



**Virginia District 15
Softball**

Pre-Tournament Meeting

15 June 2022

**Little League
Softball**



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
 - Exchange contact information w/ Site Coordinator at first meeting
- 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 Inning/Game 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 2022 Little League Softball® Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Policies
- Little League, 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



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 "slap" or "slap 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 eight foot circle 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. No pitch has to be thrown, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.



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. **9-11 Year Old Division:** Base runner(s) must maintain contact with the base in which they are entitled until the ball has been released by the pitcher on delivery. **8-10 Year Old Division:** Base runner(s) must maintain contact with the base in which they are entitled until the ball has been batted or reaches the batter.



PLAYING RULES



- e. 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.**
- f. 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, the team manager and those responsible including any player(s) and/or coach(es) shall be warned after the first offense. Those responsible including any player(s), coach(es), and/or manager shall be ejected from the game for the team's subsequent offense.



PITCHING RULES – LL SOFTBALL, 8 to 10 YEAR OLD SOFTBALL AND 9 TO 11 YEAR OLD DIVISION



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. **(NOTE:** There is no limit to the number of pitchers a tournament team may use in a game.)
- b. A Tournament pitcher may not pitch in regular season or Special Games while the team is still participating in the Tournament.
- c. Delivery of a single pitch constitutes having pitched an inning.
- d. 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 in the same inning as she was removed.



PITCHING RULES – LL SOFTBALL, 8 to 10 YEAR OLD SOFTBALL AND 9 TO 11 YEAR OLD DIVISION



- e. One (1) calendar day rest must be observed following regular season or Special Games play, and between levels of Tournament Play if a player pitches seven (7) or more innings in a calendar day.
- f. A player may not pitch in more than twelve (12) innings in a day.
- g. If a player pitches in less than seven (7) innings in a calendar day, no rest is required.
- h. If a player pitches in seven (7) or more innings in a calendar day, one day's rest is required. This also applies between regular season games following Tournament elimination or Special Games following the Tournament.

Example 1: A player may pitch on Saturday in regular season play then, after one (1) calendar day's rest, pitch again in the next level of tournament play on Monday.

Example 2: A player may pitch on Saturday in the final district game then, after one (1) calendar day's rest, pitch again in the next level of tournament play on Monday.



PITCHING RULES – LL SOFTBALL, 8 to 10 YEAR OLD SOFTBALL AND 9 TO 11 YEAR OLD DIVISION



Exceptions:

- (1) A player may pitch on consecutive calendar days if less than seven (7) innings were pitched in the previous calendar day.
- (2) In a game suspended by darkness, weather or other causes and resumed the following calendar day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of the remaining eligibility that pitcher would have had during the previous day. However, in no event shall any pitcher pitch more than twelve (12) innings in any game.



PITCHING RULES – JUNIOR AND 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. (**NOTE:** There is no limit to the number of eligible pitchers a tournament team may use in a game.)
- 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 in the same inning as she was removed. A pitcher may be withdrawn from the game, offensively or defensively, and return as a pitcher once per inning provided the return does not violate the substitution, visits per pitcher, or mandatory play rule(s). **Penalty:** See Rule 10(f).
- d. No pitching restrictions apply.



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, 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.

Note: Only one offensive time-out will be permitted each inning.



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, 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, 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, and Junior League



- Prior to the start of play in the top of the fourth inning [**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, 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 [**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 [**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, 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 [**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 [**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, 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, 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



- 10. SUBSTITUTIONS/RE-ENTRY:** This tournament rule replaces regular season Rule 3.03 (re-entry) for all levels of tournament play.
- a. If illness, injury or the ejection of a player prevents a team from fielding nine (9) players, a player previously used in the lineup may be inserted, but only if there are no other eligible substitutes available. The opposing team manager shall select the player to re-enter the lineup. A player ejected from the game is not eligible for re-entry.
 - b. Any player who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game in the **SAME** position in the batting order.



SUBSTITUTIONS/RE-ENTRY



- c. A substitute entering the game for the first time **may not be** removed prior to completion of her/his mandatory play requirements.

Note: 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.

- d. Defensive substitutions must be made while the team is on defense. Offensive substitutions must be made at the time the offensive player has her/his turn at bat or is on base.
- e. A starter and her/his substitute must not be in the lineup at the same time, except as provided in Playing Rule 10(a).



SUBSTITUTIONS/RE-ENTRY



- f. Improper substitution is a basis for protest. Protests involving improper substitution not resolved before the next pitch or play shall not be considered. **Junior/Senior League:** Ineligible pitcher under 1) a Tournament player pitches during the regular season or special games concurrently; 2) a pitcher, starter, or substitute, violates substitution or mandatory play rule(s); or 3) a pitcher moves to another defensive position twice and then returns as a pitcher twice in the same inning, will be considered an improper substitution.
- g. Tournament Rule 3(e) will replace Rule 7.14, as Special Pinch Runner rule.
- h. **Senior League only:** Rule 3.03, Designated Hitter, WILL apply during the tournament.
- i. **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 (**Junior/Senior League:** four innings), two and one-half innings (**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 **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 **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.



TIE GAME



- 14. TIE GAME:** When the completion of six innings [**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 [**Junior/Senior League:** eighth inning] will be played as normal.
 - b. Starting in the top of the eighth inning [**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 be 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.



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.



Ejections



- Any manager, coach or player ejected from a game will be suspended for the next physically played game (See Rule 4.07).
- This includes pregame or postgame activities. Ejections shall be noted in the tournament team's affidavit in the Record of Ejections on page 4.
- Entry should include member's name and date ejected and be signed by the Tournament Director or District Administrator.
- 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 Junior League Softball
- 1:00 a.m. for Senior League 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



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



- An 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 apply 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

- Know how to properly question a call, make an appeal, and make a protest
- 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



Spectator Guidance



- Game results will and updated and tournament brackets will be posted at the tournament site and will be available on the Virginia District 15 website, www.VADistrict15.org .
- There is no plan for games to be streamed via Game Changer, Facebook, or other internet media. If fans wish to stream a game, it must be viewed through a personal social media account for private use only and may not be on the open internet.
- Individuals wishing to record or live stream games for personal use are not permitted to affix any equipment to the playing facility, including but not limited to fencing, dugouts, stanchions, or light poles.
- No noise makers of any kind may be used during tournament games.
- No smoking or tobacco use is permitted at the field or on school grounds, which includes vaping and chewing. No alcohol or illicit drugs shall be brought to 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
 - Equipment removed from the game will be returned when team exits tournament
- Managers, Coaches, and Players may not mingle w/ spectators (3.09)
- **Coaches (adults) 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 Softball® Tournament Rules and Guidelines
 - Proper Substitution (no continuous batting)
 - Uncaught 3rd Strike applies to 9-11 Softball and older divisions
 - Proper player attire – includes LL patches properly affixed
 - 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 NFHS training and certification
- **Lightning Policy – Wait 30 minutes - No Kidding – No Second Chances**
- Approved Bats – Bats must be a softball bat which meets Little League specifications and standards. No more than 33 inches (34 inches for Junior/Senior) in length and no more than 2 ¼ inches in diameter and if non-wood shall be printed with a BPF of 1.20.
- Additional information is available at www.LittleLeague.org/BatInfo
- Equipment removed will be returned to team manager AFTER TEAM'S LAST GAME





Questions??



Jim Roberts
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540-660-4487

<https://vadistrict15.org>



@vadistrict15



@Virginia15LL

“Our kids, our future.”





2022 Virginia District 15 and State All Star Tournament Schedule



Tournament	D15 Host League	Start Date	State Host and Report Date*	SE Region Tournament Sites and Report Dates**
8 – 10 Baseball	Lancaster	17 June	D2/Lynchburg (07 July)	22 July
8 – 10 Softball	King William	18 June	D13/Coeburn (14 July)	29 July
9 – 11 Baseball	Spotsy	20 June	D9/Springfield (13 July)	29 July
9 – 11 Softball	NA		D3/Bridgewater (13 July)	29 July
LL (10-12) Baseball	Northumberland	24 June	D7/Poquoson (14 July)	02 August
LL (10-12) Softball	Richmond County	25 June	D3/Bridgewater (13 July)	21 July
Intermediate	NA		D5/Tuckahoe (07 July)	21 July
Junior League Baseball	Middlesex	24 June	D15/Spotsylvania (21 July)	04 August
Junior League Softball	NA		D3/Luray (07 July)	21 July
Senior League Baseball	Essex	17 June	D11/Castlewood (07 July)	22 July
Senior League Softball	Middlesex	28 June	D3/Luray (07 July)	21 July