



2022 Rules Brief

What We'll Cover



- 2022 Little League Regulation & Rules Updates
- A couple of other important rules
 - Not ALL of them. It takes hours to review the entire rule book
 - We offer rules clinics where we can go into more detail

Reg VI: Pitching and Catching (Baseball)



- A player who played the position of catcher for **three 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.



- All pitching limits are now **THRESHOLDS**.
 - A pitcher's pitch count for the purposes of day(s) rest threshold is determined by the first pitch thrown to a batter.
- **NOTE:** Under no circumstances shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days.

Reg XIV: Field Decorum

- Only players, manager and 2 rostered coaches allowed on the field
 - **Tee Ball/Minor League Instructional Division** not more than **three** coaches
- All game participants must stay in the dugouts/bullpens
- **One adult in dugout at all times**
- No alcohol, tobacco, e-cigs or controlled substances anywhere
- Adults can not warm up pitchers anywhere
- **A.R. – Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, and Senior League (BB & SB):** The on-deck batter shall be positioned in the on-deck circle closest to their dugout.



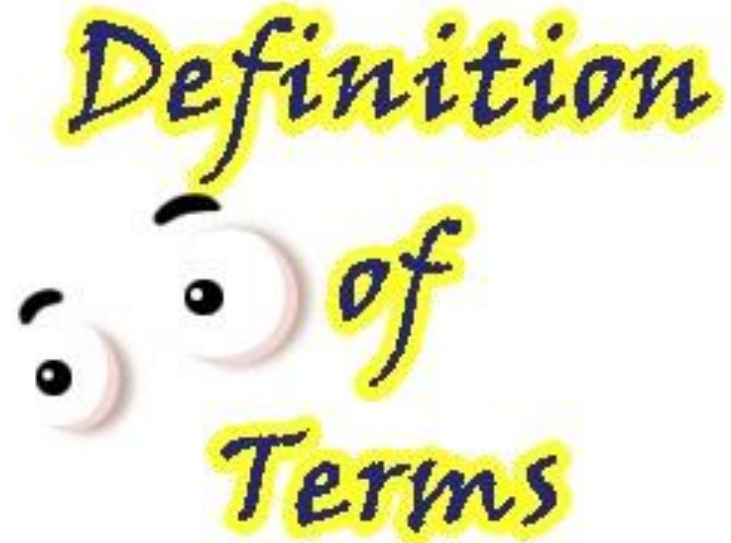
Rule 1.17: Catcher's Gear

- Required: Chest protector, helmet/mask, and shin guards, catcher's mitt, cup for male catchers
- Helmet/mask must:
 - Be NOCSAE certified
 - **Have throat guard (even on hockey-style mask)**
 - Not have cracks or unauthorized paint/decals
- Helmet/mask is required for:
 - Player warming up pitcher between innings
 - Player warming up pitcher in the bullpen
 - Catcher during pre-game warm-up
 - **Infield AND Outfield**



Rule 2.00

- Catch
- Fair Ball
- Foul Ball
- Illegal Bat
- Illegal Pitch
- Infield Fly
- Interference
- Obstruction
- Strike Zone



Rule 3.03: Substitutions

- A sub must play 6 consecutive defensive outs and 1 at bat before starter **or another sub** removes him/her
- When can a manager make a substitution?
 - Defensive: While on defense
 - Offensive: While at bat or on base
- **Don't accept substitutions that violate this**
 - Typically done to take advantage of Special Pinch Runner rule



Rule 3.03: Substitutes

- A player in the starting line-up who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game, in the **SAME position in the batting order**, provided:
 - (a) his or her substitute has completed one time at bat and; for the requirements of Mandatory Play, a player assumes the position of a batter with no count and one of the following occurs:
 - Retired as a batter; retired as a batter-runner; reaches base and scores; or after reaching base, the inning or game ends
 - **APPROVED RULING:** While at-bat, if the third out of the half-inning is recorded by putting out another base-runner prior to the occurrence of any of the above, that batter must return as the first batter in the next half-inning.
 - This means they have to stay in the game and play defense for that ½ inning
 - When appearing offensively for the first time in the game, a player must remain in the game until one of the above occurs
 - (b) has played defensively for a minimum of six (6) consecutive outs;
- A starter and her/his substitute must not be in the line-up at the same time.
 - Once mandatory play is met, starter and substitute can enter/re-enter for each other as desired.



Rule 4.04: Game operations

- **Local League Option:** A league may permit teams to start and play games with (8) players,
 - BoD determines if an out is called for the (9th) position in the batting line-up each turn at bat or if the team may skip over the (9th) position without penalty.
 - Cannot continue with less than 8

Rule 6.08(a)(2): Intentional Walk



- **Minor/Major Baseball & Softball (all divisions):**
~~prior to a pitch being thrown,~~ the defense may elect to “Intentionally Walk” a batter
 - **Manager** must request and be granted “time” by the umpire and then inform the umpire of the defense’s intent to walk the batter (**may be made prior to or during at bat.**)
 - Ball is dead and no other runners may advance unless forced by the batter’s award
 - Appropriate number of pitches will be added to the pitch count.



Rule 7.14: Special Pinch Runner

- Once each 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.
 - **NOTE: Does not apply if the local league adopts the continuous batting order.**



Rule 7.14: Courtesy Runner

- **Courtesy Runner:** A local league may permit a “courtesy runner” for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are (2) outs.
 - The pitcher or the catcher are not removed from the lineup.
 - The same courtesy runner may not run for both the pitcher and the catcher at any time during the game.
 - A courtesy runner must be reported to the plate umpire.
 - A player whose name is on the team’s batting order may not become a substitute runner for another member of the team.
 - **Exception:** If the continuous batting order is used, the “courtesy runner” may be in the team’s batting order and must be the player in the batting order who made the last out.

2022 Little League Umpire Training Resources

- **Little League Umpire Registry (Free)**
 - www.littleleagueumpire.org
 - Online Background Checks (\$5)
- **Little League International in Williamsport, PA**
 - Spring Umpire Academy– *March 15-20*
 - Umpire School – *April 21-26*
- **Southeastern Region in Warner-Robins, GA**
 - Two-Umpire Mechanics Clinic – *Feb. 25 - 27*
 - Four-Umpire Mechanics Clinic – *May 20 - 22*
 - Umpire School – *TBD Oct.*



Umpire Resources



Videos

Touching Bases, Time Called
Chats, and Webinars



Umpire Essentials

Rulebooks, Rule
Interpretations and Gear



Education

Mechanics Training Videos and
Casebook Explanations



Registry Certificate

View your current Umpire
Registry Certificate.
(Not compatible with Microsoft Edge)



Background Check Request

Request Background Check



Umpire Search Preferences

Choose the leagues you would
like to umpire—update as
often as you'd like!
(11 Leagues Selected)



Tournament Application

Apply for Regional or World
Series Tournaments.



Tournament Evaluation

Review tournament evaluation
information from your
region/district.



FairBall Newsletter

Check your email for the latest
e-newsletter.

Background Check Request for 2022 is complete.

NEW!!! 2022 Little League® Rules Instruction Manual

Little League® Baseball and Softball
Rules Instruction Manual prepared for
the 2022 Little League Umpire Schools.

Download 2022 RIM

Upcoming Training & Clinics

**Feb 25–27,
2022**
6:00 PM ET

**2022 Two-Umpire
Mechanics Clinic**
Warner Robins, GA -
Cost: \$50.00

Register

Mar 1, 2022
8:00 PM ET

**Recruiting New
Umpires/Expanding Jr.
Umpire Prog.**
Webinar - Cost: FREE

Register

**Mar 15–20,
2022**

Umpire Academy
Williamsport, PA -

Register

2022 District XV Umpire Training Resources

- **District XV LL Remote Rule Sessions**
 - Zoom Meetings – Tentatively Sundays in March & Will be Recorded for viewing at anytime.
- **KWLL Rule Session:** Feb. 20, 2 – 4 p.m.
 - King William Ruritan
- **Field Umpire Clinic:** April 3, 2 – 4 p.m.
 - Loriella Park in Spotsylvania
- **District XV All-Star Clinic:** June 5
 - Richmond County Little League

Contact Brian Wolfe and/or Pete Gaither to schedule a clinic for your League

Questions?

