

# Changes to the 2008 Tournament Rules For Baseball Divisions of Little League®

## Teams

Each chartered league ...

Tournament teams and Eligibility Affidavit shall consist of, and must be limited to, a maximum of fourteen (14) players, one (1) manager and a maximum of two (2) coaches.

If there are thirteen (13) or more eligible players listed on the team's affidavit, the maximum of three (3) adults shall be listed on the affidavit; if a tournament team has twelve (12) or fewer eligible players listed on the team affidavit, the maximum of two (2) adults shall be listed on the affidavit.

## Managers and Coaches

Removed the NOTE that did not allow a person to coach a team in another program.

## League Eligibility

In order for a Little League program to be eligible to enter a team or teams into the International Tournament (including 9-10 Year Old Division and 10-11 Year Old Division) the following must be accomplished as indicated:

- 1) The league must be chartered in the division(s) for which it wishes to enter a tournament team(s), no later than June 7, 2008. Examples: Chartered in Little League Majors to enter a Major Division team (11-12 year olds); chartered in Senior League to enter a Senior Division team, etc.
- 2) The league must have scheduled and played, at a minimum, a 12-game (per team) regular season exclusive of playoffs and tournament games for each division entering tournament. See Reg. VII (a).
- 3) All waivers requests (for the league, team, player, manager, and/or coach) of any kind must be submitted and approved not later than June 7, 2008.
- 4) All regular season team rosters must be submitted to Little League International in accordance with the requirements outlined in Regulation IV (g), not later than June 7, 2008;
- 5) Team number revisions and fees incurred by the league must be paid in full by June 7, 2008.
- 6) All combined team and interleague play requests that may involve tournament play must be submitted and approved not later than June 7, 2008.

## Player Eligibility

**Little League (Majors Division)** – Any player League Age 11 or 12, who has participated as an eligible player in **sixty percent (60 %)**...

**9-10 Year Old Division** – Any play League Age 9 or 10, who has participated as an eligible player in **sixty percent (60 %)**...

**10-11 Year Old Division** – Any player League Age 10 or 11, who has participated as an eligible player in **sixty percent (60 %)**...

**Big League** – Any player League Age 16, 17 or 18, with amateur status, who has been a rostered member for **sixty percent (60 %)** of the regular season games (special games

may be counted toward this requirement) by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the high school or college baseball season, on a:

2. Big League Baseball Team, or;
3. Senior League Baseball Team.

**Senior League** – Any player League 14, 15 or 16, with amateur status, who has participated as an eligible player in **sixty percent (60 %)**...

**Junior League** – Any player League Age 12, 13, or 14 who has participated as an eligible player in **sixty percent (60 %)**...

**Condition 2:** A player...

**Example:** If, for any given division, Team A played 20 regular season games before June 15, and a player missed 10 games because of participation in a school baseball program, that player is required to have participated in only **six (6)** regular season games to be eligible for the Tournament Team.

## SCHEDULES

Each District Administrator must finalize tournament schedules prior to the start of the tournament or June 15 (whichever is earliest). Schedules for each level (District, Section, Division, State, Regional) must utilize Little League Baseball approved single elimination brackets, double elimination brackets, or pool play format **with pool play tie breaker format, as noted at [www.LittleLeague.org/tournaments/2008data/poolplayformat.pdf](http://www.LittleLeague.org/tournaments/2008data/poolplayformat.pdf)**. All other tournament formats must be approved by the Tournament Committee.

## TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES

### 4. PITCHING RULES – LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL, 9-10 YEAR OLD, 10-11 YEAR OLD DIVISION, JUNIOR LEAGUE AND SENIOR LEAGUE

These rules replace the regular season pitching regulations. *Violation of these pitching rules is subject to protest and forfeiture by decree of the Tournament Committee in Williamsport if protested before the umpire(s) leave the playing field.*

- 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. Pitchers once removed from the mound may not return as pitchers. **Junior/Senior 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 limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

League Age:	13-16	95 pitches per day
	11-12	85 pitches per day
	9-10	75 pitches per day

**Exception:** If a pitcher reaches the 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 put out; 3. The third out is made to complete the half-inning.** **NOTE: A pitcher who delivers one or**

**more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.**

- e. Pitchers league age 16 and under must adhere to the following requirements:
  - If a player pitches 46 or more pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest, **and a game (see f. below)**, must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 21 to 45 pitches in a day, one calendar day of rest, **and a game (see f. below)**, must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 1 to 20 pitches in a day, no rest is required.
- f. A player may not pitch in consecutive games. **Exceptions** – A player may pitch in consecutive games if:
  - 1. less than 21 pitches were pitched in the previous game, or,
  - 2. the previous game was at another level, and the pitcher has received the required number of days of rest as noted in (e.) above. (Levels are District, Section, State, Division, Region, and World Series.)
- g. A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day.
- h. 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 40 or less 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 pitch count will begin with the number of pitches delivered in that game;
- i. In a game ("Game A") suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed more than one calendar day later, the provisions of (h.) above shall apply, unless the pitcher of record pitched in another game or games after Game A was halted. In that event, eligibility to pitch in the continuation portion of Game A shall be determined by the number of pitches delivered in the game or games after Game A was halted.
- j. 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. Violation protested before the umpires leave the playing field, shall result (by action of the Tournament Committee) in the suspension of the team's manager for the next two scheduled tournament games, even if those games are played at the next tournament level. Additional penalties (up to and including forfeiture of a game and/or disqualification of the team, managers or coaches from further tournament participation) may be imposed if, in the opinion of the Tournament Committee:
  - 1. a manager or coach takes any action that results in making a travesty of the game,
  - 2. a team fails to meet the requirements of this rule more than once during the International Tournament, which begins with District play and ends at the World Series level (State level for 9-10 and 10-11), or;
  - 3. a manager willfully and knowingly disregards the requirements of this rule.



1. If the pitcher delivered 25 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 26 and 50 pitches before the game was suspended, that pitcher's pitch count will begin with the number of pitches delivered in that game;
- i. In a game ("Game A") suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed more than one calendar day later, the provisions of (h.) above shall apply, unless the pitcher of record pitched in another game or games after Game A was halted. In that event, eligibility to pitch in the continuation portion of Game A shall be determined by the number of pitches delivered in the game or games after Game A was halted.
  - j. 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. Violation protested before the umpires leave the playing field, shall result (by action of the Tournament Committee) in the suspension of the team's manager for the next two scheduled tournament games, even if those games are played at the next tournament level. Additional penalties (up to and including forfeiture of a game and/or disqualification of the team, managers or coaches from further tournament participation) may be imposed if, in the opinion of the Tournament Committee:
    1. a manager or coach takes any action that results in making a travesty of the game,
    2. a team fails to meet the requirements of this rule more than once during the International Tournament, which begins with District play and ends at the World Series level or;
    3. a manager willfully and knowingly disregards the requirements of this rule.

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. 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.

**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)**.

#### **10. SUBSTITUTIONS/RE-ENTRY:**

**(c) A substitute entering the game for the first time...**

**NOTE 2:** 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.

**EXCEPTION: Does not apply to Senior and Big League Baseball. EXAMPLE:**

Player A is a starter and not a pitcher, Player B substitutes into the game for Player A. Both players have met mandatory play by completing one time at bat and 3 consecutive

outs and both occupy the same spot in the batting order. In the fifth inning Player A becomes a pitcher and is scheduled to bat in the sixth inning, but Player B bats for Player A. Both players have met mandatory play requirements and Player A was not physically replaced on the mound as a pitcher, therefore, Player A can return to pitch the sixth inning.

**(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.

**(i) SENIOR LEAGUE/BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL:** 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 reenter the game in any position once that player is removed from the line-up.

**11. 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.

**EXCEPTION:** In the event that the first inning is not completed, the game shall be replayed from the beginning and all records, including pitching, disregarded. 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.)

#### **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Unless officially notified to the contrary by Williamsport, each league shall assume full responsibility for expenses...NOTE: A maximum of one round trip will be compensated per tournament site at each level of play. Mileage forms must be completed and submitted to Little League International by **September 15, 2008**.