the affidavit. Review pitcher **eligibility, pitch counts (baseball only) and required days of rest with the Official Score Keeper and Site Coordinator.**

**Ensure you know when and where your next game will be and inform your teams.**

**Make sure the Site Coordinator has your contact information in case the schedule changes due to weather and/or field conditions.**



# Rules Summary



- All Tournament games conducted in accordance with 2021 Little League Baseball® Tournament Rules and Guidelines
  - Proper Substitution (no continuous batting)
  - Uncaught 3<sup>rd</sup> Strike applies to 9-11 Baseball and older divisions
  - Proper player attire – includes LL patches properly affixed (LL only)
  - Only rostered manager, coaches and players allowed in dugout or on the field – players (and coaches) must request permission from UIC to leave the dugout for any reason
  - Adults may not warm up pitchers at tournament site – any player may warm up pitcher w/ proper catcher’s helmet with throat guard
  - Ensure Bats and Batting Helmets Meet LL Specifications (NO DENTS, CRACKS, or ALTERATIONS)
  - Base coaches do not take the field until after “throwdown”





# Safety Reminders



- Accident Reporting
  - Little League Accident Notification
    - When professional medical care required
    - Notify Tournament Director
    - Requires written clearance to return to play
- NO Jewelry (except Medical Alert)
- Heat Illness Prevention - Hydrate All Day (week) – encourage players to drink plenty of water – all day, every day
- Concussion Training – Managers and Coaches must have CDC or NFHS training and certification – NFHS Certification is REQUIRED for all Virginia Tournaments
- Lightning Policy – Wait 30 minutes - No Kidding – No Second Chances
- Approved Bats – USA Baseball’s Youth Bat Performance ONLY USABat). All BPF 1.15 bats are prohibited. Bats shall not exceed 2 5/8 in. diameter for these divisions of play. Bats meeting BBCOR may be used in Intermediate Baseball and up (BBCOR is required for the Senior League Baseball).
- Batting Helmets – NOTHING on helmet that wasn’t provided with helmet purchase unless the Manager produces a letter from the manufacturer authorizing the alteration.
- Equipment removed will be returned to team manager AFTER TEAM’S LAST GAME





# Questions??



Jim Roberts

Virginia District 15 District Administrator

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<https://vadistrict15.org>



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@Virginia15LL

“Our kids, our future.”



What's wrong with this picture?



# 2021 Virginia District 15 and State All Star Tournament Schedule



Tournament	Host League	Start Date	State Hosts and Report Dates	SE Region Report Date
8 – 10 Baseball	Lancaster	12 June	D11/Richlands (8 July)	NA
8 – 10 Softball	Richmond County	12 June	D3/Woodstock (8 July)	NA
9 – 11 Baseball	Mathews	13 June	D15/King George (8 July)	NA
9 – 11 Softball	NA – Spotsy advances		D13/Coeburn/8 July	NA
LL (10-12) Baseball	Middlesex	18 June	D4/Vienna (22 July)	5 Aug – Warner Robins, GA
LL (10-12) Softball	Mathews	18 June	D13/Coeburn (8 July)	23 Jul – Warner Robins, GA
Intermediate	NA – KG advances		D5/Atlee (1 July)	NA
Junior League Baseball	Essex	19 June	D11/Tazewell (21 July)	NA
Junior League Softball	Caroline	19 June	D1/Briston (8 July)	NA
Senior League Baseball	Caroline	17 June	D13/Coeburn&Wise (15 July)	NA
Senior League Softball	Middlesex	22 June	D3/Luray (1 July)	NA

Note: With the exception of Little League (10-12) Baseball and Softball, Tournament of State Champions, Region, and World Series Tournaments CANCELED for 2021

Affidavit Review and Approval Schedule – 5 and 6 June at RCLL Meeting Room