



Little League Rules Meeting for the 2024 International Tournament

Presented by



Agenda

- Meet the Instructor
- Safety and Equipment
- Rule Differences between Regular Season and Tournament Play
- New Tournament Rules for 2024
- Points of Emphasis

Instructor

Douglas Singer

West Region Umpire

(602) 930-6863

azllump19@gmail.com



Safety & Equipment

Equipment Checks

Teams should be prepared for an equipment check before *every* game

- Helmets
- Bats
- Catcher's gear

Please line up all equipment along dugout fence as soon as possible so the games can start on-time



Rule 1.10

Baseball non-wood bats

8-10 9-11 10-12	Intermediate Juniors	Seniors
USABat	USABat or BBCOR	BBCOR

The complete logo must be visible.

Rule 1.10

Softball non-wood bats

All Levels of play
BPF 1.20

The logo must be visible.

Rule 6.06(d)

Batter enters batter's box with an illegal bat

- Batter is out
- Manager and player are ejected
- Offense loses one adult base coach for the remainder of the game

If illegal bat is identified after batter uses it

- In addition to the above penalties,
All runners return to previous base
unless defense elects the results of the play

Rule 1.11

Any part of the pitchers exposed undershirt must be of a solid color
Not white or gray

Neoprene sleeve must be covered by an undershirt

Teammates may wear shirts with different length sleeves, but each player's sleeves must be of the same length

Rule 1.11

Defensive players may wear play calling bands

- Must be on wrist or forearm
- Pitchers may only wear on glove hand
 - Solid color
 - Not white, gray or optic yellow

Rule 1.16

Use of a helmet is required for all batters, base runners and non-adult base coaches

Helmets may not

- be repainted
- contain tape or re-applied decals
- have a mirror-like finish



Rule 1.16

Altering helmets in any way can void manufacturer's warranty

Anything attached at time of purchase is approved

Stickers are not approved *without letter from manufacturer*. If you do have the waiver, please add it to your team's all-star Binder.



Rule 1.17

Dangling throat guards are required at all levels of play whenever a catcher's mask is required

There are NO exceptions

This includes

- Hockey mask style helmets
- Masks with wire extensions



Rule 1.17

Catcher's masks are required:

- Any form of infield/outfield practice
- Pitcher warm up
- Games



Lightning Protocols

Lightning will be monitored by the Tournament Director

Should the game be delayed for lightning:

- Immediately proceed to a safe area
 - Cars or buildings
- Do not leave the ballpark.
- Manager will be contacted by the Tournament Director.

On-Deck Batter

8-10 / 9-11 / Little League

The on-deck batter is not allowed, at any time, regardless of field design or presence of a safe area.

Intermediate / Juniors / Seniors

The on-deck batter is permitted

Rule Differences Between Regular Season and Tournament

Rules

No local rules are to be used

All rules are per the Little League Official Playing Rules

Local “ground rules” still apply

- Field conditions
- Establishment of live ball/dead ball territory

Warming up the Pitcher

Regular Season	Tournament
<p>Managers or coaches may warm up the pitcher</p>	<p>Managers or coaches may NOT warm up the pitcher at any place or any time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Violations can be treated as unsportsmanlike conduct, with removal of the manager or coach from the rest of the tournament</i>

Batting Order

Regular Season	Tournament
Continuous batting order League option	Continuous batting order Required All players present at start of game Does not apply to Senior League

Game Duration

Regular Season	Tournament
<p data-bbox="155 602 590 651">Shortened games</p> <ul data-bbox="155 691 470 829" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="155 691 470 740">• Time limits<li data-bbox="155 781 470 829">• Drop dead <p data-bbox="233 854 562 902">League options</p>	<p data-bbox="1062 602 1598 651">Full regulation games</p> <ul data-bbox="1062 691 1457 740" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1062 691 1457 740">• No time limits <p data-bbox="1062 862 1535 911">8-10 / 9-11 / 11-12</p> <ul data-bbox="1142 943 1377 992" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1142 943 1377 992">• 6 innings <p data-bbox="1062 1024 1472 1073">Juniors / Seniors</p> <ul data-bbox="1142 1105 1377 1154" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1142 1105 1377 1154">• 7 innings

Runs per Inning

Regular Season	Tournament
Limits on runs scored per inning League option	No limits to runs scored

“Mercy” Rule

Regular Season	Tournament
<p>15 run lead after 3 innings 10 run lead after 4 innings 8 run lead after 5 innings League options</p>	<p>15 run lead after 3 innings 10 run lead after 4 innings</p> <p><i>In effect, not optional</i></p>

Pitching Substitutions

Regular Season	Tournament
A pitcher removed from the mound cannot return as pitcher	<p><i>* Intermediate / Junior / Senior *</i></p> A pitcher removed from the mound <i>but moving to a different position</i> can return to the mound once per game

Pitching Substitutions - Softball

Regular Season	Tournament
A pitcher removed from the mound cannot return as pitcher	<p>A pitcher removed from the mound <i>but stays in the lineup</i> can return to the mound once per inning</p> <p><u>8-10 / 9-11 / 11-12</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cannot return to mound if pitcher removed for a <i>substitute</i> <p><u>Juniors / Seniors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can return to mound if substitution rules are not violated

2024 Tournament Rule Changes

Leaping - Softball

The act of leaping while delivering a pitch in softball is legal.

The pitcher may have both feet off the ground at the same time as long as both feet remain in the 24-inch width of the pitching plate and the pitcher does not replant the pivot foot.

Mandatory Play

For purposes of Mandatory Play during the Tournament

The definition of At-Bat in regard to completing an At-Bat after a player is retired as a batter; retired as a batter-runner; reaches base and scores; or reaches base and the inning/game ends, does not apply.

Other Tournament Rules

Who's the Home Team?

For all games, home team is determined by a coin toss.

Coin toss shall be performed by an authorized representative of the Tournament Director.

Home team shall occupy the 3rd base dugout

Managers and Coaches

A maximum of three (3) adults, who are named on the official affidavit will be permitted to act as managers/coaches for that game.

The adults must be listed in the affidavit or must be authorized temporary replacements as noted on the affidavit.

Base coaches may be adults or players.

One adult must remain in the dugout at all times

Number of Players

Teams must have at least 9 players to start the game

The game is considered started at the plate meeting

Teams must have at least 9 players to continue the game

If, at any time, a team has less than 9 players, the game will be suspended and be referred to the tournament committee.

Mandatory Play

Regular Season	Tournament
<p>Each player shall have a minimum of 1 at-bat and play 6 defensive outs</p>	<p>Use of Continuous Batting Order</p> <p>Everyone bats</p> <p>No defensive requirement</p>

Continuous Batting Order

If a player is not at the field at the beginning of the game, that player shall be added at the bottom of the line-up.

Should a player be absent from the game at the time of their scheduled at-bat, the spot in the line-up will be skipped, with no penalty to the offensive team.

Example:

Larry is the 3rd batter in the line-up

Larry feels ill and is unable to take his turn when it is his turn to bat

The 4th batter in the line-up becomes the batter

No out is recorded, and Larry retains his 3rd spot in the line-up

Courtesy Runner

Each team is allowed the use of a courtesy runner

- For pitcher or catcher only
- With two outs
- Runner must be the player in the batting order who made the last out

Pitching Limitations

Under no circumstances shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days

3rd Strike Not Caught

	Less than 2 Outs		2 Outs
	1st Base Occupied		
Age	Yes	No	
8-10	Batter is Out		
All Other	Batter is Out	Batter becomes Runner	

One Foot in the Batter's Box

If the batter leaves the batter's box or delays play and none of the exceptions apply, the umpire shall warn the batter.

This is umpire judgment

After one warning on the batter, the umpire shall call a strike.

Any number of strikes can be called until the batter re-enters the batter's box, or until the third strike is called.

Intentional Base on Balls

If the defensive team wishes to give the batter an intentional base on balls:

- Manager must request time and inform plate umpire
- No pitches need to be thrown, but any remaining pitches will be added to pitch count
- Batter will be awarded first base

The ball is dead - - no other runners may advance (unless forced)

Intentional Base on Balls

An “unpitched” intentional base on balls is allowed to each player only once per game

All other intentional walks requires pitches to be thrown

Pitching Limits - Baseball

Maximum number of pitches in a day

Age	7-8	9-10	11-12	13-16
Maximum Pitches per Day	50	75	85	95

Note that the limitation is based on league age and not level of play

Days Rest - Baseball

Mandatory days rest based on pitch count, and level of play

Age	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
Juniors and Below	0	1	2	3	4

Age	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
Seniors	0	1	2	3	4

Days Rest - Baseball

If the pitcher reaches a days of rest threshold while facing a batter, the pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar days of rest for the threshold he/she achieved prior to the at bat.

Age	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
Up to 14	0	1	2	3	4

Example:

A pitcher has thrown 33 pitches. The next batter comes in and fouls off 10 pitches before he gets a base hit. The manager removes the pitcher. The pitcher is required to rest 1 day.

Pitching Limits - Softball

8-10 / 9-11/ 11-12

- 12 innings per day maximum

A single pitch shall constitute an inning

Juniors / Seniors

- No limitations

Days Rest - Softball

8-10 / 9-11/ 11-12

- 7 innings pitched in a calendar day requires 1 calendar day of rest
A single pitch shall constitute an inning

Juniors / Seniors

- No limitations

Switching Pitchers and Catchers - Baseball

Any player that has caught 4 or more innings is not eligible to pitch that calendar day

Any player that has caught 3 or more innings *and* thrown 21 or more pitches cannot return to catcher that calendar day

Any player that has thrown 41 or more pitches cannot catch that calendar day (subject to the threshold exceptions)

NOTE: A single pitch shall constitute an inning

Extra Innings

If at the end of regulation, the score is tied, teams will play one extra inning under normal scoring provisions

If *after* that extra inning, the score is still tied, the following will be applied to that, and each subsequent, inning:

- The next scheduled batter shall bat and is considered the first batter for that inning.
- The last scheduled batter for that inning shall be placed at 2nd base.

Rules regarding substitutions for the runner at 2nd base still apply.

Points of Emphasis

The following organizations will be at the game to scout your child:

Unsportsmanlike Behavior

Stealing Signs

The stealing or relaying of signs to alert the batter of pitch selection and/or location is unsportsmanlike behavior.

If, in the judgment of the umpire(s), this behavior is occurring, both the player and the manager may be ejected from the game.

It is the discretion of the umpire to decide if the action is blatant and consistent to the point where ejection is warranted.

This is NOT a protestable decision.

Unsportsmanlike Behavior

Bat Flips

Flipping the bat, or other demonstrations, are considered unsportsmanlike behavior and can result in ejection.

Throwing Equipment

Throwing or slamming down equipment is also considered unsportsmanlike behavior.

Just don't do it!

Unsportsmanlike Behavior

Communication Devices

Communication devices are not allowed to be used by any players, managers or coaches once the game has started

If a communication device is observed by an umpire or any Tournament official, the individual using such a device shall be removed from the game.

Unsportsmanlike Behavior

Communication Devices

Electronic devices used for keeping score are permissible, however, the umpire has the right to verify that the device is being used strictly for its intended purpose.

Individuals who are required to carry communication devices (such as first-responders) are provisionally exempted, but must let the plate umpire know prior to the beginning of the game.

Unsportsmanlike Behavior

Chanting and Noisemakers

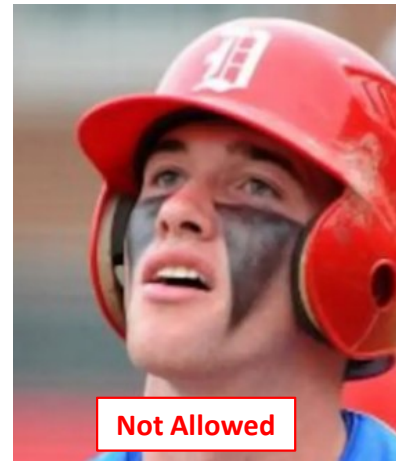
Chanting and cheering from the dugout is permissible, as long as it is not meant to disrupt the pitcher - - this is umpire judgment

Artificial noisemakers are not permitted

No walk-up music or broadcasted player announcements are permitted

Unsportsmanlike Behavior

Eye Black



Unsportsmanlike Behavior



Line-Up Card

A properly completed line-up card is required to be presented to the home plate umpire at the plate meeting

- Player first and last name
- Player number
- Player position

Must Slide Rule

There is no “must-slide” rule . . . It does not exist

Runner must:

- Slide
- Avoid
- Retreat
- Surrender

Base Coach's Box

Base Coaches are required to stay in their box, unless necessary to avoid being in the play

Base coaches must also provide a working area for the umpires

The Strike Zone

The space over home plate which is between the batter's armpits and the top of the knees when the batter assumes a natural stance.

The umpire shall determine the strike zone according to the batter's usual stance when that batter takes a swing.

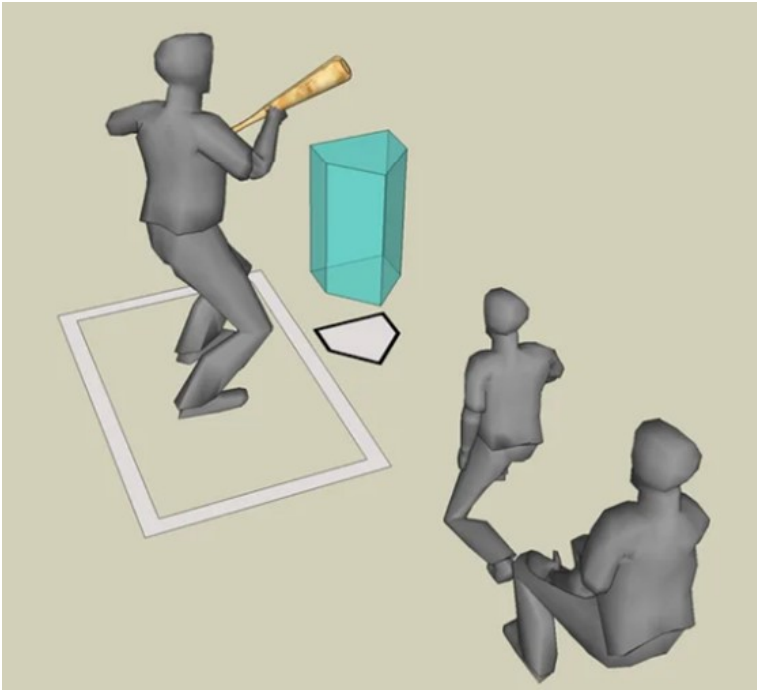
The Strike Zone

This is NOT the strike zone



The Strike Zone

THIS is the strike zone



The Strike Zone -

Over home plate



7.08(f) Runner hit by batted ball

A base runner hit by a batted ball is NOT automatically out

- This is umpire judgment, based on the position of the runner and any fielders in the vicinity

Runner Leaving Early - Baseball

8-10 / 9-11 / Little League only

Runners may not leave their occupied bases until the pitch reaches the batter

Penalties and runner placement will be assessed in accordance with Rule 7.13

Whether a runner leaves early is umpire judgment

Calling Time

No player or manager can call “time-out”

- Players and managers *request* a time-out
- Only Umpires can call a time-out

Umpires are under no obligation to grant a time-out request

Umpires will not grant requests for time-out to kill the play, or to protect runners

Defensive Visits

The manager may request time and visit with any member of the defense.

A visit with ANY member of the defense is a charged visit to the pitcher

On the 2nd charged visit in any inning, the pitcher MUST be removed.

On the 3rd charged visit during the game, the pitcher MUST be removed.

Visits start over upon change of pitcher.

8/9/10 – 3rd charged visit in an inning or 4th in a game

Defensive Visits

Injury visits do not count as charged visits, however . . .

If an umpire hears any discussion other than the status of the injury and the health of the player, the visit will count as a charged visit.

Yes . . . the umpires will accompany the manager during the injury visit

Side note: should a player come out of the game due to injury or illness, that player cannot return without written clearance from trained medical personnel

Appeals

- Appeals must be made during a live-ball situation
- Appeals must be made before the next pitch or play
- Appeals will NOT be considered for umpire judgment



Asking for Help

By rule, umpire judgment can not be appealed or protested

However, umpires want all calls to be correct . . .

Asking for Help

Should you wish to discuss a call with an umpire

- Request time - - - from any umpire
- When granted time, approach the umpire *who made the call*
- Discuss the issue
- Return to dugout and await the decision

Asking for Help

Asking for help just because you don't like the call will be summarily dismissed

"Hey blue, I think he was safe. Can you get some help?"

Asking for help because of something factual may be considered

"I think the 1st baseman pulled his foot"

Remember, the umpires have no responsibility or obligation to check with their partner(s) or to "hear you out"

Protests

- Protests for improper rule application must be made before next pitch or play

If a protest is filed, play will cease until a ruling is made

- Protests for the use of an ineligible player must be made prior to the next game

The use of an ineligible player shall result in the team being disqualified and removed from the International Tournament

- Protests will NOT be considered for rulings involving umpire judgment

Between Innings

- Pitcher has up to one (1) minute or up to eight (8) warm-up pitches
 - The clock starts upon the 3rd out
- Leadoff batter *only* is permitted in front of their dugout
- Managers/coaches are not allowed in fair ball territory
- Base coaches must stay in their dugouts until catcher throws to 2nd base

Questions???