



2018 LITTLE LEAGUE® INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS AGENDA

REGULATIONS

ITEM 1

Affects: Regulation II – LEAGUE BOUNDARIES – New Regulation – II(h) – All Divisions of Baseball and Softball

- (h) The Board of Directors of the local Little League may enroll a player whose residence is outside the league's boundaries, but only under all **four** of the following conditions: (1) the player has residence within another chartered Little League's boundaries; (2) the league where the player resides releases and waives all current and future rights to the player for regular season and tournament **eligibility**; (3) the District Administrator approves the request; **and (4) the player would not be eligible for Tournament participation until the second year of enrollment within the new league.** **NOTE:** A player who qualifies for and exercises this waiver, then elects not to participate for a playing season, is not eligible to be retained in future seasons.

Regulation II(h) – PROCESSING PROCEDURE – ALL LEVELS OF PLAY

The league president will process a II(h) form. Once the president completes the form, he/she must receive written notification from the league where the player currently resides as outlined above. The league president will present this form and written notification to the District Administrator for review and approval. Once the District Administrator verifies the documentation meets the regulation, the District Administrator may sign the II(h) form granting his or her approval. The league and the District will maintain the form and documentation in their files. This verification process is only required once during a participant's career. The league must maintain this form and documentation for this player for the duration of his/her career until the player graduates from the program or breaks service with the league. Tournament teams with players qualifying under this regulation will be required to carry a copy of this form and documentation with them throughout the tournament. If contested during tournament play, the league will be required to produce the documentation. Additionally, if it is determined at a later date that the player does not meet the conditions of II(h), the player is ineligible for further participation. Situations in which documentation is not available must be referred to the Charter Committee through the regional office for decision. The decision of the Charter Committee is final and binding.

Synopsis: This regulation would allow leagues to register players who live in another chartered Little League's boundaries, with written consent from both league presidents and the District Administrator, for Regular Season during the first year and Tournament play during their second year of enrollment and participation.

ITEM 2

Affects: Regulation III(c) – THE TEAMS and Operating Policies Local League Draft Methods – Major Divisions of Baseball and Softball

- (c) **Little League (Major) Division:** Local league must establish the age structure for the Little League (Major) Division. **It is recommended that the local Little League set a maximum and/or minimum number of participants of a particular league age.** For **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**, it is recommended that the local Little League set a maximum and/or minimum number of participants of a particular league age. (**Example:** If the league has all 15- and 16-year-olds in its Senior League Division, it may have a local rule that states that each team must carry between four and eight players of league age 16.)

METHODS FOR EXISTING LEAGUES

It is recommended that managers not select more than eight players in a given age group. The team roster may be comprised of players of league age 9, 10, 11, and 12 unless modified by the local league according to options established by Little League. The local league may opt to allow only 10, 11, and 12, or 11- and 12-year-olds, to try out for the Major Division.

Synopsis: This eliminates the maximum of eight (8) – 12-year-olds on a Major Division team.

ITEM 3

Affects: Regulation VI(d) – PITCHERS – All Divisions of Baseball and Challenger

- (d) 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 51-65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches 36-50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches 21-35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches 1-20 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.

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; or (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.

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 61-75 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 46-60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 31-45 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1-30 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.

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; or (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.

Synopsis: This restricts a player from pitching in three consecutive days in Regular Season and Tournament.

ITEM 4

Affects: Regulation VI NOTE 3 - PITCHERS and Rule 4.10(d) – All Divisions of Baseball, Softball, and Challenger

Regulation VI NOTE 3:

3. In suspended games resumed on another day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of their eligibility for that day, provided said pitcher has observed the required days of rest. **In the event that the first inning is not completed, all records, including pitching records, batting records, etc., shall be retained.**

4.10

- (d) If a game is called before it has become a regulation game, it shall be resumed exactly where it left off. **NOTE: In the event that the first inning is not completed, all records, including pitching, shall be counted.**

Synopsis: This mandates that all pitching and batting records be maintained even if the first inning was not completed.

ITEM 5

Affects: Regulation VII(a) – SCHEDULES and Tournament League Eligibility (2) – Senior Divisions of Baseball and Softball

Regulation VII:

- (a) The schedule of games for the regular season shall be prepared by the Board of Directors of the league and must provide for not less than twelve (12) games **[Senior Division: Ten (10) games]** per team per regular season against other Little League teams within their respective division, exclusive of playoff and tournament games. **Tee Ball:** It is recommended that no more than twelve (12) games be scheduled per team per season.

League Eligibility:

- (2) The league must have scheduled and played, at a minimum, a 12-game **[Senior League: Ten (10-game)]** (per team) regular season, exclusive of playoffs and tournament games, for each division, or age appropriate division, entering tournament prior to the first game in their respective tournament. See Reg. VII. **NOTE: For Junior Tournament eligibility, Senior League players must have played in a minimum of 8 games.**

Synopsis: This allows a Board of Directors to only schedule 10-game Regular Season schedule Senior Baseball and Softball teams. For Senior Division Tournament eligibility, a team must play a 10-game Regular Season schedule.

PLAYING RULES

ITEM 6

Affects: Rule 3.03 – All Divisions of Baseball and Softball

3.03 - 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;
- (b) has played defensively for a minimum of six (6) consecutive outs;

Baseball:

- (c) pitchers once removed from the mound may not return as pitchers; **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior:** A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher any time in the remainder of the game, but only once per game.

NOTE: 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.

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 (1) time at bat and six (6) consecutive defensive 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.

Softball

- (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 he/she was removed.

Minor/Major Divisions: **NOTE:** A pitcher, withdrawn from the game for a substitute offensively or defensively, may not re-enter the game as a pitcher. This applies to continuous batting order. **EXCEPTION:** A pitcher may re-enter the game as a pitcher, if withdrawn for a pinch-hitter or pinch-runner, and then returned to the game at the beginning of the next half-inning.

Junior/Senior Divisions: A pitcher may be withdrawn from the game, offensively or defensively, and return as pitcher once per inning provided the return does not violate either the substitution, visits per pitcher, or mandatory play rule(s).

- (d) A starter and her/his substitute must not be in the line-up at the same time, except as provided in 3.03 Note 3. Once mandatory play is met, starter and substitute can enter/re-enter for each other as desired.
- (e) 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.

NOTE 1: A substitute may not be removed from the game prior to completion of his/her mandatory play requirements.

NOTE 2: When two or more substitute players of the defensive team enter the game at the same time, the manager shall, immediately before they take their positions as fielders, designate to the Umpire-in-Chief such players' positions in the team's batting order and the Umpire-in-Chief shall notify the official scorer. The Umpire-in-Chief shall have authority to designate the substitutes' places in the batting order, if this information is not immediately provided.

NOTE 3: If during a game either team is unable to place nine (9) players on the field due to illness, injury, ejection, or inability to make a legal substitution, the opposing manager shall select a player previously used in the line-up to re-enter the game, but only if use of all eligible players has exhausted the roster. A player ejected from the game is not eligible for re-entry.

Synopsis: This would revise the substitution rule for all divisions of play.

ITEM 7

Affects: Rule 4.10(e) and Tournament Rule 12 - Regulation Game – All Divisions of Baseball and Softball

4.10:

- (e) If after three (3) innings [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: four innings], two and one-half innings [Intermediate (50-70) 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 the victory to the opponent. If after four (4) innings [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: five innings], three and one-half innings [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: four and one-half innings] if the home team is ahead, 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) runs or more respectively, the home team must bat in its half of the inning. (2) The local league may adopt the option of not utilizing this rule.

- 12. **RUN RULE:** If at the end of three (3) innings [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: four innings], two and one-half innings [Intermediate (50-70) 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 the victory to the opponent. If after four (4) innings [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: five innings], three and one-half innings [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: four and one-half innings] if the home team is ahead, 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:** If the visiting team has a lead of fifteen (15) or ten (10) runs or more respectively, the home team must bat in its half of the inning.

Synopsis: This allows a local league to implement a 15-run rule after three (four innings for Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League). This would be mandatory during the International Tournament.

ITEM 8

AFFECTS: RULE 8.06(a) AND (b) – ALL DIVISIONS OF BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

8.06 - This rule, which applies to each pitcher who enters a game, governs the visits of the manager or coach to the pitcher **at the mound.**

- (a) A manager or coach may come out twice in one inning to visit with the pitcher, but the **second** time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. **Example:** If a manager visits Pitcher A once in the first inning, then makes a pitching change in the same inning, Pitcher B would be allowed **one** visit in that inning before being removed on the **second** visit.
- (b) A manager or coach may come out **two** times in one game to visit with the pitcher, but the **third** time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. **Example:** If a manager visits Pitcher A twice in the first three innings, then makes a pitching change in the fourth inning, Pitcher B would be allowed **two** visits in that game before being removed on the **third** visit, subject to the limits in (a) above.

Synopsis: This reduces the number of visits to a pitcher to twice in one inning or three times in a game.

TOURNAMENT RULES & GUIDELINES

ITEM 9

Affects: Player Eligibility – Little League (10-12) and Intermediate (50-70) Divisions of Baseball

Little League (Major) Division - Any player League Age 10, 11, or 12, with amateur status, who has participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the school baseball season, on a:

1. Little League Baseball (Major) Division team, **or**;
2. **Intermediate (50-70) Division Team.**

Synopsis: This allows players league age 11 and 12, who participated in 60% of their respective Intermediate (50-70) Division Regular Season games to be eligible for selection to the Little League Baseball (Major) Division tournament team. Special Games at the Intermediate (50-70) Baseball Division will NOT count towards Tournament eligibility.

ITEM 10

Affects: Player Eligibility – Little League (10-12) and Junior Divisions of Softball

Little League (Major) Division - Any player League Age 10, 11, or 12, with amateur status, who has participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the school softball season, on a:

1. Little League Softball (Major) Division team, **or**;
2. **Junior League Softball Team.**

Synopsis: This allows players league age 12, who participated in 60% of their respective Junior Division Regular Season games to be eligible for selection to the Little League (Major) Division tournament team. Special Games at the Junior Softball Division will NOT count towards Tournament eligibility.

ITEM 11

Affects: Tournament Protests – The Use of an Ineligible Player – All Divisions of Baseball and Softball

The use of an 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, participation as an eligible player for sixty (60%) percent of the regular season in the proper division, or violation of Regulation I-XVII.

1. If the facts establishing or verifying the ineligibility of a player become known to a complainant, **Tournament Official, or Tournament Director after the ineligible player participated in a game during the International Tournament, that team shall be disqualified and removed from the International Tournament, subject to any of the following conditions:**
 - (a) **A protest is lodged by the manager or coach with the Umpire-in-Chief, who shall consult with the Tournament Director or District Administrator. The Tournament Director or District Administrator must contact the Regional Director (or his/her appointed agent), who shall contact the Tournament Committee for a decision. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final and binding.**
 - (b) **The Tournament Director, District Administrator, or Tournament Official become aware of the circumstances by any means, they must contact the Regional Director (or his/her appointed agent), who shall contact the Tournament Committee for a decision. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final and binding.**

Synopsis: This would disqualify and remove any team from the Little League International Tournament who is found to have used an ineligible player during a game.

ITEM 12

Affects: Tournament Rule 9 – Mandatory Play - 8-10, 9-11, 10-12, Intermediate (50-70), and Junior Baseball and Softball Divisions

9. MANDATORY PLAY: 8- to 10-Year-Old Division, 9- to 11-Year-Old Division, Little League, Intermediate (50-70) Division, and Junior League: If a tournament team has thirteen (13) or more eligible players in uniform at a game, then every player on a team roster shall participate in each game for a minimum of one (1) at bat. If a tournament team has twelve (12) or fewer eligible players in uniform at a game, then 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.

- a. At the conclusion of the third inning and prior to the start of play in the top of the fourth inning, the umpire-in-chief shall notify both managers that all players who have not completed their mandatory play requirement must be inserted into the line-up. The manager shall insert any player who has not met the mandatory play requirement into the line-up in a position that will allow mandatory minimum play to be satisfied absent a shortened game. Managers are solely responsible for fulfilling the mandatory play requirements.
- b. There is no exception to this rule unless the game is shortened for any reason. **NOTE:** 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.
- c. **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, it shall result (by action of the Tournament Committee) in the removal of the team's manager, without replacement, for the remainder of the International Tournament. Additional penalties (up to and including forfeiture of a game and/or disqualification of the team or additional 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, causing players to intentionally perform poorly for the purpose of extending or shortening a game, or;
 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 8- to 10- and 9- to 11-Year-Old Divisions), 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(s), 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.**
- d. 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 or by reaching base safely.

Synopsis: This mandates a manager insert any player who has not met mandatory play in the top of the fourth inning for Tournament in the applicable divisions. A local league could adopt this rule for Regular Season.

ITEM 13

Affects: Tournament Rule 14 – New Rule – All Divisions of Baseball and Softball

14. TIE GAME: When the completion of six innings [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/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 [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** eighth inning] will be played as normal.
- b. Starting in the top of the eighth inning [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/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 bat 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.

Synopsis: This updates the Tournament Rules to provide a tie-breaker method for all divisions of play.

NOTES: