

TIFFANY DOTSON and MATT	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
DOTSON,	§	
as Next Friends of C.D. and M.D.;	§	
WILLIAM WORTHAM and JULIE	§	
WORTHAM,	§	
as Next Friends of J.W.;	§	
DEE BROCK, as Next Friend of B.B.;	§	
SHANE TURLEY and MACEY TURLEY,	§	414 th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
as Next Friends of K.T.;	§	
NATALIE WOODY and RYAN WOODY,	§	
as Next Friends of L.W.;	§	
TAYLOR KERBY and KEVIN KERBY,	§	
as Next Friends of L.K.;	§	
JAMES ROMINE and PAIGE ROMINE,	§	
as Next Friends of R.R.;	§	
JOSH MOORE and HILLARY MOORE,	§	MCLENNAN COUNTY, TEXAS.
as Next Friends of K.M.;	§	
ADAM SCHREINER and JENNIFER	§	
SCHREINER,	§	
as Next Friends of G.S.;	§	
TREVOR LEU and LEEAN LEU,	§	
as Next Friends of B.L.;	§	
COLE KEIM, as Next Friend of R.K.; and	§	
EMILY SUMMERS, as Next Friend of	§	
G.S.,	§	
<i>Plaintiffs,</i>	§	
v.	§	
	§	
LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL,	§	
INCORPORATED	§	
<i>Defendant.</i>	§	

DEFENDANT'S EMERGENCY MOTION TO DISSOLVE TEMPORARY
RESTRAINING ORDER AND FOR EMERGENCY HEARING

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Defendant Little League Baseball, Incorporated ("LLB") files this Emergency Motion to Dissolve the Temporary Restraining Order entered *ex parte* on August 10, 2026, and for an Emergency Hearing on the same, and respectfully shows the Court as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

1. On August 10, 2026, this Court entered a Temporary Restraining Order ("TRO") on an *ex parte* basis, purporting to freeze in place the Southwest Region Little League Tournament and to prohibit the cancellation of a championship game that had been scheduled for August 11, 2026, at 6:00 PM and had been previously cancelled at about 12:30 PM on August 10, 2026, before the TRO was issued or served on LLB.

2. Compliance with the TRO is impossible. The tournament is concluded. The championship game was previously rescheduled to and played at 2:00 PM on August 10, 2026, hours before the TRO was served on LLB. The winning team from Texas West (Boerne) has been crowned the Southwest Region champion. The result has been broadcast nationally on ESPN. And, actions following the completion of the tournament have already been taken by the various stakeholders to prepare for the next round of competition, including travel arrangements by the teams and families, relocation of media, volunteers, and others who are not under the control of LLB.

3. Although LLB promptly consulted with counsel and notified the other team, umpires, ESPN, and volunteers of the Court's Order after it was issued by the Court at 4:15 PM CDT and served on LLB at 5:50 PM EDT on August 10, 2026¹, players, broadcast crews, media, volunteers

¹ It is uncertain as to whether the Plaintiffs even complied with the TRO. The Order was conditioned on the posting of a bond of \$1.00 before the issuance of the TRO as required by law. Insofar as the TRO was signed at 4:15 pm, minutes before the close of business on August 10, 2026, it is unknown whether the bond was timely posted giving effect to the TRO.

and staff, most of whom are not LLB's employees, agents, representatives or under LLB's control, have already departed or are departing the venue.

4. The TRO was entered after the actions to be restrained had been completed. The TRO was based on a claim that irreparable harm would occur if the actions were not timely stopped. However, the TRO came too late and the actions that were sought to be stopped had already been completed. Plaintiff chose not to provide LLB with notice of a hearing and an opportunity to be heard when they were seeking the TRO, and by doing so allowed the actions to proceed without providing LLB with time to advise the various stakeholders of the potential TRO, thereby precluding contingency plans to be made timely.

5. The TRO improperly requires mandatory affirmative action, effectively ordering LLB to "sanction" a championship game that had previously been cancelled, rather than merely preserving the status quo. Such mandatory relief is disfavored at the TRO stage, particularly on an *ex parte* basis, and is especially inappropriate where compliance requires the cooperation of non-parties (ESPN, volunteer umpires, and the winning team from Texas) who are not subject to this Court's Order and its practical effects make it impossible for LLB to accommodate a 21st team and two putative Southwest Region champions at the Little League World Series starting on Wednesday, August 19, 2026. Neither LLB nor the teams can wait until August 24, 2026, the date of hearing set in the *ex parte* TRO, to determine whether the winning team from Texas West (Boerne) or the Tulsa National team that actively hid an eligibility issue from LLB until the last moment, gets to participate in the Little League World Series.

6. The young players from Texas West (Boerne) have already been briefed on the next stage of their tournament journey and are due in Williamsport, Pennsylvania this Friday, August 14, 2026. Their parents and coaches already made travel arrangements. The Texas players have

already been crowned Southwest Region Champions. The TRO seeks to take this deserved victory away from the Texas team's young players and to give another chance to the Tulsa National team, who broke LLB's rules, concealed player eligibility, and then sought this Court's *ex parte* assistance to force their way back into the tournament.

The LLB Rules are in Place to Ensure Fairness and Instill Societal Norms

7. LLB's rules are in place to ensure fairness for all child players. When one team follows the rules and another team conceals material eligibility information until the last possible moment, the Courts should not substitute its feelings of sympathy for the team that violated the rules and go against Texas's long-standing doctrine of judicial non-intervention with the affairs of a self-governing association. As it is, the *ex parte* TRO issued before LLB was afforded an opportunity to be heard, is manifestly unfair for the winning Texas team, rewards rule breaking and cheating by the Tulsa team, and puts LLB in an untenable position where it cannot practically accommodate two putative Southwest Region champions and therefore a 21st team at the Little League World Series International Tournament.

8. In a recent article for *Philanthropy Daily*, Jeremy Beer articulates why civil society, the network of voluntary associations that exists between individual households and the state, remains profoundly important to American democratic life. His arguments carry direct relevance to the question of whether a court should intervene in a private youth sports league's eligibility and disciplinary decisions. See <https://philanthropydaily.com/what-civil-society-is-and-why-it-matters/> (Last visited August 11, 2026).

9. Beer observes that voluntary associations, including youth sports leagues, are the spaces where citizens learn the habits of self-governance that sustain democracy. Within these organizations, participants learn to negotiate, compromise, build consensus, and move forward

collectively, skills Beer describes as "the muscles of democracy". When LLB organization enforces its own eligibility rules and disqualifies a team for violating them, it is exercising precisely this form of democratic self-governance. Asking a court to override that decision would undercut the very process through which participants, including young athletes, learn that rules have consequences and that communities can govern themselves.

10. Voluntary associations protect society on two fronts: they act as agents of social order (preventing anarchy) and they distribute power throughout the social body (preventing tyranny). A private league's ability to set and enforce its own eligibility standards is an exercise of this distributed authority. If courts routinely step in to override the internal rules of voluntary organizations, the effect is to concentrate power in the state and erode the independent authority that makes civil society a meaningful check on government overreach.

11. Youth sports leagues exist not merely to run games, but to instill values like sportsmanship, accountability, and respect for rules. A disqualification for an eligibility violation is itself a form of character education. Court intervention to restore a disqualified team would subordinate these developmental purposes to the narrow question of competitive participation, undermining the broader social goods the league exists to produce.

12. Participation in voluntary associations generates social capital, intangible goods like trust, solidarity, and mutual responsibility, and confers a sense of identity and belonging. These benefits depend on participants accepting the legitimacy of the organization's rules and processes. When a team that broke the rules seeks judicial relief rather than accepting the league's decision, it signals that the organization's authority is contingent on external validation, weakening the bonds of trust and shared commitment on which social capital depends.

13. Judicial deference to the internal governance of voluntary associations is not merely a matter of legal doctrine but a matter of civic health. Private organizations like LLB must be free to establish, interpret, and enforce their own rules if they are to fulfill their role as training grounds for self-governance and as sources of social order independent of the state. A court that substitutes its judgment for LLB's on an eligibility matter does not simply resolve a dispute, it diminishes the capacity of civil society to function as the independent, self-governing space that is at the core of LLB's mission statement that provides, "Little League believes in the power of youth baseball and softball to teach life lessons that build stronger individuals and communities." Each parent who enrolls their child in an LLB league recognizes this. Each team that participates in LLB adheres to this, and each league that is part of LLB must accept this. Teaching children that it is acceptable to cheat, trying to avoid the ramifications of being caught, undermines the philosophy of teaching our children proper morals.

14. Plaintiffs cannot escape the importance of rule compliance by claiming that the father of the ineligible child made "a mistake" in transcribing the child's age, an error that rendered an otherwise ineligible player eligible. Age eligibility is a fundamental requirement ensuring that competition in Little League Baseball remains fair. This Court would not find that transposing numbers on a tax return from \$1 million to \$1,000 was a simple mistake, nor that listing the date of an accident as one year later to avoid a statute of limitations was a mere error. This Court enforces rules for the same reason that LLB must enforce its rules: adherence to established rules is the underpinning of an orderly society. Without order, there is anarchy.

Plaintiff Lacks Standing to Bring this Claim

15. Plaintiffs also lack standing to bring this claim. They are individual parents and children who have no contractual or other legal relationship with LLB. Their relationship, if any, is with the local Tulsa National Little League, which is not a party to this action. Tulsa National Little League is not part of LLB's corporate structure. Rather, it applied for a charter to participate in the Little League tournament run by LLB, and committed to abide by LLB's Rules in so doing.

Disqualification of the Tulsa National Team Was Proper

16. On the merits, the disqualification of the Tulsa National team was proper and fully consistent with LLB's Rules. A player on the Tulsa team (O.G.) was confirmed ineligible, and LLB's rules mandate team disqualification when an ineligible player participates at any point during the International Tournament.

17. LLB respectfully refers this Court to the accompanying Declaration of Daniel Velte ("*Velte Decl.*") for additional background facts.

18. Defendant therefore respectfully requests that this Court dissolve the TRO and set this matter for an emergency hearing at the earliest possible time.

II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

19. Little League Baseball, Incorporated is a federally chartered, 501(c)(3) nonprofit voluntary organization that organizes local youth baseball and softball programs in the United States and internationally. Little League is divided into three components: LLB, the District/District Administration, and the local leagues. LLB is a separate entity and corporation from the local leagues and local league districts. Each local league operates under a charter issued by LLB, and

by accepting a charter, commits to adhere to all Little League Rules and Regulations. *Velte Decl.* ¶ 3. LLB administers the annual Little League tournament play, which culminates in the Little League World Series held in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. *Velte Decl.* ¶ 4.

20. The Little League International Tournament is the pinnacle of youth baseball competition, culminating in the Little League World Series held annually in Williamsport, Pennsylvania in August, where ten teams from the United States and ten teams from other countries contest for the title of the LLWS Champion. The tournament begins at the district level and progresses through state, regional, and ultimately World Series competition. *Velte Decl.* ¶ 4.

21. The Southwest Region Tournament was held in Waco, McLennan County, Texas, during the week of August 4–10, 2026. The tournament featured teams from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and surrounding states competing for the right to advance to the Little League World Series as the Southwest representative.

22. Tulsa National Little League qualified for the Southwest Region Tournament through the Oklahoma State Tournament. A player identified herein as O.G. was on the roster of the Tulsa National Little League tournament team and participated in the International tournament as a player. *Velte Decl.* ¶ 9.

23. O.G.'s eligibility to play for Tulsa National was based on the sibling open-enrollment provision in Little League's rules. Little League's eligibility rules provide, in relevant part, that a player who does not reside within a league's boundaries and does not attend school within those boundaries may participate in that league's program through open enrollment if a sibling of league age seven (7) or younger is an active participant who played the complete season in the league's Challenger Division program. *See Velte Decl.* ¶ 8; Rulebook, p. 49, annexed as Exhibit A to *Velte Decl.*

24. The local leagues are responsible for submitting accurate waivers to the Charter/Rules Committee, also known as the Tournament Committee during the International Tournament season. Any player who does not meet the Residence and School Attendance Eligibility Requirements and does not have unbroken participation within a league from league age 7 under Regulation II(a)(2) “must have an approved waiver issued by the Charter Committee at Little League International.” Under no circumstances does any other person have the authority to grant a waiver allowing a child to play in a league when that child does not qualify under eligibility requirements. *Velte Decl.* ¶ 8; *see also* Rulebook, p. 49.

25. O.G.'s father registered O.G.'s sibling as a 7-year-old in the Challenger Division program. *Velte Decl.* ¶ 9. However, on August 10, 2026, O.G.'s father confirmed directly to Dan Velte, Vice President of Operations and International Tournament Director for Little League Baseball, that the sibling is actually 10 years old, not age 7 as represented in the registration. *Velte Decl.* ¶ 11. This age misrepresentation rightfully disqualifies the sibling from the under-8 open enrollment provision, which in turn renders O.G. ineligible to play for Tulsa National under Little League's rules. *Velte Decl.* ¶ 11. In addition, O.G.'s father admitted that O.G.'s sister never participated in any practice or any game (or any part thereof) thus O.G.'s sister never actively participated in any Tulsa National Little League program or division of play, which is also required under LLB's rules to establish O.G.'s eligibility as a player on the Tulsa National Little League tournament team. *Velte Decl.* ¶ 11. Thus, the underpinning for O.G.'s eligibility is invalid and O.G.'s team is therefore disqualified for having an ineligible player on its roster.

26. Three protests were filed during the Southwest Region Tournament. The first protest was filed before the tournament began by Texas East team; it was reviewed and found to have no basis, and it did not concern O.G. The second protest was filed by the Texas East team on Saturday,

August 9, 2026, and the third protest was filed by the Louisiana team. Both the second and third protests specifically identified O.G. and raised eligibility issues. These protests triggered the Tournament Committee's formal investigation. *Velte Decl.* ¶ 10.

27. On the morning of August 10, 2026, the Tournament Committee met, reviewed the evidence regarding O.G.'s ineligibility, including the father's direct admission to Dan Velte regarding the sibling's true age and absence of active participation, and voted to disqualify the Tulsa National team from the tournament. *Velte Decl.* ¶ 12. Little League's Rulebook provides that if at any point during the tournament a team uses an ineligible player, the entire team is disqualified from the tournament. Specifically, the Rulebook provides that if the facts establishing or verifying the ineligibility of a player are known after the ineligible player participated in a game during the International Tournament, "that team shall be disqualified and removed from the International Tournament. [...] The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final and binding. *Velte Decl.* ¶ 13; Rulebook, pp. 191–192.

28. O.G. participated in the Oklahoma State Tournament, which is part of the Little League International Tournament, while ineligible. Under this rule, the disqualification was mandatory, regardless of whether O.G. participated in any Southwest Region games. *Velte Decl.* ¶ 14.

29. Following the disqualification decision, at approximately 12:30 PM on August 10, the championship game previously scheduled for August 11, 2026 (in which Tulsa National would have played the winner of the day's semifinal) was canceled. *Velte Decl.* ¶ 17(b).

30. At 2:00 PM on August 10, the semifinal game between Texas West (Boerne, Texas, from the San Antonio area) and Louisiana was played. With Tulsa National's disqualification, this game was redesignated as the Southwest Region Championship game. Texas West (Boerne) won and

was declared the Southwest Region Champion. The game was broadcast on ESPN. *Velte Decl.* ¶ 17(c).

31. At 4:50 PM CDT, the Temporary Restraining Order that was signed at 4:15 PM CDT, was served on LLB after the championship game had already concluded, over an hour after the game ended. The tournament concluded when the game ended. A champion was crowned, and the result was broadcast nationally. *Velte Decl.* ¶¶ 17(d), 17(e).

32. Upon receipt of the TRO at 4:50 PM CDT and review by LLB's counsel, LLB promptly contacted Boerne Little League, umpires, volunteers, and ESPN to advise them of the Order and to determine their current status in its best efforts to comply with the Court's Order. *Velte Decl.* ¶ 17(f). LLB was advised that: (i) Texas West (Boerne) Little League's team made pitching, lineup, and other strategic decisions based on the understanding that the August 10 game would be the final game of the Southwest Region Tournament, and four families had already departed Waco, leaving the team without enough players available to field a team; (ii) the winning team had already received its championship briefing and begun preparations for travel to Williamsport, Pennsylvania for the Little League World Series this Friday, August 14, 2026; (iii) ESPN had fulfilled its contractual obligation to televise the Southwest Region Championship game and had already torn down its broadcast equipment and began departing the venue; (iv) many of the tournament volunteers are from out of state and had departed the area; and (v) while the playing field itself is LLB's property and is physically available, and sufficient umpires can likely still be obtained, every other element necessary to conduct a championship-caliber game that complies with Little League's standards is no longer in place and cannot be reassembled through a court order directed solely at LLB. *Velte Decl.* ¶¶ 17(f)(i)–(v).

III. ARGUMENT

A. LEGAL STANDARD FOR DISSOLUTION OF A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

33. Under Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 680, on two days' notice to the party who obtained the TRO, or **on shorter notice as the court prescribes** [emphasis added], the adverse party may appear and move to dissolve or modify the order. The court shall hear such motion "as expeditiously as the ends of justice require." Tex. R. Civ. P. 680.

34. To obtain a TRO, an applicant must demonstrate: (1) a cause of action against the defendant, (2) a probable right to the relief sought, and (3) a probable, imminent, and irreparable injury in the interim. *Butnaru v. Ford Motor Co.*, 84 S.W.3d 198, 204 (Tex. 2002). Failure to establish any one of these elements warrants dissolution.

35. A TRO's purpose is to preserve the status quo, defined as the "last actual, peaceable, non-contested status that preceded the controversy." *Clint Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Marquez*, 487 S.W.3d 538, 555 (Tex. 2016).

B. THE DOCTRINE OF JUDICIAL NON-INTERVENTION MANDATES THAT LLB'S ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION IS ENTITLED TO DEFERENCE

36. Texas courts generally do not interfere with the internal management of voluntary organizations unless the challenged action is illegal, contrary to public policy, arbitrary, or capricious. *Dickey v. Club Corp. of Am.*, 12 S.W.3d 172, 176–77 (Tex. App.—Dallas 2000, pet. denied) ("By becoming a member, a person subjects himself, within legal limits, to the organization's power to make and administer its rules"); *Harden v. Colonial Country Club*, 634 S.W.2d 56, 59–60 (Tex. App.—Fort Worth 1982, writ ref'd n.r.e.) ("We think it is the right of a private, non-profit organization to manage, within legal limits, its own affairs without interference

from the courts”); *see also Burge v. Am. Quarter Horse Ass’n*, 782 S.W.2d 353, 355 (Tex. App.—Amarillo 1990, no writ); *Tex. Thoroughbred Breeders Ass’n v. Donnan*, 202 S.W.3d 213, 224–25 (Tex. App.—Tyler 2006, pet. denied) (explaining the doctrine of judicial noninterference); *Whitmire v. Nat’l Cutting Horse Ass’n*, No. 02-08-00176-CV, 2009 Tex. App. LEXIS 5712, *10-11 (Tex. App.—Fort Worth July 23, 2009, pet. denied) (mem. op.) (“Texas common law severely limits review of a private association’s actions”). That rule reflects a practical and contractual reality: participants in a voluntary association’s events accept, within legal limits, the association’s authority to make, interpret, and administer its own rules. *Harden*, 634 S.W.2d at 59-60; *Burge*, 782 S.W.2d at 355.

37. This principle applies with particular force to private amateur athletic organizations administering tournament competition. Eligibility and forfeiture determinations must often be made under compressed timelines, based on information developed during the tournament, and by the governing body charged with preserving competitive integrity for all participating teams. Texas law does not permit a trial court to displace that internal decision-making merely because an affected team or family disagrees with the outcome. *Dickey*, 12 S.W.3d at 176–77; *Harden*, 634 S.W.2d at 59–60; *Burge*, 782 S.W.2d at 355; *Whitmire*, 2009 Tex. App. LEXIS 5712, *10-11; *Mid-West Electric Cooperative, Inc., et. al. v. West Tex. Chamber of Commerce*, 369 S.W.2d 842, 844 (Tex. Civ. App.-Waco 1963) (stating that “Courts are not to interest themselves in the internal policy of a non-profit organization such as appellee, except to see that it is fairly administered and is not contrary to law” and “[w]hether the policy be wise, be in the best interests of its membership, or be acceptable to the court are not questions justifying the interposition of judicial action.”); *see also Lawrence, et. ux v. Ridgewood Country Club*, 635 S.W.2d 665, 666-667 (Tex. App.-Waco

1982, writ ref'd n.r.e.)(affirming dismissal of claims by a member suspended from a private organization invoking the doctrine of judicial non-intervention).

38. *In re University Interscholastic League* is especially instructive because it involved the same type of emergency tournament dispute: an athletic governing body determined that a baseball team had used an ineligible player, imposed forfeiture consequences, and was then subjected to a trial court order requiring a tournament remedy. *In re University Interscholastic League*, 20 S.W.3d 690, 691 (Tex. 2000) (orig. proceeding). The Texas Supreme Court conditionally granted mandamus and held that the trial court abused its discretion by ordering UIL to conduct a playoff game, holding UIL in contempt, and declaring the winner of an unplayed game. *Id.* at 691–92. The Court also rejected the argument that UIL acted arbitrarily and capriciously by declining to apply a discretionary rule exception because the predicate for that exception was not present in the record. *Id.* at 692. The same governing principle applies here: where tournament rules authorize the eligibility determination and prescribe the consequence for use of an ineligible player, the Court should not substitute its own tournament remedy for the decision of the authorized governing committee.

39. The Texas Supreme Court's broader athletic-governance cases reinforce the same point. In *National Collegiate Athletic Ass'n v. Yeo*, the Court cautioned that courts should not become "super referees" in athletic eligibility disputes and reiterated that judicial intervention in such disputes often does more harm than good. *National Collegiate Athletic Ass'n v. Yeo*, 171 S.W.3d 863, 870 (Tex. 2005). In *Eanes Independent School District v. Logue*, the Court held that judicial interference with a high-school baseball playoff dispute was improper absent a constitutional violation. *Eanes Independent School District v. Logue*, 712 S.W.2d 741, 742 (Tex. 1986). Similarly, in *Spring Branch Independent School District v. Stamos*, the Court rejected a challenge

to an extracurricular eligibility rule on the grounds that “a student's right to participate in extracurricular activities *per se* does *not* rise to the level of a fundamental right under our constitution.” *Spring Branch Independent School District v. Stamos*, 695 S.W.2d 556, 560–61 (Tex. 1985); *see also*, *Wells v. Wells*, 621 S.W.3d 362, 368-69, n.9 (Tex. App.—Houston (14th Dist.) 2021, no pet) (collecting cases discussing the doctrine of judicial non-intervention that involve suits challenging an association's enactment or application of its own internal rules, where courts commonly decline to exercise jurisdiction over internal disputes within voluntary associations.) These cases reflect Texas courts’ consistent reluctance to re-administer athletic eligibility and tournament decisions entrusted to governing bodies.

40. LLB’s Tournament Committee acted within that protected sphere of internal athletic governance. The record before this Court shows that two formal protests (by Texas East and Louisiana) identified O.G.’s eligibility issue; LLB promptly investigated the issue; O.G.’s ineligibility turned on a material age misrepresentation regarding the sibling open-enrollment provision and the fact that the junior sibling never played any part of any practice or game; and LLB’s rules provide that if a team uses an ineligible player at any point during the International Tournament, the team is disqualified. *See, Velte Decl.* ¶ 13; Rulebook at p. 191. Under those facts, the Committee did not act randomly, without reason, or outside the rules. The Committee applied the governing eligibility rules to the facts presented during an ongoing regional tournament. The rule is mandatory, not discretionary.

41. Plaintiffs' argument that O.G. was previously found eligible by the Charter Committee does not save their claim. That prior determination was based on information that turned out to be materially false: specifically, the misrepresentation that O.G.'s sibling was 7 years old when the sibling is actually 10, and the fact that the junior sibling did not play in the current season. For

O.G. to be given an exemption from the out of boundary rule, his sister would have had to be eligible to participate in the league age 7 and would have had to have participated in the 2026 season. The phantom eligibility for O.G.'s sister undermines O.G.'s eligibility. The team's misrepresentation of the reason for O.G.'s withdrawal: claiming it was due to a "falling out between the family and the coach" rather than disclosing the eligibility issue further undermines Plaintiffs' equitable position before this Court. Rather than timely notifying LLB of the issue, O.G.'s father concealed that he misrepresented O.G.'s sibling's age and her lack of participation in the 2026 season. The misrepresentation was not minor - it was a three-year age gap! And, her lack of participation destroyed the basis for O.G. to be considered for the exemption to allow him to be eligible. A determination based on materially false information does not estop LLB from applying its own Rulebook when the truth comes to light.

42. The timing surrounding the disclosure of the ineligibility was directly related to the concealment of the facts that disqualified O.G. The urgency of the Plaintiffs' request was therefore caused by the concealment of the facts, not due to LLB's actions.

43. In addition, the fact that O.G. did not play in the Southwest Region Tournament is irrelevant. The Oklahoma State Tournament is part of the Little League International Tournament. In order to reach the Regional Tournament, Tulsa needed to win the State tournament, in which O.G. participated. By permitting an ineligible player to participate in the qualifying tournament to the Little League International Tournament, Tulsa took the place of a team who followed the rules. While unfortunate, the disqualification of Tulsa due to their failure to adhere to the rules estopped other teams who followed the rules from participating in the Little League International Tournament.

44. The disqualification of Tulsa National does not operate in isolation upon the Championship game alone, it reverberates through every contest played from the opening round of the International Tournament forward. By forfeiting its victories ab initio, Tulsa National's disqualification sets in motion a domino effect of staggering proportion: every team that fell to Tulsa National throughout the Tournament could, under the logic of this Court's Order, seek to replay its entire schedule, unraveling results that have long since been settled on the field. This Court cannot rewrite history, nor should it attempt to do so. Its authority extends to upholding the rules as the Tournament progresses, not to reconstructing a past that has already been played, recorded, and relied upon by every participant in the bracket.

45. Moreover, while Ms. Abbot, the District Administrator who submitted an unsigned declaration supporting the team in response to the protests, claims that the incorrect date of birth and whether the child actively participated in the Challenger division are two separate issues (Plaintiff's Petition, at p. 40 of the electronic document), they are not. LLB's Rulebook makes clear that the qualifying child under the age of 7 must complete the season for the sibling to be eligible for tournament play. While Plaintiffs may disagree with the rule, LLB abides by its published rules and as a voluntary organization is permitted to enforce the penalties of violating such rules.

46. Plaintiffs' procedural objections do not justify overriding the nonintervention doctrine. Texas courts distinguish between a true deprivation of a legally protected civil or property right and ordinary complaints about how a voluntary association applied its internal procedures. *Whitmire*, 2009 Tex. App. LEXIS 5712, *10-11. *See also, Gordon v. S. Tex. Youth Soccer Ass'n*, 623 S.W.3d 25, 31-37 (Tex. App.—Austin 2021, pet. denied) (enforcing a youth soccer association's internal governance structure and exhaustion requirements where the member

bypassed available internal appeal procedures). These cases confirm that courts do not intervene merely because a participant disagrees with the speed, mechanics, or result of an association's internal process, particularly in a tournament setting where time-sensitive eligibility decisions are unavoidable.

47. LLB's determination was not arbitrary or capricious. It was a rule-based eligibility decision made by the body charged with administering the International Tournament, and with the final decision-making authority, made after formal protests raised the issue and after the previously-concealed facts establishing ineligibility came to light. Plaintiffs have not shown a probable right to relief sufficient to overcome Texas's strong rule of judicial nonintervention in voluntary athletic organizations' internal eligibility decisions. The TRO should therefore be dissolved.

C. THE TRO EXCEEDS PERMISSIBLE SCOPE UNDER TEXAS LAW

48. Under Texas law, the TRO may only preserve the status quo, not command affirmative action. The sole purpose of a temporary restraining order is to preserve the status quo: the "last, actual, peaceable, non-contested status which preceded the pending controversy." *In re Newton*, 146 S.W.3d 648, 651 (Tex. 2004). A TRO is an extraordinary remedy and must be strictly limited to maintaining conditions as they existed at the time the order was signed, i.e. the status quo. *In re Spiritas Ranch Enters., L.L.P.*, 218 S.W.3d 887, 895 (Tex. App. 2007); *Thurman v. State*, 67 S.W.2d 382, 384 (Tex. Civ. App. 1933) ("The function of a temporary restraining order is to preserve the status until such time as a hearing may be had on the merits of the suit, and if the effect of such order does more than to preserve the existing condition until such hearing, it is improvidently granted.")

49. Here, the TRO goes well beyond preservation. It affirmatively commands LLB to "recognize Tulsa National's tournament results," "take all actions reasonably necessary to preserve

Tulsa National's ability to compete," and mandates that "Little League shall sanction the Southwest Region championship game at 6:00 p.m. on August 11, 2026 as previously scheduled." However, the tournament was concluded before this Order was entered and served and the necessary persons needed to effectuate the Court's Order (who are not subject to the Order) have departed the area. It is a bedrock principle of equity that a court cannot compel a party to perform an act that has become impossible. In *re Davis*, No. 02-11-00415-CV, 2012 Tex. App. LEXIS 1328, at *18 (Tex. App. Feb. 21, 2012) ("An order of contempt imposing a coercive restraint is void if the condition purging the contempt is "impossible of performance"); *United States v. Rylander*, 460 U.S. 752, 757 (1983) ("Where compliance is impossible, neither the moving party nor the court has any reason to proceed with the civil contempt action.") An injunction must be capable of enforcement; otherwise it is void. The order effectively constitutes a decree of specific performance, requiring LLB to stage a particular, previously cancelled championship game at a specific date and time. This is not restraining conduct: it is compelling specific affirmative performance of a youth athletic tournament.

50. Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 680 authorizes ex parte TROs only to "restrain" a party from acting and only where "immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or damage will result... before notice can be served and a hearing had thereon." Moreover, the Court Order directs LLB to undertake an action that is not solely within its control. To implement the Court's intent would require the cooperation of many third-parties who have not been directed to participate and who have already left the region.

51. Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 680 does not authorize affirmative commands to perform complex logistical acts that are not capable of present performance. The distinction matters: injunctions restrain; decrees of specific performance compel future actions not capable of present

performance. *Canteen Corp. v. Republic of Tex. Props., Inc.*, 773 S.W.2d 398, 401 (Tex. App.—Dallas 1989, no writ). Staging a regional championship baseball tournament requires the presence and cooperation of umpires, tournament officials, opposing team players (as well as their parents and guardians, since the players are minors), coaches, volunteer staff venue operators, and spectators, most of whom are not parties to this lawsuit or bound by this TRO. Most have already left the area and LLB has no control over their conduct. Texas courts have long recognized that a party cannot be held in contempt for failing to comply with a court order when compliance depends on the cooperation of third parties beyond the respondent's control. See *In re Gawerc*, 165 S.W.3d 314, 315 (Tex. 2005) (orig. proceeding) ("Texas law is clear that a petitioner may not be confined for civil contempt unless he or she has the ability but refuses to perform the conditions for release.")

52. More fundamentally, the Court cannot order LLB to compel non-parties to return to the tournament site. The TRO's binding clause reaches only Little League and "persons or entities in active concert or participation with it who receive actual notice." The opposing team's players and parents, ESPN broadcasting personnel and volunteer staff personnel who have already departed are not in "active concert" with LLB in any act the TRO seeks to restrain: they are independent actors whose attendance cannot be commanded by judicial decree directed at a single defendant.

53. What Plaintiffs actually seek is an order requiring, on an immediate basis, LLB to take complex affirmative steps (reconstituting a tournament, marshaling personnel, reopening a venue, and moreover, should the Tulsa team prevail over the Texas team in this forced tournament, there will be two putative Southwest Region champion teams and LLB cannot accommodate an extra team at the Little League World Series due to the absence of additional facilities and impossibility

to fit an extra team in the already completed international tournament lineup). The logistics of staging a tournament typically takes months, and the Court's Order seeks to have this accomplished in hours, an act that is impossible to achieve. Under Texas law, mandatory injunctions are disfavored and require a "clear showing" of entitlement; they are "sparingly granted and closely scrutinized." *Ballenger v. Ballenger*, 668 S.W.2d 467, 469 (Tex. App.—Corpus Christi 1984, no writ) ("it is error for a trial court to grant a temporary injunction, the effect of which would be to accomplish the object of the suit. To do so would be to determine rights without a trial"). No Texas appellate court has endorsed the issuance of a mandatory injunction on an ex parte basis where compliance requires cooperation of absent third parties who have dispersed.

54. Texas courts rarely grant mandatory injunctive relief at the TRO stage, and virtually never on an ex parte basis. Such relief is particularly inappropriate where, as here, compliance requires the cooperation of non-parties (ESPN, volunteer staff from other states, and the winning Texas team's child players and their parents) who are not subject to the Court's order. See Tex. R. Civ. P. 683 (injunctive relief must be specific and describe acts restrained; and is binding only upon the parties to the action, their officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and upon those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise.).

D. COMPLIANCE WITH THE TRO IS PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE

55. The TRO was served on LLB after the championship game had already been played and concluded. The tournament was over. A champion was crowned. The result has been broadcast on ESPN. The status quo the TRO purports to preserve no longer exists. Even if the TRO had been served before the championship game, compliance with Paragraph (h) of the Order, which directs LLB to sanction the August 11 championship game, is factually impossible for the following

reasons: Upon receipt of the TRO and review by LLB's counsel, LLB promptly contacted Boerne Little League, umpires, volunteers, and ESPN to advise them of the Order and to determine their current status in its best efforts to comply with the Court's Order. Velte Decl. ¶ 17(f). LLB was advised of the following: (i) Texas West (Boerne) Little League shared that their team made pitching, lineup, and other strategic decisions based on the understanding that the August 10 game would be the final game of the Southwest Region Tournament. Pitchers who might have been held back for a championship game have already been used. Forcing an additional game at this point would place team Texas West (Boerne) Little League at a significant competitive disadvantage entering the World Series. Additionally, four families have already departed Waco, leaving the team without enough players available to field a team. Boerne Little League is not a party to this lawsuit. Their families have made independent travel arrangements. LLB cannot compel Boerne Little League to return or participate in the August 11 game ordered by the Court to be put back on. Velte Decl. ¶ 17(f)(i).

(ii) The winning Texas West (Boerne) Little League team has already received its championship briefing and begun preparations for travel to Williamsport, Pennsylvania for the Little League World Series. Velte Decl. ¶ 17(f)(ii).

(iii) ESPN, which had a contractual obligation to televise the Southwest Region Championship games, has fulfilled that obligation and has already torn down its broadcast equipment and departed the venue. ESPN is not a party to this lawsuit. LLB cannot compel ESPN to return or resume broadcast coverage. Velte Decl. ¶ 17(f)(iii).

(iv) Many of the tournament volunteers are from out of state. After the championship game on August 10 was over, but before LLB was served with the TRO, the volunteers had been

informed their services were completed. Most of the volunteers have departed the area, having earlier rebooked their flights, and returned to their homes and jobs. They are not LLB employees, not parties to this lawsuit, and cannot be compelled to return. The tournament game cannot be run without sufficient volunteer staff to support the game. Velte Decl. ¶ 17(f)(iv).

56. While the playing field itself is LLB's property and is physically available, and a sufficient number of umpires could possibly be obtained, every other element necessary to conduct a championship-caliber game that complies with LLB's standards—ESPN broadcast coverage, a willing and available opposing team, trained volunteers, and support staff (not to mention the spectators that attend the games)—is no longer in place and cannot be reassembled through a court order directed solely at LLB. Velte Decl. ¶ 17(f)(v).

E. PLAINTIFFS LACK STANDING AND PRIVACY OF CONTRACT TO ASSERT BREACH OF CONTRACT CLAIMS

57. Plaintiffs cannot establish a probable right to relief on any breach-of-contract theory because they have not shown that they are parties to any contract with LLB, assignees of any contractual rights, or intended third-party beneficiaries of any agreement between LLB and Tulsa National Little League or any other local league.

58. Plaintiffs are individual parents suing as next friends of their minor children. They are not the Tulsa National Little League. They have no contractual relationship with LLB. Parents pay nothing to LLB; any fees they pay go to the local league. The relationship between LLB and individual participants is mediated through the local league, which holds a charter from LLB. The

local league, not individual parents or players, is the entity with any contractual or organizational relationship with LLB

59. Under Texas law, “[a] successful breach of contract claim requires proof of the following elements: (1) a valid contract; (2) performance or tendered performance by the plaintiff; (3) breach of the contract by the defendant; and (4) damages sustained by the plaintiff as a result of the breach.” *Petrus v. Criswell*, 248 S.W.3d 471, 477 (Tex. App.—Dallas 2008, no pet.). To establish standing to maintain such a claim, a plaintiff must show privity, assignment, or intended third-party-beneficiary status. *Sharifi v. Steen Auto., LLC*, 370 S.W.3d 126, 141–42 (Tex. App.—Dallas 2012, no pet.); *OAIC Commercial Assets, L.L.C. v. Stonegate Vill., L.P.*, 234 S.W.3d 726, 738 (Tex. App.—Dallas 2007, pet. denied).

60. Plaintiffs cannot make that threshold showing. They do not allege that they hold LLB’s charter, that they executed any charter agreement with LLB, that they are parties to LLB’s tournament-governance documents, or that any contracting party assigned them a claim against LLB. Tulsa National Little League is not a plaintiff in this action. Plaintiffs therefore cannot assert a breach of contract claim based on rights, if any, belonging to a nonparty local league.

61. Plaintiffs cannot avoid the privity requirement merely by invoking third party beneficiary concepts. Texas law begins with the presumption that contracting parties contract only for themselves. *First Bank v. Brumitt*, 519 S.W.3d 95, 102–03 (Tex. 2017). A nonparty may enforce a contract only if the contracting parties intended to secure a benefit to that third party and entered into the contract directly for that third party’s benefit. *Brumitt*, 519 S.W.3d at 102; *S. Tex. Water Auth. v. Lomas*, 223 S.W.3d 304, 306 (Tex. 2007) (per curiam); *MCI Telecomms. Corp. v. Tex. Utils. Elec. Co.*, 995 S.W.2d 647, 651 (Tex. 1999). It is not enough that a third party would benefit

from performance, or even that the contracting parties knew the third party would benefit. *Brumitt*, 519 S.W.3d at 102; *Lomas*, 223 S.W.3d at 306; *MCI*, 995 S.W.2d at 651.

62. Plaintiffs have identified no contract language clearly and unequivocally granting individual parents or players the right to enforce LLB's charter, tournament rules, or internal eligibility procedures against LLB. At most, Plaintiffs hoped to benefit from Tulsa National's continued participation in the Southwest Region Tournament. However, any such benefit was incidental to Tulsa National's participation in Little League's tournament structure. Incidental beneficiaries have no right to sue for breach of contract. *MCI*, 995 S.W.2d at 652; *Tawes v. Barnes*, 340 S.W.3d 419, 425 (Tex. 2011). Rather, if there was any breach of contract, it would have been the Tulsa National Little League's breach by violating the rules of eligibility. Tulsa would not be able to enforce the contract having entered into it with unclean hands. (See, e.g., *Precision Instrument Mfg. Co. v. Auto Maint. Mach. Co.*, 324, U.S. 806, 814 (1945) ("he who comes into equity must come with clean hands") (holding that the defendant "has not displayed that standard of conduct requisite to the maintenance of this suit in equity."))

63. The tournament rules do not create an individual contract right enforceable by every parent or player dissatisfied with an eligibility ruling. Rather, those rules govern tournament administration and bind participating leagues and teams to a uniform competitive framework. Allowing individual parents to transform tournament rules into private contract rights against Little League would undermine the very purpose of the rules: uniform, centralized, and efficient tournament administration.

64. Plaintiffs' own theory confirms the standing defect. Their alleged injury arises from LLB's enforcement of tournament eligibility rules against Tulsa National after the International Tournament Committee determined that the team used an ineligible player. Plaintiffs' claim fails

(and invalidates the essential requirement of an injunction that requires likelihood of success on the merits) since the only entity whose tournament status was affected as an organizational matter was Tulsa National, and Tulsa National is not a plaintiff. Plaintiffs cannot use a breach-of-contract theory to enforce rights they do not hold, based on a contractual or organizational relationship to which they are not parties.

65. As Plaintiffs have not shown that they are parties to, assignees of, or intended third-party beneficiaries of any enforceable contract with LLB, they cannot establish a viable breach-of-contract claim. They therefore cannot establish either a cause of action or a probable right to relief, both of which are required for temporary injunctive relief. *Butnaru v. Ford Motor Co.*, 84 S.W.3d 198, 204 (Tex. 2002). They certainly cannot show likelihood of success on the merits. The TRO should be dissolved for this independent reason alone.

F. THE BALANCE OF EQUITIES WEIGHS HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF DISSOLVING THE TRO

66. The balance of equities strongly favors dissolution of the TRO. In evaluating temporary injunctive relief, Texas courts weigh the potential harm to the applicant if relief is denied against the potential harm to the respondent if relief is granted. Where, as here, compliance with an injunction would impose severe burdens on the respondent, third parties, and the public interest, while the claimed harm stems from the applicant's own conduct, the equities weigh decisively against enforcement.

Harm to Texas West (Boerne)

67. Texas West (Boerne), a team of children from the San Antonio area who followed LLB's rules and won the championship fairly on the field, would suffer significant and irreparable harm if forced to replay a game they have already won. The team has already used its pitchers in reliance on the completed tournament schedule. LLB's pitch-count rules, which are designed to protect

young players' arms from overuse injuries, limit the amount of pitches a particular player can throw over the course of several games. *See*, Rulebook, Regulation VI – Pitchers (d). Texas West, with the understanding that the ineligible team was disqualified, strategically used their pitchers with the understanding that the game was the championship game. The strategy proved successful, and Texas West won. Forcing the team to adapt a new strategy would significantly prejudice a team who adhered to LLB's Rules. Moreover, the players and their families have already made travel plans based on the completed tournament. Forcing a team that played by the rules to defend a championship they legitimately earned against a team disqualified for using an ineligible player would inflict a profound injustice on innocent children who did nothing wrong.

Harm to Little League World Series and Other Tournament Participants

68. The Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, operates on a fixed schedule that cannot accommodate delays. Teams from across the United States and around the world have already made travel arrangements, secured accommodations, and adjusted their players' schedules based on the published World Series dates. The Southwest Region champion must arrive in Williamsport on a specific date to participate in the World Series bracket. Any delay in resolving the Southwest Region championship threatens to cascade through the entire World Series schedule, affecting thousands of children, families, and volunteers (let alone spectators, who may include family members, friends or others) who have no connection to this dispute. The public interest in the orderly administration of one of America's most beloved youth athletic traditions weighs heavily against an injunction that would throw the entire international tournament into disarray.

Impossibility of Compelling Third-Party Participation

69. Even if this Court were inclined to order an additional championship game, compliance would require the voluntary cooperation of numerous non-parties who are not subject to the

Court's jurisdiction or Order: ESPN, which has already dismantled its broadcast infrastructure; volunteer umpires from California and other states who have been released and are departing or who have already departed; venue staff and tournament volunteers who are no longer on duty; and Texas West (Boerne), the winning team, which has no legal obligation to return and replay a game it has already won. Texas courts have consistently recognized that injunctive relief requiring third-party cooperation is inappropriate where that cooperation cannot be compelled. See *Ex Parte Chambers*, 898 S.W.2d 257, 260 (Tex. 1995). An injunction that depends on the voluntary acts of non-parties is unenforceable and should not be entered.

Plaintiffs' Inequitable Conduct

70. Against these substantial harms to LLB, Texas West, the Little League World Series, and innocent third parties, the Court must weigh Plaintiffs' claimed injury: the inability to play in an additional tournament game. But that injury is the direct and foreseeable consequence of their own team's use of an ineligible player, specifically a player whose ineligibility stemmed from a confirmed, material misrepresentation of a sibling's age and participation. The father of the ineligible player admitted to Dan Velte that he registered the sibling as a 7-year-old when the sibling is actually 10 years old, a three-year age discrepancy, and represented that the sibling would be participating which she did not. Under well-established equitable principles, a party seeking injunctive relief must come to court with clean hands. See *Omohundro v. Matthews*, 341 S.W.2d 401, 410 (Tex. 1960). Plaintiffs cannot in equity demand that this Court override LLB's rules to benefit a team that violated those rules through misrepresentations. The equities overwhelmingly favor dissolution.

Public Interest

71. The public interest also weighs against the TRO. LLB is a voluntary youth athletic organization that depends on uniform rule enforcement to maintain competitive integrity. If courts intervene in tournament eligibility disputes, particularly where the underlying disqualification resulted from a confirmed rule violation, it would undermine the ability of amateur athletic organizations to administer their programs. Other teams that follow the rules would lose confidence that violations will be addressed, and the incentive to comply with eligibility requirements would be diminished. It would result in organizational anarchy, and the credibility and integrity of LLB would be forever destroyed.

72. The Texas Supreme Court has also recognized that judicial intervention in athletic governance disputes often creates more problems than it solves. *See NCAA v. Yeo*, 171 S.W.3d 863, 870 (Tex. 2005). The public interest in consistent, rule-based administration of youth athletics strongly supports dissolution of the TRO. That interest is especially strong here, where the TRO would not merely pause a decision, but would require LLB to restructure a completed tournament process affecting non-party teams, families, officials, partners, and the Little League World Series schedule.

CONCLUSION

73. For all of the above reasons, the injunction compelling the disqualified team's reinstatement should be dissolved. The very foundation of civil society rests on the principle that voluntary associations must be free to establish and enforce their own rules without routine judicial interference. Organizations like LLB serve as training grounds for self-governance, teaching participants — adults and children alike — that rules carry meaning and that violations carry consequences. When a court substitutes its own judgment for that of the league on a matter of internal eligibility, it does not protect the interests of the young athletes involved; it teaches them

that the rules of a voluntary community can be circumvented through litigation, eroding the very lessons in accountability and sportsmanship that youth athletics exist to impart.

74. The integrity of the sport depends on the uniform and impartial application of eligibility rules to all participants. Permitting one team to compete despite a confirmed eligibility violation — simply because it obtained a court order — would create a destructive precedent. It would signal to every team, league, and participant that the rules are negotiable and that judicial intervention is an available alternative to compliance. The resulting erosion of trust and fairness would undermine the social capital that youth sports leagues generate: the shared confidence that every team is playing by the same rules and that the outcomes on the field reflect genuine merit.

75. Moreover, sustaining the injunction would concentrate authority over private associational governance in the judiciary, weakening the distributed power structure that is civil society's essential protection against both anarchy and tyranny. If leagues cannot enforce their own eligibility rules without the threat of judicial override, they cease to function as independent, self-governing institutions.

76. The injunction should be dissolved. The league's disqualification decision should be respected as a legitimate exercise of private associational self-governance. And the integrity of the sport — which depends on the faithful, even-handed enforcement of its rules — should be upheld for the benefit of every team and every young athlete who played by those rules and earned their place in competition.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Defendant Little League Baseball, Incorporated respectfully prays that this Court:

- a. Set this matter for an emergency hearing at the earliest possible time, on shortened notice if necessary;
- b. Dissolve the Temporary Restraining Order entered on August 10, 2026;
- c. Deny Plaintiffs' request for a temporary injunction;
- d. Award Defendant its costs of court and attorney's fees; and
- e. Grant such other and further relief to which Defendant may be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Shasta Oribhabor

Shasta Oribhabor

State Bar No. 24089065

Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP

Santander Tower, 1601 Elm Street, Suite 2600

Dallas, TX 75201

Phone: 214.698.8031 (Direct)

Cell: 858.436.6118

Fax: 214.698.1101

Email: shasta.oribhabor@wilsonelser.com

**ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT LITTLE
LEAGUE BASEBALL, INCORPORATED.**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been served on all counsel of record via electronic filing and/or email on this 11th day of August, 2026.

/s/ Shasta Oribhabor

Shasta Oribhabor

VERIFICATION

I, Shasta Oribhabor, attorney of record for Defendant Little League Baseball, Incorporated, do hereby verify that I have read the foregoing motion and that the factual statements contained therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, based on the information provided by my client and its representatives.

/s/ Shasta Oribhabor

Shasta Oribhabor

CAUSE NO. 2026-2197-5

TIFFANY DOTSON and MATT	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
DOTSON,	§	
as Next Friends of C.D. and M.D.;	§	
WILLIAM WORTHAM and JULIE	§	
WORTHAM,	§	
as Next Friends of J.W.;	§	
DEE BROCK, as Next Friend of B.B.;	§	
SHANE TURLEY and MACEY TURLEY,	§	
as Next Friends of K.T.;	§	414 th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
NATALIE WOODY and RYAN WOODY,	§	
as Next Friends of L.W.;	§	
TAYLOR KERBY and KEVIN KERBY,	§	
as Next Friends of L.K.;	§	
JAMES ROMINE and PAIGE ROMINE,	§	
as Next Friends of R.R.;	§	
JOSH MOORE and HILLARY MOORE,	§	
as Next Friends of K.M.;	§	
ADAM SCHREINER and JENNIFER	§	MC CLENNAN COUNTY, TEXAS.
SCHREINER,	§	
as Next Friends of G.S.;	§	
TREVOR LEU and LEEAN LEU,	§	
as Next Friends of B.L.;	§	
COLE KEIM, as Next Friend of R.K.; and	§	
EMILY SUMMERS, as Next Friend of	§	
G.S.,	§	
<i>Plaintiffs,</i>	§	
v.	§	
LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL,	§	
INCORPORATED	§	
<i>Defendant.</i>	§	

DECLARATION OF DAN VELTE IN SUPPORT OF
DEFENDANT'S EMERGENCY MOTION TO DISSOLVE
TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

I, Daniel Velte, hereby declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code 132.001(a) that the following is true and correct:

1. My name is Daniel Velte, and I am an employee of Little League Baseball, Incorporated ("LLB"). I serve as the Vice President of Operations, International Tournament Director and the Chairman of the Charter/Rules Committee. The Charter/Rules Committee is also

known as the Tournament Committee during Little League's tournament season. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this Declaration, and I am competent to testify to the same. I am executing this declaration as part of my assigned duties and responsibilities. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

2. In my capacity as Vice President of Operations and International Tournament Director, I am responsible for overseeing the administration and operations of LLB's International Tournament, which includes the various regional tournaments leading to the Little League World Series.

Structure of the Little League Program and Governing Rules

3. LLB is a federally chartered 501(c)(3) nonprofit voluntary organization that organizes local youth baseball and softball programs in the United States and internationally. Little League is divided into three components: LLB, the District/District Administration, and the local leagues. LLB is a separate entity and corporation from the local leagues and local league districts, which may be incorporated or unincorporated associations. Each local league operates under a charter issued by LLB, and by accepting a charter, commits to adhere to all Little League Rules and Regulations.

4. The Little League International Tournament is the pinnacle of youth baseball competition, culminating in the Little League World Series held annually in Williamsport, Pennsylvania in August, where ten teams from the United States and ten teams from other countries contest for the title of the LLWS Champion. The tournament begins at the district level and progresses through state, regional, and ultimately World Series competition.

5. Running the Little League World Series is a significant feat of coordination, with fields, dormitories, and logistics planned months in advance, and adding another team to the World Series at the last moment is simply not possible.

6. Tournament play is governed by the Little League Baseball Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Operating Policies (the "Rulebook"), which is updated each year. A true and correct copy of the Rulebook for the year 2026 is annexed hereto as **Exhibit "A"**.

7. Once the tournament season starts, authority is vested in the Tournament Committee (Rulebook at pp. 175-176), and the tournament must proceed without interruption so that thousands of teams can be reduced to regional representatives and World Series participants within the limited time available.

8. Little League's eligibility rules provide, in relevant part, that a player who does not reside within a league's boundaries and does not attend school within those boundaries may participate in that league's program through open enrollment if a sibling of league age seven (7) or younger is an active participant who played the complete season in the league's Challenger Division program. *See* Rulebook, p. 49. Note 2 to this regulation clarifies: "A player may only qualify based on a sibling who initially gained eligibility under Regulation II(a)(1) if that sibling is an active participant in the league for the current season." *Id.* Any player who does not meet the Residence and School Attendance Eligibility Requirements and does not have unbroken participation within a league from league age 7 under Regulation II(a)(2) "must have an approved waiver issued by the Charter Committee at Little League International." *Id.* Under no circumstances does any other person have the authority to grant a waiver allowing a child to play in a league when that child does not qualify under the eligibility requirements.

Factual Background Underlying the Disqualification of the Tulsa National Team

9. A player identified herein as O.G. was on the roster of the Tulsa National Little League tournament team and participated as a player in the Little League Baseball International Tournament. A true and correct copy of the Tulsa National LL Tournament Team Eligibility Affidavit is attached as **Exhibit “B”**. O.G.'s eligibility to play for Tulsa National was based on the sibling open-enrollment provision described above. O.G.'s father registered O.G.'s sibling as a 7-year-old in the Challenger Division program. Tulsa National Little League was provided with a letter from the International Charter Committee acknowledging that O.G. was eligible based on the league's confirmation that the league choice sibling was registered and was an active participant within the league for the entire 2026 season. A true and correct copy of the letter from the International Charter Committee is attached as **Exhibit “C”**.

10. Three protests were filed during the Southwest Region Tournament. The first protest was filed before the tournament began by Texas East team; it was reviewed and found to have no basis, and it did not concern O.G. The second protest was filed by Texas East team on Saturday, August 9, 2026, and the third protest was filed by Louisiana team. Both the second and third protests specifically identified O.G. and raised eligibility issues. These protests triggered the Tournament Committee's formal investigation.

11. O.G.'s father confirmed to me directly on the evening of August 9, 2026 that the sibling is actually 10 years old, not age 7 as represented in the registration. This age misrepresentation disqualifies the sibling from the under-8 open enrollment provision, which in turn renders O.G. ineligible to play for Tulsa National under Little League's rules. In addition, O.G.'s father admitted that O.G.'s sister never participated in any practice or any game (or any part thereof) thus O.G.'s sister never actively participated in any Tulsa National Little League program or division of play, which is also required under LLB's rules to establish O.G.'s eligibility as a player on the Tulsa National Little League Tournament Team.

12. On the morning of August 10, 2026, the Tournament Committee met, reviewed the evidence regarding O.G.'s ineligibility, including the father's direct admission to me regarding the sibling's true age and absence of active participation, and voted to disqualify the Tulsa National team from the tournament.

13. The Rulebook provides that if at any point during the tournament a team uses an ineligible player, the entire team is disqualified from the tournament. Specifically, the Rulebook provides:

If the facts establishing or verifying the ineligibility of a player are known to the 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 [...]** The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final and binding.

[emphasis added]. Rulebook, at page 191-192.

14. O.G. participated in the Oklahoma State Tournament, which is part of the Little League International Tournament, while ineligible. Under this rule, disqualification was mandatory, regardless of whether O.G. participated in any Southwest Region games.

15. Little League's tournament protocols do not require the Tournament Committee to provide protest documents to the District Administrator. Rather, if the District Administrator is aware of the protest, they must escalate the issue to the Tournament Committee, which is the final decision-making body for tournament eligibility and disqualification matters. *See id.*

16. When the Tulsa National team arrived at the Southwest Region Tournament without O.G. on its roster, despite O.G. being listed in the team's original documentation, I inquired as to why O.G. was not included. The team representatives initially stated that there had been a disagreement among parents and coaches regarding playing time and that O.G.'s family had a "falling out" with the coaching staff. They did not disclose the true reason: the underlying eligibility issue. This misrepresentation is relevant because it demonstrates that those associated with the team were aware of the eligibility problem and chose to conceal it.

17. I set forth below the timeline of events on August 10, 2026, and the current status of the tournament:

a. On the morning of August 10, 2026, the Tournament Committee voted to disqualify Tulsa National. A true and correct copy of the email sent to Tulsa National Little notifying of the Tournament Committee decision is attached hereto as **Exhibit "D"**.

b. At approximately 12:30 PM CDT on August 10, the championship game previously scheduled for August 11, 2026 (in which Tulsa National would have played the winner of the day's semifinal) was canceled.

c. At 2:00 PM CDT on August 10, the semifinal game between Texas West (Boerne, Texas, from the San Antonio area) and Louisiana was played. With Tulsa National's disqualification, this game was redesignated as the Southwest Region Championship game. Texas West (Boerne) won and was declared the Southwest Region Champion. The game was broadcast on ESPN.

d. At 4:50 pm CDT, the Temporary Restraining Order was served on LLB after the championship game had already concluded, over an hour after the game ended.

e. The tournament concluded when the game ended. A champion has been crowned, and the result has been broadcast nationally.

f. Upon receipt of the TRO at 4:50 p.m. CDT and review by LLB's counsel, LLB promptly contacted Boerne Little League, umpires, volunteers, and ESPN to advise them of the order and to determine their current status in its best efforts to comply with the Court's order. LLB was advised as follows:

- i. Texas West (Boerne) Little League shared that their team made pitching, lineup, and other strategic decisions today based on the understanding that today's game would be the final game of the Southwest Region Tournament. Pitchers who might have been held back for a championship game have already been used. Forcing an additional game at this point would place both team Texas West (Boerne) Little League at a significant competitive disadvantage entering the World Series. Additionally, four families had already departed from Waco, leaving the team without enough players available to field a team. Boerne Little League is not a party to this lawsuit. Their families have made independent travel arrangements. LLB cannot compel Boerne Little Leagues to return or participate in the August 11 game ordered by the Court to be put back on.
- ii. The winning Texas West (Boerne) Little League team had already received its championship briefing and begun preparations for travel to Williamsport, Pennsylvania for the Little League World Series.

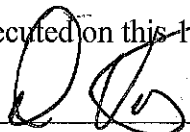
- iii. ESPN, which had a contractual obligation to televise the Southwest Region Championship game, had fulfilled that obligation and had already torn down its broadcast equipment and began departing the venue. ESPN is not a party to this lawsuit. LLB cannot compel ESPN to return or resume broadcast coverage.
- iv. Many of the tournament volunteers are from out of state. After the championship game on August 10 was over, but before LLB was served with the TRO, they had been informed their services were no longer needed. Most have departed the area, having earlier rebooked their flights, and returned to their homes and jobs. They are not Little League employees, not parties to this lawsuit, and cannot be compelled to return. The tournament game cannot be run without sufficient volunteer staff to support the game.
- v. While the playing field itself is LLB's property and is physically available, and sufficient number of umpires can likely still be obtained, every other element necessary to conduct a championship-caliber game that complies with Little League's standards, ESPN broadcast coverage, a willing and available opposing team, trained volunteers, and support staff, is no longer in place and cannot be reassembled through a court order directed solely at LLB.

18. The Southwest Region champion must arrive in Williamsport, Pennsylvania by Friday, August 15, 2026, for the Little League World Series, which begins on August 19. There are only 20 dormitories at the World Series complex, one for each qualifying team from around the world. A 21st team cannot be accommodated. Equipment distribution, orientation, and preparation for each team take several days. Any delay or uncertainty in the identity of the Southwest Region champion disrupts these logistics and prejudices the World Series as a whole. Thus, to the extent this Court set the hearing on the injunction sought by plaintiffs for August 24th, it is physically impossible for LLB to accommodate two putative Southwest Region champions and a 21st team at the Little League World Series dormitories, or to schedule games for the 21st team.

19. With respect to the prior eligibility determination referenced in Plaintiffs' petition: While Little League's Charter Committee did initially determine O.G. eligible, that determination was based on the registration information that represented O.G.'s sibling as 7 years old and an active participant in the Tulsa National Little League Challenger division. The father's subsequent admission that the sibling is actually 10 years old and did not actively participate constitutes new information that materially alters the eligibility analysis. A determination based on false information does not prevent Little League from correcting the determination when the true facts are established.

20. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on this 11th day of August 2026.



Dan Velte
Vice President of Operations and
International Tournament Director
Little League Baseball, Incorporated

EXHIBIT A

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Significant Updates for 2026

2026 SIGNIFICANT UPDATES

(Note: Unless noted otherwise, these apply to all baseball divisions.)

REGULATIONS

Regulation IV(i) – Note 5 – Mandatory Play: Clarifies that during tournament play and anytime the continuous batting order is used, a courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher and/or catcher of record before that pitcher and/or catcher of record completes the requirements of mandatory play.

In addition to the above clarification, the following regulations also have minor edits and clarifications as noted in Little League’s *Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Operating Policies*:

- Regulation I – The League (c)(5)
 - Regulation V – Selection of Players (b)
 - Regulation IX – Special Game (4)
 - Regulation XIII – Commercialization (b)
-

RULES

Rule 1.10 – Note 2 – Use of Pine Tar: Permits the use of pine tar or any other similar adhesive substance at all levels of Little League Baseball and Softball.

Rule 1.10 – A.R. 2 – Products to Assist the Batter: Updates wording to permit the use of thumb protectors and clarifies that products such as, but not limited to, choke-knobs and choke-up assists are not permitted.

Rule 1.11(a)(3) – Sleeves Worn by the Pitcher: Removed the “neoprene” sleeve distinction in the rule to now include all sleeves.

Significant Updates for 2026

Rule 3.04, 7.14(b), T-3(d) – Courtesy Runner: Clarifies the placement of runners when a team courtesy runs for the pitcher and/or catcher of record with 2 outs at the same time.

Rule 3.17 – Malfunctioning One-Way Communication Device: Clarifies that a reasonable amount of time must be provided to a team to correct a malfunctioning one-way communication device.

Rule 4.40 – Note 2 – When a Player is Injured, Becomes Ill, or Must Leave the Game Site: Provides guidance for situations when a player is unable to complete a plate appearance or run after reaching base safely due to injury, illness, or ejection while using the continuous batting order during the regular season.

Rule 4.18 – Forfeited Games: Removed the requirement for the scorebook to be signed by the Umpire-in-Chief for forfeited games.

Rule 6.06(d) – Illegal Bats: Reworded to provide consistency with Tournament Rule 3(b).

Rule 7.15(g) – Procedures for Use of a Double First Base: Clarifies that on an uncaught third strike, the fielder and the runner can use either part of the base.

Rule 8.06(b) Note – Visits to the Pitcher and Returning as Pitcher (INT/JL/SL): Clarifies that in the Intermediate (50/70), Junior League, and Senior League Divisions, the number of visits remaining does not prevent a pitcher once removed from the mound as pitcher from returning as pitcher.

TOURNAMENT

Tournament Rule 3(b) – Illegal Bats: Reworded to provide consistency with Rule 6.06(d).

In addition to the above clarification, the following Tournament Rules also have minor edits and clarifications as noted in Little League’s Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Operating Policies:

- Tournament Organization – Tournament Eligibility Affidavit
- Tournament Organization – Player Eligibility
- Guidelines for Conduct of Tournament: Expense

Organizational Structure

Organizational Structure

LITTLE LEAGUE® BASEBALL Incorporated
P.O. Box 3485, Williamsport, PA 17701 – (570) 326-1921

Board of Directors

Steven P. Johnson, <i>Chairman</i>	Martin Hoover
Jon Litner, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	Timothy Hughes
Vojtech Albrecht	Loni N. Kline
John Berardi	Derek Lisby
Pete Cacheiro	Dr. Daniel Lueders
Charlie Clines	Kristian Palvia
Jim Dean	Tony Reagins
Travis Ellis	JoJo Rinebold
Urny Floran	Roy Romaya
Robert Gauntt	Pam Stanley
Davie Jane Gilmour, Ph.D.	Hugh E. Tanner
Dr. Kensa Gunter	Patrick W. Wilson

Officers

- Steven P. Johnson, *Chairman*
- Jon Litner, *Vice Chairman*
- Davie Jane Gilmour, Ph.D., *Treasurer*
- Hugh E. Tanner, *Secretary*
- Patrick W. Wilson, *President and Chief Executive Officer*

Organizational Structure

Charter / Rules Committee

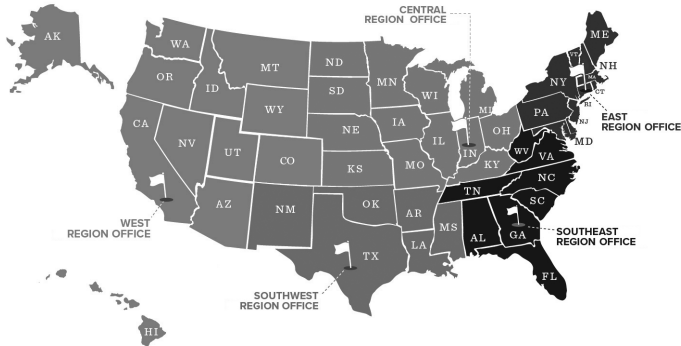
Daniel Velte, <i>Chairman</i>	Samuel Ranck
Nicholas L. Caringi	Brent Stahlnecker
Demiko Ervin	Corey Wright
Stu Hartenstein	Patrick W. Wilson
Ashlea Nash-Miller	

Region Offices

Region Offices

Little League Region Offices are fully staffed year-round to provide assistance and direction to Little League volunteers. All general questions, written suggestions for improving this Rulebook, tournament inquiries, and rule interpretation requests.

UNITED STATES REGION OFFICES



EAST REGION OFFICE

335 Mix Street, Bristol, CT 06011-2926

Phone: (860) 585-4730

E-mail: EastRegion@LittleLeague.org

CENTRAL REGION OFFICE

7185 S Indianapolis Road, Whitestown, IN 46075

Phone: (317) 897-6127 | Fax: (317) 897-6158

E-mail: CentralRegion@LittleLeague.org

SOUTHEAST REGION OFFICE

P.O. Box 7557, Warner Robins, GA 31095

Phone: (478) 987-7227 | Fax: (478) 987-7232

E-mail: SoutheastRegion@LittleLeague.org

SOUTHWEST REGION OFFICE

3700 S. University Parks Drive, Waco, TX 76706

Phone: (254) 756-1816 | Fax: (254) 757-0519

E-mail: SouthwestRegion@LittleLeague.org

Region Offices

WEST REGION OFFICE

6707 Little League Drive, San Bernardino, CA 92407

Phone: (909) 887-6444 | Fax: (909) 887-6135

E-mail: WestRegion@LittleLeague.org

INTERNATIONAL REGION OFFICES



CANADA REGION OFFICE

#500-2210 Prince of Wales Drive | Ottawa, Ontario Canada K2E 6Z9

Phone: (613) 731-3301 | Fax: (613) 731-2829

E-mail: Canada@LittleLeague.org

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGION OFFICE

P.O. Box 10237 | Caparra Heights Puerto Rico 00922-0237

Phone: (787) 982-3076 | Fax: (787) 728-8164

E-mail: LatinAmerica@LittleLeague.org

EUROPE AND AFRICA REGION OFFICE

Little League Europe | Al. Malej Ligi 1 Kutno, 99-300, Poland

Phone: 011-48-24-254-4569

E-mail: Europe@LittleLeague.org

ASIA-PACIFIC REGION OFFICE

c/o Asia-Pacific Little League | Room 501, Yale Building | 21 Yangjaecheon-Ro 19-Gil, Seocho-Gu, Seoul, Korea

Phone: 82-2-575-7101 | Fax: 82-2-575-7106

E-mail: mkim@mkna.co.kr

Organizational Identity

Born in Williamsport in 1939 and alive all over the world, Little League International is committed to its purpose, vision, mission, and values, in our 6,500 communities around the world, supporting approximately 2 million children and 1 million adult volunteers.

Little League is driven by our purpose to positively impact youth and communities with the vision as the world's preeminent and most respected youth sports organization, we will inspire and shape future generations.

Our mission is that Little League believes in the power of youth baseball and softball to teach life lessons that build stronger individuals and communities. To embrace this mission, Little League's core organizational values are:

Teamwork: We believe teamwork is the shared efforts of individuals, characterized by trust, commitment, and communication in pursuit of common goals.

Community: We are committed to the development and growth of community within Little League.

Inclusion: We prioritize inclusion as the intentional part of our culture, which is created when we provide equitable opportunities, access, and respect for individual differences and perspectives.

Fun: We cultivate fun by creating an environment characterized by enjoyable, memorable, and safe experiences, which result in a sense of belonging and individual growth.

Integrity: We act with respect, honesty, and integrity in all that we do.

For more information on Little League's organizational identity and resources, visit LittleLeague.org/WhoWeAre.

Structure, Administration, and Federal Charter

Little League has three structural components, each dependent upon the other and each vital to the success of the program.

The administrative and service core of the movement is Little League International, a non-profit membership organization that maintains the international program, with headquarters in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Part of the headquarters structure includes various Region Headquarters in the U.S. and throughout the world.

Little League affairs are administered by the Little League International Board of Directors. Policies, operating procedures, and controls of the program are carried out by Little League International staff, under the direction of the President and the Executive Committee.

The next component of our program is the District. All the leagues within a District (a geographical area usually encompassing 10-20 leagues) elect a District Administrator (D.A.). The D.A. and their staff of Assistant District Administrators serve as liaisons between the various Region Headquarters and the local Little Leagues. They are usually the most experienced Little League volunteers in the area and are charged with helping to ensure that all the volunteers in their districts are well trained, and all the leagues are operating within the guidelines set by Little League. The District Administrator does not have the authority to suspend, limit, or revoke any rules, regulations, or privileges of charter by a local Little League, but may recommend such action to the Charter Committee in Williamsport.

The final, most important component is the local Little League program. The league provides its services in the community. It furnishes physical facilities, volunteer services, and resources to provide a program for children. Through effective leadership and strong administrative policy at the top level, together with training extensions and adherence to rule and policy at District and local league level, Little League is able to positively impact youth and communities.

The local league operates under a charter granted annually by Little League. The league is autonomous in the sense of having freedom to elect its own officers, finance its program, and carry on various other related functions, but it must adhere scrupulously to all rules and regulations established by Little League.

The charter privilege extends use of the name “Little League” and its official insignia to the local Little League. It can be suspended or revoked for violation of rules or regulations by action of the Charter Committee. Little League operates under auspices of

Structure, Administration, and Federal Charter

the highest recognition that may be accorded to any such organization by the government of the United States. By virtue of legislation approved unanimously by both the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on July 16, 1964, Little League has been granted a Congressional Charter of Federal Incorporation. No other youth sports organization has been so honored by the Federal government.

Player Eligibility and Amateur Status

The player must qualify under Little League's definition of residence or school attendance as described within this rulebook, must be of the correct "league age" for the division, and must have parental consent. Little League offers baseball and softball programs for players league age 4 through 16. Local Little Leagues are encouraged to provide all programs, thus giving all the children in the area a chance to play Little League Baseball or Softball. League age is defined in Regulation IV(a).

To be eligible in the Little League Baseball or Softball program, a participant must be an amateur in baseball or softball respectively. This requirement serves to increase interest and competitive balance in Little League Baseball and Softball. An amateur participant is one who engages in the Little League Baseball or Softball program solely for the educational, physical, mental, social, and recreational benefits derived thereof. The amateur status requirement enhances Little League's goals and values of character development, wholesome community participation, teamwork, sportsmanship, and fair play and, also, protects Little League athletes from being disqualified from high school and collegiate athletics.

NOTE: Loss of Amateur Status: A participant loses amateur status and therefore, the right to participate in the Little League program whenever:

1. The participant, or the participant's parent(s) or guardian(s), receives compensation, in trust or otherwise, for or related to the participant's athletic ability, participation, or performance in Little League baseball or softball.
2. The participant plays on a professional team in baseball or softball.
3. The participant, or participant's parent(s)/legal guardian on their behalf, signs a contract whereby the participant agrees to compete in any baseball or softball competition for compensation. It is not a violation to attend or participate in a professional try-out camp, provided that (1) no compensation or expenses are paid; (2) the try-out lasts no longer than forty-eight hours; and (3) if in the sport of baseball, the participation is otherwise in conformity with the National Federation Major – Minor League Agreement.

Divisions of Play

Little League provides organized youth sports programs for a wide range of ages. Charter fees are extremely reasonable, with Rulebooks and organizational materials provided free or a nominal fee.

Tee Ball Baseball and Tee Ball Softball programs are for players 4-6 years old (with an option for 7-year-olds) who want to learn the fundamentals of hitting and fielding. In Tee Ball, players hit a ball off a batting tee. Rules of the game may be varied to accommodate the need for teaching. The primary goals of Tee Ball are to have fun, to instruct children in the fundamentals of baseball and softball, and to allow them to experience the value of teamwork.

Minor League Baseball and Minor League Softball programs may be operated within each division for younger players with less experience. The Minor League may be players ages 7-12 (Leagues may allow league age 5- and 6-year-olds with one year of Tee Ball experience to register for a Coach Pitch or Machine Pitch Minor Division). Divisions may be established within the Minor League for “Machine Pitch,” “Coach Pitch,” or “Player Pitch.” The goal of the Minor League is to prepare children for eventual selection to a Major Division team, and local leagues are encouraged to structure this division to provide flexibility, develop players, and, most importantly, have fun. Additional Coach Pitch resources, including a 12-week program for Coach Pitch baseball, are available at LittleLeagueUniversity.org. Little League International requests leagues identify Coach Pitch/Machine Pitch and Player Pitch teams during the chartering process to help provide more details about these important levels of play in the Little League program.

Little League Baseball and Little League Softball (also known as the Major Division) are for players 9 to 12 years old. A league may choose to limit its Major Division to 10, 11, and 12-year-olds, or 11- and 12-year-olds. The 8- to 10- and 9- to 11-Year-Old Baseball and Softball Divisions were established as tournament programs to give children the opportunity to experience Tournament Play, up to State level. Leagues may also enter Tournament Play for 10- to 12-year-olds in the Little League Baseball and Little League Softball Divisions, each ending in World Series tournaments.

Little League Intermediate (50-70) Baseball Division is for players 11 to 13 years old. The program is a transitional program for 11- to 13-year-olds using 50-foot pitching distance and 70-foot base paths and offers a full range of tournament play, including a World Series.

Junior League Baseball and Junior League Softball are established as transitional programs for 12- to 14-year-olds (the local league may allow 15-year-olds to participate in

Divisions of Play

the Junior League Division for the regular season only if the player's skill level is assessed appropriate for that division. A local league Board may prohibit the 15-year-olds from pitching in the Junior Division). The programs link the Little League and Senior League divisions and offer a full range of Tournament Play, including World Series tournaments.

Senior League Baseball and Senior League Softball are for players 13 to 16 years old (the local league may allow 12-year-olds to participate in or dual roster in the Senior League Division. Players must be assessed by the league as capable of participation at that level). Both divisions offer a full range of Tournament Play, including a World Series.

Little League Challenger Division is for players ages 4-18 with physical and/or intellectual disabilities. It incorporates other children in the league as "buddies" for the Challenger players.

Senior League Challenger Division is for players 15 years old and above with physical and/or intellectual disabilities. It incorporates other participants or volunteers in the league as "buddies" for the Challenger players.

Volunteer Eligibility

As a condition of service to the league, all managers, coaches, Board of Directors members and any other persons, volunteers or hired workers, who provide regular service to the league and/or have repetitive access to, or contact with players or teams, must, pursuant to the Little League Child Protection Program (LittleLeague.org/ChildProtection), annually complete the following:

1. Submit a “Little League Official Volunteer Application” to the local league president.
2. Complete an annual background screening through the required J.D. Palatine (JDP) process.
3. Complete the Little League Abuse Awareness Training annually.

In order to be eligible to serve as a volunteer for any league, the above requirements must be completed prior to the applicant assuming his/her duties for the current season. See Regulation I(C)8-13. Failure of a volunteer to complete any of the above requirements must result in the immediate dismissal of the individual from the local league.

Frequently Asked Questions

Here are some answers to the most common questions we receive at Little League International each year.

Q: Can a local Little League or District program set-up a website in which any of the trademarks of Little League are used?

A: Local leagues and Districts are permitted to host websites that assist with communicating information about their activities in the local community. The local league name, affiliation with Little League, registration, facilities locations, board members, and other information for parents and volunteers should be clearly stated on the website.

Any league or district that wishes to host a website, which includes Little League Trademarks in any fashion, must submit its league website address (www.) or URL (Universal Resource Locator) into the Little League Data Center (LittleLeague.org/DataCenter) annually. This can be found under the “Review League Information” menu on the Little League Data Center. The web address or URL should be a combination of a league or district’s name in conjunction with the words “Little League” or “LL.” An example of how a URL should appear: www.HometownLittleLeague.org or www.StateDistrictLittleLeague.org. Should a league elect not to re-charter or change its affiliation, the league is responsible for transferring any domain name containing Little League trademarks to Little League International at the local league’s expense.

Use of the Little League Trademarks, logos, and links to LittleLeague.org are permitted on websites operated by local leagues or districts, however, permission must be granted in advance by contacting Marketing@LittleLeague.org. Leagues using Sports Connect for local league websites do not need to seek such permission. Under no circumstances may a league, district, or person register a website using the words Little League in a website address for any other purpose other than to represent their local league or district. This includes websites or apps set-up for the purposes of raising funds such as crowdfunding or fundraising websites, as well as social media networks. If teams within local leagues also host websites or app, they are required to follow these guidelines and the guidelines for use of Little League Trademarks. At this time, team URLs are not required to be submitted to Little League International however leagues are responsible for educating the operators of team websites, apps, and/or social media accounts on Little League guidelines and trademark use. Leagues and teams should not use any commercial entity in their league URL. It is strongly encouraged that local league board

Frequently Asked Questions

members monitor the websites of its associated teams to ensure appropriate content is being provided.

Leagues are also encouraged to secure form release waivers and model releases as part of the player and volunteer registration process. This allows leagues to monitor the use and display of photographs and the distribution of video, including streaming of games, of players participating in league activities with the appropriate approval provided by their parent or guardian(s). A sample form release for leagues to customize can be found at LittleLeague.org/ModelRelease.

Little League reserves the right to review any league or district website that uses Little League trademarks and logos to ensure appropriate permissions from those individuals is granted. Little League reserves the right to require a league or district to remove content on its websites, including social media sites, at any time, if content is deemed inappropriate.

Local leagues or districts are encouraged to establish a website using preferred technology partners of Little League districts and local leagues. Information is available at LittleLeague.org/Technology. Additional information can be found in the section title: Websites on LittleLeague.org.

Q: If a manager, coach, or umpire is returning from previous years, do they automatically get the same position in the next year?

A: Volunteers in the local Little League program DO NOT HAVE TENURE, regardless of the years of service. In order to serve, a manager, coach, or umpire must be appointed by the league president and approved by the local league Board of Directors annually. Prior service does NOT guarantee re-appointment.

Q: Can a local Little League waive its rights to a player who qualifies within its boundaries, allowing that player to participate in another Little League program?

A: A local Little League does not have the authority to waive such rights. ONLY THE CHARTER COMMITTEE IN WILLIAMSPORT HAS THIS AUTHORITY. (See “CHARTER COMMITTEE/WAIVERS OF RULES AND REGULATIONS” in the previous section). If the Charter Committee votes to grant a waiver, the District Administrator will be informed in writing. Waivers, if granted, are for the current season only. All non-player eligibility waivers, if granted, are for the current season only. All player eligibility waivers, if granted, will be for regular season only and will not allow for tournament eligibility in the current season unless specifically noted in the response.

Q: Can a child who does not qualify within a league’s boundaries play in that league

Frequently Asked Questions

for the regular season only, provided he/she is not eligible for Tournament Play (all stars)?

A: No. However, the local league may request a waiver, listing all circumstances that warrant such a waiver. Only the Charter Committee in Williamsport can make the final decision. (See “CHARTER COMMITTEE/WAIVERS OF RULES AND REGULATIONS” in the previous section). If the Charter Committee votes to grant a waiver, the District Administrator will be informed in writing. Waivers, if granted, are for the current season only. All non-player eligibility waivers, if granted, are for the current season only. All player eligibility waivers, if granted, will be for regular season only and will not allow for tournament eligibility in the current season unless specifically noted in the response.

Q: If a parent signs a notarized statement granting temporary custody of a child to a friend or other family member, can that friend or family member’s residence be used for registering a child to play in Little League?

A: The ONLY acceptable documentation regarding a change of custody is COURT-ORDERED CUSTODY, a decree issued by a judge who has jurisdiction in the matter. All non-player eligibility waivers, if granted, are for the current season only. All player eligibility waivers, if granted, will be for regular season only and will not allow for tournament eligibility in the current season unless specifically noted in the response.

Q: Does the District Administrator have the authority to grant a waiver of a rule or regulation? Example: Could the District Administrator give permission for a local league to register players whose residence is outside the league’s boundaries? Could a District Administrator waive ANY rule or regulation?

A: NO. ANY waiver of a rule or regulation can only be made by the Charter Committee in Williamsport. No other person or group has this authority. If the Charter Committee votes to grant a waiver, the District Administrator will be informed in writing. Waivers, if granted, are for the current season only. All non-player eligibility waivers, if granted, are for the current season only. All player eligibility waivers, if granted, will be for regular season only and will not allow for tournament eligibility in the current season unless specifically noted in the response.

Q: What is the required method for selecting Tournament (all-star) teams?

A: There is no required method. The local league Board of Directors decides annually on the selection method. However, a suggested method is included in the Tournament Rules and Guidelines section of this book.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How much does it cost to belong to Little League?

A: The charter fee paid once per year to Little League Baseball, Incorporated, by the local Little League, is \$10 per team. The Little League Rulebook App, containing Baseball, Softball, and Challenger, may be downloaded on the Apple App Store or Google Play Store for free. Printed versions are also available for purchase from the Little League Store.

Each league must also provide adequate accident and liability insurance coverage. If the league purchases the insurance through the group insurance program for Little League, the cost is between \$21 and \$29 per team for the 12 and under divisions (including both Challenger divisions) and between \$53 and \$58 per team for the Intermediate (50-70) Baseball Division, Junior and Senior divisions. Liability Insurance (includes separate policies for General Liability, Directors & Officers Liability, Cyber Liability, Crime, and Inland Marine) rates vary depending on the number of teams within the league. For detailed information on the accident and liability insurance available, please contact the Risk Management department at 570-326-1921.

Q: What is the difference between Regular Season and Tournament Play (all-stars)?

A: During the Regular Season, every eligible child in the league's boundaries is given the opportunity to tryout and participate on a team. Generally, the Regular Season begins in the spring and can continue through the fall, but the start/end dates for the Regular Season vary. In Tournament Play, a league holding charters in the proper divisions may enter teams in up to six baseball and five softball divisions in the International Tournament. Tournament Play begins around late June/early July and ends in late August with World Series tournaments in seven divisions of baseball and softball. Many of the rules and regulations are the same for Regular Season and Tournament Play. However, there are some exceptions, detailed in the Tournament Rules and Guidelines section of this book. Little League also offers a "Second Season" program, sometimes called "Fall Ball" or "Winter League," with details available at your Region Office.

Q: Can our league or district (or any other level) broadcast or stream Regular Season or International Tournament games?

A: Local leagues are permitted to stream their regular season and/or Little League International Tournament games at the District, Sectional, and/or State level through their owned and/or officially operated local league website, official social media account(s), subscription-based platforms (e.g. GameChanger), or other digital platform without a contract needed. Leagues streaming games must follow all Little League

Frequently Asked Questions

Operating Policies regarding commercialization, trademarks and advertising/fundraising guidelines and have the appropriate releases and notifications in place to secure permission from all participants and attendees.

A formal agreement with Little League International is only required for:

- Leagues who utilize a third-party production company.
- Little League International Tournament Regional level games or higher.

Additional information, as well as the required contracts for the situations above, can be found at LittleLeague.org/LiveStreaming.

Residency and School Attendance Eligibility Requirements

Each local Little League determines the actual geographic boundaries of the area from within which it shall select players. These boundaries must be described in detail and shown on a map and dated when making application for a Little League charter. As outlined in Regulation II, players league age seven (7) and under may register in any Little League program without respect to any geography-related eligibility or school enrollment eligibility requirements. Players registering under this option are fully eligible to participate in all aspects of league play, including International Tournament play, for the duration of their Little League careers provided they have continuous and unbroken participation within the specific league where initially registered and provided all other participation eligibility requirements have been met. For players league age 8 – 16, players who have participated in the league without a break in participation since league age seven (7), OR the sibling of a player who is an active participant league age (7) or younger OR the sibling of an active player in the league who has participated in the league without a break in participation since league age seven (7), are eligible to continue participation in the league provided they maintain continuous and unbroken participation within the league and regular season play. NOTE 1: This option only applies to players born on or after September 1, 2017 (Baseball) or January 1, 2017 (Softball). NOTE: Players who established “residence” or “school attendance” for regular season and/or tournament in a prior season using the Tournament Player Verification form and can produce the form with proper proofs and signatures, will NOT need to complete a new Tournament Player Verification form.

I. A player will be deemed to reside within the league boundaries if:

A. His/her parents are living together and are residing within such league boundaries, OR;

B. Either of the player’s parents (or his/her court-appointed legal guardian) reside within such boundaries. It is unacceptable if a parent moves into a league’s boundaries for the purpose of qualifying for tournament play. As detailed later in these rules, the penalty for violation of this rule may, in Little League Baseball, Incorporated’s discretion, result in the disqualification of a player, team or entire league from regular season and/or tournament play.

“Residence,” “reside,” and “residing” refers to a place of bona fide continuous habitation. A place of residence once established shall not be considered changed unless the parents, parent, or guardian makes a bona fide change of residence.

Residency and School Attendance Eligibility Requirements

Residence shall be established and supported by documents containing the full residence which includes parent(s) or guardian(s) name, street address, city, state, and zip code information, dated or in force between February 1, 2025 (previous year) and February 1, 2026 (current year), from one or more documents from each of the three Groups outlined below:

Group I

- 1. Driver's License**
- 2. School records**
- 3. Vehicle records (i.e., registration, lease, etc.)**
- 4. Employment records**
- 5. Insurance documents**

Group II

- 1. Welfare/childcare records**
- 2. Federal records (i.e., Federal Tax, Social Security, etc.)**
- 3. State records**
- 4. Local (municipal) records**
- 5. Support payment records**
- 6. Homeowner or tenant records**
- 7. Military records**

Group III

- 1. Voter's Registration**
- 2. Utility bills (i.e., gas, electric, water/sewer, phone, mobile phone, heating, waste disposal)**
- 3. Financial (loan, credit, investments, etc.) records**
- 4. Medical records**
- 5. Internet, cable, or satellite records**

Residency and School Attendance Eligibility Requirements

NOTE: Example – Three documents from the same Group (utility bill, cable bill, and bank statement) constitute only ONE document.

Any documents submitted as proof of residence must demonstrate bona fide continuous habitation as determined by Little League Baseball, Incorporated in its sole discretion.

II. A player will be deemed to attend school in the boundaries if:

A. The physical location of the school where he/she attends classes is within the boundaries established by the local league.

NOTE: This excludes home schools, cyber schools, sports-related schools, sports academies, preschools, or after school where a student participates outside of the primary school the player is enrolled.

“School attendance” refers to the (place) physical location the player in question attends school during the traditional academic year. Once established, a location of school attendance shall not be considered changed unless the child is enrolled and attends another school or is no longer enrolled in or attending the previous school.

School attendance shall be established and supported by a document indicating enrollment for the current academic year, dated prior to **October 1, 2025, and with the physical location of the school, from ONE of the following categories to determine school attendance by such player:**

- 1. Official/Certified School enrollment record dated prior to **October 1, 2025****
- 2. A Little League-issued school attendance form completed by the principal, assistant principal, or administrator authorized to sign on behalf of the school**

It is recommended that the league require some proof of residence or school attendance within the league’s boundaries at the time the player registers. Players and their parents/guardians are advised that a false statement of residence or school attendance may lead to ineligibility to play Little League Baseball or Softball. Under NO circumstances does ANY person have the authority to grant a waiver that allows a child to play in a local Little League program IN ANY DIVISION, when that child does not qualify under these eligibility requirements. Any league who accepts any player outside of its boundaries and fails to properly document compliance with the “Residence and/or School Attendance Player Eligibility Requirement” or obtain a waiver through the Charter Committee may result in the disqualification of

Residency and School Attendance Eligibility Requirements

a player, team, or entire league from regular season and/or tournament play.

If the claim for residency or school attendance is challenged, the above materials must be submitted to Little League Baseball, Incorporated, with an affidavit of residency or school attendance from the parent(s) or guardian(s). Little League Baseball, Incorporated shall have the right to request additional documentation in support of the claim of residency or school attendance. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will be required to provide said documentation to obtain eligibility. Little League Baseball, Incorporated shall decide the issue in its sole discretion, and that decision will be final and binding. Residency or school documents must illustrate that the residence or school attendance (as defined above) was inside the league's boundaries throughout the regular season (as of June 15 of the year in question).

In the case of a Regulation II(d) Waiver Form, or a Regulation IV(h) Waiver Form, the proof of residence for the FORMER residence of the parent(s)/guardian(s) or former school that was within the current league's boundaries must be obtained. This proof of residence for the former residence or former school attendance must be supported by the same documentation as noted above.

Tournament Requirement for Non-Citizens: *A participant who is not a citizen of the country in which he/she wishes to play, but meets residency requirements as defined by Little League, may participate in that country if:*

1. his/her visa allows that participant to remain in that country for a period of at least one year, or;
2. the prevailing laws allow that participant to remain in that country for at least one year, or;
3. the participant has an established bona fide residence in that country for at least two years prior to the start of the regular season.

Exceptions can only be made by action of the Charter Committee in Williamsport. Any request for a waiver pertaining to the eligibility of a player must be submitted in writing, by the president of the local Little League through the District Administrator, to the respective Regional Director not later than the date prescribed in Regulation IV(j). Requests submitted after that date will not be considered.

Proof-of-Age Requirements

Acceptable Forms of Proof of Birth Date

1. Original proof of age document, if issued by federal, state, or provincial registrars of vital statistics in the country in which the Little Leaguer is participating.
2. If country of participation differs from the country of proof of age document, original proof-of-age document issued by federal, state, or provincial registrars of vital statistics, or local offices thereof, are acceptable proof of age, provided the document was filed, recorded, registered, or issued within one (1) year of the birth of the child.
3. An original document issued by federal, state, or provincial registrars of vital statistics, or local offices thereof, listing the date of birth, with reference to the location and issue date of the original birth certificate, is acceptable. (The original birth certificate referenced must have been filed, recorded, registered, or issued within one (1) year of the birth of the child.) Also issued by these agencies are photocopies of the certificate of live birth with the certification also photocopied, including the signature, and include the seal impressed thereon. Such documents are acceptable without “live” signatures, provided the original filed, recorded, registered, or issued date of the birth certificate was within one (1) year of the date of birth.
4. For children born abroad of a parent or parents who are U.S. citizens, any official government document issued by a U. S. federal agency or service, is acceptable. For military dependents, Department of Defense identification cards and military hospital certificates are acceptable. These must be originals, not copies, and must refer to a filing, recording, registration, or issue date that is within one (1) year of the birth of the child.
5. A “Statement in Lieu of Acceptable Proof of Birth” issued by a District Administrator is acceptable.

NOT ACCEPTABLE AS SOLE PROOF OF BIRTH: Baptismal Certificate; Certificate of Blessing; Certificate of Dedication; Certificate of Circumcision, etc.; Hospital Certificate; photocopied records; passports.

NOTE: Little League International has authorized the Regional Directors for Latin America and Caribbean, Europe and Africa, and Asia-Pacific, to adopt a policy that

Proof-of-Age Requirements

excludes No. 1 above. Local Little Leagues and districts in those regions will be informed of the regional policy.

How to Obtain Acceptable Documents Proving Date of Birth

Certified copy-of-birth records may be obtained from the Registrar of Vital Statistics of each state, province, or local office where the child was born. For U.S.-born persons, addresses of these offices or bureaus, fees required, and other pertinent information are supplied by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (National Center for Health Statistics). A database listing the method for obtaining birth records from any U.S. state or territory is available at the following Internet address:

cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm

Individual states may also have online instructions on how to obtain “rush” birth records. To find out a state’s latest policies regarding birth records, go to the Internet site listed below and type “birth records” into the search field, designate the appropriate state, then click on “SUBMIT.”

USA.gov

Persons in the U.S. who need a copy of a non-U.S. birth record should contact the Embassy or the nearest Consulate of the country in which the birth occurred. Addresses and telephone numbers for these offices are listed in the U.S. Department of State Publication 7846, “Foreign Consular Offices in the United States,” which is available in many local libraries. This information may also be located at the following Internet address: <https://2009-2017.state.gov/documents/organization/64190.pdf>. Such proof-of-birth records must meet the criteria for acceptable proof listed above.

How to Obtain a “Statement in Lieu of Acceptable Proof of Birth”

When an “Acceptable Proof of Birth” as described previously is not available, then the appropriate number of items in EACH of these FOUR groups are required so that the participant may obtain a “Statement in Lieu of Acceptable Proof of Birth,” which is required for such a participant to be eligible for regular season or tournament play:

Group 1 – Any one (1) of the following, provided the date of birth is listed: a naturalization document issued by the United States Department of Justice; photocopy of birth certificate; original birth certificate or government record of birth if not containing a filing, recording, registration, or issue date within one (1) year of the date of birth; passport; *PLUS...*

Group 2 – Any two (2) of the following, provided the date of birth is listed: Baptismal

Proof-of-Age Requirements

Certificate; Certificate of Blessing; Certificate of Dedication; Certificate of Circumcision; or any other religious-related certificate; Hospital Certificate; School Record (must be dated, and date of issue must be at least two years prior to current season); Social Security document; Welfare Department document; adoption record. Any item in this group must be an original document, not a copy; *PLUS...*

Group 3 – Any two (2) of the following: A written, signed, and notarized statement from...

- ... the doctor who delivered the child;
- ... a hospital administrator where the child was delivered;
- ... the principal or headmaster of the school the child attends;
- ... a Social Worker with personal knowledge of the child's date of birth;
- ... a Priest, Rabbi, Minister, Mullah, or other titled religious figure with personal knowledge of the child's date of birth;
- ... the child's pediatrician or family doctor.

NOTE: In each statement in Group 3, the writer must describe his/her responsibilities or his/her relationship to the child, and must attest to his/her personal knowledge that the child was born on the date claimed; *PLUS...*

Group 4 – A written, signed, and notarized statement from one or both parents, or the legal guardian (as appointed by a court of jurisdiction), attesting to the date of birth claimed.

The league president will forward the above documentation to the District Administrator (or, if the team is traveling, the Tournament Director). If in the opinion of the District Administrator, such evidence is satisfactory, a "Statement In Lieu of Acceptable Proof of Birth" will be issued. This statement will be considered to be acceptable proof of age from that point forward, throughout the child's Little League experience, provided all the information submitted is accurate. (**NOTE:** If the District Administrator is unable to review the documents, they may be submitted to the appropriate Regional Headquarters.)

NOTE: Situations where players use the name of an adopting family or the name of the family with whom they live, but whose births are recorded under the surname of the natural father or mother, will be handled as follows: The president of the league will obtain from the parents or guardian a document that qualifies under Proof-of-Age Requirements, as well as a copy of the adoption papers (if the player has been legally adopted). If the player was not adopted, a notarized statement from the mother and/or father or legal guardian (as appointed by a court of jurisdiction), saying that the player

Proof-of-Age Requirements

living under one or the other of their surnames is the same player (for whom the birth certificate was issued) is also required.

These documents will be submitted to the District Administrator. If the documents are found to be acceptable, a “Statement in Lieu of Acceptable Proof of Birth” will be issued and all original documents returned. The information submitted will be kept confidential.

Official Regulations

**Little League Baseball® (Major) Division, Minor League Baseball, Tee Ball
Baseball, Intermediate (50-70) Division Baseball, Junior League Baseball, and
Senior League Baseball**

These regulations govern the conduct and operation of chartered Little League Baseball programs.

An Approved Ruling (A.R.) serves to illustrate the application of the regulations and rules. Approved Rulings follow the regulations and rules they amplify and are indicated by a box.

Regulation I – The League

a. The league is the only unit of organization.

1. The Little League (Major) Division is to accommodate participants league ages 9-12.
2. The Minor League Division is an extension of the local Little League to accommodate participants league ages 7-12 (Leagues may allow league age 5- and 6-year-olds with one year of Tee Ball experience to register for a Coach Pitch or Machine Pitch Minor Division).
3. The Tee Ball division is an extension of the local league to accommodate participants league ages 4-7 and may utilize the batting tee or the pitched ball (by a coach). The league may opt to deliver a designated number of pitches to all batters and then utilize the tee if necessary.

NOTE 1: 7-year-olds may play in Minor League or Tee Ball depending on the local structure and ability of the players.

NOTE 2: Major/Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: A local league may allow players to participate in two divisions. **Tee Ball/Minor Division:** Players shall not participate in more than one division.

NOTE 3: Participants league age 5 and 6 are permitted to advance to Minor League Coach Pitch or Machine Pitch after participation in Tee Ball for one year. Participants league age 6 are permitted to advance to Minor League Player Pitch Division after participation in Tee Ball for one year, provided the maximum age limit in the division is league age ten (10). Players must be assessed by the league as capable of participation at that level.

b. The league shall be governed by a Board of Directors elected from and by the membership, consisting of volunteer personnel.

Officers shall be elected by the Board (i.e. president, one or more vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, safety officer, coaching coordinator, and player agent or agents). The president may manage, coach, or umpire provided he/she does not serve on the Protest Committee. The president of record or anyone who assumes the position or duties of president, on or after January 1 of the current year, may be eligible for selection by the local league Board of Directors to serve as tournament team manager or coach with approval from their respective District Administrator. The president will not serve in the capacity of District Administrator. Vice presidents may manage,

Regulation I – The League

coach, or umpire provided they do not serve on the Protest Committee.

The president, with approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint managers, coaches, and umpires annually. A quarter (25%) of the Board shall be comprised of members that are not current Manager(s)/coach(es). **NOTE:** All members of the local league Board of Directors, as well as managers and coaches, whose activities in another youth baseball/softball program are deemed detrimental to the operation of the local league, can be removed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. **Additionally, the local league's Board of Directors has the right to NOT approve that individual as tournament team manager/coach.**

c. Each league shall:

1. prepare, adopt, and submit to Little League International, a constitution consistent with all rules, regulations, and policies of Little League Baseball, Incorporated.
2. be considered as a separate and not as a division of the same league.
3. apply for and, if approved, be issued a separate charter certificate.
4. have separate boundaries as provided for in [Regulation II](#).
5. adopt and play a separate schedule of games as provided for in [Regulation VII](#). Interleague play and practice with other league(s) may be permitted during the regular season. **Leagues involved in interleague play will field separate tournament teams. Players shall not be transferred from one league to another. Requests to combine for tournament play must be submitted through the Data Center for District Administrator and region office approval per guidelines established by Little League.**

6. provide all players with conventional uniforms.

Tee Ball and Minor League: T- shirts and caps are recommended, but hand-me-down type uniforms may be worn if so approved by the local Board. (The Little League Official Shoulder Patch must be affixed to the upper left sleeve of the uniform shirt in all divisions of play and may not be sublimated or screen-printed.)

7. obtain Accident and General Liability insurance.

- A. Accident Insurance coverage is mandatory for all players on all rosters as well as managers, coaches, and umpires. The policy must have a minimum coverage of \$100,000 per person per accident.

Regulation I – The League

B. General Liability insurance is mandatory for the league including its volunteers. The policy must have a minimum coverage of \$1,000,000 single limit bodily injury and property damage. The policy must include coverage for claims involving each of the following: 1. athletic participants, and, 2. sexual abuse and molestation.

If insurance is purchased locally, a copy of the policy naming Little League Baseball, Incorporated as an additional insured must be submitted to Little League International with your “Charter Application and Insurance Enrollment” form.

- 8. completion of the “Little League Official Volunteer Application,” for all managers, coaches, members of the Board of Directors members, and any other person or volunteer who provide regular service to the league and/or has access to, or contact with, players or teams prior to the applicant assuming duties for the current season. The “Little League Official Volunteer Application” is available within the Little League registration platform through Sports Connect which leagues are required to use as part of the Central Registration System. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in the suspension or revocation of tournament privileges and/or the local league’s charter by action of the Charter or Tournament committees in Williamsport.**
- 9. conduct an annual background check on all persons that are required to complete a “Little League Official Volunteer Application” prior to the applicant assuming his/her duties for the current season. The background check must be completed prior to the applicant assuming any duties for the current season which runs from October 1 to September 30. All background checks must be completed by J.D. Palatine (JDP) through the Sports Connect Platform and will not be accepted if conducted by any other providers. The background check through JDP meets the standard of a nationwide criminal search, a national sex offender registry search, and a review of the public [U.S. Center for SafeSport’s Centralized Disciplinary Database](#) and Little League International Ineligible/Suspended List. Every year, Little League International provides each local league located within the United States one hundred twenty-five (125) free criminal background checks administered through JDP. Further information on how to utilize JDP, as well as how to conduct background checks, can be found at [LittleLeague.org/ChildProtection](#). Local leagues located outside the United States must conduct a comprehensive criminal background check, including checks in**

the relevant country, as well as that country's provinces/states and municipalities unless otherwise prohibited by the laws of the country of which the local league is located.

No local league shall permit any person to participate in any manner whose background check reveals a current pending charge, conviction, no contest plea, guilty plea, or admission to any crime involving or against a minor. In addition, if an individual is listed on either of the public U.S. Center for SafeSport's Centralized Disciplinary Database or the Little League International Ineligible/Suspended List, he/she is not permitted to participate in any manner with Little League. If a potential volunteer appears on the National Sex Offender Registry, the league must contact Little League International prior to allowing the volunteer to participate in any capacity in the league. All local leagues must take into consideration criminal records when making the determination whether the individual is fit or unfit to participate in any manner in the league.

Local leagues shall be required to determine the applicability of, and comply with, all state, local, and municipal laws; administrative rules and regulations; and municipal ordinances regarding background checks including, but not limited to, sex offender registry checks, criminal history records or reports, fingerprinting, certifications, or other requirements associated with volunteers, coaches, participants, and/or employees. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in the suspension or revocation of tournament privileges and/or the local league's charter by action of the Charter or Tournament Committees in Williamsport.

Several states have enacted laws that require additional background check requirements that are separate and additional to those mandated by Little League. For the most up-to-date information to assist you regarding state law requirements go to our website at LittleLeague.org/StateLaws.

As of February 14, 2025, thirteen states have enacted laws establishing background check requirements for volunteers of non-school associated activities including youth sports and athletics. Those states are Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Utah. Each league should be aware of the laws applicable to their state information regarding state background check requirements is available at LittleLeague.org/BackgroundChecks.

If a local league becomes aware of information, by any means whatsoever, that an individual, including, but not limited to, volunteers, players, or hired workers, has a current pending charge for, been convicted of, pled guilty, pled no contest, or admitted to any crime involving or against a minor, the local league must contact the applicable government agency to confirm the accuracy of the information before allowing the individual to participate. If a potential volunteer appears on the National Sex Offender Registry, the league must contact Little League International prior to allowing the volunteer to participate in any capacity in the league. Upon confirmation of a pending charge, conviction of, guilty plea, no contest plea, or admission to a crime against or involving a minor, the local league shall not permit the individual to participate in any manner.

NOTE: Information regarding background checks is available at [LittleLeague.org/BackgroundChecks](https://www.littleleague.org/BackgroundChecks). Information gathered for background checks and results should be considered confidential, protected from public disclosure, and not used for any purpose beyond determining volunteer eligibility.

As of December 19, 2023, all fifty (50) states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws which address concussions and training. Each league should be aware of the law applicable to their state. Information regarding each state requirement is available at [LittleLeague.org/Concussions](https://www.littleleague.org/Concussions).

Several states have adopted laws which address Sudden Cardiac Arrest training. Each league should be aware of the law applicable to their state. Information regarding each state requirement is available at [LittleLeague.org/CardiacArrest](https://www.littleleague.org/CardiacArrest).

- 10 Mandatory Training and Continuing Education** – All leagues must annually require all individuals who complete the volunteer application form to complete the Little League Abuse Awareness Training ([LittleLeague.org/AbuseAwareness](https://www.littleleague.org/AbuseAwareness)). Training and Education are important tools in the prevention of abuse. All individuals who complete the volunteer application for a league must annually complete the Little League Abuse Awareness Training. This includes anyone who wishes to be a manager, coach, member of the Board of Directors, volunteers and any other person, who provides regular services to the league and/or has repetitive access to or contact with players or teams. As part of creating a player-centric environment, each local league should also provide ongoing education to its members beyond the minimal required training. Each league should create a

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program within its league to keep parents, volunteers and players informed in all aspects of player protection and safety. The league is responsible for verifying that each required individual has completed the training by obtaining certificates of completion from each individual and retaining a copy of the certificate. The training must be completed on or after October 1 of each year to be considered valid for the upcoming season.

11. **Mandatory Reporting** – When an allegation of abuse is made against a local Little League volunteer, the league must protect the child(ren) from any further potential abuse by keeping the alleged abuser away from all children in the program until the incident is reported to one or more of the below outlets and completely investigated. The Safe Sport Act extends mandatory reporting to all volunteers in the league. Fifty (50) States and the District of Columbia have enacted laws which address mandatory reporting of child abuse to protect the health and safety of children. Little League has compiled a summary of all currently existing federal and state laws regarding mandatory reporting of child abuse at [State Specific Information on Child Abuse – Little League](#). It is strongly recommended that local leagues consult with legal counsel in its jurisdiction to determine the applicability, if any, of federal, state and local requirements and laws to its programs regarding the reporting of child abuse. **An individual who is required, but fails to report suspected child abuse, is subject to criminal and civil penalties.** If allegations of abuse are made against an individual in the league, the local league must take steps to ensure that the individual will not have any further contact with the children in the local league.

While allegations of abuse are under investigation or if criminal charges are pending, the league must promptly notify the individual that he/she is suspended until the matter is resolved by an external investigation or through the court system. While an individual is suspended, he/she may not volunteer in any local league activity.

If the allegations of abuse against an individual are substantiated, the local league must notify the individual that he/she is terminated from their position and may no longer volunteer for Little League in any capacity. The Board of Directors should communicate with the members of their local league about the termination.

If a league suspends or makes ineligible a volunteer for any offense that prohibits participation, the league must promptly notify Little League International by submitting an email to SecuritySpecialist@LittleLeague.org, so that the

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individual can be added to Little League International's Suspended/Ineligible list.

- 12. Non-Retaliation** – A local league may not retaliate against any individual within the league who makes a good faith report of suspected abuse, even if the allegation is later determined to be unsubstantiated. Reporters of abuse cannot be afraid to come forward in cases where he/she either has firsthand knowledge of or a good faith belief that abuse has occurred, even if there is a possibility that the report is wrong. The local league should encourage all individuals in the league to be vigilant and observant in regard to the safety and protection of the children in the league. Many states provide immunity to those who report suspected child abuse in “good faith.”
- 13. Prohibit One-on-One Contact** – To minimize the chance of an individual's opportunity to groom or abuse a player, the league must adopt a one-on-one policy relating to the interactions between a player and any adult volunteer of the league during the league's programs and activities. The League should adopt a policy prior to the start of the season and provide a copy to all volunteers within the league. At a minimum the policy should include the following:

 - Volunteers are prohibited from being alone with a minor athlete during the league's programs and events unless:
 - There is an emergency.
 - There is written permission from the player's parent/legal guardian.
 - The volunteer is the player's parent/legal guardian, sibling, or personal care assistant.
 - A Volunteer's interactions with players must be observable and interruptible by another adult.
 - Volunteers are prohibited from contacting players directly through social media or electronic communication unless another adult volunteer or the player's parent/legal guardian is copied.
 - Volunteers are discouraged from interacting one-on-one with unrelated minor athletes in settings outside of local league program and activities (such as the volunteer's home, a restaurant, a vehicle, personal communication including electronic communication).

Regulation I – The League

- Players may not reside with unrelated volunteers for the purpose of participation qualification within the league.
 - If a volunteer is in a position where he/she is left alone with a player, he/she should not leave the child so long as the volunteer has exhausted all of the options above to comply with the guidelines of the policy. Likewise, if a child is injured and must be transported to a hospital, urgent care, or treatment center, the volunteer should not leave the child alone if all options have been exhausted to comply with the policy in an emergency where medical treatment is necessary.
 - Physical contact between volunteers and players should be very limited. Some examples of appropriate physical touch include high fives or administering appropriate first aid.
- d. The Little League (Major) Division may be composed of not more than ten (10) teams. If more than 10 teams are requested, application for a divisional format must be made to the Charter Committee through the District Administrator. If approved, each division must field a separate tournament team.
- e. Not more than one league will be permitted to operate under the same management without expressed recommendation of the District Administrator to Little League International and subject to final approval by the Charter Committee.
- f. Mergers where there is sufficient enrollment to maintain separate charters shall require the recommendation of the District Administrator to Little League International and be subject to final approval by the Charter Committee.
- g. Participants, administrators, and volunteers are permitted to participate in other baseball and softball programs while participating in Little League as long as the following policies are followed:
1. Any funds raised using the name or trademarks of Little League must only be used for Little League activity.
 2. Any purchases for non-Little League programming or for individuals participating in a non-Little League program shall not use League funds.
 3. Such participation may not represent the local Little League in any way, including the wearing of team Little League uniforms, use of equipment purchased by the league or use of local Little League program's name or official marks. Any expenses for a team(s) and/or individual(s) to participate in non-Little League

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programs is the responsibility of that team and/or individual(s).

4. Participation in non-Little League programming is not insured or covered under the group insurance program for Little League, and the administrators organizing such activities should obtain separate insurance coverage for any non-Little League participation.

Any violation of this regulation by the local Little League may result in revocation of the league's charter and/or suspension of tournament privileges for the league or individuals associated with such team. An individual, or a group of such individuals, that participates in a non-Little League program, club, tournament, event, or game, are subject to the provisions of this Regulation, Regulation IV(a) Note 2, and the provisions of the Tournament Rules and Guidelines regarding "Player Participation in Other Programs;" pertaining to player eligibility requirements for Little League International Tournament play.

Regulation I – The League – Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League

- a. The Intermediate (50-70) Division is an extension of the local Little League to accommodate participants league ages 11 through 13. Junior League is an extension of the local Little League to accommodate participants league ages 13 and 14 with an exception for 12-year-old players as noted in [Regulation IV\(a\)](#); Senior League is an extension of the local Little League to accommodate participants league ages 13-16 (the local league may allow 12-year-olds to participate in or dual roster in the Senior League Division. Players must be assessed by the league as capable of participation at that level). **NOTE 1: Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** A local league may allow players to participate in two divisions. This allows the local league Board of Directors to place some or all 13- and 14-year-olds in the Junior League Division AND/OR Senior League Division. **NOTE 2:** Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League players may participate in other baseball programs during the regular season and tournament subject to the provisions of [Regulation IV](#). **NOTE 3:** The local league may allow 15-year-olds to participate in the Junior League Division for the regular season only if the player's skill level is assessed appropriate for that division. A local league Board may prohibit the 15-year-olds from pitching in the Junior Division. **NOTE 4:** The local league may allow 12-year-olds to participate in or dual roster in the Senior League Division. Players must be assessed by the league as capable of participation at that level.
- b. The Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League, and Senior League Divisions shall be governed by the Board of Directors of the local Little League. The Board of Directors of the local Little League shall elect a player agent and vice president for each division and shall approve the appointment of its managers and coaches annually. The president may manage, coach, or umpire provided he/she does not serve on the Protest Committee. The president of record or anyone who assumes the position or duties of president, on or after January 1 of the current year, may be eligible for selection by the local league Board of Directors as tournament team manager or coach with approval from their respective District Administrator. Vice president may manage, coach, or umpire provided they do not serve on the Protest Committee.
- c. Each division shall operate under the constitution of the local Little League, which is the only unit of organization.

Each participating local Little League will:

Regulation I – The League – Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League

1. select managers and coaches for its teams;
2. select its players from within the boundaries of the local Little League;
3. obtain Accident and General Liability insurance.
 - A. Accident Insurance coverage is mandatory for all players on all rosters as well as managers, coaches, and umpires. The policy must have a minimum coverage of \$100,000 per person per accident.
 - B. General Liability insurance is mandatory for the league including its volunteers. The policy must have a minimum coverage of \$1,000,000 single limit bodily injury and property damage. The policy must include coverage for claims arising out of athletic participants.

If insurance is purchased locally, a copy of the policy naming Little League Baseball, Incorporated as an additional insured must be submitted to Little League International with your “Charter Application and Insurance Enrollment” form.

4. supply uniforms, bats, and equipment for its team(s) and contribute proportional costs of baseballs, supplies, and operation of program.
5. **completion of the “Little League Official Volunteer Application,” for all managers, coaches, members of the Board of Directors members, and any other person or volunteer who provide regular service to the league and/or has access to, or contact with, players or teams prior to the applicant assuming duties for the current season. The “Little League Official Volunteer Application” is available within the Little League registration platform through Sports Connect which leagues are required to use as part of the Central Registration System. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in the suspension or revocation of tournament privileges and/or the local league’s charter by action of the Charter or Tournament committees in Williamsport.**
6. **conduct an annual background check on all persons that are required to complete a “Little League Official Volunteer Application” prior to the applicant assuming his/her duties for the current season. The background check must be completed prior to the applicant assuming any duties for the current season which runs from October 1 to September 30. All background checks must be completed by J.D. Palatine (JDP) through the Sports Connect Platform and will not be accepted if conducted by any other providers. The**

background check through JDP meets the standard of a nationwide criminal search, a national sex offender registry search, and a review of the public [U.S. Center for SafeSport’s Centralized Disciplinary Database](#) and Little League International Ineligible/Suspended List. Every year, Little League International provides each local league located within the United States one hundred twenty-five (125) free criminal background checks administered through JDP. Further information on how to utilize JDP, as well as how to conduct background checks, can be found at [LittleLeague.org/ChildProtection](#). Local leagues located outside the United States must conduct a comprehensive criminal background check, including checks in the relevant country, as well as that country’s provinces/states and municipalities unless otherwise prohibited by the laws of the country of which the local league is located.

No local league shall permit any person to participate in any manner whose background check reveals a current pending charge, conviction, no contest plea, guilty plea, or admission to any crime involving or against a minor. In addition, if an individual is listed on either of the public U.S. Center for SafeSport’s Centralized Disciplinary Database or the Little League International Ineligible/Suspended List, he/she is not permitted to participate in any manner with Little League. If a potential volunteer appears on the National Sex Offender Registry, the league must contact Little League International prior to allowing the volunteer to participate in any capacity in the league. All local leagues must take into consideration criminal records when making the determination whether the individual is fit or unfit to participate in any manner in the league.

Local leagues shall be required to determine the applicability of, and comply with, all state, local, and municipal laws; administrative rules and regulations; and municipal ordinances regarding background checks including, but not limited to, sex offender registry checks, criminal history records or reports, fingerprinting, certifications, or other requirements associated with volunteers, coaches, participants, and/or employees. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in the suspension or revocation of tournament privileges and/or the local league’s charter by action of the Charter or Tournament Committees in Williamsport.

Several states have enacted laws that require additional background check requirements that are separate and additional to those mandated by Little League. For the most up-to-date information to assist you regarding state law

requirements go to our website at LittleLeague.org/StateLaws.

As of February 14, 2025, thirteen states have enacted laws establishing background check requirements for volunteers of non-school associated activities including youth sports and athletics. Those states are Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Utah. Each league should be aware of the laws applicable to their state information regarding state background check requirements is available at LittleLeague.org/BackgroundChecks.

If a local league becomes aware of information, by any means whatsoever, that an individual, including, but not limited to, volunteers, players, or hired workers, has a current pending charge for, been convicted of, pled guilty, pled no contest, or admitted to any crime involving or against a minor, the local league must contact the applicable government agency to confirm the accuracy of the information before allowing the individual to participate. If a potential volunteer appears on the National Sex Offender Registry, the league must contact Little League International prior to allowing the volunteer to participate in any capacity in the league. Upon confirmation of a pending charge, conviction of, guilty plea, no contest plea, or admission to a crime against or involving a minor, the local league shall not permit the individual to participate in any manner.

NOTE: Information regarding background checks is available at LittleLeague.org/BackgroundChecks. Information gathered for background checks and results should be considered confidential, protected from public disclosure, and not used for any purpose beyond determining volunteer eligibility.

As of December 19, 2023, all fifty (50) states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws which address concussions and training. Each league should be aware of the law applicable to their state. Information regarding each state requirement is available at LittleLeague.org/Concussions.

Several states have adopted laws which address Sudden Cardiac Arrest training. Each league should be aware of the law applicable to their state. Information regarding each state requirement is available at LittleLeague.org/CardiacArrest.

7. **Mandatory Training and Continuing Education** – All leagues must annually

require all individuals who complete the volunteer application form to complete the Little League Abuse Awareness Training (LittleLeague.org/AbuseAwareness). Training and Education are important tools in the prevention of abuse. All individuals who complete the volunteer application for a league must annually complete the Little League Abuse Awareness Training. This includes anyone who wishes to be a manager, coach, member of the Board of Directors, volunteers and any other person, who provides regular services to the league and/or has repetitive access to or contact with players or teams. As part of creating a player-centric environment, each local league should also provide ongoing education to its members beyond the minimal required training. Each league should create a program within its league to keep parents, volunteers and players informed in all aspects of player protection and safety. The league is responsible for verifying that each required individual has completed the training by obtaining certificates of completion from each individual and retaining a copy of the certificate. The training must be completed on or after October 1 of each year to be considered valid for the upcoming season.

8. **Mandatory Reporting** – When an allegation of abuse is made against a local Little League volunteer, the league must protect the child(ren) from any further potential abuse by keeping the alleged abuser away from all children in the program until the incident is reported to one or more of the below outlets and completely investigated. The Safe Sport Act extends mandatory reporting to all volunteers in the league. Fifty (50) States and the District of Columbia have enacted laws which address mandatory reporting of child abuse to protect the health and safety of children. Little League has compiled a summary of all currently existing federal and state laws regarding mandatory reporting of child abuse at [State Specific Information on Child Abuse – Little League](#). It is strongly recommended that local leagues consult with legal counsel in its jurisdiction to determine the applicability, if any, of federal, state and local requirements and laws to its programs regarding the reporting of child abuse. **An individual who is required, but fails to report suspected child abuse, is subject to criminal and civil penalties.** If allegations of abuse are made against an individual in the league, the local league must take steps to ensure that the individual will not have any further contact with the children in the local league.

While allegations of abuse are under investigation or if criminal charges are pending, the league must promptly notify the individual that he/she is suspended until the matter is resolved by an external investigation or through the court system. While an individual is suspended, he/she may not volunteer in any local league activity.

Regulation I – The League – Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League

If the allegations of abuse against an individual are substantiated, the local league must notify the individual that he/she is terminated from their position and may no longer volunteer for Little League in any capacity. The Board of Directors should communicate with the members of their local league about the termination.

If a league suspends or makes ineligible a volunteer for any offense that prohibits participation, the league must promptly notify Little League International by submitting an email to SecuritySpecialist@LittleLeague.org, so that the individual can be added to Little League International's Suspended/Ineligible list.

9. **Non-Retaliation** – A local league may not retaliate against any individual within the league who makes a good faith report of suspected abuse, even if the allegation is later determined to be unsubstantiated. Reporters of abuse cannot be afraid to come forward in cases where he/she either has firsthand knowledge of or a good faith belief that abuse has occurred, even if there is a possibility that the report is wrong. The local league should encourage all individuals in the league to be vigilant and observant in regard to the safety and protection of the children in the league. Many states provide immunity to those who report suspected child abuse in “good faith.”
10. **Prohibit One-on-One Contact** – To minimize the chance of an individual's opportunity to groom or abuse a player, the league must adopt a one-on-one policy relating to the interactions between a player and any adult volunteer of the league during the league's programs and activities. The League should adopt a policy prior to the start of the season and provide a copy to all volunteers within the league. At a minimum the policy should include the following:
 - Volunteers are prohibited from being alone with a minor athlete during the league's programs and events unless:
 - There is an emergency.
 - There is written permission from the player's parent/legal guardian.
 - The volunteer is the player's parent/legal guardian, sibling, or personal care assistant.
 - A Volunteer's interactions with players must be observable and interruptible by another adult.

Regulation I – The League – Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League

- Volunteers are prohibited from contacting players directly through social media or electronic communication unless another adult volunteer or the player's parent/legal guardian is copied.
 - Volunteers are discouraged from interacting one-on-one with unrelated minor athletes in settings outside of local league program and activities (such as the volunteer's home, a restaurant, a vehicle, personal communication including electronic communication).
 - Players may not reside with unrelated volunteers for the purpose of participation qualification within the league.
 - If a volunteer is in a position where he/she is left alone with a player, he/she should not leave the child so long as the volunteer has exhausted all of the options above to comply with the guidelines of the policy. Likewise, if a child is injured and must be transported to a hospital, urgent care, or treatment center, the volunteer should not leave the child alone if all options have been exhausted to comply with the policy in an emergency where medical treatment is necessary.
 - Physical contact between volunteers and players should be very limited. Some examples of appropriate physical touch include high fives or administering appropriate first aid.
- d.** Each division shall be composed of no more than 10 teams.
- f.** Boundaries for selection of players shall conform to those of the local Little League.
- g.** Each division shall adopt and play a separate schedule of games as provided for in [Regulation VII](#). Interleague play or practice shall not be permitted, nor shall players be transferred from one league to another except as provided for in [Regulation VII](#).
- h.** Not more than one Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League, or Senior League program will be permitted to operate under the same local Little League. However, where a lack of enough player personnel exists and with the recommendation of the District Administrator and approval of the Charter Committee, two or more adjacent chartered Little Leagues comprising not more than 40,000 population of the same district may combine to form one Junior League and/or Senior League. Where two or more leagues have combined to form one Junior League and/or Senior League, a tournament team must be selected from each league, unless an exception is approved by the Charter Committee.

Regulation I – The League – Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League

- i.** Where two or more Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, and/or Senior Leagues combine, each will make application for charter indicating thereon the number of teams each will field and the need for joint operation. Players from more than one league may be pooled for the purpose of organizing teams, with Charter Committee approval.
- j.** Where two or more Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior Leagues, and/or Senior Leagues combine, the operation shall be governed jointly by the Board of Directors of the local leagues. They shall each elect a vice president and player agent to be in charge of the league(s).
- k.** The vice presidents will administer the joint Intermediate (50-70) Division. Junior League, and/or Senior League program subject to the agreement of their Board of Directors.
- l.** Each Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League, and Senior League will select managers and coaches for its teams.
- m.** Each Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League, and Senior League will supply a proportionate number of adult personnel including volunteer umpires.
- n.** Each Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League, and Senior League will supply uniforms, bats, and playing equipment for its teams and contribute proportionate costs for baseballs, supplies, and maintenance of playing field(s). When each league has a field, each will maintain its own.
- o.** Each Intermediate (50-70) Division. Junior League, and Senior League will pay its proportionate share for player accident, liability, and volunteer insurance.

Regulation II – League Boundaries

LEAGUE AGE 4 – 7 PLAYERS:

- a. 1. **LEAGUE CHOICE:** Players league age seven (7) and under may register in any Little League program without respect to any geography-related eligibility or school enrollment eligibility requirements.

NOTE: Players registering under this option are fully eligible to participate in all aspects of league play, including International Tournament play, for the duration of their Little League careers provided they have continuous and unbroken participation within the specific league where initially registered and provided all other participation eligibility requirements have been met.

LEAGUE AGE 8 – 16 PLAYERS:

- a. 2. Players who have participated in the league without a break in participation since league age seven (7), OR the sibling of a player who is an active participant league age (7) or younger OR the sibling of an active player in the league who has participated in the league without a break in participation since league age seven (7), are eligible to continue participation in the league provided they maintain continuous and unbroken participation within the league and regular season play.

NOTE 1: This option only applies to players born on or after September 1, 2017 (Baseball) or January 1, 2017 (Softball).

NOTE 2: A player may only qualify based on a sibling who initially gained eligibility under Regulation II(a)(1) if that sibling is an active participant in the league for the current season.

3. Each league shall determine actual boundaries of the area from WITHIN which it shall select players. Only those participants whose residence or the physical location of the school where they attend classes is within the boundaries of the league shall be eligible to participate. “Residence” and “school attendance,” for the purposes of this regulation, are defined in “Residence and School Attendance Eligibility Requirements.”

NOTE: Any player not meeting the “Residence and School Attendance Eligibility Requirements” or does not have unbroken participation within a league from league age seven (7) in accordance with Regulation II (a)(2) must have an approved waiver issued by the Charter Committee at Little League International. All waiver requests to the Charter Committee must be

Regulation II – League Boundaries

submitted and approved in writing by the league president before the start of the league’s regular season or June 1, whichever occurs first. Requests must be submitted to the regional office through the District Administrator. Failure to properly document compliance with the “Residence and School Attendance Player Eligibility Requirements” and/or player registration data specific to league age 7 and under players or obtain a waiver through the Charter Committee may result in the disqualification of a player, team, or entire league from regular season and/or tournament play.

These boundaries **MUST** be described in detail **AND** shown on a map when making application for the charter. The league boundaries as detailed on the boundary map must be a physical structure (such as a road), or a geographic feature (such as a river). The boundary line will be considered to be in the center of such structures or features, unless noted otherwise. The boundaries must not encroach on the territory of any other chartered Little League’s boundaries.

- b. When there are two (2) or more leagues within a locale, each must have separate boundaries, detailed by a map. No exception to this provision will be made without written approval of Little League International.**
- c. Team boundaries may be permitted where communities making up a league are widely separated.**
- d. The Board of Directors of the local league, at the request and consent of the player involved, reserves the right to participate as a player, any individual (1) whose residence or school enrollment/attendance changes from within the boundary to outside the league’s boundary or (2) who lives or school enrollment/attendance is outside the league’s boundaries because of a revision of such boundaries even if the child then resides in the territory of another league. Current players, or any sibling of a current player whose brother or sister met the criteria under II(d) at one time may be retained. Any player meeting (1) or (2) above may be retained for the remainder of his/her career.**

NOTE: A player who qualifies under this regulation and elects not to participate for a regular playing season is not eligible to be retained for the subsequent season.

Regulation II(d) – Processing Procedure

The league president will process a Regulation II(d) form. Once the president completes the form, he/she must compile and attach qualifying “Residency or School Attendance Eligibility Requirements” verification specific to the players

Regulation II – League Boundaries

qualifying under Regulation II that verifies the player meets the conditions of II(d) as outlined above. The league president will present this information to the District Administrator for review. Once the District Administrator reviews the documentation in an effort to determine if it meets the regulations, the District Administrator will sign the II(d) form. The league and the district will maintain the form and documentation in their files. This review 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 team players 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(d), 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 a decision. The decision of the Charter Committee is final and binding.

- f. Boundaries approved by Little League International for a chartered league shall be protected. No other league will be chartered to accept player candidates from all or any part of the same territory for that calendar year. When necessary, the District Administrator shall have the authority to recommend adjusting the league boundaries and be subject to review and approval of the Charter Committee.
- g. Upon approval of the Little League International Board of Directors, each local Little League's boundaries was "frozen" at the status as of April 23, 2007. "Frozen" means, each league will continue to operate under that boundary. The league shall limit its boundary to and draw its players, league age eight (8) and above, from an area approved by the District Administrator and Regional Director. Boundary maps for leagues (and any changes made after April 23, 2007, to the approved map on file at the Regional Office) must be signed and dated by the league president and District Administrator with a copy to be sent to the Regional Office and uploaded on the Little League Data Center. The approved map uploaded on Little League Data Center is the "official" map, provided it does not encroach on any other chartered Little League's boundary. The Charter Committee reserves the right to grant waivers and adjust boundaries where needed. All requests for mergers and to expand league boundaries by adding additional territory must be provided to the Charter Committee through the District Administrator and Regional Director. The decision of the Charter Committee on these requests is final and binding.

Regulation II – League Boundaries

NOTE 1: Each league will be required to have a current boundary map, approved by the District Administrator, and uploaded on the Little League Data Center. This will be required for tournament privileges for the current season.

NOTE 2: All leagues currently operating under a divisional format must continue to operate under this method. Exceptions to the divisional format can only be granted by the Charter Committee in Williamsport.

NOTE 3: Any request for newly chartered leagues will be reviewed by the Charter Committee under this regulation before a charter is granted. The decision of the Charter Committee is final and binding.

Regulation III – The Teams

- a. The league shall, at least 10 days prior to the first regular game, establish the number of players on each team. No team may have more than 15 players nor less than 10. **NOTE:** Rules 1.01, 3.03 NOTE 3, 4.16 and 4.17 apply regardless of roster size. **EXCEPTION: Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior:** A league may roster up to 20 players if fielding only one regular season team.

Tee Ball and Minor League: There will be no minimum or maximum established at the Tee Ball and Minor League levels. Roster size of 8-10 players is recommended.

NOTE: If a local league elects to roster less than nine (9) players at the Tee Ball and/or Minor League levels, rules [3.03 Note 3](#), [4.16](#), and [4.17](#) do not apply.

The manager of a team must, at least five days prior to the first regularly scheduled game, register the Regular Season team roster. The number of players on a roster in a particular division shall not vary by more than one (1).

- b. No more than the number of players established by the league under [Regulation III\(a\)](#) may be in uniform during any game. Batboys and/or batgirls are not permitted.
- 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 per team. 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.)

Minor League: Local league must establish the age structure for the Minor League Division. The Minor League may be sub-divided into Minor League Coach Pitch, Minor League Machine Pitch, and/or Minor League Player Pitch divisions, with the method for division determined by the local Little League Board of Directors. A player listed on a Little League (Major) Division roster shall not be permitted to play with a Minor League team.

Tee Ball: Local league must establish the age structure for the Tee Ball Division. Players league age 4 are eligible ONLY for Tee Ball, unless otherwise approved by the Charter Committee. **EXCEPTION:** Participants league age 5 and 6 are permitted to advance to Minor League Coach Pitch or Machine Pitch after participation in Tee Ball for one year. Participants league age 6 are permitted to advance to Minor

Regulation III – The Teams

League Player Pitch Division after participation in Tee Ball for one year, provided the maximum age limit in the division is league age ten (10). Players must be assessed by the league as capable of participation at that level. A player listed on a Tee Ball roster shall not be permitted to play with a Minor League team.

- d. If a team loses any player(s) on the roster during the current season through illness, injury, change of address, or other justifiable reasons (subject to Board approval), another player shall be obtained through the player agent, to replace the one lost. The playing ability of the participant shall not be considered a justifiable reason for replacement. Such replacement must be of such league age as to comply with [Regulation III\(c\)](#), and must be eligible under all sections of [Regulation IV](#). The local league should specify in its local rules the number of days allowed for a manager to comply with selection of a replacement. When changes are desired, the following procedures must be followed:
 1. Manager shall acquaint the Board of Directors of the local league with the conditions which necessitate the request for a replacement.
 2. If the majority of the Board of Directors agrees that the reasons are justifiable, the manager may call up a replacement who is eligible under [Regulation III\(c\)](#) and all sections of [Regulation IV](#).

NOTE 1: A league may adopt a local rule prohibiting replacements from the Minor League program onto a Little League (Major) Division team during the last two weeks of the regular season schedule.

NOTE 2: When a player misses more than seven (7) continuous days (**EX:** Monday through Sunday) of participation for an illness or injury, a physician or other accredited medical provider must give written permission for a return to full baseball activity.

NOTE 3: If a medical professional, Umpire in Chief, the player's coach, the player's manager, or the player's parent has determined a player sustains a possible concussion, the player must be, at a minimum, removed from the game and/or practice for the remainder of that day. The league must also be aware of its respective state/provincial/municipal laws with regards to concussions and impose any additional requirements as necessary. His/her return to full participation is subject to 1) the league's adherence to its respective state/provincial/municipal laws, 2) an evaluation and a written clearance from a physician or other accredited medical provider, and 3) written acknowledgment of the parents.

Regulation III – The Teams

Little League International strongly encourages all leagues and teams to not only comply with any applicable state/provincial/municipal laws, but also, to review the information and training materials on concussions that are available free of charge on the Centers For Disease Control website, accessible at LittleLeague.org/Concussions. This link also provides concussion information from all 50 states.

- e. Managers may request to release players for any justifiable reason [as in (d) above, subject to Board approval] between the conclusion of one season and seven (7) days prior to the tryout session, but not later than the players selection or draft meeting of the subsequent season. In the event that a player is released, the president of the league shall notify the player agent, and the player in writing. Such written notice of release shall be given in sufficient time for the player to qualify for tryouts and selection to another team.

Tee Ball and Minor League: If a team manager loses any players on the roster during the current season through illness, injury, change of address, or other justifiable reasons (subject to Board approval), another player could be transferred within that Division, through the player agent, to replace the one lost, or a player may be obtained, through the player agent, from a list of participants who registered after the teams were formed.

NOTE 1: Tee Ball and Minor League players may be reassigned at the discretion of the local league Board of Directors and player agent in order to provide a balanced training program.

NOTE 2: Tee Ball and Minor League teams must be dissolved at the end of the current season, with all players being returned to a player pool.

Regulation IV – The Players

- a. Tee Ball Division:** Any candidate with amateur status who will attain the age of 4 years before January 1 and who will not attain the age of 8 before January 1 of the year in question shall be eligible to compete in the Tee Ball Softball Division (subject to the local league Board of Directors alignment of this division). This means that a participant who will be 8 years old on January 1 or later, is eligible to play that year; a participant who will be 8 years old on the previous December 31 or earlier will not be eligible at any time during the calendar year in question.

NOTE: If a league elects to operate a Tee Ball baseball program only, it must use the league age determination date noted above.

Minor League Division: Any candidate with amateur status who will attain the age of 7 years before September 1, 2026, and who will not attain the age of 13 before August 31, 2026, shall be eligible to compete in the Minor League Baseball Division (subject to the local league Board of Directors alignment of this division). This means that a participant who will be 13 years old on September 1 or later is eligible to play that year; a participant who will be 13 years old on August 31 or earlier will not be eligible for either local league play or tournament play at any time during the calendar year in question.

NOTE 1: Participants league age 5 and 6 are permitted to advance to Minor League Coach Pitch or Machine Pitch after participation in Tee Ball for one year. Participants league age 6 are permitted to advance to Minor League Player Pitch Division after participation in Tee Ball for one year, provided the maximum age limit in the division is league age ten (10). Players must be assessed by the league as capable of participation at that level.

NOTE 2: Tee Ball/Minor Divisions: Players shall not be rostered on more than one team nor in more than one division.

Little League (Major) Division: Any candidate with amateur status who will attain the age of 9 years before September 1, 2026, and who will not attain the age of 13 before August 31, 2026, shall be eligible to compete in Little League Baseball (subject to the local league Board of Directors alignment of this division). This means that a participant who will be 13 years old on September 1 or later is eligible to play that year; a participant who will be 13 years old on August 31 or earlier will not be eligible for either local league play or tournament play at any time during the calendar year in question.

Regulation IV – The Players

NOTE: League age 12-year-olds may participate in Minor Division under certain circumstances with appropriate form completed.

Intermediate (50-70) Division: Any participant with amateur status who will attain the age of 11 years before September 1, 2026, and who will not attain the age of 14 years on or before August 31, 2026, shall be eligible to compete in the Intermediate (50-70) Division. This means a participant who will be 14 years old on September 1 or later is eligible to play that year; a participant who will be 14 years old on August 31 or earlier will not be eligible for either local league or tournament play in the Intermediate (50-70) Division at any time during the calendar year in question.

Junior League: Any player with amateur status who will attain the age of 12 years before September 1, 2026, and who will not attain the age of 15 years on or before August 31, 2026, shall be eligible to compete. This means that a player who will be 15 years old on September 1 or later is eligible to play that year; a player who will be 15 years old on August 31 or earlier will not be eligible for either local league or tournament play in the Junior League at any time during the calendar year in question.

NOTE: The local league may allow 15-year-olds to participate in the Junior League Division for the regular season only if player's skill level is assessed as appropriate for that division. A local league Board may prohibit 15-year-olds from pitching within the Junior Division.

Senior League: Any player with amateur status who will attain the age of 13 years before September 1, 2026, and who will not attain the age of 17 years on or before August 31, 2026, shall be eligible to compete. This means that a player who will be 17 years old on September 1 or later is eligible to play that year; a player who will be 17 years old on August 31 or earlier will not be eligible for either local league or tournament play in the Senior League at any time during the calendar year in question.

NOTE: The local league may allow 12-year-olds to participate in or dual roster in the Senior League Division. Players must be assessed by the league as capable of participation at that level.

Major/Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: An age-appropriate player, in the Major Division and above, AND who is otherwise eligible under all conditions, would be eligible for selection to a team in two regular season divisions in the same league. A local Little League's Board of Directors determines age structure and may limit player selection and participation to one regular season team/division.

Regulation IV – The Players

A player who is otherwise eligible under all conditions could be eligible for selection to multiple tournament teams; however, a player may only be selected to and participate on one (1) tournament team at a time. Player tournament eligibility is governed by Player Eligibility in the Tournament Rules and Guidelines.

Any player who is league age 12 must be permitted to play in the Major Division. The local league cannot force any player who is league age 12 to play in the Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior Division, or Senior Division if the league offers the Major Division.

NOTE: All Divisions: The group accident insurance program for Little League covers only those activities approved or sanctioned by Little League Baseball, Incorporated. A unit Tee Ball, Minor League, Little League (Majors), Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, or Senior League team shall not participate as a Tee Ball, Minor League, Little League (Majors), Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, or Senior League team in games with other teams of other programs or in tournaments except those authorized by Little League International. See Regulation I(g).

Tee Ball, Minor League, Little League (Majors), Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, and Senior League participants may participate in other programs during the Tee Ball, Minor League, Little League (Majors), Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, and Senior League regular season provided such participation does not disrupt the Tee Ball, Minor League, Little League (Majors), Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, or Senior League season.

NOTE 1: See Tournament Rules, (“Player Participation in Other Programs”), regarding participation in non-Little League programs during the International Tournament (“All-Stars”).

NOTE 2: Consistent with a manager’s ability to conduct the affairs of his or her team, a manager may remove a player from the team, subject to Board of Directors approval, for the current regular season or tournament season if the player repeatedly misses practice or games. If a player is repeatedly missing practices or games, the manager must make the local league Board of Directors aware of the situation immediately.

- b. Each candidate must present acceptable proof of age to the league president at least 48 hours before the player selection plan is put into operation. When and if such formal proof of age is not available, the league president shall gather as much documentary evidence as possible and promptly forward it to the District Administrator. If, in the opinion of the District Administrator, such evidence is

Regulation IV – The Players

satisfactory, a statement to that effect will be sent to the league president, which shall be acceptable in lieu of a birth certificate. Such statement will be held in the local Little League files as acceptable proof-of-age.

- c. The president of the local league MUST certify and be responsible for the eligibility of each candidate prior to player selection.

NOTE 1: At the time of registration, a player must designate whether he or she will tryout for baseball, softball, or both, if program option permits. A player may be on two rosters in a local Little League program; however, a player shall not register and participate in more than one local Little League program, unless registering in a second program to participate in softball because their home league does not offer an affiliated Little League Softball program.

- d. The “League Age” of each candidate shall be recorded and announced at the player selection to guide the managers in making their selections.
- e. “League Age” is that age attained before September 1 in any given year. Thus a participant whose 12th birthday is on September 1 or later has a League Age of 11; a participant whose 12th birthday is on August 31 or earlier (of that year), has a League Age of 12. This principle applies regardless of age.
- f. **Majors/Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** Any candidate failing to attend at least one of the spring tryout sessions, shall forfeit league eligibility unless an excuse is presented which is accepted by a majority of the Board of Directors.

Tee Ball and Minor League: Any eligible player who qualifies and becomes available after player assignment should be assigned to a team or placed on a waiting list created by the local league.

NOTE: A local league should accept registrations until the time of player selections. Thereafter, registration may be closed.

- g. Player, manager, and coach data must be supplied to Little League International annually. Leagues may submit information from registration by April 1, 2024. Players claimed under [Regulation II\(d\)](#) must be declared on appropriate forms available from Little League International annually. It is highly recommended that data be supplied electronically in approved formats to Little League International via the Little League Data Center. Look for related information online at LittleLeague.org/DataCenter.

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Beginning with the 2025 season, all U.S. leagues must use Sports Connect for registration, which will have their registration and volunteer information sent automatically and directly to Little League International, helping to fulfill Regulation IV(g).

- i. **Mandatory Play:** Every rostered player present at the start of a game will participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time. For the purposes of this rule, “six (6) 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 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, reaches base safely, or, after reaching base safely, the inning or game ends. For the purposes of meeting the requirements of Mandatory Play when using the traditional batting order, is when a player assumes the position of a batter with no count and one of the following occurs:
- He/she is retired as a batter; or
 - He/she is retired as a batter-runner; or
 - He /she reaches base and scores; or
 - After he/she reaches base, the inning or game ends.

PENALTY: The player(s) involved shall start the next scheduled game, play any previous requirement not completed for Section (i), and the requirement for this game before being removed.

The manager shall for the:

- A. First Offense – receive a written warning.
- B. Second Offense – a suspension for the next scheduled game.
- C. Third Offense – a suspension for remainder of the season.

NOTE 1: If the violation is determined to have been intentional, a more severe penalty may be assessed by the Board of Directors. However, forfeiture of a game may not be invoked.

NOTE 2: There is no exception to this rule unless the game is shortened for any reason, at which time the local league may elect not to impose a penalty on the

Regulation IV – The Players

manager/coach. However, the penalty in this regulation regarding the player who did not meet mandatory play cannot be reduced or waived in a shortened game.

NOTE 3: In Minor League, if a half-inning ends because of the imposition of the five-run limit in “[Rule 2.00 – Inning](#),” and a player on the defense has played for the entire half-inning, that player will be considered to have participated for three consecutive outs for the purposes of this rule. However, if the player has not played on defense for the entire inning, that player will be credited only as having played for the number of outs that occurred while the player was used defensively.

NOTE 4: If a league uses 15 to 20 player rosters and 15 or more eligible players are at a game, the league may reduce the Mandatory Play Rule to three (3) defensive outs and one (1) at bat per game.

NOTE 5: Does not apply in Tournament Play.

NOTE 6: Mandatory Play Requirements do not apply for the Senior League Division.

NOTE 7: During Tournament Play or any time the continuous batting order is used, a courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher and/or catcher of record before that pitcher and/or catcher of record completes the requirements of mandatory play.

A.R. – If a player/batter is called out by an umpire for using an illegal bat or for Rule 6.07 violation, this will qualify as an at bat for the purpose of this rule.

- j. Any request for a waiver pertaining to the eligibility of a player, team, manager, or coach must be submitted in writing, by the president of the local Little League through the District Administrator, to their respective Regional Director not later than June 1 of the current year. Requests submitted after that date will not be considered.

Age Alignment For Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League, and Senior League

The table below outlines methods of operation for Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, and Senior League.

However, if a local league wishes to operate the Junior Division for 12- to 14-year-olds in Regular Season play. This division may be subject to Senior League rules.

Regulation IV – The Players

Leagues	Intermediate (50-70) Division	Junior League	Senior League
League A	11,12	13,14	15,16
League B	11,12,13	13,14	14,15,16
League C	12,13	13,14	14,15,16
League D	11,12	13,14	14,15
League E	12,13	13,14	15,16
League F	11,12,13	13	14,15,16
League G	11,12	13	14,15,16
League H	12,13	13	14,15
League I	11,12,13	13	13,14,15,16

NOTE 1: Players league age 12 are eligible for the Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League and Senior League divisions at the option of the local league Board of Directors. Regulation IV(a). The structure for Tournament Play is: 8- to 10-Year-Old Division (8, 9, and 10); 9- to 11-Year-Old Division (9, 10, and 11); Little League (Major) Division (10, 11, and 12); Intermediate (50-70) Division (11, 12, and 13); Junior League Division (12, 13, and 14); Senior League Division (12, 13, 14, 15, and 16).

NOTE 2: Little League International requires each local league to assess and evaluate the participants in its player pool prior to structuring its Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, and Senior League programs.

Regulation V – Selection of Players

- a. The selection of players for the various teams within a league shall be in compliance with the Little League Draft Methods as detailed in the Operating Policies.

NOTE: All candidates who are league age twelve (12) must be drafted to a Major Division team, Intermediate (50-70) Division team, Junior Division team, and/or Senior League team. Exceptions can only be made with written approval from the District Administrator, and only if approved at the local league level by the Board of Directors and the parent of the candidate.

- b. When a league decides to substitute a selection system for the ones outlined in the Little League Operating Policies section, a complete description of such substituted system **MUST BE PRESENTED** in writing **FOR APPROVAL** to the Charter Committee prior to the player selection process. **Failure to utilize an approved draft method as outlined or an approved alternate draft method by the Charter Committee may result in further action or penalty by the Charter and/or Tournament Committee.**

c. **Alternate method of operation**

To aid leagues that are having a difficult time getting enough players for their regular season teams the following option is available: A pool of players from existing regular season teams can be created with players that are willing to participate in extra games during the regular season when teams face a shortage of rostered players for a regular season game within their respective division or one division below, who are age appropriate and have been assessed capable. Pool players may return to their respective division and all other guidelines must be followed as outlined. **EXAMPLE:** Minors to Major Division, Major Division to Intermediate (50-70) Division, etc.

NOTE: Players may not be “borrowed” from an opponent. They must be assigned by the player agent. Games do not count toward regular season requirement.

Guidelines:

1. The league’s player agent will create and run the pool. The league’s player agent will use the pool to assign players to teams that are short of players on a rotating basis.
2. Managers and/or coaches will not have the right to randomly pick and choose players from the pool.
3. Under this option, when a player participates in a game on a team other than his/

Regulation V – Selection of Players

her own team, such player will not be permitted to pitch in that game.

4. Pool players that are called and show up at the game site must play at least nine (9) consecutive defensive outs and bat once.
- d. Teams are not permitted to enter the Little League program intact, or nearly intact, from non-LittleLeague programs. Under no circumstances will any team or group of players, which did not play on the same team for the previous regular season in the same division of a chartered local Little League, be placed together onto a regular season team in that local Little League. Such players must be processed through the Little League Draft Methods as noted in this regulation. **(Does not apply in the Senior Division)**

Regulation VI – Pitchers

a. Any player on a regular season team may pitch.

Exception: *Any player who has played the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.*

A player who played the position of catcher for three (3) 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. **EXCEPTION:** If the pitcher reaches the 20-pitch limit (**15- and 16-year-olds:** 30-pitch limit) while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to return to the catcher position, until any one of the following conditions occur: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game; or (4) the pitcher is removed from the mound prior to the batter completing his/her at-bat.

A.R. – The catcher receiving one pitch to a batter in the fourth inning constitutes having caught four (4) innings. Warm-up pitches do not count, only when the ball is live will the pitches count toward innings caught.

b. A pitcher once removed from the mound cannot return as a pitcher.

Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League, and Senior League only: A pitcher remaining on defense in the game, but moving to a different defensive position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game.

c. 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
6-8	50 pitches per day

Regulation VI – Pitchers

EXCEPTION: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Regulation VI(c) 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 or the game;
4. The pitcher is removed from the mound prior to the batter completing his/her at bat.

NOTE: If a pitcher reaches 40 pitches while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day, until any one of the following conditions occurs: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; (3) the third out is made to complete the half inning or the game; or (4) the pitcher is removed from the mound prior to the batter completing his/her at-bat. The pitcher would be allowed to play the catcher position provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter. If a player delivers 41 or more pitches, and is not covered under the threshold exception, the player may not play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.

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 1: Under no circumstance shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days.

NOTE 2: A pitcher's pitch count for the purposes of day(s) rest threshold is determined by the first pitch thrown to a batter. The pitcher may not start a new batter once the limit imposed in Regulation VI(c) has been met.

Regulation VI – Pitchers

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 1: Under no circumstance shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days.

NOTE 2: A pitcher's pitch count for the purposes of day(s) rest threshold is determined by the first pitch thrown to a batter. The pitcher may not start a new batter once the limit imposed in Regulation VI(c) has been met.

- e. Each league must designate the scorekeeper or another game official as the official pitch count recorder.
- f. The pitch count recorder must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager is responsible for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed.
- g. The official pitch count recorder should inform the Umpire-in-Chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted in [Regulation VI\(c\)](#). The Umpire-in-Chief will inform the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed in accordance with [Regulation VI\(c\)](#). However, the failure by the pitch count recorder to notify the Umpire-in-Chief, and/or the failure of the Umpire-in-Chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.
- h. Violation of any section of this regulation can result in protest of the game in which it occurs. Protest shall be made in accordance with [Playing Rule 4.19](#).
- j. **Minor League:** A player who has attained the league age of twelve (12) is not eligible to pitch. (See [Regulation V](#) – Selection of Players)

Regulation VI – Pitchers

Junior League: A local league Board may prohibit 15-year-olds from pitching within the Junior Division.

- k. Pitching in more than one game in a day:

Minor League, Little League (Majors), and Intermediate (50-70) Division – A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day;

Junior League and Senior League – A player may be used as a pitcher in up to two games in a day. **EXCEPTION:** A 12-year-old playing in the Junior and/or Senior Division is not eligible to pitch in two games in a day. **NOTE:** If a pitcher reaches 30 pitches while facing a batter in the first game, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to pitch in the second game on that day, until any one of the following conditions occurs: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game; or (4) the pitcher is removed from the mound prior to the batter completing his/her at-bat. The pitcher would be allowed to pitch in a second game provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter. If a player delivers 31 or more pitches in the first game, and is not covered under the threshold exception, the player may not pitch in the second game that day);

A.R. – If a Junior or Senior League pitcher pitches in more than one game in a day, and has not pitched 31 or more pitches in the first game except as noted under the threshold, the total number of pitches that pitcher may pitch in both games combined is the daily maximum of 95.

NOTES:

1. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after that pitcher is announced, or after a warm-up pitch is delivered, but before that player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation. Little League officials are urged to take precautions to prevent protests. When a protest situation is imminent, the potential offender should be notified immediately.

A.R. – Minor League and Little League (Majors): When warming up, if a pitcher is discovered to be ineligible, he/she must be removed and the previous pitcher of record may not return.

2. Pitches delivered in games declared “Regulation Tie Games” or “Suspended Games” shall be charged against pitcher’s eligibility.

Regulation VI – Pitchers

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.

Example 1: A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on the following Thursday. The pitcher is not eligible to pitch in the resumption of the game because he/she has not observed the required days of rest.

Example 2: A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on Saturday. The pitcher is eligible to pitch up to 85 more pitches in the resumption of the game because he/she has observed the required days of rest.

Example 3: A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes two weeks later. The pitcher is eligible to pitch up to 85 more pitches in the resumption of the game, provided he/she is eligible based on his/her pitching record during the previous four days.

Regulation VII – Schedules

- 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:** No minimum regular season games required] 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.
- b. The schedule should provide for not less than two (2) games per week per team. Any facility used for practices and/or games must be approved by the local league Board of Directors. **Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League, and Senior League:** Interleague play is permitted provided the proper form is submitted to the District Administrator for approval.
- c. Where there are two (2) or more leagues in one locality, teams of one league shall not play teams of another league, without approval of the District Administrator, and Region Director, when necessary, as noted in [Regulation I\(c\)\(5\)](#).
- d. **Tee Ball and Coach Pitch/Machine Pitch Minor Division:** No team shall be scheduled to play two games in one day. (See [Rule 4.12](#)).

Minor (Player Pitch): A team may play one (1) doubleheader in a calendar week.

Little League (Major) Division: A team may play two (2) doubleheaders in a calendar week. No team shall play three games in a day. (Exception under condition of [Rule 4.12](#).)

Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: Doubleheaders are permitted.

If two games involving four teams are played on the same day and on the same field, the first game must be completed before the second game starts. (Exception under condition of [Rule 4.12](#).)

League are permitted to impose time limits on the games. However, the game must meet the requirements of [Rule 4.10](#) or [Rule 4.11](#) to be official.

- e. The schedule should be arranged so that at least one-half of the games are scheduled prior to June 15.
- f. **Majors/Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** It is recommended that a split season schedule be arranged with a playoff between the

Regulation VII – Schedules

winners of the first and second halves to determine the league champion.

Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior: When approval is granted for two or more leagues – comprising not more than 40,000 population – to form one Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League, or Senior League, as provided for in [Regulation I\(h\)](#), one regular season schedule will be prepared by a joint committee from the two or more leagues.

g. All play must be terminated by the opening date of school for the fall term but no later than September 1st unless participating in the Training and Development Program.

h. **Minor (Player Pitch) and above:** A local league may establish that games will consist of six (6) innings [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior:** seven (7) innings], or meet regulation as outlined in 4.10 and 4.11, or meet a minimum 1 hour and 45-minute time limit. Any inning which has been started prior to the time limit expiring will be completed. No new inning will begin once the time limit has expired.

Coach Pitch/Machine Pitch Minor Division and Tee Ball: A local league may impose a time limit on games regardless of the number of innings played. It is recommended that no league standings be kept, and no championship games be played.

A.R. – District Administrators administering interleague play activities and local Little League programs may establish a minimum 2-hour time limit for games in Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League.

Regulation VIII – Minor Leagues

(Does not apply to Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League.)

- a. The purpose of the Minor League program is to provide training and instruction for those candidates who by reason of age and other factors do not qualify for selection in the regular Little League.

NOTE: League age 12-year-olds may only participate under certain circumstances with the appropriate form completed.

- b. The Minor League program is the responsibility and is an integral part of the chartered Little League. It is not and may not be operated as a separate entity. It must be restricted to the boundaries of the local league and its players are subject to selection by draft by any Little League (Major) Team of the local league. Refusal of a player to comply shall result in forfeiture of further eligibility in the Little League (Major) Division for the current season.

NOTE: The local league should establish a policy, approved by the Board of Directors, regarding players who decline to move up to a Major League team. Such policy should be distributed at the time of registration and/or tryouts.

- c. No player or team may be deemed to be the property of, or under the jurisdiction or control of, a particular team in the local league.
- d. A local league may elect to utilize adult pitch (“Minor League Coach Pitch”) or machine pitch (“Minor League Machine Pitch”) in Minor League games involving players league ages 7-12. Pitching machines, if used, must be in good working order and must be operated by adult managers, coaches, umpires, or any adult approved by the local league.

NOTE: Participants league age 5 and 6 are permitted to advance to Minor League Coach Pitch or Machine Pitch after participation in Tee Ball for one year. Participants league age 6 are permitted to advance to Minor League Player Pitch Division after participation in Tee Ball for one year, provided the maximum age limit in the division is league age ten (10). Players must be assessed by the league as capable of participation at that level.

Regulation IX – Special Games

a. Special Games are defined as games that:

1. may be counted as regular season games, and,
2. are not Little League International Tournament games, and,
3. involve only teams from chartered Little League programs, and,
4. have been submitted through the Data Center and approved by the District Administrator.

Games played under Special Games against Little League teams may count towards teams' and players' Regular Season schedule. Teams must schedule and play a minimum 12-game regular season schedule. **NOTE:** There is no regular season minimum game schedule requirement to establish eligibility to participate in the Senior Baseball Division of the Little League International Tournament.

b. Special Games may be played for any purpose include part of a regular season, establishing a league or District champion, or part of the International Tournament.

c. With the approval of the Charter Committee of Little League International, and on recommendation of the Region Director (for non-Little League special games only) and District Administrator, chartered leagues may engage in Special Games with Little League teams and/or non-Little League Teams, who have provided proof of acceptable insurance coverage as outlined in Regulation I(c)7.

d. Special Games may be played between:

1. Regular season teams or;
2. Tournament teams using either regular season or tournament rules, but not in combination.

e. Teams participating in Special Games during the regular season shall be regular season teams only. Tournament teams, regular season teams, and Minor League teams involving players below league age 11 may use 8- to 10-Year-Old Division Tournament rules.

f. **Tournament teams may participate in Special Games after June 1.**

g. The league president will be charged with responsibility for conducting special games

Regulation IX – Special Games

under all rules, regulations, and policies of Little League Baseball.

- h.** This rule does not prohibit pre-season practice games between teams in the same division in the same league or the practicing of the league's tournament team against other players in the same division in the same league, provided such practice is done out of uniform.
- i. Tee Ball:** Special Games are permissible only with regular season teams. However, they are not recommended by Little League International. "All Stars" are not authorized.

Regulation X – Night Games

- a. **Tee Ball, Minor League, Little League (Majors) Division, Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, and Senior League** games may be played after sundown under artificial lights. This responsibility shall rest with the local leagues. In any event, no inning shall start after 10:00 p.m. prevailing time (9:00 p.m. for **Tee Ball**).

Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, and Senior: No inning shall start after 10:30 p. m. prevailing time. It will be held that an inning starts the moment that the third out is made, completing the preceding inning.

- b. Artificial lights for Little League games must meet the minimum standards approved by Little League International. (See LittleLeague.org/LightingStandards for more information and standards.)
- c. The league may be permitted to impose time limits on the games. A local league may establish that games will consist of six (6) innings [**Junior/Senior League:** seven (7) innings], or meet regulation as outlined in 4.10 and 4.11, or meet a minimum 1 hour and 45-minute time limit. Any inning which has been started prior to the time limit expiring will be completed. No new inning will begin once the time limit has expired.

A.R. – District Administrators administering interleague play activities and local Little League programs may establish a minimum 2-hour time limit for games in Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League.

Regulation XI – Admission to Games

Regulation XI – Admission to Games

No admission shall be charged to any Tee Ball, Minor League, or Little League (Major) Division game. Voluntary contributions are permitted. **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** Admission charge is permitted.

Regulation XII – Awards

- a.** Value of awards and material gifts to individual players must be in accordance with the prevailing rules of the High School Athletic Association of the state in which the player participates.
- b.** No awards shall be made to players on the basis of comparable skills or accomplishments.

NOTE: Honor certificates, team pictures, inexpensive medals, or pins give adequate recognition and provide lasting mementos from Little League.

Regulation XIII – Commercialization

- a. Exploitation of Little League International and its Leagues in any form or for any purpose is prohibited.
- b. Solicitation for fundraising by any Little League player, in or out of uniform, must be done under adult supervision to protect the safety and wellbeing of the child, in addition to adherence to Little League's Child Protection and all other Operating Policies at all times.
- c. A reasonable League participation fee may be assessed as a parent's obligation to assure the operational continuity of the League. At no time should a child be turned away from participation in the Little League International program due to their inability to pay. It is recommended that parents who are unable to pay a participation fee be encouraged to contribute volunteer time to the League.
- d. No League volunteer, employee, parent/guardian, or participant, while acting in such capacity or representing the League, shall execute a contract for or otherwise agree to, accept compensation in any form, personal or otherwise, for promoting the use of, any product, service, or organization. Neither players, families, teams, or Leagues should be exploited or commercialized in any way, including in Little League uniforms, nor shall an endorsement be given to any business in relation to Little League participation. Permission shall not be given to anyone to use Little League Trademarks, which includes the words "Little League" as well as logos and other trademarks to any commercial business, organization or otherwise third-party entity.

Outside of in-kind product and equipment provided by Official Sponsors at our World Series and Divisional Tournaments at the highest level, there shall be no requirement of any player to use any specific brand/manufacturer of equipment by the League or district. Neither the manager, nor any members of the team, coaching staff, or other representatives may accept gifts, monetary incentives or payments, equipment, apparel, awards, branded items, content opportunities, or other promotional items of any kind from any source without the explicit approval of Little League International. The League Officers are responsible for promptly advising players' parents, other coaches, and League representatives that they are likewise prohibited from accepting such items or incentives from any source for the team or its players. Little League International must be notified immediately if the manager, any member of the team or coaching staff, or any parents are contacted by, offered, or have received any such items. Acceptance of any of the above-mentioned items or engagement in any prohibited situations may jeopardize the amateur status of

Regulation XIII – Commercialization

Little Leaguers and may affect the eligibility of the team to advance in tournaments.

NOTE: Little League International's policy on amateurism can be found under Player Eligibility & Amateur Status in the General Information section of the Little League Rulebook.

- e. A League may permit a Regular Season Team and/or International Tournament Team to include the name of a team sponsor on the uniform, and the League may receive a fee for such sponsorships, as is customary with sponsorships that the League provides, provided the sponsorship does not conflict with any Little League Rule, Regulation, and/or Operating Policies, that the League adheres to any applicable laws for the collection of such funds. Additionally, such sponsor name must be in place on the uniform from the start of the International Tournament. Once a Tournament Team plays its first game in the International Tournament, a reference to any company, product, service, or organization (including, but not limited to, a slogan or logo) may not be added to, included on, or appear on any Tournament Team uniform, apparel, accessories, or equipment. Any reference to the League Sponsorship must make it clear that the Sponsorship is with the local League ONLY, and NOT with Little League International. Use of Little League Trademarks by any local sponsor is prohibited, and Leagues should follow the specific guidelines for use of trademarks in the Operating Policies section of the Little League Rulebooks.

Such sponsor shall have no authority with regard to the composition or operation of the League, the team, or its manager and/or coaches, nor shall it have any input in the use of donated funds. A district, League, or team may not permit a local sponsor of a district, League, or team to use any Little League Trademarks at any time. For the sake of clarity, the words Little League in any form or combination, including in a League's name, and the Little League uniform patch, are trademarks of Little League International.

- f. Violation of any part of this regulation shall result in penalties up to and including removal from the Little League International program and/or revocation of the League's charter and/or forfeiture of International Tournament game(s).

Regulation XIV – Field Decorum

- a. The actions, on or off the field, of players, managers, coaches, umpires, and league officials must be above reproach. Any player, manager, coach, umpire, or league representative who is involved in a verbal or physical altercation, or an incident of unsportsmanlike conduct, at the game site or any other Little League activity including through online or social media, is subject to disciplinary action by the local league Board of Directors.
- b. Uniformed players, approved credentialed photographers, managers, coaches, and umpires only shall be permitted within the confines of the playing field just prior to and during games. Batboys and/or batgirls are not permitted at any level of play. Except for the batter, base-runners, and base coaches at first and third bases, all players shall be on their benches in their dugouts or in the bullpen when the team is at bat. When the team is on defense, all reserve players shall be on their benches or in the bullpen. **EXCEPTION:** The on-deck position is permitted in **Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, and Senior League**.

A.R. – Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: The on-deck batter shall be positioned in the on-deck circle closest to their dugout.

- c. Two adult base coaches are permitted.
- d. A manager or coach shall not leave the bench or dugout except to confer with a player or an umpire and only after receiving permission from an umpire.

(**EXCEPTION:** In Tee Ball and Minor League, managers and coaches may be on the field for instructional purposes, but shall not assist runners or touch a live ball. At least one adult manager or coach must be in the dugout at all times.)
- e. The possession and/or use of firearms, tobacco products, cigarettes (including e-cigarettes and vapors), controlled substances, and alcoholic beverages in any form is prohibited on the playing field, benches, or dugouts. Alcohol is prohibited at the game site.

Regulation XV – Appearance of Little Leaguers in the Media

- a.** The appearance of Little League players in uniform in advertisements of any kind, or on commercial television programs, or in motion pictures, without the written approval of Little League International, is forbidden.
- b.** Brief, televised reports of games and activities on news programs are permitted. Online and traditional print outlets are also permitted to photograph or otherwise record games and activities, solely for news/editorial purposes.
- c.** The televising of regular season games, special games, or International Tournament games on a local or regional basis is permitted, provided a contract (available at LittleLeague.org/GameContracts) is in place, and provided written permission from Little League Baseball, Incorporated has been received to televise the specific game(s) or tournament(s).
- d.** Radio broadcasts of regular season games and special games are permitted, provided a “Little League Regular Season Radio Contract” (available at LittleLeague.org/GameContracts) for the specific game(s) is properly completed and on file with the local league.
- e.** Radio broadcasts of International Tournament games are permitted, provided a “Little League International Tournament Radio Contract” (available at LittleLeague.org/GameContracts) for the specific game(s) or tournament is properly completed and on file with the district.
- f.** Internet web-casts of regular season games and special games are permitted, provided a “Little League Regular Season Internet Web-Cast Contract” (available at LittleLeague.org/GameContracts) for the specific game(s) is properly completed and on file with the local league.
- g.** Internet web-casts of International Tournament games are permitted, provided a “Little League International Tournament Internet Web-Cast Contract” (available at LittleLeague.org/GameContracts) for the specific game(s) or tournament is properly completed and on file with the district.
- h.** Local leagues wishing to initiate a broadcast, web-cast, or live stream of their games on a league-owned and/or operated website, social network, or other digital platform may do so, and must follow Little League’s trademark and commercialization policies.

Leagues are encouraged to review the guidance on livestreaming/webcasting games in the Frequently Asked Questions section, and LittleLeague.org/Livestreaming.

Regulation XVI – Use of Little League Name and Emblem

Use of the Official Emblem “LL,” “LLB,” “LLWS” and/or words “Little League,” “Little League Baseball,” “Little Leaguer,” “Senior League Little League,” “Big League Little League,” “Senior League Little League Baseball,” “Big League Little League Baseball,” “Little League Softball,” “Little League Challenger Division,” “Girls With Game,” “Sandlot Fun Days,” related International Tournament trademarks, and any other Little League owned Trademarks, (registered under Federal Certificate in U.S. Patent Office), is granted to chartered leagues and cannot be extended by local leagues to any other organization for any purpose whatsoever. These marks are protected both by a special Act of Congress and registrations with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. All rights in and to any and all marks of Little League Baseball, Incorporated, are reserved.

Regulation XVII – Tournament Play

This regulation applies to the International Tournament, which includes the 8- to 10-Year-Old Division, the 9- to 11-Year-Old Division, Little League (Major) Division, Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League, and Senior League tournaments.

- a.** Tournament team practice or tryouts shall be specified by the Tournament Committee.
- b.** The practicing of the league's tournament team against other players in the same division in the same league is permitted providing such practice is done out of uniform.
- c.** Tournament rules are published herein.
- d.** Unless officially notified to the contrary, each league shall assume full responsibility for expenses incurred in tournament competition.
- e.** The structure for tournament play in baseball will be: 8- to 10-Year-Old Division; 9-to 11-Year-Old Division; Major Division (10- to 12-); Intermediate (50-70) Division (11, 12, and 13); Junior Division (12, 13, and 14); and Senior Division (12, 13, 14, 15, and 16).

Official Playing Rules

Little League Baseball® (Major) Division, Minor League Baseball, Tee Ball Baseball, Intermediate (50-70) Division Baseball, Junior League Baseball, and Senior League Baseball

An Approved Ruling (A.R.) serves to illustrate the application of the regulations and rules. Approved Rulings follow the regulations and rules they amplify and are indicated by a box.

Rule 1.00 – Objectives of The Game

- 1.01** Little League Baseball in all divisions is a game between two teams of nine players each, under the direction of a manager and not more than two rostered coaches, played on a regulation Little League field in accordance with these rules, under the jurisdiction of one or more umpires.

NOTE: Competitive Minor Leagues and above may use no more than nine players on defense. Local League Option: A game may not be started with less than eight (8) players on each team. See Rules [4.16](#) and [4.17](#).

Tee Ball/Minor League Instructional Division is a game between two teams, under the direction of a manager and not more than three coaches, played on a regulation Little League field in accordance with these rules, under the jurisdiction of one or more umpires. See Rules [4.16](#) and [4.17](#).

- 1.02** The objective of each team is to win by scoring more runs than the opponent. **Tee Ball:** It is recommended that no score be kept.
- 1.03** The winner of the game shall be that team which shall have scored, in accordance with these rules, the greater number of runs at the conclusion of a regulation game.
- 1.04 THE PLAYING FIELD.** The field shall be laid out according to the instructions, supplemented by Diagrams No. 1 and No. 2. Diagrams No. 3, No. 4 and No. 5 for **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**.

The infield shall be a 60-foot square for Little League (Major) division and below. For **Intermediate (50-70) Division**, the infield shall be a 70-foot square. For **Junior/Senior League**, the infield shall be a 90-foot square. **Tee Ball option:** The infield may be a 50-foot square. **Junior League Option:** The base paths may be 80 feet.

The outfield shall be the area between two foul lines formed by extending two sides of the square, as in Diagram 1. The distance from home base to the nearest fence, stand, or other obstruction on fair territory should be 200 feet or more [200 feet or more for **Intermediate (50-70) Division** and 300 feet or more for **Junior/Senior League**]. A distance of 200 feet or more [200 feet or more for **Intermediate (50-70) Division** and 300 feet or more for **Junior/Senior League**] along the foul lines and to center field is recommended. The infield shall be graded so that the base lines and home plate are level.

The pitcher's plate shall be six inches [eight inches for **Intermediate (50-70)**]

Rule 1.00 – Objectives of The Game

Division and 10 inches for **Junior/Senior League**] above the level of home plate. The infield and outfield, including the boundary lines, are fair territory and all other area is foul territory.

It is desirable that the line from home base through the pitcher's plate to second base shall run east-northeast.

It is recommended that the distance from home base to the backstop, and from the base lines to the nearest fence, stand, or other obstruction on foul territory should be 25 feet or more [45 feet or more for **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior**]. See Diagrams.

When the location of home base is determined, with a steel tape measure 84 feet, 10 inches (99 feet for **Intermediate (50-70) Division** and 127 feet, $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches for **Junior/Senior League**) in the desired direction to establish second base. From home base, measure 60 feet (70 feet for **Intermediate (50-70) Division** and 90 feet for **Junior/Senior League**) towards first base; from second base, measure 60 feet (70 feet for **Intermediate (50-70) Division** and 90 feet for **Junior/Senior League**) towards first base, the intersection of these lines establishes first base. From home base, measure 60 feet (70 feet for **Intermediate (50-70) Division** and 90 feet for **Junior/Senior League**) towards third base; from second base, measure 60 feet (70 feet for **Intermediate (50-70) Division** and 90 feet for **Junior/Senior League**) towards third base, the intersection of these lines establishes third base. The distance between first base and third base is 84 feet, 10 inches (99 feet for **Intermediate (50-70) Division** and 127 feet, $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches for **Junior/Senior League**). All measurements from home base shall be taken from the point where the first and third base lines intersect. (Base paths of 80 feet are optional for **Junior League** regular season play only.)

The catcher's box, the batter's box, the base coaches boxes, and the three-foot runner's lane shall be laid out as shown in Diagrams.

The catcher's box extends approximately 6 feet $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches to the rear of home plate. It is determined by extending each foul line 9 feet beyond the back point of home plate. **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** The rear line of the catcher's box is 8 feet directly back from the point of home plate. It extends forward to the rear line of the batter's box. It is 3 feet 7 inches wide.

The batter's box shall be rectangular, 6 feet by 3 feet [6 feet by 4 feet for **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**]. The inside line, if used, shall be parallel to and 4 inches [6 inches for **Intermediate (50-70) Division/**

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Junior/Senior League] away from the side of home plate. It shall extend forward from the center of home plate 3 feet and to the rear 3 feet.

The base coaches boxes shall be 4 feet by 8 feet (10 feet by 20 feet for **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**) and shall not be closer than 6 feet [10 feet for **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**] from the foul lines.

The foul lines and all other playing lines indicated in the diagrams by solid black lines shall be marked with chalk or other white material. Caustic lime must not be used.

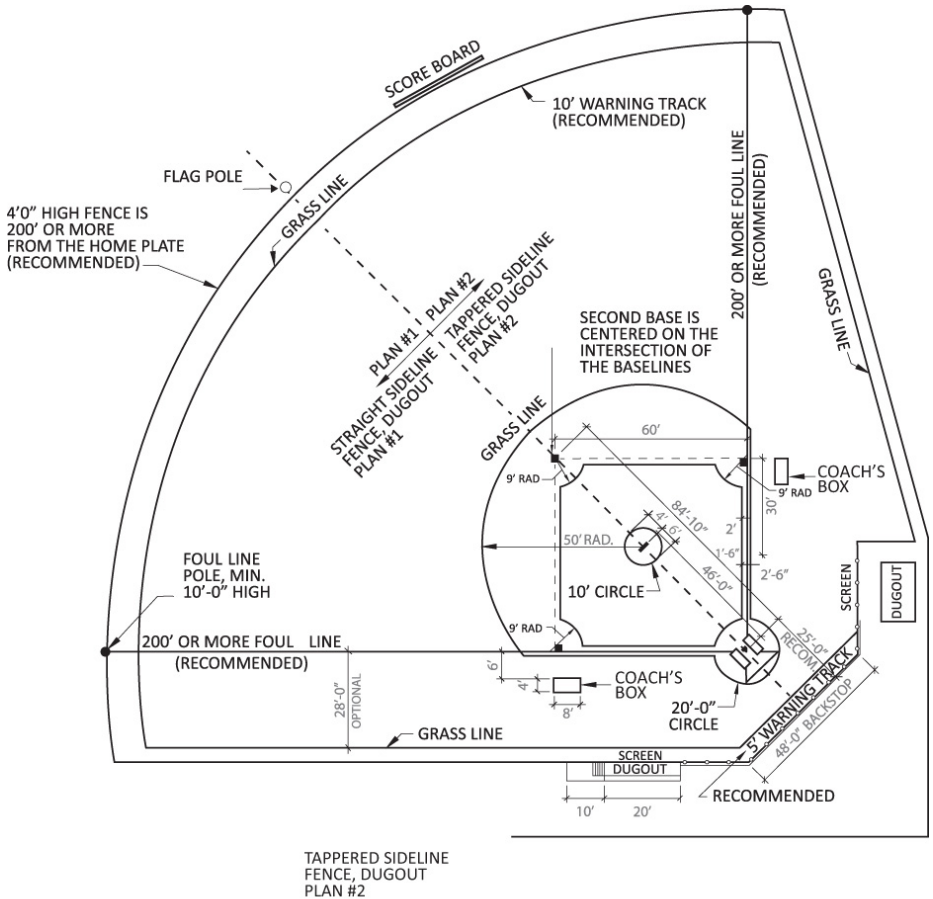
The grass lines and dimensions shown on the diagrams are those used in many fields, but they are not mandatory. Each league shall determine the size and shape of the grassed and bare areas of its playing field.

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Diagram No. 1

Diagram showing Tee Ball/Coach Pitch/Machine Pitch/Minor League/Little League (Major) field layout. All dimensions are compulsory unless marked “optional” or “recommended.”

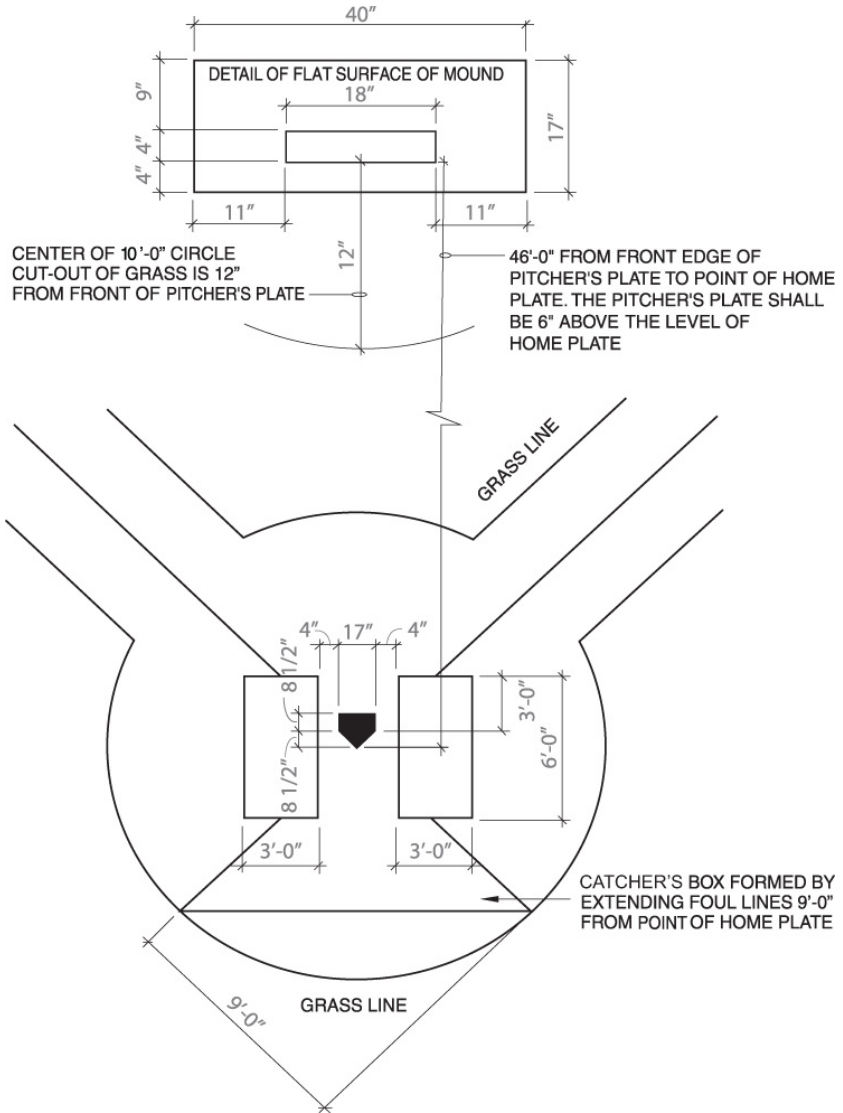
NOTE: Tee Ball base paths may be 50 feet.



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Diagram No. 2

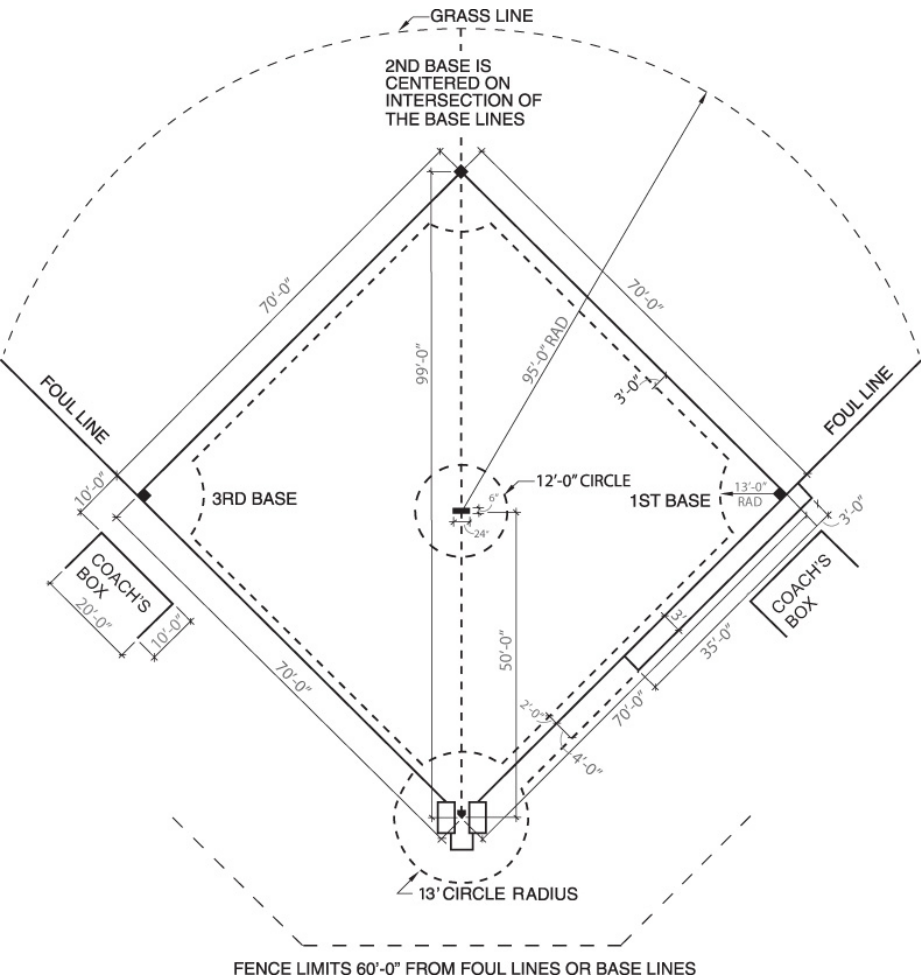
Diagram showing layout of Tee Ball/Coach Pitch/Machine Pitch/Minor League/Little League (Major) batter's box and compulsory dimensions.



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Diagram No. 3

Diagram showing Intermediate (50-70) Division field layout. All dimensions are compulsory unless marked “optional” or “recommended.”



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Diagram No. 4

Diagram showing Junior/Senior League field layout. All dimensions are compulsory unless marked “optional” or “recommended.”

NOTE: Junior base paths may be 80 feet.

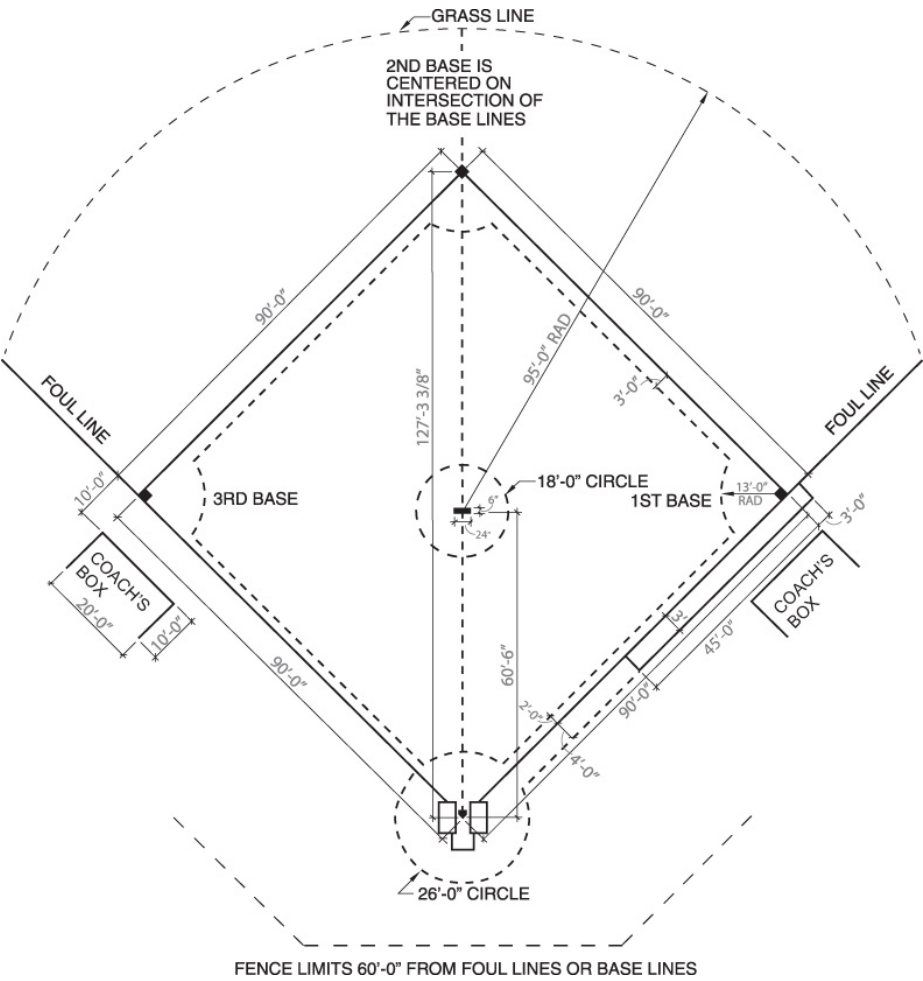


Diagram No. 5

Diagram showing layout of Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League batter's box and compulsory dimensions.

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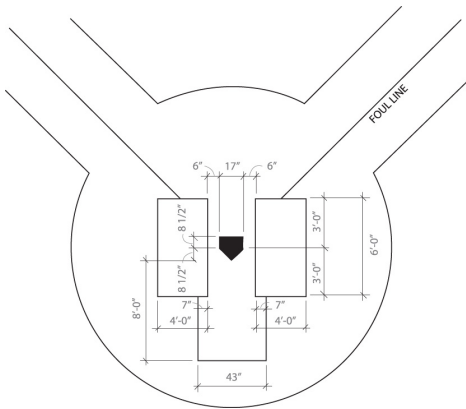
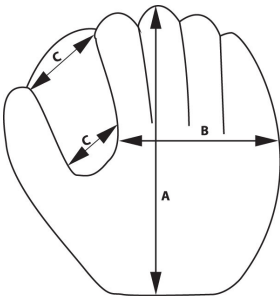


Diagram No. 6



See Rule 1.13 and Rule 1.14.

- 1.05** Home base shall be marked by a five-sided slab of whitened rubber. It shall be a 17-inch square with two of the corners filled in so that one edge is 17 inches long, two 8½ inches, and two are 12 inches. It shall be set in the ground with the point at the intersection of the lines extending from home base to first base and to third base; with the 17-inch edge facing the pitcher's plate and the two 12-inch edges coinciding with the first and third base lines. The top edges of home base shall be beveled and the base shall be fixed in the ground level with the ground surface. The black beveled edge is not considered part of home plate.
- 1.06** First, second, and third bases shall be marked by white canvas or rubber covered bags, securely attached to the ground. The first and third base bags shall be entirely

Rule 1.00 – Objectives of The Game

within the infield. The second base bag shall be centered on second base. The base bags shall not be less than fourteen (14) nor more than fifteen (15) inches square and the outer edges shall not be more than two and one-fourth (2¼) inches thick and filled with a soft material. **Leagues are required to ensure that first, second, and third bases will disengage their anchor.** A list of licensed, disengageable bases can be found at LittleLeague.org/FieldSupplies.

NOTE 1: If a base is dislodged from its position during a play, any following runner on the same play shall be considered as touching or occupying the base if, in the umpire's judgment, that runner touches or occupies the dislodged bag or the point marked by the original location of the dislodged bag.

NOTE 2: Use of the “Double First Base” is permissible at all levels of play. See [Rule 7.15](#).

- 1.07** The pitcher's plate shall be a rectangular slab of whitened rubber 18 inches by 4 inches [24 inches by 6 inches for **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**]. It shall be set in the ground as shown in the Diagrams, so that the distance between the front side of the pitcher's plate and home base (the rear point of home plate) shall be 46 feet [50 feet for **Intermediate (50-70) Division** and 60 feet, 6 inches for **Junior/Senior League**]. (Detailed diagrams may be downloaded at LittleLeague.org/FieldLayout.);

NOTE: 54 feet pitching distance is optional for Junior League regular season only.

- 1.08** The league shall furnish players' benches, one each for the home and visiting teams. Such benches should not be less than 25 feet from the base lines. They shall be protected by wire fencing.

NOTE 1: The on-deck position is not permitted in **Little League (Major) Division and below**.

A.R. – Fenced-in areas MAY NOT be used for an on-deck batter.

NOTE 2: Only the first batter of each half-inning will be permitted outside the dugout between half-innings in **Little League (Major) Division and below**.

A.R. – The next batter should be ready with a helmet on, but may not pick up a bat until it is his/her turn at bat.

- 1.09** The ball used must meet Little League specifications and standards. It shall weigh

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not less than five (5) nor more than five and one-fourth ($5\frac{1}{4}$) ounces, and measure not less than nine (9) nor more than nine and one-fourth ($9\frac{1}{4}$) inches in circumference. (**Tee Ball:** The ball may carry the words “Little League Tee Ball.”)

NOTE: Baseballs licensed by Little League will be printed with one of two designations: “RS” (for regular season play) or “RS-T” (for regular season and tournament play).

- 1.10** The bat must be a baseball bat which meets the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat) as adopted by Little League. It shall be a smooth, rounded stick, and made of wood or of material and color tested and proved acceptable to the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat).

Non-wood and laminated bats used in the Little League (Majors) and below, Intermediate (50-70) Division, and Junior League divisions shall bear the USA Baseball logo signifying that the bat meets the USABat – USA Baseball’s Youth Bat Performance Standard. All BPF – 1.15 bats are prohibited. The bat diameter shall not exceed 2-5/8 inches for these divisions of play. Bats meeting the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) standard may also be used in the Intermediate (50-70) Division and Junior League Division. Additional information is available at LittleLeague.org/BatInfo.

Tee Ball: Under the USABat standard, certified Tee Ball bats (26” and shorter) will feature the USA Baseball mark and text which reads ONLY FOR USE WITH APPROVED TEE BALLS.

NOTE 1: Approved Tee Ball bats may also be used for Coach Pitch/Machine Pitch Minor Divisions only with the use of approved Tee Balls.

Minor/Major Divisions: It shall not be more than 33 inches in length; nor more than 2-5/8 inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths ($15/16$) inches in diameter ($7/8$ inch for bats less than 30”) at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed sixteen (16) inches from the small end.

NOTE 1: Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo.

NOTE 2: Approved Tee Ball bats may also be used for Coach Pitch/Machine Pitch Minor Divisions only with the use of approved Tee Balls.

Intermediate (50-70) Division and Junior League: It shall not be more than 34” inches in length; nor more than 2-5/8 inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths ($15/16$) inches in diameter ($7/8$ inch for bats less than 30”) at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed eighteen

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(18) inches from the small end.

NOTE 1: Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo.

NOTE 2: Also, permitted for the Intermediate (50-70) Division and Junior League Division are bats meeting the BBCOR performance standard, and so labeled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color. Aluminum/alloy and composite bats shall be marked as to their material makeup being aluminum/alloy or composite. This marking shall be silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one-half-inch on each side, and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color.

Senior League: It shall not be more than 36 inches in length, nor more than 2-5/8 inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed eighteen (18) inches from the small end. The bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a 33-inch-long bat cannot weigh less than 30 ounces). All bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be so labeled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color. Aluminum/alloy and composite bats shall be marked as to their material makeup being aluminum/alloy or composite. This marking shall be silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one-half-inch on each side, and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color.

In all divisions, non-wood bat must have a grip of cork, tape, or composition material, and must extend a minimum of 10 inches from the small end. Slippery tape or similar material is prohibited.

NOTE 1: The traditional batting donut is not permissible.

NOTE 2: The use of pine tar or any other similar adhesive substance may be applied to the handle or grip of the bat at all levels of Little League Baseball. Pine tar or any other foreign substance shall not be added to the surface of the barrel or taper of the bat and shall not cover the USA Baseball Logo, BBCOR for the Intermediate (50/70), Junior League, and Senior League Division, or other key identifying information or logos on the bat. **PENALTY:** If the bat has pine tar or a foreign substance on the barrel or taper of the bat, or covers key identifying

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information on the bat, the bat must be removed from the game, and the player shall be warned. If the player repeats the infraction, the offending player and manager shall be ejected from the game. In such cases, all results from the use of such a bat will stand, and this infraction is not cause for calling the batter out nor shall the bat be declared illegal.

NOTE 3: Non-wood bats may develop dents from time to time. Bats that have cracks or sharp edges, or that cannot pass through the approved Little League bat ring for the appropriate division must be removed from play. The 2-1/4-inch bat ring must be used for bats labeled 2-1/4. The 2-5/8-inch bat ring must be used for bats labeled for 2-5/8.

NOTE 4: An illegal bat must be removed. Any bat that has been altered shall be removed from play.

PENALTY – See [Rule – 6.06\(d\)](#).

A.R. 1 – If the certification mark/s on a bat are not legible, that bat cannot be used and shall be removed from the game.

A.R. 2 – No bat, in any level of Little League Baseball or Softball play, is permitted to be altered. Products such as, but not limited to, choke-knobs and choke-up assists are not permitted. **PENALTY:** If a bat has such a product, the product must be removed from the bat, and the bat shall not be declared illegal. The player shall be warned, and if he/she repeats the infraction, the offending player and manager shall be ejected from the game. In such cases, all results from the use of such a bat will stand, and this infraction is not cause for calling the batter out nor shall the bat be declared illegal.

- 1.11 (a) (1)** All players on a team shall wear numbered uniforms identical in color, trim, and style.
- (2)** The Little League Official Shoulder Patch must be affixed to the upper left sleeve or left chest of the uniform shirt. Patches shall be placed centered on the left shoulder sleeve; or, centered on the left chest for sleeveless style. The patch may not be screen-printed or sublimated. Little League International has established a new, unified patch that reflects all levels of the program. This patch, which matches our new Little League logo, can be used, regardless of the division of play, on your league's uniforms. "Rocker patches" that can go above the new patch for all divisions and roles will also be available, for those who wish to add those distinctions

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to your uniforms, including umpires. If your league still has patches that have been previously purchased, you do not need to replace those patches, and limited quantities of our previous patches are still available, while supplies last. Additional information can be found at LittleLeague.org/Patch.



Patches worn centered on the left shoulder sleeve.



Patches centered over left chest on sleeveless style.

- (3) Any part of the pitcher's undershirt or T-shirt exposed to view shall be of a solid color. The pitcher's undershirt sleeves, if exposed, shall not be white or gray. Sleeves may be worn by the pitcher and do not need to be covered by an undershirt, provided the sleeve is one solid color and is not white or grey. The use of play calling bands by defensive players is permitted under the following conditions:

- The equipment must be worn as the manufacturer intended (i.e. on either the wrist or forearm)
- The play calling band may not be attached to the belt or any other location on the player's person.
- Baseball and Softball pitchers are permitted to wear a play calling band on their non-pitching (glove) arm, provided it is a solid color and not white, gray, or optic yellow. If the umpire considers it distracting to the batter, he/she may have it removed.

NOTE: A pitcher shall not wear any items on his/her hands, wrists, or arms which may be distracting to the batter, e.g. sweat bands.

- (b) A league must provide each team with a distinctive uniform. Uniforms are the property of the league. **Tee Ball and Minor League:** T-shirts and caps are

Rule 1.00 – Objectives of The Game

recommended, but hand-me-down uniforms may be worn.

- (c) Sleeve lengths may vary for individual players, but the sleeves of each individual shall be approximately the same length. No player shall wear ragged, frayed, or slit sleeves.
- (d) No players shall attach to a uniform tape or other material of a different color than the uniform
- (e) No part of the uniform shall include a pattern that imitates or suggests the shape of a baseball.
- (f) Glass buttons and polished metal shall not be used on a uniform.
- (g) No player shall attach anything to the heel or toe of the shoe other than a toe plate.
- (h) Shoes with metal spikes or cleats are not permitted. Shoes with molded cleats are permissible. [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** shoes with metal spikes or cleats are permitted.]

A.R. – Little League (Majors) and below: Removable spikes or cleats are permitted if, when removed, no metal remains exposed.

- (i) Managers and coaches must not wear conventional baseball uniforms or shoes with metal spikes but may wear cap, slacks, and shirt. [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** Managers and coaches may wear conventional baseball uniforms or cap, slacks, and shirts. They may not wear shoes with metal spikes.]
- (j) Any jewelry worn by a player that poses harm to injury will be subject to removal. This rule applies regardless of the composition of such jewelry, hard cosmetic item, or hard decorative item. Hard items to control the hair, such as beads, are permitted.

EXCEPTION: Jewelry that alerts medical personnel to a specific condition is permissible.

- (k) Casts may not be worn during the game by players and umpires.

NOTE: Persons wearing casts, including managers and coaches, must remain in the dugout during the game.

Rule 1.00 – Objectives of The Game

- 1.12** The catcher must wear a catcher's mitt (not a first baseman's mitt or fielder's glove) of any shape, size, or weight consistent with protecting the hand.
- 1.13** The first baseman must wear a glove or mitt of any weight with the following maximum specifications:
- (a) not more than 14 inches long (measured from the bottom edge or heel straight up across the center of the palm to a line even with the highest point of the glove or mitt), and;
 - (b) not more than eight inches wide across the palm (measured from the bottom edge of the webbing farthest from the thumb in a horizontal line to the outside of the little finger edge of the glove or mitt), and;
 - (c) webbing not more than $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide (measured across the top end or along any line parallel to the top). See [Diagram No. 6](#).
- 1.14** Each defensive player (other than the first baseman and catcher) must wear a glove of any weight, with the same maximum specifications as noted in [Rule 1.13](#).
- 1.15** (a) The pitcher's glove may not, exclusive of the piping, be white or light gray, nor, in the judgment of an umpire, distracting in any manner.
- (b) No pitcher shall attach to the glove any foreign material of a color different from the glove. The pitcher may wear a batting glove on the non-pitching hand under the pitcher's glove provided the batting glove is not white, gray, or optic yellow.
- 1.16** Each league shall provide in the dugout or bench of the offensive team six (6) [seven (7) for **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**] protective helmets which must meet NOCSAE (National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment) specifications and standards. Use of the helmet by the batter, all base runners, and base coaches is mandatory. Use of a helmet by an adult base coach or any defensive player is optional. Each helmet shall have an exterior warning label. Helmets must have a non-glare surface and cannot be mirror-like in nature. Each helmet must meet NOCSAE specifications and bear the NOCSAE stamp as well as an exterior warning label as noted above. **Warning!** Altering the helmet in any form, including painting or adding decals (by anyone other than the manufacturer or authorized dealer) may void the helmet warranty and/or NOCSAE certification. Helmets may not be re-painted and may not contain tape. Little League recommends that no alternations be made to any type of helmet.

Rule 1.00 – Objectives of The Game

A.R. – If a player, during play, removes his/her helmet or causes his/her helmet to come off, he/she shall NOT be called out, but shall be warned not to intentionally remove his/her helmet and, if it continues, the player may be removed for unsportsmanlike conduct, as this can cause an unsafe condition.

- 1.17** All male players must wear athletic supporters. Male catchers must wear the metal, fibre, or plastic type cup, and approved long or short-model chest protector. Female catchers must wear long or short model chest protectors. All catchers must wear chest protectors with neck collar, throat guard, shin guards, and catcher's helmet, all of which must meet Little League specifications and standards. The catcher's helmet must meet NOCSAE specifications and standards, and bear the NOCSAE stamp. All catchers must wear a mask, "dangling" type throat protector, and catcher's helmet during infield/outfield practice, pitcher warm-up, and games.

NOTE: Skull caps are not permitted. **Warning!** Manufacturers have advised that altering helmets in any way can be dangerous. Altering the helmet in any form, including painting or adding decals (by anyone other than the manufacturer or authorized dealer) may void the helmet warranty and/or NOCSAE certification. Helmets may not be re-painted and may not contain tape. Little League recommends that no alternations be made to any type of helmet.

A.R. – Wearing of a catcher's helmet with mask and dangling throat guard (even if the mask has a wire extension) is required during games, pitcher warmup, and any form of infield or infield/outfield practice. The "Hockey Style" helmet is authorized for use at all levels of play. The "dangling" throat guard still must be attached properly.

Rule 2.00 – Definition of Terms

Rule 2.00 – Definition of Terms

(All definitions in Rule 2.00 are listed alphabetically)

ADJUDGED is a judgment decision by an umpire.

An **APPEAL** is an act of a fielder in claiming a violation of the rules by the offensive team.

An **AT-BAT**, for the purposes of meeting the requirements of Mandatory Play when using the traditional batting order (if applicable), is when a player assumes the position of a batter with no count and one of the following occurs:

- He/she is retired as a batter; or
- He/she is retired as a batter-runner; or
- He/she reaches base and scores; or
- After he/she reaches base, the inning or game ends

A.R. – 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.

NOTE 1: For the purpose of satisfying the requirements of Mandatory Play when using the traditional batting order, when appearing offensively for the first time in the game, a player must remain in the game until one of the following occurs:

- He/She is retired as a batter; or
- He/She is retired as a batter-runner; or
- He/She reaches base and scores; or
- After he/she reaches base, the inning or game ends.

NOTE 2: Does not apply in Tournament Play.

A **BACKSTOP** is the barrier erected behind the catcher in order to allow the catcher to retrieve passed balls easily.

A **BALK** is an illegal act by the pitcher with a runner or runners on base entitling all

Rule 2.00 – Definition of Terms

runners to advance one base [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**]. A balk is not called in the **Little League (Major) Division and below**. (See [Rule 8.05 – Illegal Pitch](#).)

A **BALL** is a pitch which does not enter the strike zone in flight and is not struck at by the batter.

NOTE: If the pitch touches the ground and bounces through the strike zone it is a “ball.” If such a pitch touches the batter, the batter shall be awarded first base. If the batter swings at such a pitch and misses, it is a strike. **Majors/Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** If the batter swings at such a pitch after two strikes, the ball cannot be caught for the purposes of [Rule 6.05\(b\)\(2\)](#) and [6.09\(b\)](#). If the batter hits such a pitch, the ensuing action shall be the same as if the batter hit the ball in flight.

A **BASE** is one of four points which must be touched by a runner in order to score a run; more usually applied to the canvas bags and the rubber plate which mark the base points.

A **BASE COACH** is a team member in uniform or an adult manager and/or coach who is stationed in the base coach’s box at first and/or third base to direct the batter and the runners.

NOTE: Two (2) adult base coaches are permitted at all levels. The second coach may be 16 years or older. See [Rule 4.05](#) for restrictions.

A **BASE ON BALLS** is an award of first base granted to batters who, during their time at bat, receive four pitches outside the strike zone. See [Rule 6.08\(a\)](#).

A **BATTER** is an offensive player who takes a position in the batter’s box.

BATTER-RUNNER is a term that identifies the offensive player who has just finished a time at bat until that player is retired or until the play on which that player becomes a runner ends.

The **BATTER’S BOX** is the area within which the batter must stand during a time at bat.

The **BATTERY** is the pitcher and catcher.

The **BATTING ORDER** is the list of current defensive players (and the designated hitter in **Senior League**) in the order in which they are to bat.

Exceptions: In all divisions, the batting order may contain the entire roster of players. In **Tee Ball and Minor League**, the batting order shall contain the entire roster of players.

BENCH or **DUGOUT** is the seating facilities reserved for players, substitutes, one

Rule 2.00 – Definition of Terms

manager, and not more than two coaches when they are not actively engaged on the playing field. Batboys and/or batgirls are not permitted.

A.R. – Bench or dugout is not for additional coaches or scorekeepers.

A **BUNT** is a batted ball not swung at, but intentionally met with the bat and tapped slowly. The mere holding of the bat in the strike zone is not an attempted bunt. (**Tee Ball:** Bunts are not permitted. Batters are not permitted to take a half-swing. If the umpire feels the batter is taking a half-swing, the batter may be called back to swing again.)

A.R. – If no attempt is made to make contact with a ball outside the strike zone while in the bunting stance, it shall be called a ball. The batter must offer at the pitch for it to be a strike.

A **CALLED GAME** is one in which, for any reason, the Umpire-in-Chief terminates play.

A **CATCH** is the act of a fielder in getting secure possession in the hand or glove of a ball in flight and firmly holding it before it touches the ground providing such fielder does not use cap, protector, pocket, or any other part of the uniform in getting possession. It is not a catch, however, if simultaneously or immediately following contact with the ball, the fielder collides with a player, or with a wall, or if that fielder falls down, and as a result of such collision or falling, drops the ball. It is not a catch if a fielder touches a fly ball which then hits a member of the offensive team or an umpire and then is caught by another defensive player. If the fielder has made the catch and drops the ball while in the act of making a throw following the catch, the ball shall be adjudged to have been caught. In establishing the validity of the catch, the fielder shall hold the ball long enough to prove complete control of the ball and that release of the ball is voluntary and intentional. A catch is legal if the ball is finally held by any fielder, even though juggled, or held by another fielder before it touches the ground. Runners may leave their bases the instant the first fielder touches the ball.

The **CATCHER** is the fielder who takes the position back of the home base.

The **CATCHER'S BOX** is that area within which the catcher shall stand until the pitcher delivers the ball. (See [Rule 4.03](#))

A **COACH** is an adult appointed to perform such duties as the manager may designate.

NOTE: If two (2) coaches are appointed, the second coach may be age 16 or older.

COURTESY RUNNER is a player not currently in the batting order who may become

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a base runner for the pitcher and/or catcher of record provided there are two (2) outs in the half inning. See Rules 3.04 and 7.14(b) for conditions if adopted by the local league during the regular season only.

NOTE 1: When using the traditional batting order, a player may not be used as a courtesy runner more than once in a game.

NOTE 2: 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.

A **DEAD BALL** is a ball out of play because of a legally created temporary suspension of play.

DEAD BALL AREA is the area beyond any intended physical boundary, such as a fence, rope, chalk line, any stands, bleachers, dugouts, player’s benches, or designated media areas, or any other boundary line as determined in the pregame conference. If a ball becomes lodged in a fence, backstop, umpire’s equipment, or catcher’s equipment, it is considered to be in a dead ball area.

The **DEFENSE** (or **DEFENSIVE**) is the team, or any player of the team, in the field.

A **DOUBLE HEADER** is two regularly scheduled or rescheduled games, played by the same team or teams on the same day.

A **DOUBLE PLAY** is a play by the defense in which two offensive players are retired as a result of continuous action, providing there is no error between putouts.

(a) A force double play is one in which both putouts are force plays.

(b) A reverse force double play is one in which the first out is made at any base and the second out is made by tagging a runner who originally was forced, before the runner touches the base to which that runner was forced.

DUGOUT (see definition of “**BENCH**”)

A **FAIR BALL** is a batted ball that settles on fair ground between home and first base, or between home and third base, or that is on or over fair territory when bounding to the outfield past first or third base, or that touches first, second, or third base, or that first falls on fair territory on or beyond first base or third base, or that, while on or over fair territory touches the person of an umpire or player, or that, while over fair territory, passes out of the playing field in flight.

NOTE: A fair fly shall be adjudged according to the relative position of the ball and the foul line, including the foul pole, and not as to whether the fielder is on fair or foul

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territory at the time such fielder touches the ball.

FAIR TERRITORY is that part of the playing field within, and including the first base and third base lines, from home base to the bottom of the playing field fence and perpendicularly upwards. Home plate, first base and third base and all foul lines are in fair territory.

A **FIELDER** is any defensive player.

FIELDER'S CHOICE is the act of a fielder who handles a fair grounder and, instead of throwing it to first base to put out the batter-runner, throws to another base in an attempt to put out a preceding runner. The term is also used by scorers (a) to account for the advance of the batter-runner who takes one or more extra bases when the fielder who handles the safe hit attempts to put out a preceding runner; (b) to account for the advance of a runner (other than by stolen base or error) while a fielder is attempting to put out another runner; and (c) to account for the advance of a runner made solely because of the defensive team's indifference. (Undefended steal).

A **FLY BALL** is a batted ball that goes high in the air in flight.

A **FORCE PLAY** is a play in which a runner legally loses the right to occupy a base by reason of the batter becoming a runner.

(**NOTE:** Confusion regarding this play is removed by remembering that frequently the “force” situation is removed during the play. **Example:** Runner on first, one out, ground ball hit sharply to first baseman, who touches the base and the batter-runner is out. The force is removed at that moment and the runner advancing to second must be tagged. If there had been a runner at second or third, and either of these runners scored before the tag-out at second, the run(s) would count. Had the first baseman thrown to second and the ball had been returned to first, the play at second would have been a force-out, making two outs, and the return throw to first would have made the third out. In that case, no run would score.)

A.R. – Runners forced to advance as a result of the batter-runner being awarded first base.

A **FORFEITED GAME** is a game declared ended by the Umpire-in-Chief in favor of the offended team by the score of 6 to 0 [7-0 for **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**], for violation of the rules. **Tee Ball:** There shall be no forfeits in Tee Ball.

A **FOUL BALL** is a batted ball that settles on foul territory between home and first base,

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or between home and third base, or that bounds past first or third base on or over foul territory, or that first falls on foul territory beyond first or third base, or that while on or over foul territory, touches the person of an umpire or player, or any object foreign to the natural ground.

NOTE 1: A foul fly shall be judged according to the relative position of the ball and the foul line, including the foul pole, and not as to whether the fielder is on foul or fair territory at the time that fielder touches the ball.

NOTE 2: In Tee Ball, the ball is foul if it travels less than 15 feet in fair territory from home plate. The ball is also foul if the batter hits the tee with the bat.

FOUL TERRITORY is that part of the playing field outside the first and third base lines extended to the fence and perpendicularly upwards.

A **FOUL TIP** is a batted ball that goes sharp and direct from the bat to the catcher's hands and is legally caught. It is not a foul tip unless caught and any foul tip that is caught is a strike, and the ball is in play. It is not a catch if it is a rebound, unless the ball has first touched the catcher's glove or hand. A foul tip can only be caught by the catcher.

A **GROUND BALL** is a batted ball that rolls or bounces close to the ground.

The **HOME TEAM** is the team which takes the field first at the start of the game. Adopted schedules will determine which team this will be.

ILLEGAL (or **ILLEGALLY**) is contrary to these rules.

An **ILLEGAL BAT** is a bat that has been altered or a bat that is not approved for play because it does not meet specifications with regard to length, weight, barrel diameter, labeling, or performance standard for the division in which it is used. **PENALTY** – See [Rule 6.06\(d\)](#).

An **ILLEGAL PITCH** is (1) a pitch delivered to the batter when the pitcher does not have the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate; or (2) a quick return pitch. **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** An illegal pitch with runners on base is a balk. (See also definition of "Pitch.")

A.R. – This would apply to rule 8.05(e) and 8.05(g). In all other instances of Rule 8.05 with no runners on base, no penalty is enforced. In such cases, the umpire shall call "Time" and the pitcher and batter will resume the count without reference to the pitch.

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An **ILLEGALLY BATTED BALL** is one hit by the batter with one or both feet on the ground entirely outside the batter's box.

INELIGIBLE PITCHER – Applies to regular season violations of [Regulation VI](#). (See also [Rule 4.19](#).)

INELIGIBLE PLAYER – Applies to regular season violations of regulations regarding league age, residence or school attendance (as defined by Little League International), and participation on the proper team within the local league. (See also [Rule 4.19](#).)

The **INFIELDF** is that portion of the field in fair territory, which includes areas normally covered by infielders.

An **INFIELDER** is a fielder who occupies a position in the infield.

An **INFIELDFLY** is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive nor an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied, before two are out. The pitcher, catcher, and any outfielder stationed in the infield on the play shall be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule.

When it seems apparent that a batted ball will be an Infield Fly, the umpire shall immediately declare "Infield Fly" for the benefit of the runners. If the ball is near the baseline, the umpire shall declare "Infield Fly, if fair."

The ball is alive and runners may advance at the risk of that ball being caught, or retouch and advance after the ball is touched, the same as on any fly ball. If the hit becomes a foul ball, it is treated the same as any foul.

NOTE 1: If a declared Infield Fly is allowed to fall untouched to the ground, and bounces foul and remains foul before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball. If a declared Infield Fly falls untouched to the ground outside the baseline, and bounces fair before passing first or third base, it is an Infield Fly.

NOTE 2: The Infield Fly Rule does not apply in Tee Ball.

A.R. – The infield dirt and the outfield grass do not form a boundary line for infield fly purposes.

IN FLIGHT describes a batted, thrown, or pitched ball which has not yet touched the ground or some object other than a fielder. If the pitch touches the ground and bounces through the strike zone, without being struck at by the batter, it is a "ball." If such a pitch

Rule 2.00 – Definition of Terms

touches the batter, that batter shall be awarded first base. **Majors/Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** If the batter swings at such a pitch after two strikes, the ball cannot be caught for the purpose of [Rule 6.05\(b\)](#). If the batter hits such a pitch, the ensuing action shall be the same as if the ball was hit in flight.

IN JEOPARDY is a term indicating that the ball is in play and an offensive player may be put out.

An **INNING** is that portion of a game within which the teams alternate on offense and defense and in which there are three putouts for each team. Each team's time at bat is a half-inning. It will be held that an inning starts the moment the third out is made completing the preceding inning. **(Minor League Only – A five-run limit is to be imposed which would complete the half inning.)**

INTERFERENCE

(a) Offensive interference is an act by a member of the team at bat which interferes with, obstructs, impedes, hinders, or confuses any fielder attempting to make a play. If the umpire declares the batter, batter-runner, or a runner out for interference, all other runners shall return to the last base that was, in the judgment of the umpire, legally touched at the time of the interference, unless otherwise provided by these rules.

A.R. – Interference does not have to be intentional for it to be called.

(b) Defensive interference is an act by a fielder which hinders or prevents a batter from hitting a pitch.

(c) Umpire's interference occurs (1) when an umpire hinders, impedes, or prevents a catcher's throw attempting to retire a runner, or (2) when a fair ball touches an umpire in fair territory before passing a fielder.

A.R. – Only the plate umpire may interfere with the catcher and only on a cleanly caught ball or a pitched ball that doesn't cause the catcher to move from his/her position. If the catcher errs on the ball, the umpire will be considered part of the field, and no interference results.

(d) Spectator interference occurs when a spectator reaches out of the stands or goes on the playing field, and touches a live ball.

(e) On any interference the ball is dead.

Rule 2.00 – Definition of Terms

The **LEAGUE** is a group of teams who play each other in a pre-arranged schedule under these rules for the league championship.

LEGAL (or **LEGALLY**) is in accordance with these rules.

A **LINE DRIVE** is a batted ball that goes sharp and direct from the bat to a fielder without touching the ground.

A **LIVE BALL** is a ball which is in play.

The **MANAGER** is an adult appointed by the president to be responsible for the team's actions on the field, and to represent the team in communications with the umpire and the opposing team.

(a) The manager shall always be responsible for the team's conduct, observance of the official rules, and deference to the umpires.

(b) If a manager leaves the field, that manager shall designate an adult coach as a substitute, and such substitute manager shall have the duties, rights, and responsibilities of the manager. If no adult coach is available, the Umpire-in-Chief shall designate a temporary adult manager. If no adult is available, the game or team activities shall be terminated. (See [Rule 4.16.](#))

OBSTRUCTION is the act of a fielder who, while not in possession of the ball, impedes the progress of any runner. A fake tag is considered obstruction.

(**NOTE:** Obstruction shall be called on a defensive player who blocks off a base, base line, or home plate from a base runner while not in possession of the ball.)

OFFENSE is the team, or any player of the team, at bat.

OFFICIAL RULES – The rules contained in this book.

OFFICIAL SCORER is appointed by the league president and is a designated volunteer of the league. The scorer shall have sole authority to make all decisions involving judgment, such as whether the batter's advance to first is the result of a hit or an error. If appropriate, the scorer shall communicate such decisions to the press or the announcer. In the event of a question of eligibility of a pitcher, the Official Scorer record shall be deemed official.

An **OUT** is one of the three required retirements of an offensive team during its time at bat.

The **OUTFIELD** is that portion of the field in fair territory which is normally covered by

Rule 2.00 – Definition of Terms

outfielders.

An **OUTFIELDER** is a fielder who occupies a position in the outfield, which is the area of the playing field most distant from home base.

OVERSLIDE (or **OVERSLIDING**) is the act of an offensive player when the slide to a base, other than when advancing from home to first base, is with such momentum that the player loses contact with the base.

A **PENALTY** is the application of these rules following an illegal act.

The **PERSON** of a player or an umpire is any part of the body, clothing, or equipment.

A **PITCH** is a ball delivered to the batter by the pitcher. **Little League (Major)/Minor League Exception:** For the purpose of maintaining a pitch count, an illegal pitch shall count as one pitch; even if a pitch is not actually thrown.

A **PITCHER** is the fielder designated to deliver the pitch to the batter.

The pitcher's **PIVOT FOOT** is that foot which is in contact with the pitcher's plate as the pitch is delivered.

"PLAY" is the umpire's order to start the game or to resume action following any dead ball.

A **QUICK RETURN** is a pitch made with obvious intent to catch a batter off balance. It is an illegal pitch. (See [Penalty – 8.05](#))

REGULATION GAME – See Rules [4.10](#) and [4.11](#).

A **RETOUCH** is the act of a runner returning to a base as legally required.

A **RUN** (or **SCORE**) is the score made by an offensive player who advances from batter to runner and touches first, second, third, and home bases in that order.

A **RUNDOWN** is the act of the defense in an attempt to retire a runner between bases.

A **RUNNER** is an offensive player who is advancing toward, touching, or returning to any base.

"SAFE" is a declaration by the umpire that a runner is entitled to the base for which that runner was trying.

SET POSITION is one of the two legal pitching positions.

A **STRIKE** is a legal pitch which meets any of these conditions –

Rule 2.00 – Definition of Terms

- (a) Is struck at by the batter and is missed;
- (b) Is not struck at, if any part of the ball passes through any part of the strike zone;
- (c) Is fouled by the batter when there is less than two strikes;
- (d) Is bunted foul (batter is out and ball is dead, if the batter bunts foul on the third strike);
- (e) Touches the batter's person as the batter strikes at it (dead ball);
- (f) Touches the batter in flight in the strike zone; or
- (g) Becomes a foul tip (ball is live and in play).

NOTE: In Tee Ball, the local league will determine whether or not strikeouts will be permitted.

The **STRIKE ZONE** is that 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 swings at a pitch.

A **SUSPENDED GAME** is a called game which is to be completed at a later date.

A **TAG** is the action of a fielder in touching a base with the body while holding the ball securely and firmly in the hand or glove; or touching a runner with the ball, or with the hand or glove holding the ball, while holding the ball securely and firmly in the hand or glove.

A **THROW** is the act of propelling the ball with the hand and arm to a given objective and is to be always distinguished from the pitch.

A **TIE GAME** is a regulation game which is called when each team has the same number of runs.

"TIME" is the announcement by the umpire of a legal interruption of play, during which the ball is dead.

To **TOUCH** a player or umpire is to touch any part of the player or umpire's body, clothing, or equipment.

A **TRIPLE PLAY** is a play by the defense in which three offensive players are retired as a result of continuous action, providing there is no error between putouts.

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A **WILD PITCH** is one so high, so low, or so wide of the plate that it cannot be handled with ordinary effort by the catcher.

WIND-UP POSITION is one of the two legal pitching positions.

Rule 3.00 – Game Preliminaries

3.01 Before the game begins the umpires shall –

- (a) require strict observance of all rules governing team personnel, implements of play, and confirm with the managers of both teams at the plate conference that all equipment is proper and legal for play according to Little League rules.

NOTE: Umpires are not required to inspect equipment prior to the start of the game. The manager of each team is responsible for ensuring that all equipment is legal and proper for play according to Little League rules.

PENALTY: If illegal equipment is used during the game, the manager of the team will be ejected from the game and the player who used the illegal equipment will also be ejected from the game. Both the manager and the player who used the illegal equipment will be suspended for their team's next physically played game and may not be in attendance at the game site. This includes pregame and postgame activities.

- (b) be sure that all playing lines (heavy lines on [Diagrams No. 1](#) and [No. 2](#)) are marked with non-caustic lime, chalk, or other white material easily distinguishable from the ground or grass;
- (c) receive from the league a supply of baseballs which meet Little League specifications and standards. The umpire shall be the sole judge of the fitness of the balls to be used in the game;
- (d) be assured by the league that additional balls are immediately available for use if required;
- (e) have possession of at least two alternate balls and shall require replenishment of such supply of alternate balls as needed throughout the game. Such alternate balls shall be put in play when –
 - (1) a ball has been batted out of the playing field or into the spectator area;
 - (2) a ball has become discolored or unfit for further use;
 - (3) the pitcher requests such alternate ball.

3.02 No player shall intentionally discolor or damage the ball by rubbing it with soil, rosin, paraffin, licorice, sand-paper, emery-paper, or other foreign substance.

PENALTY: The umpire shall demand the ball and remove the offender from the

Rule 3.00 – Game Preliminaries

pitching position. In case the umpire cannot locate the offender, and if the pitcher delivers such discolored or damaged ball to the batter, the pitcher shall be removed from the pitching position at once.

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; for the purposes of meeting the requirements of Mandatory Play when using the traditional batting order, is when a player assumes the position of a batter with no count and one of the following occurs:
- He/she is retired as a batter; or
 - He/she is retired as a batter-runner; or
 - He/she reaches base and scores; or
 - After he/she reaches base, the inning or game ends.

A.R. – 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.

NOTE: For the purpose of satisfying the requirements of Mandatory Play when using the traditional batting order for regular season (does not apply in Tournament Play, when appearing offensively for the first time in the game, a player must remain in the game until one of the following occurs:

- He/She is retired as a batter; or
 - He/She is retired as a batter-runner; or,
 - He/She reaches base and scores: or
 - After he/she reaches base, the inning or game ends.
- (b) has played defensively for a minimum of six (6) consecutive outs;
- (c) pitchers once removed from the mound may not return as pitchers;

Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior: A pitcher remaining in the game defensively, but moving to a different defensive position, can return as a

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pitcher anytime 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 he/she is removed, may be removed for a substitute batter and re-enter the game as 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) at-bat and six (6) 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 in the sixth.

- (d) a starter and his/her 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, a starter and substitute(s) can enter/re-enter for each other as desired, but must re-enter in the SAME position in the batting order.
- (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.

3.03 Senior League Designated Hitter Rule:

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- (a) At the beginning of a game, each manager may list on the lineup card a designated hitter to bat throughout the game for a designated player in the regular lineup. A designated hitter, who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game once, provided such player occupies the same batting position.
- (b) Only a player not in the regular batting order may be used as a designated hitter.
- (c) In the event a manager decides to use the designated hitter as a defensive player, the player must remain in the same position in the batting order, unless otherwise replaced by a substitute. If so, the player for whom the designated hitter was batting must be removed from the game. Such player may re-enter the game once, but only in the batting order position of the former designated hitter, who must be removed.

NOTE: If during a game either team is unable to place nine (9) players on the field due to illness, injury, or ejection, the opposing manager shall select a player previously used in the line-up to re-enter the game, but only if the use of all other eligible players has exhausted the roster. A player ejected from the game is not eligible for re-entry. This provision does not apply to injury, illness, or ejection of the designated hitter or the player for whom he or she is batting, in which case the role of the designated hitter must be terminated.

3.04 A player whose name is on the team's batting order may not become a substitute runner for another member of the team. **Local League Option:** A local league may permit a "courtesy runner" for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are two (2) outs.

NOTE 1: When using the traditional batting order, a player may not be used as a courtesy runner more than once in a game.

NOTE 2: 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. See 7.14(b).

NOTE 3: If the pitcher and catcher of record are on base with two outs, the offense may use a courtesy runner for both the pitcher and catcher of record at the same time. When assigning courtesy runners in such situations, the player who is scheduled to bat soonest shall be placed on the base closest to scoring. **EXAMPLE:** With two outs, the pitcher is on second base and the catcher is on third base. The offense elects to use courtesy runners for both the pitcher and catcher. The player

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who made the second out of the inning becomes the courtesy runner for the pitcher at second base. The player who made the first out of the inning (due up soonest) becomes the courtesy runner for the catcher at third base.

- 3.05 (a)** The pitcher named in the batting order handed to the Umpire-in-Chief, as provided in Rules [4.01\(a\)](#) and [4.01\(b\)](#) shall pitch to the first batter or any substitute batter until such batter or any substitute batter is retired or reaches first base, unless the pitcher sustains an injury or illness which, in the judgment of the Umpire-in-Chief, incapacitates the pitcher from further play as a pitcher.
- (b)** If the pitcher is replaced, the substitute pitcher shall pitch to the batter then at bat, or any substitute batter, until such batter is retired or reaches first base, or until the offensive team is put out, unless the substitute pitcher sustains an injury or illness, which in the Umpire-in-Chief's judgment, incapacitates the pitcher from further play as a pitcher.
- 3.06** The manager shall immediately notify the Umpire-in-Chief of any substitution and shall state to the Umpire-in-Chief the substitute's place in the batting order.
- 3.07** The Umpire-in-Chief, after having been notified, shall immediately announce, or cause to be announced, each substitution.
- 3.08 (a)** If no announcement of a substitution is made, the substitute shall be considered to have entered the game when –
- (1)** if a pitcher, the substitute takes a position on the pitcher's plate and throws one warm-up pitch to the catcher;
 - (2)** if a batter, the substitute takes a position in the batter's box;
 - (3)** if a fielder, the substitute reaches the position usually occupied by the fielder being replaced and play commences;
 - (4)** if a runner, the substitute takes the place of the runner being replaced.
- (b)** Any play made by, or on, any of the above mentioned unannounced substitutes shall be legal.
- 3.09** Players, managers, and coaches of the participating teams shall not address, or mingle with spectators, nor sit in the stands during a game in which they are engaged. Managers or coaches are permitted to warm up a pitcher at home plate or in the bullpen or elsewhere at any time, including in-game warm-up, pre-game warm-up, and in other instances. They may also stand by to observe a pitcher

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during warm-up in the bullpen.

- 3.10** (a) The managers of both teams shall agree on the fitness of the playing field before the game starts. In the event that the two managers cannot agree, the president or a duly delegated representative shall make the determination.
- (b) The Umpire-in-Chief shall be the sole judge as to whether and when play shall be suspended during a game because of unsuitable weather conditions or the unfit condition of the playing field; as to whether and when play shall be resumed after such suspension; and as to whether and when a game shall be terminated after such suspension. Said umpire shall not call the game until at least thirty minutes after play has been suspended. The umpire may continue suspension as long as there is any chance to resume play.
- 3.12** When the umpire suspends play, “Time” shall be called. At the umpire’s call of “Play” the suspension is lifted and play resumes. Between the call of “Time” and the call of “Play” the ball is dead.
- 3.13** The local league will establish ground rules to be followed by all teams in the league.

A.R. – Local ground rules should pertain to particular situations or field conditions that are not specifically covered in the rulebook, but at no time should they supersede or change the rulebook.

- 3.14** Members of the offensive team shall carry all gloves and other equipment off the field and to the dugout while their team is at bat. No equipment shall be left lying on the field, either in fair or foul territory.
- 3.15** No person shall be allowed on the playing field during a game except uniformed players, managers, and coaches, umpires and news photographers authorized by the league. In case of intentional interference with play by any person authorized to be on the playing field, the ball is dead at the moment of the interference and no runners on base may advance. Should an overthrown ball accidentally touch an authorized person, it will not be considered interference and the ball will remain live.
- 3.16** When there is spectator interference with any thrown or batted ball, the ball shall be dead at the moment of interference and the umpire shall impose such penalties as in the umpire’s opinion will nullify the act of interference.

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A.R. – If spectator interference clearly prevents a fielder from catching a fly ball, the umpire shall declare the batter out.

3.17 Players and substitutes shall sit on their team's bench or in the dugout unless participating in the game or preparing to enter the game. No one except eligible players in uniform, a manager, and not more than two coaches (**Tee Ball/Minor League Instructional Division:** three coaches) shall occupy the bench or dugout. When batters or base runners are retired, they must return to the bench or dugout at once. Batboys and/or batgirls are not permitted. The use of electronic communication equipment during the game is restricted. No team shall use electronic communication equipment, including walkie-talkies, cellular telephones, etc., for any communication with on-field personnel including those in the dugout, bullpen, or field.

EXCEPTION: A manager or coach is permitted to use one-way electronic devices from the dugout to the catcher while the team is on defense for the purpose of calling pitches. A manager or coach is prohibited from using the device to communicate with any other team member while on defense or any team member (including a manager or coach) while on offense, and a manager or coach shall not use the device outside the dugout/bench area.

PENALTY: If, in the umpire's judgment, any player, manager, or coach uses an electronic communications device during the game, the penalty is ejection from the game.

NOTE 1: A manager or coach is permitted to use a rulebook, scorekeeping, and/or pitch-counting application on an electronic device without penalty, provided such device is not used to receive messages of any sort.

NOTE 2: A reasonable amount of time must be provided to a team to correct a malfunctioning one-way communication device.

3.18 The local league shall provide proper protection sufficient to preserve order and to prevent spectators from entering the field. Either team may refuse to play until the field is cleared.

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4.01 The umpires shall proceed directly to home plate where they shall be met by the managers of the opposing teams, just preceding the established time to begin the game. In sequence –

- (a) The home team manager shall give the batting order in duplicate to the Umpire-in-Chief;
- (b) Next, the visiting manager shall give the batting order in duplicate to the Umpire-in-Chief;
- (c) The Umpire-in-Chief shall make certain that the original and duplicate copies are the same, then provide a copy of each batting order to the opposing manager. The original copy retained by the umpire shall be the official batting order;
- (d) As soon as the home team's batting order is handed to the Umpire-in-Chief, the umpires are in charge of the playing field and from that moment shall have sole authority to determine when a game shall be called, halted, or resumed on account of weather or the conditions of the playing field.

NOTE 1: In Tee Ball and Instructional Minor Leagues, all players on the roster may be given a defensive position. Only one player may occupy the catcher's position.

NOTE 2: Rostered players who arrive at the game site after a game begins may be inserted in the lineup, if the manager so chooses. This applies even when a suspended game is resumed at a later date.

4.02 The players of the home team shall take their defensive positions, the first batter of the visiting team shall take a position in the batter's box, the umpire shall call "Play" and the game shall start.

4.03 When the ball is put in play at the start of, or during a game, all fielders other than the catcher shall be in fair territory.

- (a) The catcher shall be stationed in the catcher's box. The catcher may leave that position at any time to catch a pitch or make a play except that when the batter is being given an intentional base on balls, the catcher must stand with both feet within the lines of the catcher's box until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.

PENALTY: Illegal pitch – ball called on the batter (see [Rule 8.05](#)).

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[**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League PENALTY:** Balk with runner or runners on base.]

- (b) The pitcher, while in the act of delivering the ball to the batter, shall take the legal position.
- (c) Except the pitcher and the catcher, any fielder may be stationed anywhere in fair territory.

4.04 The batting order shall be followed throughout the game unless a player is substituted for another. Substitutes must take the place of the replaced player's position in the batting order except as covered by [Rule 3.03](#). A league may adopt a policy of a continuous batting order that will include all players on the team roster present for the game batting in order. If this option is adopted, each player would be required to bat in his/her respective spot in the batting order. However, a player may be entered and/or re-entered defensively in the game anytime provided he/she meets the requirements of mandatory play.

NOTE 1: The continuous batting order is mandatory for all Tee Ball and Minor League Divisions.

NOTE 2: For the Tee Ball and Minor League Divisions (and when the continuous batting order is adopted for other divisions), when a player is injured, becomes ill, or must leave the game site after the start of the game, the team will skip over him/her when his/her time at bat comes up without penalty. If the injured, ill, or absent player returns he/she is merely inserted into their original spot in the batting order and the game continues. Also, if a player arrives late to a game site, if the manager chooses to enter him/her in the lineup (see [Rule 4.01 NOTE 2](#)), he/she would be added to the end of the current lineup. If a player is unable to complete a plate appearance due to injury, illness, or ejection, the next batter in the lineup shall take his/her place at the plate and assume the count of the original batter. If a batter becomes a runner by reaching base safely and is unable to run the bases due to injury, illness, or ejection, he/she shall be replaced by the player who recorded the last out or with a Courtesy Runner, if applicable.

NOTE 3: Local League Option: When a league permits teams to start and play games with eight (8) players, the Board of Directors will determine if an out is called for the ninth (9th) position in the batting line-up each turn at bat or if the team may skip over the ninth (9th) position without penalty.

A.R. – For the purpose of continuous batting order, all players listed in the

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batting order shall be considered starters.

4.05 The offensive team shall station two base coaches on the field during its time at bat, one near first base and one near third base. The coaches shall not leave their respective dugouts until the pitcher has completed his/her preparatory pitches to the catcher. Base coaches shall –

- (a) be eligible players in the uniform of their team; a manager and/or coach. Both base coaches may be managers or coaches.
- (b) be a manager or coach only if there is at least one other adult manager or coach in the dugout.
- (c) remain within the base coaches boxes at all times, except as provided in [Rule 7.11](#);

A.R. – Once an inning starts, coaches shall not alternate between the first and third base coaches boxes.

- (d) talk to members of their own team only.

An offending base coach shall be removed from the base coach's box.

4.06 No manager, coach, or player, shall at any time, whether from the bench or the playing field or elsewhere –

- (a) incite, or try to incite, by word or sign, a demonstration by spectators;
- (b) use language which will in any manner refer to or reflect upon opposing players, manager, coach, an umpire, or spectators;
- (c) make any move calculated to cause the pitcher to commit an illegal pitch [a balk in **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**];
- (d) take a position in the batter's line of vision, with the deliberate intent to distract the batter.

The umpire may first warn the player, coach, and/or manager. If continued, remove the player, coach, and/or manager from the game or bench. If such action causes an illegal pitch [a balk in **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**], it shall be nullified.

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4.07 When a manager, coach, or player is ejected from a game, they shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in that game. They may not sit in the stands and may not be recalled. **A manager or coach ejected from a game must not be present at the game site for the remainder of that game.** Any manager, coach, or player ejected from a game is suspended for his or her team's next physically played game and may not be in attendance at the game site. This includes pregame and postgame activities.

4.08 When the occupants of a player's bench show violent disapproval of an umpire's decision, the umpire shall first give warning that such disapproval shall cease. If such action continues –

PENALTY: The umpire shall order the offender out of the game and away from the spectators' area. If the umpire is unable to detect the offender or offenders, the bench may be cleared of all players. The manager of the offending team shall have the privilege of recalling to the playing field only those players needed for substitution in the game.

4.09 How A Team Scores

(a) One run shall be scored each time a runner legally advances to and touches first, second, third, and home base before three players are retired to end the inning.

EXCEPTIONS: A run is not scored if the runner advances to home base during a play in which the third out is made (1) by the batter-runner before touching first base; (2) by any runner being forced out; or (3) by a preceding runner who is declared out because that runner failed to touch one of the bases (appeal play).

A.R. – One out, Jones on third, Smith on first and Brown flies out to right field for the second out. Jones tags up and scores after the catch. Smith attempted to return to first but the right fielder's throw beat Smith to the base for the third out. But Jones scored before the throw to catch Smith reached first base. Hence, Jones' run counts. It was not a force play.

(b) When the winning run is scored in the last half-inning of a regulation game, or in the last half of an extra inning, as the result of a base on balls, hit batter, or any other play with the bases full which forces the runner on third to advance, the umpire shall not declare the game ended until the runner forced to advance from third has touched home base and the batter-runner

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has touched first base.

- 4.10** (a) A regulation game consists of six innings [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** seven innings], unless extended because of a tie score, or shortened (1) because the home team needs none of its half of the sixth inning [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** seventh] or only a fraction of it; or (2) because the umpire calls the game.
- (b) If the score is tied after six completed innings (**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** seven innings), play shall continue until (1) the visiting team has scored more total runs than the home team at the end of a completed inning; or (2) the home team scores the winning run in an uncompleted inning.
- (c) If a game is called, it is a regulation game:
- (1) If four innings [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** five innings] have been completed;
 - (2) **Local League Option:** If the game has been played for 1 hour and 45 minutes. Any inning which has been started prior to the time limit expiring will be completed. No new inning will begin once the time limit has expired.
- A.R. – District Administrators administering interleague play activities and local Little League programs may establish a minimum 2-hour time limit for games in Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League.
- (3) If the home team has scored more runs in three and one-half innings [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** four and one-half innings] than the visiting team has scored in four completed half-innings;
- (4) if the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the fourth inning [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** fifth inning] to tie the score.
- (d) If a game is called before it has become a regulation game, it shall be resumed exactly where it left off.
- (e) If after three (3) innings [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior**

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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. If after five (5) innings [**Intermediate (50-70) Division / Junior / Senior League:** six innings], four and one-half innings [**Intermediate (50-70) Division / Junior / Senior League:** five and one-half innings], if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of eight (8) 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), ten (10) or eight (8) 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. A game determined by the 15-run rule, 10-run rule, or 8-run rule, shall be considered a regulation game.

- (f) **Tee Ball:** The local league may determine appropriate game length but shall not exceed 6 innings. It is recommended that Tee Ball games be 4 innings or 1½ hour time limit or less.

4.11 The score of a regulation game is the total number of runs scored by each team at the moment the game ends.

- (a) The game ends when the visiting team completes its half of the sixth inning [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** seventh inning] if the home team is ahead.
- (b) The game ends when the sixth inning [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** seventh inning] is completed, if the visiting team is ahead.
- (c) If the home team scores the winning run in its half of the sixth inning [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** seventh inning], or its half of an extra inning after a tie, the game ends immediately when the winning run is scored.

NOTE: Once a game becomes regulation and it is called with the home team

Rule 4.00 – Starting and Ending the Game

taking the lead in an incomplete inning, the game ends with the home team the winner.

EXCEPTION: If the last batter in a game hits a home run out of the playing field, the batter-runner and all runners on base are permitted to score, in accordance with the base-running rules, and the game ends when the batter-runner touches home plate.

A.R. – The batter hits a home run out of the playing field to win the game in the last half of the sixth [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: seventh inning] or an extra inning, but is called out for passing a preceding runner. The game ends immediately when the winning run is scored.

- (d) A called game ends at the moment the umpire terminates play.

EXCEPTION: If the game is called during an incomplete inning, the game ends at the end of the last previous completed inning in each of the following situations:

- (1) The visiting team scores one or more runs to tie the score in the incomplete inning, and the home team does not score in the incomplete inning.
- (2) The visiting team scores one or more runs to take the lead in the incomplete inning, and the home team does not tie the score or retake the lead in the incomplete inning.

Local League Option: A game will be regulation if the game has been played for 1 hour and 45 minutes. Any inning which has been started prior to the time limit expiring will be completed. No new inning will begin once the time limit has expired. See Rule 4.10.

- (e) A regulation game that is tied after four [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** five] or more completed innings and halted by the umpire, shall be resumed from the exact point that play was halted. The game shall continue in accordance with Rule [4.10\(a\)](#) and [4.10\(b\)](#).

NOTE: When a TIE game is halted, the pitcher of record may continue pitching in the same game on any subsequent date provided said pitcher has observed the required days of rest for his/her particular age group. For

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scorekeeping purposes, it shall be considered the same game, and all batting, fielding, and pitching records will count.

LITTLE LEAGUE (MAJOR)/MINOR LEAGUE EXAMPLE:

Rule 4.11

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6
Visitors	0	0	0	4	1	
Home	0	0	0	5		

Game called in top of 5th inning on account of rain. Score reverts to last completed inning (4th) and the home team is the winner 5 to 4.

INTERMEDIATE (50-70) DIVISION/JUNIOR/SENIOR LEAGUE EXAMPLE:

Rule 4.11

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Visitors	0	0	0	0	4	1	
Home	0	0	0	0	5		

Game called in top of 6th inning on account of rain. Score reverts to last completed inning (5th) and the home team is the winner 5 to 4.

4.12 TIE games halted due to weather, curfew, or light failure shall be resumed from the exact point at which they were halted in the original game. It can be completed preceding the next scheduled game between the same teams. A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day. **(EXCEPTION: Junior and Senior League:** If a pitcher reaches 30 pitches while facing a batter in the first game, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to pitch in the second game on that day, 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 would be allowed to pitch in a second game provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before

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delivering a pitch to another batter. If a player delivers 31 or more pitches in the first game, and is not covered under the threshold exception, the player may not pitch in the second game that day.

NOTE: A 12-year-old playing in the Junior and/or Senior Division is not eligible to pitch in two games in a day.)

The lineup and batting order of both teams shall be the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment the game was halted, subject to the rules governing substitution. Any player may be replaced by a player who was not in the game prior to halting the original game. Substitutions, including entry and re-entry, are covered by Rule [3.03](#).

NOTE: When a TIE game is halted, the pitcher of record may continue pitching in the same game on any subsequent date provided said pitcher has observed the required days of rest for his/her particular age group. For scorekeeping purposes, it shall be considered the same game, and all batting, fielding, and pitching records will count.

LITTLE LEAGUE (MAJOR)/MINOR LEAGUE EXAMPLE:

Rule 4.12

Tie games halted due to weather, curfew, or light failure shall be resumed from the exact point at which they were halted in the original game.

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6
Visitors	0	0	0	0	4	5
Home	0	0	0	0	4	

Game called in top of 6th inning, visiting team batting with two out, no base runners – this is a tie game. Resume the game in the top of the 6th, visiting team at bat, two out.

INTERMEDIATE (50-70) DIVISION/JUNIOR/SENIOR LEAGUE EXAMPLE:

Rule 4.12

Tie games halted due to weather, curfew, or light failure shall be resumed from the exact point at which they were halted in the original game.

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Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Visitors	0	0	0	0	0	4	5
Home	0	0	0	0	0	4	

Game called in top of 7th inning, visiting team batting with two out, no base runners – this is a tie game. Resume the game in the top of the 7th, visiting team at bat, two out.

4.13 DOUBLE HEADERS

Tee Ball and Coach Pitch/Machine Pitch Minor Division: No team shall be scheduled to play two games in one day.

Minor (Player Pitch): A team may play one (1) doubleheader in a calendar week. See Rule 4.12.

Little League (Major) Division: A team may play two (2) doubleheaders in a calendar week. No team shall play three games in a day. (See Rule 4.12.)

Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: Doubleheaders are permitted.

4.14 The Umpire-in-Chief shall order the playing field lights turned on whenever in such umpire's opinion that darkness makes further play in daylight hazardous.

4.15 A game may be forfeited by the Umpire-in-Chief of the game in progress to the opposing team when a team –

- (a) being upon the field, refuses to start play within 10 minutes after the appointed hour for beginning the game, unless such delay, in the umpire's judgment, is unavoidable;
- (b) refuses to continue play unless the game was terminated by the umpire;
- (c) fails to resume play, after the game was halted by the umpire, within one minute after the umpire has called "Play";
- (d) fails to obey within a reasonable time the umpire's order to remove a player from the game;
- (e) after warning by the umpire, willfully and persistently violates any rules of the game;

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(f) employs tactics designed to delay, shorten or make a travesty of the game.

4.16 If a game cannot be played because of the inability of either team to:

- (a) place nine players on the field before the game begins (**Local League Option:** A game may not be started with less than eight (8) players on each team.); and/or,
- (b) place at least one adult in the dugout as manager or acting manager.

This shall not be grounds for automatic forfeiture, but shall be referred to the Board of Directors for a decision.

NOTE: A game may not be started with less than nine (9) players on each team, nor without at least one adult manager or substitute manager. **Local League Option:** A game may not be started with less than eight (8) players on each team.

4.17 If during a game either team is unable to place nine (9) players on the field due to injury or ejection, the opposing manager shall select a player to re-enter the line-up. A player ejected from the game is not eligible for re-entry. If no players are available for re-entry, or if a team refuses to place nine (9) players on the field, this shall not be grounds for automatic forfeiture but shall be referred to the Board of Directors for a decision.

NOTE: A game may not be continued with less than nine (9) players on each team. **Local League Option:** A game may not be continued with less than eight (8) players on each team.

4.18 Forfeited games shall be so recorded in the scorebook. If requested by the League President, the umpire will send a written report stating the reason for the forfeiture to the League President within 24 hours of the request. Failure of the umpire to file this report shall not affect the forfeiture.

4.19 PROTESTING A GAME

- (a) Protest shall be considered only when based on the violation or interpretation of a playing rule, use of an ineligible pitcher or the use of an ineligible player. No protest shall be considered on a decision involving an umpire's judgment. Equipment which does not meet specifications must be removed from the game.

Exception: Illegal bat [see [Rule 6.06\(d\)](#)].

- (b) The managers of contesting teams only shall have the right to protest a game

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(or in their absence, coaches). However, the manager or acting manager may not leave the dugout until receiving permission from an umpire.

- (c) Protests shall be made as follows:
 - (1) The protesting manager shall immediately, and before any succeeding play begins, notify the umpire that the game is being played under protest.
 - (2) Following such notice the umpire shall consult with the other umpire(s). If the umpire is convinced that the decision is in conflict with the rules, the umpire shall reverse that decision. If, however, after consultation, the umpire is convinced that the decision is not in conflict with the rules, said umpire shall announce that the game is being played under protest. Failure of the umpire to make such announcement shall not affect the validity of the protest.
- (d) Protest made due to the use of an ineligible pitcher or an ineligible player may be considered only if made to the umpire before the umpire(s) leave the field at the end of the game. Whenever it is found that an ineligible pitcher or ineligible player is being used, said pitcher shall be removed from the mound, or said player shall be removed from the game, and the game shall be continued under protest or not as the protesting manager decides.
- (e) Any protest for any reason whatsoever must be submitted by the manager first to the umpire on the field of play and then in writing to the local league president within 24 hours. The Umpire-in-Chief shall also submit a report immediately.
- (f) A committee composed of the president, player agent, league's Umpire-in-Chief, and one or more other officers or directors who are not managers or umpires shall hear and resolve any such protest as above, including playing rules. If the protest is allowed, resume the game from the exact point when the infraction occurred.

NOTE 1: This rule does not pertain to charges of infractions of regulations such as field decorum or actions of the league personnel or spectators which must be considered and resolved by the Board of Directors.

NOTE 2: All Little League officials are urged to take precautions to prevent protests. When a protest situation is imminent, the potential offenders should be notified immediately. **Example:** Should a manager, official scorer, league official, or umpire discover that a pitcher is ineligible at the beginning of the

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game, or will become ineligible during the game or at the start of the next inning of play, the fact should be brought to the attention of the manager of the team involved. Such action should not be delayed until the infraction has occurred. However, failure of personnel to notify the manager of the infraction does not affect the validity of the protest.

A.R. – A substitute pitcher who is ineligible DOES NOT have to pitch to a batter. It is not a violation until the ineligible pitcher has delivered a “Pitch” as defined in Rule 2.00.

- (g) **Minor League:** A local league may adopt a rule that protests must be resolved before the next pitch or play.
- (h) There are no protests in Tee Ball.

Rule 5.00 – Putting the Ball in Play – Live Ball

- 5.01** At the time set for beginning the game, the Umpire-in-Chief shall order the home team to take its defensive positions and the first batter of the visiting team to take a position in the batter's box. As soon as all players are in position, the Umpire-in-Chief shall call "Play."
- 5.02** After the umpire calls "Play," the ball is alive and in play and remains alive and in play until, for legal cause, or at the umpire's call of "Time" suspending play, the ball becomes dead. While the ball is dead, no player may be put out, no bases may be run, and no runs may be scored, except that runners may advance one or more bases as the result of acts which occurred while the ball was alive (such as, but not limited to an illegal pitch and/or a balk in **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**, an overthrow, interference, or a home run or other fair ball hit out of the playing field).
- 5.03** The pitcher shall deliver the pitch to the batter who may elect to strike the ball, or who may not offer at it, as such batter chooses.
- 5.04** The offensive team's objective is to have its batter become a runner, and its runners advance.
- 5.05** The defensive team's objective is to prevent offensive players from becoming runners, and to prevent their advance around the bases.
- 5.06** When a batter becomes a runner and touches all bases legally, one run shall be scored for the offensive team.
- 5.07** When three offensive players are legally put out, that team takes the field and the opposing team becomes the offensive team (side retired).

Minor League: The side is retired when three offensive players are legally put out, called out by an umpire, or when all players on the roster have batted one time in the half-inning, or when the offensive team scores five (5) runs. (**OPTION:** The local league Board of Directors may suspend the five-run rule in the last half-inning for either team.)

Tee Ball: The side is retired when three offensive players are legally put out, called out by an umpire, or when all players on the roster have batted one time in the half-inning.

- 5.08** If a thrown ball accidentally touches a base coach, or a pitched or thrown ball touches an umpire, the ball is alive and in play. However, if the base coach

Rule 5.00 – Putting the Ball in Play – Live Ball

interferes with a thrown ball, the runner is out.

5.09 The ball becomes dead and runners advance one base, or return to their bases, without liability to be put out, when –

- (a) a pitched ball touches a batter, or the batter's clothing, while in a legal batting position; runners, if forced, advance (see [6.08](#));
- (b) the plate umpire interferes with the catcher's act of throwing (when the throw is in an attempt to retire a runner); runners return. If the catcher's throw gets the runner out, the out stands. No umpire interference;
- (c) an illegal pitch [a balk in **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**] is committed (see [Penalty 8.05](#));
- (d) a ball is illegally batted either fair or foul; runners return;
- (e) a foul ball not caught, runners return. The umpire shall not put the ball in play until all runners have retouched their bases;
- (f) a fair ball touches a runner or an umpire on fair territory before it touches an infielder including the pitcher, or touches an umpire before it has passed an infielder other than the pitcher. Runner hit by a fair batted ball is out;

NOTE: If a fair ball goes through, or by an infielder and touches a runner immediately back of said infielder, or touches a runner after being deflected by an infielder, the ball is in play and the umpire shall not declare the runner out. In making such decision, the umpire must be convinced that the ball passed through, or by, the infielder and that no other infielder had the chance to make a play on the ball; runners advance, if forced;

- (g) A pitched ball lodges in the catcher's or umpire's mask or paraphernalia; runners advance;

A.R. – If a pitched ball lodges in the umpire's or catcher's mask or paraphernalia, and remains a dead ball, on the third strike [Majors/Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League] or fourth ball, then the batter is entitled to first base and all runners advance one base. If the count on the batter is less than three balls, runners advance one base.

- (h) **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** Any legal pitch touches a runner trying to score; runners advance.

Rule 5.00 – Putting the Ball in Play – Live Ball

5.10 The ball becomes dead when an umpire calls “Time.” The Umpire-in-Chief shall call “Time” –

- (a) when in said umpire’s judgment, weather, darkness, or similar conditions make immediate further play impossible;
- (b) when light failure makes it difficult or impossible for the umpires to follow the play;

NOTE: A league may adopt its own regulations governing games interrupted by light failure.

- (c) when an accident incapacitates a player or an umpire;
 - (1) If an accident to a runner is such as to prevent said runner from proceeding to an entitled base, as on a home run hit out of the playing field or an award of one or more bases, a substitute runner shall be permitted to complete the play.
- (d) when a manager requests “Time” for a substitution, or for a conference with one of the players;

(NOTE: Only one offensive time-out, for the purpose of a visit or conference, will be permitted each inning.)
- (e) when the umpire wishes to examine the ball, to consult with either manager, or for any similar cause;
- (f) when a fielder, after catching a fly ball, falls into a stand, or falls across ropes into a crowd when spectators are on the field, or any other dead-ball area. As pertains to runners, the provisions of 7.04(b) shall prevail. If a fielder after making a catch steps into a dead ball area, the ball is dead;
- (g) when an umpire orders a player or any other person removed from the playing field;
- (h) except in the cases stated in paragraphs (b) and (c)(1) of this rule, no umpire shall call “Time” while a play is in progress.

5.11 After the ball is dead, play shall be resumed when the pitcher takes a position on the pitcher’s plate with a new ball or the same ball in said pitcher’s possession and the plate umpire calls “Play.” The plate umpire shall call “Play” as soon as the pitcher takes a position on the plate with possession of the ball.

Rule 6.00 – The Batter

6.01 (a) Each player of the offensive team shall bat in the order that their name appears in the team's batting order.

- (b) The first batter in each inning after the first inning shall be the player whose name follows that of the last player who legally completed a time at bat in the preceding inning.

NOTE: In the event that while a batter is in the batter's box, the third out of an inning is made on a base runner, the batter then at bat shall be the first batter of the next inning and the count of balls and strikes shall start over.

6.02 (a) The batter shall take a position in the batter's box promptly when it is said batter's time at bat.

- (b) The batter shall not leave that position in the batter's box after the pitcher comes to Set Position, or starts a windup.

PENALTY: If the pitcher pitches, the umpire shall call "Ball" or "Strike" as the case may be.

- (c) **Local League Option:** After entering the batter's box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat.

Exceptions:

- (1) On a swing, slap, or check swing.
- (2) When forced out of the box by a pitch.
- (3) When the batter attempts a "drag bunt."
- (4) When the catcher does not catch the pitched ball.
- (5) When a play has been attempted.
- (6) When time has been called.
- (7) When the pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher's plate after receiving the ball or the catcher leaves the catcher's box.
- (8) 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 none of the

Rule 6.00 – The Batter

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. **Minor/Major Division:** No pitch has to be thrown, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance. **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior:** No pitch has to be thrown and ball is live.

NOTE: The batter may return their position in the batter's box and assume the new count at any time during the at-bat, unless such enforced penalty is the third strike.

6.03 The batter's legal position shall be with both feet within the batter's box.

A.R. – The lines defining the box are within the batter's box.

6.04 A batter has legally completed a time at bat when he/she is retired or becomes a runner.

6.05 A batter is out when –

- (a) a fair or foul fly ball (other than a foul tip) is legally caught by a fielder;

A.R. – A fielder may reach into, but not step into, a dugout to make a catch, and if he/she holds the ball, the catch shall be allowed. A fielder, in order to make a catch on a foul ball nearing a dugout or other dead ball area (such as the stands), must have one or both feet on or over the playing surface (including the dugout) and neither foot on the ground inside the dugout or in any other dead ball area. Ball is in play, unless the fielder, after making a legal catch, falls into a dugout or other dead ball area, in which case the ball is dead.

(b) **Majors/Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League –**

- (1) a third strike is legally caught by the catcher;
- (2) a third strike is not caught by the catcher when first base is occupied before two are out; **Minor League and Tee Ball:** A third strike is caught or not caught by the catcher. **Option:** A local league may elect to apply the Minor League and Tee Ball rule for the Little League (Major) Division for the regular season.

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A.R. – (Majors/Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League)
When a batter becomes a runner on a third strike that is not caught, and starts for the bench or his/her position, that batter may advance to first base at any time before entering the dugout or any other dead ball area. To put the batter out, the defense must tag the batter or first base before the batter touches first base.

- (c) bunting foul on a third strike;
- (d) an Infield Fly is declared;
- (e) that batter attempts to hit a third strike and is touched by the ball;
- (f) a fair ball touches said batter before touching a fielder;
- (g) after hitting or bunting a fair ball, the bat hits the ball a second time in fair territory. The ball is dead and no runners may advance. If the batter-runner drops the bat and the ball rolls against the bat in fair territory and, in the umpire's judgment there was no intention to interfere with the course of the ball, the ball is alive and in play;

A.R. – If a bat is thrown into fair or foul territory and interferes with a defensive player attempting to make a play, interference shall be called, whether intentional or not.

- (h) after hitting or bunting a foul ball, the batter-runner intentionally deflects the course of the ball in any manner while running to first base. The ball is dead and no runners may advance;
- (i) after hitting a fair ball, the batter-runner or first base is tagged before said batter-runner touches first base; or **Majors/Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** after a third strike as defined in [Rule 6.09\(b\)](#), the batter-runner or first base is tagged before said batter-runner touches first base;
- (j) in running the last half of the distance from home base to first base, while the ball is being fielded to first base, the batter-runner runs outside (to the right of) the runner's lane, or inside (to the left of) the foul line, and in the umpire's judgment in so doing interferes with the fielder taking the throw at first base; except that the batter-runner may run outside (to the right of) the runner's

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lane or inside (to the left of) the foul line to avoid a fielder attempting to field a batted ball;

A.R. – The lines marking the three-foot lane are a part of that lane and a batter-runner is required to have both feet within the runner's lane or on the lines marking the lane.

- (k) an infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball or line drive, with first; first and second; first and third; or first, second, and third bases occupied before two are out. The ball is dead and runner or runners shall return to their original base or bases;

A.R. – In this situation, the batter is not out if the infielder permits the ball to drop untouched to the ground, except when the Infield Fly rule applies.

- (l) a preceding runner shall, in the umpire's judgment, intentionally interfere with a fielder who is attempting to catch a thrown ball or to throw a ball in an attempt to complete a play.
- (m) **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** with two out, a runner on third base, and two strikes on the batter, the runner attempts to steal home base on a legal pitch and the ball touches the runner in the batter's strike zone. The umpire shall call "Strike Three," the batter is out and the run shall not count; before two are out, the umpire shall call "Strike Three," the ball is dead, and the run counts.
- (n) **Local League Option:** When a league permits teams to start and play games with eight (8) players, an out is called for the ninth (9th) position in the batting line-up each turn at bat. **NOTE:** The Board of Directors may determine if teams may skip over the ninth (9th) position without penalty;

6.06 A batter is out for illegal action when –

- (a) hitting the ball with one or both feet on the ground entirely outside the batter's box.

A.R. – If a batter hits a ball fair or foul while out of the batter's box, he/she shall be called out.

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- (b) stepping from one batter's box to the other while the pitcher is in position ready to pitch;
- (c) interfering with the catcher's fielding or throwing by:
 - (1) stepping out of the batter's box, or;
 - (2) making any other movement that hinders the catcher's actions at home plate or the catcher's attempt to play on a runner, or;
 - (3) failing to make a reasonable effort to vacate a congested area when there is a throw to home plate and there is time for the batter to move away.

EXCEPTION: Batter is not out if any runner attempting to advance is retired, or if runner trying to score is called out for batter's interference.

- (d) the batter enters the batter's box with one or both feet entirely on the ground with an illegal bat (see bat specifications rule 1.10) or is discovered having used an illegal bat prior to the next player entering the batter's box. The ball is dead. Runners must return if they advanced on the play.

NOTE: If the infraction is discovered before the next player enters the batter's box following the turn at bat of the player who used an illegal bat:

- (1) The ball is dead, the batter is out, and runners must return if they advanced on the play. The manager of the defense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline this part of the penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play.
- (2) 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.

A.R. – Any of the remaining adults in the dugout may be used as the one adult base coach at any time during the duration of the game.

A.R. – When an illegal bat is discovered, it **MUST** be removed from the game at that point.

6.07 BATTING OUT OF TURN

- (a) A batter shall be called out, on appeal, when failing to bat in his/her proper

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turn, and another batter completes a time at bat in place of the proper batter.

(1) The proper batter may take a position in the batter's box at any time before the improper batter becomes a runner or is retired, and any balls and strikes shall be counted in the proper batter's time at bat.

- (b) When an improper batter becomes a runner or is retired, and the defensive team appeals to the umpire before the first pitch to the next batter of either team, or before any play or attempted play, the umpire shall (1) declare the proper batter out; and (2) nullify any advance or score made because of a ball batted by the improper batter or because of the improper batter's advance to first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batter, or otherwise.

NOTE: If a runner advances, while the improper batter is at bat, on a stolen base, illegal pitch [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** balk], wild pitch, or passed ball, such advance is legal.

- (c) When an improper batter becomes a runner or is retired, and a pitch is made to the next batter of either team before an appeal is made, the improper batter thereby becomes the proper batter, and the results of such time at bat become legal.
- (d) (1) When the proper batter is called out for failing to bat in turn, the next batter shall be the batter whose name follows that of the proper batter thus called out;
- (2) When an improper batter becomes a proper batter because no appeal is made before the next pitch, the next batter shall be the batter whose name follows that of such legalized improper batter. The instant an improper batter's actions are legalized, the batting order picks up with the name following that of the legalized improper batter.

BATTING OUT OF TURN – APPROVED RULINGS

To illustrate various situations arising from batting out of turn, assume a first-inning batting order as follows:

Abel – Jennifer – Charles – Daniel – Edward – Frank – Nina – Henry – Irwin.

PLAY (1) Jennifer bats. With the count 2 balls and 1 strike, (a) the offensive team discovers the error or (b) the defensive team appeals.

RULING: In either case, Abel replaces Jennifer, with the count 2 balls and 1 strike.

Rule 6.00 – The Batter

PLAY (2) Jennifer bats and doubles. The defensive team appeals (a) immediately or (b) after a pitch to Charles.

RULING: (a) Abel is called out and Jennifer is the proper batter; (b) Jennifer stays on second and Charles is the proper batter.

PLAY (3) Abel walks. Jennifer walks. Charles forces Jennifer. Edward bats in Daniel's turn. While Edward is at bat, Abel scores and Charles goes to second on a wild pitch. Edward grounds out, sending Charles to third. The defensive team appeals (a) immediately or (b) after a pitch to Daniel.

RULING: (a) Abel's run counts and Charles is entitled to second base since these advances were not made because of the improper batter batting a ball or advancing to first base. Charles must return to second base because the advance to third resulted from the improper batter batting a ball. Daniel is called out and Edward is the proper batter; (b) Abel's run counts and Charles stays on third. The proper batter is Frank.

PLAY (4) With the bases full and two out, Henry bats in Frank's turn, and triples, scoring three runs. The defensive team appeals (a) immediately or (b) after a pitch to Nina.

RULING: (a) Frank is called out and no runs score. Nina is the proper batter to lead off the second inning; (b) Henry stays on third and three runs score. Irwin is the proper batter.

PLAY (5) After Play (4) (b) above, Nina continues to bat. (a) Henry is picked off third base for the third out, or (b) Nina flies out, and no appeal is made. Who is the proper leadoff batter in the second inning?

RULING: (a) Irwin became the proper batter as soon as the first pitch to Nina legalized Henry's triple; (b) Henry. When no appeal was made, the first pitch to the leadoff batter of the opposing team legalized Nina's time at bat.

PLAY (6) Daniel walks and Abel comes to bat. Daniel was an improper batter and if an appeal is made before the first pitch to Abel, Abel is out, Daniel is removed from base, and Jennifer is proper batter. There is no appeal and a pitch is made to Abel. Daniel's walk is now legalized, and Edward thereby becomes the proper

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batter. Edward can replace Abel at any time before Abel is put out, or becomes a runner. Edward does not do so. Abel flies out, and Jennifer comes to bat. Abel was an improper batter, and if an appeal is made before the first pitch to Jennifer, Edward is out, and the proper batter is Frank. There is no appeal, and a pitch is made to Jennifer. Abel's out is now legalized, and the proper batter is Jennifer. Jennifer walks. Charles is the proper batter. Charles flies out. Now Daniel is the proper batter, but Daniel is on second base. Who is the proper batter?

RULING: The proper batter is Edward. When the proper batter is on base, that batter is passed over, and the following batter becomes the proper batter.

(NOTE: The umpire and scorekeeper shall not direct the attention of any person to the presence in the batter's box of an improper batter. This rule is designed to require constant vigilance by the players and managers of both teams. There are two fundamentals to keep in mind:

- (1) When a player bats out of turn, the proper batter is the player called out.
- (2) If an improper batter bats and reaches base or is out and no appeal is made before a pitch to the next batter, or before any play or attempted play, that improper batter is considered to have batted in proper turn and establishes the order that is to follow.)

Tee Ball: The scorekeeper shall inform the manager that a player has batted out of order. There shall be no penalty and that player shall not have another turn at bat, but shall resume the normal position next time up.

6.08 The batter becomes a runner and is entitled to first base without liability to be put out (provided said runner advances to and touches first base) when –

- (a) (1) four “balls” have been called by the umpire; ball is live and base runners may advance; or,
- (2) **All Divisions:** The defense elects to “Intentionally Walk” the batter by announcing such decision to the plate umpire. The request may be made prior to or during the at-bat. A player may only be intentionally walked by announcing such decision to the home plate umpire one time during the course of the game. This would not restrict a team from throwing four balls outside of the strike zone to this batter at another time during the game.

NOTE 1: Such notification must be made by the defensive manager. The

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manager must request and be granted “time” by the umpire and then inform the umpire of the defense’s intent to walk the batter.

NOTE 2: The ball is dead and no other runners may advance unless forced by the batter’s award. The appropriate number of “balls” needed based on the count on the batter at the time of the manager’s request to complete the Intentional Walk will be added to the pitch count.

- (b) the batter is touched by a pitched ball which the batter is not attempting to hit unless (1) The ball is in the strike zone when it touches the batter, or (2) The batter makes no attempt to avoid being touched by the ball;

NOTE: If the ball is in the strike zone when it touches the batter, it shall be called a strike, whether or not the batter tries to avoid the ball. If the ball is outside the strike zone when it touches the batter, it shall be called a ball if that batter makes no attempt to avoid being touched.

A.R. – When the batter is touched by a pitched ball which does not entitle that batter to first base, the ball is dead and no runner may advance.

- (c) the catcher or any fielder interferes with the batter. If a play follows the interference, the manager of the offense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline the interference penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play. However, if the batter reaches first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batter, or otherwise, and all other runners advance at least one base, the play proceeds without reference to the interference;

A.R. 1 – Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: If a runner is trying to score by a steal or squeeze from third base, note the additional penalty set forth in Rule 7.07.

A.R. 2 – If the catcher interferes with the batter before the pitcher delivers the ball, it shall not be considered interference on the batter under Rule 6.08(c). In such cases, the umpire shall call “Time” and the pitcher and batter resume the count.

- (d) a fair ball touches an umpire or a runner on fair territory before touching a fielder.

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A.R. – Ball is dead. Runner(s) who are forced advance and any runners not forced will return to their bases at the time of the pitch.

NOTE: If a fair ball touches an umpire after having passed a fielder other than the pitcher, or having touched a fielder, including the pitcher, the ball is in play.

6.09 The batter becomes a runner when –

- (a) a fair ball is hit;
- (b) **Majors/Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** the third strike is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied or (2) first base is occupied with two out;

(**NOTE:** A batter forfeits his/her opportunity to advance to first base when he/she enters the dugout or other dead ball area);

- (c) a fair ball, after having passed a fielder other than the pitcher, or after having been touched by a fielder, including the pitcher, shall touch an umpire or runner in fair territory;
- (d) a fair fly ball passes over a fence or into the stands at a distance from home base of 165 feet [**Intermediate (50-70) Division:** 200 feet; and **Junior/Senior League:** 250 feet] or more. Such hit entitles the batter to a home run when all bases have been legally touched. A fair fly ball that passes out of the playing field at a point less than 165 feet [**Intermediate (50-70) Division:** 200 feet; and **Junior/Senior League:** 250 feet] from home base shall entitle the batter to advance to second base only;
- (e) a fair ball, after touching the ground, bounds into the stands; passes through, over, or under a fence; through or under a scoreboard; or through or under shrubbery or vines on the fence, in which case the batter and runners shall be entitled to advance two bases;
- (f) any fair ball which, either before or after touching the ground, passes through or under a fence, through or under a scoreboard, through any opening in the fence or scoreboard, through or under shrubbery or vines on the fence, or which sticks in a fence or scoreboard, in which case the batter and the runners shall be entitled to two bases;
- (g) any bounding fair ball is deflected by the fielder into the stands, or over or under a fence on fair or foul territory, in which case the batter and all runners

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shall be entitled to advance two bases;

- (h) any fair fly ball is deflected by the fielder into the stands, or over the fence into foul territory, in which case the batter shall be entitled to advance to second base; but if deflected into the stands or over the fence in fair territory, the batter shall be entitled to a home run. However, should such a fair fly be deflected at a point less than 165 feet [**Intermediate (50-70) Division:** 200 feet; and **Junior/Senior League:** 250 feet] from home plate, the batter shall be entitled to two bases only.

Rule 7.00 – The Runner

- 7.01** A runner acquires the right to an unoccupied base when that runner touches it before being retired. The runner is then entitled to it until retired or forced to vacate it for another runner legally entitled to that base. If a runner legally acquires title to a base, and the pitcher assumes his/her position on the pitcher's plate, the runner may not return to a previously occupied base.
- 7.02** In advancing, a runner shall touch first, second, third, and home base in order. If forced to return, the runner shall retouch all bases in reverse order, unless the ball is dead under any provision of [Rule 5.09](#). In such cases, the runner may go directly to the original base.
- 7.03** Two runners may not occupy a base, but if, while the ball is alive, two runners are touching the base, the following runner shall be out when tagged. The preceding runner is entitled to the base.
- (a) If two runners are on a base and both are tagged, then the lead runner is out if forced.
- 7.04** Each runner, other than the batter, may, without liability to be put out, advance one base when –
- (a) the batter's advance without liability to be put out forces the runner to vacate a base, or when the batter hits a fair ball that touches another runner or the umpire before such ball has been touched by, or has passed a fielder, if the runner is forced to advance, or in **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**, there is a balk;
- (b) a fielder, after catching a fly ball, falls into a stand, falls across ropes into a crowd when spectators are on the field, or falls into any other dead-ball areas;
- (c) **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** while the runner is attempting to steal a base, the batter is interfered with by the catcher or any other fielder.

NOTE: When a runner is entitled to a base without liability to be put out, while the ball is in play, or under any rule in which the ball is in play after the runner reaches an entitled base, and the runner fails to touch the base to which that runner is entitled before attempting to advance to the next base, the runner shall forfeit the exemption from liability to be put out and may be put out by tagging the base or by tagging the runner before that runner returns

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to the missed base.

A.R. – A runner forced to advance without liability to be put out, may advance past the base to which he/she is entitled at his/her own risk.

7.05 Each runner including the batter-runner may, without liability to be put out, advance –

- (a) to home base scoring a run, if a fair ball goes out of the playing field in flight and the runner touches all bases legally; or if a fair ball which, in the umpire's judgment, would have gone out of the playing field in flight [165 feet from home plate; **Intermediate (50-70) Division:** 200 feet; and **Junior/Senior League:** 250 feet], is deflected by the act of a fielder in throwing a glove, cap, or any article of apparel;
- (b) three bases, if a fielder deliberately touches a fair ball with a cap, mask, or any part of that fielder's uniform detached from its proper place on the person of said fielder. The ball is in play and the batter may advance to home plate at the batter's peril;
- (c) three bases, if a fielder deliberately throws a glove and touches a fair ball. The ball is in play and the batter may advance to home base at that batter's peril;
- (d) two bases, if a fielder deliberately touches a thrown ball with a cap, mask, or any part of the uniform detached from its proper place on the person of said fielder. The ball is in play;
- (e) two bases, if a fielder deliberately throws a glove at and touches a thrown ball. The ball is in play;
- (f) two bases, if a fair ball bounces or is deflected into the stands outside the first or third base foul line; if it goes through or under a field fence; through or under a scoreboard; through or under shrubbery or vines on the fence; or if it sticks in such fence, scoreboard, shrubbery, or vines;
- (g) two bases when, with no spectators on the playing field, a thrown ball goes into the stands; into a bench (whether or not the ball rebounds into the field); over, under, or through a field fence; on a slanting part of the screen above the backstop; or remains in the meshes of a wire screen protecting spectators. The ball is dead. When such wild throw is the first play by an infielder, the umpire, in awarding such bases, shall be governed by the position of the runners at the

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time the ball was pitched; in all other cases the umpire shall be governed by the position of the runners at the time the wild throw was made;

A.R. – If all runners, including the batter-runner, have advanced at least one base when an infielder makes a wild throw on the first play after the pitch, the award shall be governed by the position of the runners when the wild throw was made.

- (h) one base, if a ball, pitched to the batter, or thrown by the pitcher from the position on the pitcher's plate to a base to catch a runner, goes into a stand or a bench; or over, through, or lodges in a field fence or backstop. The ball is dead;
- (i) one base, if the batter becomes a runner on a ball four when the pitch passes the catcher and lodges in the umpire's mask or paraphernalia;

Majors/Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: one base, if the batter becomes a runner on a ball four or strike three when the pitch passes the catcher and lodges in the umpire's mask or paraphernalia.

NOTE 1: If the batter becomes a runner on a wild pitch which entitles the runners to advance one base, the batter-runner shall be entitled to first base only but can advance beyond first base at their own risk if the ball stays in play.

NOTE 2: In Tee Ball, the runner or runners will be permitted to advance at their own risk on an overthrow that remains in play, but not more than one base.

- (j) one base, if a fielder deliberately touches a pitched ball with his/her cap, mask, or any part of his/her uniform detached from its proper place on his/her person. The ball is in play, and the award is made based on the position of the runner at the time the ball was touched.

7.06 When the obstruction occurs, the umpire shall call or signal "Obstruction."

- (a) If a play is being made on the obstructed runner, or if the batter-runner is obstructed before touching first base, the ball is dead and all runners shall advance without liability to be put out, to the bases they would have reached, in the umpire's judgment, if there had been no obstruction. The obstructed runner shall be awarded at least one base beyond the base last legally touched by such runner, before the obstruction. Any preceding runners forced to advance by the award of bases as the penalty for obstruction shall advance without liability to be put out;

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- (b) If no play is being made on the obstructed runner, the play shall proceed until no further action is possible. The umpire shall then call “Time” and impose such penalties, if any, as in that umpire’s judgment will nullify the act of obstruction.

NOTE 1: When the ball is not dead on obstruction and an obstructed runner advances beyond the base which, in the umpire’s judgment, the runner would have been awarded because of being obstructed, the runner does so at his/her own risk and may be tagged out. This is a judgment call.

NOTE 2: If the defensive player blocks the base (plate) or base line clearly without possession of the ball, obstruction shall be called. The runner is safe and a delayed dead ball shall be called.

7.07 Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: If, with a runner on third base and trying to score by means of a squeeze play or a steal, the catcher or any other fielder steps on, or in front of home base without possession of the ball, or touches the batter or the bat, the pitcher shall be charged with a balk, the batter shall be awarded first base on the interference and the ball is dead.

7.08 Any runner is out when –

- (a) (1) running more than three feet away from his/her base path to avoid being tagged, unless such action is to avoid interference with a fielder fielding a batted ball. A runner’s base path is established when the tag attempt occurs and is a straight line from the runner to the base to which he/she is attempting to reach; or
- (2) after touching first base, the runner leaves the baseline, obviously abandoning all effort to touch the next base; or
- (3) the runner does not slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag; or

A.R. – There is no “must slide rule.”

- (4) **Little League (Major) and below only:** the runner slides head first while advancing.
- (b) intentionally interferes with a thrown ball; or hinders a fielder attempting to make a play on a batted ball

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(**NOTE:** A runner who is adjudged to have hindered a fielder who is attempting to make a play on a batted ball is out whether it was intentional or not);

- (c) that runner is tagged, when the ball is alive, while off a base;

EXCEPTION: A batter-runner cannot be tagged out after overrunning or over sliding first base if said batter-runner returns immediately to the base.

A.R. 1 – This includes a batter-runner who overruns first after being awarded a base on balls.

A.R. 2 – If the impact of a runner breaks a base loose from its position, no play can be made on that runner at that base if the runner had reached the base safely.

A.R. 3 – If a base is dislodged from its position during a play, any following runner on the same play shall be considered as touching or occupying the base if, in the umpire's judgment, that runner touches or occupies the dislodged bag, or the point marked by the original location of the dislodged bag.

- (d) failing to retouch the base after a fair or foul ball is legally caught before that runner, or the base, is tagged by a fielder. The runner shall not be called out for failure to retouch the base after the first following pitch, or any play or attempted play. This is an appeal play.

NOTE: Base runners can legally retouch their base once a fair ball is touched in flight and advance at their own risk if a fair or foul ball is caught.

- (e) failing to reach the next base before a fielder tags said runner or the base after that runner has been forced to advance by reason of the batter becoming a runner. However, if a following runner is retired on a force play, the force is removed and the runner must be tagged to be put out. The force is removed as soon as the runner touches the base to which that runner is forced to advance, and if oversliding or overrunning the base, the runner must be tagged to be put out. However, if the forced runner, after touching the next base, retreats for any reason towards the base last occupied, the force play is reinstated and the runner can again be put out if the defense tags the base to which the runner is forced;

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- (f) touched by a fair ball in fair territory before the ball has touched or passed an infielder. The ball is dead and no runner may score, no runners may advance, except runners forced to advance;

EXCEPTION: If a runner is touching a base when touched by an Infield Fly, that runner is not out, although the batter is out.

NOTE 1: If a runner is touched by an Infield Fly when not touching a base, both runner and batter are out.

NOTE 2: If two runners are touched by the same fair ball, only the first one is out because the ball is instantly dead.

- (g) attempting to score on a play in which the batter interferes with the play at home base before two are out. With two out, the interference puts the batter out and no score counts;
- (h) passes a preceding runner before such runner is out;
- (i) after acquiring legal possession of a base, the runner runs the bases in reverse order for the purpose of confusing the defense or making a travesty of the game. The umpire shall immediately call “Time” and declare the runner out;
- (j) failing to return at once to first base after overrunning or oversliding that base. If attempting to run to second the runner is out when tagged. If, after overrunning or oversliding first base the runner starts toward the dugout, or toward a position, and fails to return to first base at once, that runner is out, on appeal, when said runner or the base is tagged;
- (k) in running or sliding for home base, the runner fails to touch home base and makes no attempt to return to the base, when a fielder holds the ball in hand, while touching home base, and appeals to the umpire for the decision.

(NOTE: This rule applies only where the runner is on the way to the bench and a fielder would be required to chase the runner to tag him/her. It does not apply to the ordinary play where the runner misses the plate and then immediately makes an effort to touch the plate before being tagged. In that case, the runner must be tagged.)

7.09 It is interference by a batter or runner when –

- (a) the batter hinders the catcher in an attempt to field the ball;

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- (b) the batter intentionally deflects the course of a foul ball in any manner;
- (c) before two are out and a runner on third base, the batter hinders a fielder in making a play at home base; the runner is out;
- (d) any member or members of the offensive team stand or gather around any base to which a runner is advancing, to confuse, hinder, or add to the difficulty of the fielders. Such runner shall be declared out for the interference of a teammate or teammates;
- (e) any batter or runner who has just been retired hinders or impedes any following play being made on a runner. Such runner shall be declared out for the interference of a teammate;
- (f) if, in the judgment of the umpire, a base runner willfully and deliberately interferes with a batted ball or a fielder in the act of fielding a batted ball with the obvious intent to break up a double play, the ball is dead. The umpire shall call the runner out for interference and also call out the batter-runner because of the action of the runner. In no event may bases be run or runs scored because of such action by a runner;
- (g) if, in the judgment of the umpire, a batter-runner willfully and deliberately interferes with a batted ball or a fielder in the act of fielding a batted ball, with the obvious intent to break up a double play, the ball is dead; the umpire shall call the batter-runner out for interference and shall also call out the runner who advanced closest to the home plate regardless where the double play might have been possible. In no event shall bases be run because of such interference;
- (h) in the judgment of the umpire, the base coach at third base or first base, by touching or holding the runner, physically assists that runner in returning to or leaving third base or first base;

A.R. – When a play is being made on the assisted runner, the runner is out and all runners return to the bases occupied at the time of the interference (dead ball). If no play is being made on the assisted runner, the runner is out and play continues (delayed dead ball).

- (i) with a runner on third base, the base coach leaves the box and acts in any manner to draw a throw by a fielder;

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- (j) the runner fails to avoid a fielder who is attempting to field a batted ball, or intentionally interferes with a thrown ball, provided that if two or more fielders attempt to field a batted ball, and the runner comes in contact with one or more of them, the umpire shall determine which fielder is entitled to the benefit of this rule, and shall not declare the runner out for coming in contact with a fielder other than the one the umpire determines to be entitled to field such a ball;
- (k) a fair ball touches the batter or runner in fair territory before touching a fielder. If a fair ball goes through or by an infielder and touches a runner immediately back of said infielder or touches the runner after having been deflected by a fielder, the umpire shall not declare the runner out for being touched by a batted ball. In making such decision, the umpire must be convinced that the ball passed through or by the infielder and that no other infielder had the chance to make a play on the ball. If in the judgment of the umpire, the runner deliberately and intentionally kicks such a batted ball on which the infielder had missed a play, then the runner shall be called out for interference.

PENALTY FOR INTERFERENCE: The runner is out and the ball is dead.

7.10 Any runner shall be called out, on appeal, when –

- (a) after a fly ball is caught, the runner fails to retouch the base before said runner or the base is tagged

(NOTE: “Retouch” in this rule, means to tag up and start from a contact with the base after the ball is caught. A runner is not permitted to take a flying start from a position in back of, and not touching, the base);

- (b) with the ball in play, while advancing or returning to a base, the runner fails to touch each base in order before said runner, or a missed base, is tagged;

A.R. – (1) No runner may return to touch a missed base after a following runner has scored. (2) When the ball is dead, no runner may return to touch a missed base or one abandoned after said runner has advanced to and touched a base beyond the missed base.

Play A – Batter hits the ball out of the park, or hits a ground rule double, and misses first base (ball is dead). The runner may return to first base to correct the mistake before touching second. But if the runner touches second,

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he/she may not return to first and if the defensive team appeals, the runner is declared out at first. (**Appeal play.**)

Play B – Batter hits a ground ball to shortstop, who throws wild into the stands (ball is dead). Batter-runner misses first base but is awarded second base on the overthrow. Even though the umpire has awarded the runner second base on the overthrow, the runner must touch first base before proceeding to second base. (**Appeal play.**)

- (c) the runner overruns or overslides first base and fails to return to the base immediately, and said runner or the base is tagged;
- (d) the runner fails to touch home base and makes no attempt to return to that base, and home base is tagged.

NOTE: A runner forfeits his/her opportunity to return to home base when he/she enters the dugout or other dead ball area.

Any appeal under this rule must be made before the next pitch, or any play or attempted play. No appeal can be made if the ball is dead. If the violation occurs during a play which ends a half-inning, the appeal must be made before all the defensive players have left fair territory on their way to the bench or dugout. **EXCEPTION:** If an otherwise proper appeal is being made by a player who has to go into foul territory to retrieve the ball in order to make an appeal or if the appeal is being made by the catcher (who may never have been in fair territory at all), the appeal will be adjudged to have been properly executed.

An appeal is not to be interpreted as a play or an attempted play.

Successive appeals may not be made on a runner at the same base. If the defensive team on its first appeal errs, a request for a second appeal on the same runner at the same base shall not be allowed by the umpire. (Intended meaning of the word “err” is that the defensive team in making an appeal threw the ball into a dead ball area. For example, if the pitcher threw to first base to appeal and threw the ball into the stands, no second appeal would be allowed.)

NOTE 1: Appeal plays may require an umpire to recognize an apparent “fourth out.” If the third out is made during a play in which an appeal play is sustained on another runner, the appeal play decision takes precedence in determining the out. If there is more than one appeal during a play that ends a half-inning, the defense may elect to take the out that gives it the advantage. For the purposes of this rule, the defensive team has “left the field” when all players have left fair territory on

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their way to the bench or dugout.

NOTE 2: If a pitcher makes an illegal pitch [a balk in **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**] when making an appeal, such act shall be a play. An appeal should be clearly intended as an appeal, either by a verbal request by the player or an act that unmistakably indicates an appeal to the umpire. A player, inadvertently stepping on the base with a ball in hand, would not constitute an appeal. The ball must be live and in play.

- 7.11** The players, coaches, or any member of an offensive team shall vacate any space (including both dugouts) needed by a fielder who is attempting to field a batted or thrown ball.

PENALTY: Interference shall be called and the batter or runner on whom the play is being made shall be declared out.

- 7.12** Unless two are out, the status of a following runner is not affected by a preceding runner's failure to touch or retouch a base. If, upon appeal, the preceding runner is the third out, no runners following the preceding runner shall score. If such third out is the result of a force play, neither preceding nor following runners shall score.

- 7.13 Little League (Major) and Minor League:** When a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's plate and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of the ball, base runners shall not leave their bases until the ball has been delivered and has reached the batter.

NOTE: Tee Ball: Base runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit. When players have advanced as far as possible without being put out or having been retired, the umpire shall call "time" and place the ball on the tee.

The violation by one base runner shall affect other base runners –

- (a) when a base runner leaves the base before the pitched ball has reached the batter and the batter does not hit the ball, the runner is permitted to continue. If a play is made on the runner and the runner is out, the out stands. If said runner reaches safely the base to which the runner is advancing, that runner must be returned to the base occupied before the pitch was made, and no out results;
- (b) when a base runner leaves the base before the pitched ball has reached the batter and the batter hits the ball, the base runner or runners are permitted to continue. If a play is made and the runner or runners are put out, the out or outs will stand. If not put out, the runner or runners must return to the

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original base or bases or to the unoccupied base nearest the one that was left; In no event shall the batter advance beyond first base on a single or error, second base on a double or third base on a triple. The Umpire-in-Chief shall determine the base value of the hit ball.

- (c) when any base runner leaves the base before the pitched ball has reached the batter and the batter bunts, hits a ball within the infield or advances on an uncaught third strike, no run shall be allowed to score. If three runners were on the bases and the batter reaches first base safely, each runner shall advance to the base beyond the one they occupied at the start of the play except the runner who occupied third base, that runner shall be removed from the base without a run being scored.

NOTE: See exceptions following this rule.

EXCEPTION: If at the conclusion of the play there is an open base, paragraphs (a) and (b) will apply

EXAMPLES:

- (1) Runner on first leaves too soon, batter reaches first safely, runner goes to second.
- (2) Runner on second leaves too soon, batter reaches first safely, runner returns to second.
- (3) Runner on third leaves too soon, batter reaches first safely, runner returns to third.
- (4) Runner on first leaves too soon, batter hits clean double, runner goes to third only.
- (5) Runner on second leaves too soon, batter hits clean double, runner goes to third only.
- (6) Runner on third leaves too soon, batter hits clean double, runner returns to third.
- (7) All runners on base will be allowed to score when the batter hits a clean triple or home run, regardless of whether any runner left too soon.
- (8) Runners on first and second, either leaves too soon, batter reaches first safely, runners go to second and third.

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- (9) Runners on first and second, either leaves too soon, batter hits clean double, runner on first goes to third, runner on second scores.
- (10) Runners on first and third, either leaves too soon, batter reaches first safely, runner on first goes to second, runner on third remains there.
- (11) Runners on first and third, either leaves too soon, batter hits a clean double, runner on first goes to third, runner on third scores.
- (12) Runners on second and third, either leaves too soon, batter reaches first safely, neither runner can advance.
- (13) Runners on second and third, either leaves too soon, batter hits a clean double, runner on third scores, runner on second goes to third.
- (14) Runners on first, second, and third, any runner leaves too soon, batter hits clean double, runners on second, third score, runner on first goes to third.
- (15) Bases full, any runner leaves too soon, batter reaches first safely on any ball bunted or hit within the infield, all runners advance one base except runner advancing from third. Runner advancing from third is removed, no run is scored and no out charged. If on the play, a putout at any base results in an open base, runner who occupied third base returns to third base.
- (16) Bases full, any runner leaves too soon, batter received a base on balls or is hit by a pitch, each runner will advance one base and a run will score.

NOTE 1: When an umpire detects a base runner leaving the base too soon, that umpire shall drop a signal flag or handkerchief immediately to indicate the violation.

NOTE 2: For purpose of these examples, it is assumed that the batter runner remains at the base last acquired safely.

NOTE 3: Tee Ball: Base runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit. When players have advanced as far as possible without being put out or having been retired the umpire shall call “time” and place the ball on the tee.

- 7.14 (a)** 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. 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

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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. A local league may adopt Tournament Rule 3(d) for 7.14.

NOTE: Does not apply if the local league adopts the continuous batting order. See Rule 4.04.

- (b) **Courtesy Runner:** A local league may permit a “courtesy runner” for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are two (2) outs.

NOTE 1: If the traditional batting order is used, a player whose name is on the team’s batting order may not become a substitute runner for another member of the team. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher is subject to removal from the line-up. The same courtesy runner may not run for both the pitcher and catcher at any time during the game.

NOTE 2: 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.

NOTE 3: If the pitcher and catcher of record are on base with two outs, the offense may use a courtesy runner for both the pitcher and catcher of record at the same time. When assigning courtesy runners in such situations, the player who is scheduled to bat soonest shall be placed on the base closest to scoring. **EXAMPLE:** With two outs, the pitcher is on second base and the catcher is on third base. The offense elects to use courtesy runners for both the pitcher and catcher. The player who made the second out of the inning becomes the courtesy runner for the pitcher at second base. The player who made the first out of the inning (due up soonest) becomes the courtesy runner for the catcher at third base.

- 7.15 Procedures for Use of a Double First Base:** The double base may be used for first base only. The base must be rectangular, with two sides not less than 14 inches and not more than 15 inches, and the other two sides not less than 29 inches and not more than 30 inches. The longer sides shall face toward home plate and the right field corner. The outer edges shall not be more than two and one-fourth ($2\frac{1}{4}$) inches thick, filled with soft material, and covered with canvas or rubber. Half the base shall be white (entirely over fair territory) and half shall be orange or green (entirely over foul territory). When using the double first base, the following rules must be observed:

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- (a) A batted ball that hits the white section of the double base shall be declared fair. A batted ball that hits the colored (orange or green) section without first touching or bounding over the white section shall be declared foul.
- (b) Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner, the defense must use the white section of the double first base.

NOTE 1: A play is being made on the batter-runner when he/she is attempting to reach first base while the defense is attempting to retire him/her at that base.

NOTE 2: If there is a play on the batter-runner, and the batter-runner touches only the white portion and the defense appeals prior to the batter-runner returning to first base, it is treated the same as missing the base.

PENALTY: Batter-runner is out.

- (c) Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner, the batter-runner must use the colored (orange or green) section on his/her first attempt to tag first base.

NOTE: On extra-base hits or other balls hit to the outfield when there is no chance for a play to be made at the double first base, the batter-runner may touch either the white or colored (orange or green) section of the base. Should, however, the batter-runner reach and go beyond first base, he/she may only return to the white section of the base.

PENALTY: If there is a play on the batter-runner, and the batter-runner touches only the white portion and the defense appeals prior to the batter-runner returning to first base, it is treated the same as missing the base. If properly appealed, the batter-runner is out.

- (d) When tagging up on a fly ball, the white section of the base must be used by the runner. One foot is permitted to extend behind or on the base into foul territory, as long as the front foot is touching the white section of the base.

PENALTY: If properly appealed, runner is out.

- (e) When leaving base on a pitched ball in **Little League (Major) and below**, the runner must maintain contact with the white section of the base until the ball has reached the batter. Runners may extend a foot behind the white portion of the base, but must maintain contact with the white section until the ball has reached the batter.

PENALTY: See Rule 7.13.

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- (f) On an attempted pick-off play, the runner must return to the white section of the base only. This includes a throw from the pitcher, catcher, or any other player, in an attempt to retire the runner at the double first base.
- (g) In Majors, Intermediate (50/70) Division, Junior, and Senior League divisions, when the batter becomes a runner on a third strike not caught by the catcher, the batter-runner and the defensive player may use either the colored (orange or green) or white base. NOTE: When the batter becomes a runner on a third strike not caught by the catcher, the batter-runner may run in fair territory when the throw is coming from the foul side of the base, and if hit by the thrown ball, it is not interference. If intentional interference is ruled, the runner is out.
- (h) Use of the double first base does not change any other rule concerning interference or obstruction at first base. (An errant throw into the three-foot running lane could still result in an obstruction call. Also, the batter-runner must still avoid interference with the fielder attempting to field a batted ball.)

Rule 8.00 – The Pitcher

8.01 Legal pitching delivery. There are two legal pitching positions, the Windup Position and the Set Position, and either position may be used at any time. Pitchers shall take signs from the catcher while standing on the pitcher's plate.

Pitchers may disengage the pitcher's plate after taking their signs but may not step quickly onto the pitcher's plate and pitch. This may be judged a quick pitch by the umpire. When the pitcher disengages the pitcher's plate, he/she must drop the hands to the sides.

(a) The Windup Position. The pitcher shall stand facing the batter, the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate, and the other foot free. From this position any natural movement associated with the delivery of the ball to the batter commits the pitcher to pitch without interruption or alteration. The pitcher shall not raise either foot from the ground, except that in the actual delivery of the ball to the batter, said pitcher may take one step backward, and one step forward with the free foot. From this position the pitcher may:

- (1) deliver the ball to the batter, or
- (2) step and throw to a base in an attempt to pick-off a runner, or
- (3) disengage the pitcher's plate. In disengaging the pitcher's plate, the pitcher must step off with the pivot foot and not the free foot first. The pitcher may not go into a set or stretch position. If the pitcher does, it is an illegal pitch [a balk in **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**].

NOTE: When a pitcher holds the ball with both hands in front of the body, with the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate, and the other foot free, that pitcher will be considered in a Windup Position.

(b) The Set Position. Set Position shall be indicated by the pitcher when that pitcher stands facing the batter with the pivot foot in contact with, and the other foot in front of, the pitcher's plate, holding the ball in both hands in front of the body and coming to a complete stop. From such Set Position the pitcher may deliver the ball to the batter, throw to a base, or step backward off the pitcher's plate with the pivot foot. Before assuming the Set Position, the pitcher may elect to make any natural preliminary motion such as that known as "the stretch." But if the pitcher so elects, that pitcher shall come to the Set Position before delivering the ball to that batter.

Rule 8.00 – The Pitcher

NOTE: In Little League (Major) and below the pitcher need not come to a complete stop. **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** the pitcher must come to a complete and discernible stop.

- (c) At any time during the pitcher's preliminary movements and until the natural pitching motion commits that pitcher to the pitch, said pitcher may throw to any base provided the pitcher steps directly toward such base before making the throw. The pitcher shall step "ahead of the throw." A snap throw followed by the step toward the base is an illegal pitch [a balk in **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**]. (See Penalty for illegal pitch/balk under [Rule 8.05](#).)
- (d) If the pitcher makes an illegal pitch with the bases unoccupied, it shall be called a ball unless the batter reaches first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batter, or otherwise. A ball which slips out of the pitcher's hand and crosses the foul line shall be called a ball; otherwise it will be called "no pitch" without runners on base, and an illegal pitch [a balk in **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**] with runners on base. (See Penalty for illegal pitch under [Rule 8.05](#).)
- (e) If the pitcher removes the pivot foot from contact with the pitcher's plate by stepping backward with that foot, that pitcher thereby becomes an infielder and in the case of a wild throw from that position, it shall be considered the same as a wild throw by any other infielder.
- (f) A pitcher must indicate visually to the Umpire-in-Chief, the batter, and any runners the hand with which he/she intends to pitch, which may be done by wearing his/her glove on the other hand while touching the pitcher's plate. The pitcher is not permitted to pitch with the other hand until the batter is retired, the batter becomes a runner, the inning ends, the batter is substituted for by a pinch-hitter, or the pitcher incurs an injury. In the event a pitcher switches pitching hands during an at-bat because he/she has suffered an injury, the pitcher may not, for the remainder of the game, pitch with the hand from which he/she has switched. The pitcher shall not be given the opportunity to throw any preparatory pitches after switching pitching hands. Any change of pitching hands must be indicated clearly to the Umpire-in-Chief.
- (g) **Tee Ball:** The pitcher shall keep both feet on the pitcher's plate until the ball is hit.

Rule 8.00 – The Pitcher

8.02 The pitcher shall not –

- (a) (1) bring the pitching hand in contact with the mouth or lips while in contact with the pitcher's plate. **EXCEPTION:** The pitcher may bring the hand in contact with the mouth or lips while in the 10-foot circle (**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior:** 18-foot circle) surrounding the pitcher's plate provided he/she distinctly wipes off the pitching hand before contacting the ball.

PENALTY: For violation of this part of the rule the umpires shall immediately call a ball and warn the pitcher that repeated violation of any part of this rule can cause the pitcher to be removed from the game. However, if the pitch is made and a batter reaches first base on a hit, an error, a hit batter, or otherwise, and no other runner is put out before advancing at least one base, the play shall proceed without reference to the violation.

- (2) apply a foreign substance of any kind to the ball;
- (3) expectorate on the ball, either hand or the glove;
- (4) rub the ball on the glove, person, or clothing;
- (5) deface the ball in any manner; or
- (6) deliver what is called the “shine” ball, “spit” ball, “mud” ball, or “emery” ball. The pitcher is allowed to rub off the ball between the bare hands;

PENALTY: For violation of any part of Rules 8.02(a)(2) through (6) the umpire shall: Call the pitch a ball and warn the pitcher. If a play occurs on the violation, the manager of the offense may advise the plate umpire of acceptance of the play. (Such election must be made immediately at the end of play.)

NOTE: A pitcher may use a rosin bag for the purpose of applying rosin to the bare hand or hands. Neither the pitcher nor any other player shall dust the ball with the rosin bag; neither shall the pitcher nor any other player be permitted to apply rosin from the bag to their glove or dust any part of the uniform with the rosin bag.

- (b) Intentionally delay the game by throwing the ball to players other than the catcher, when the batter is in position, except in an attempt to retire a runner, or commit an illegal pitch for the purpose of not pitching to the batter (i.e. intentional walk, etc.)

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PENALTY: If, after warning by the umpire, such delaying action is repeated, the pitcher can be removed from the game.

- (c) Intentionally pitch at the batter. If in the umpire's judgment, such violation occurs, the umpire shall warn the pitcher and the manager of the defense that another such pitch will mean immediate expulsion of the pitcher. If such pitch is repeated during the game, the umpire shall eject the pitcher from the game.

8.03 When a pitcher takes a position at the beginning of each inning, that pitcher shall be permitted to pitch not to exceed eight preparatory pitches to the catcher, or other teammate acting in the capacity of catcher, during which play shall be suspended. Such preparatory pitches shall not consume more than one minute of time. If a sudden emergency causes a pitcher to be summoned into the game without any opportunity to warm up, the Umpire-in-Chief shall allow the pitcher as many pitches as the umpire deems necessary.

8.04 When the bases are unoccupied, the pitcher shall deliver the ball to the batter within 20 seconds after the pitcher receives the ball. Each time the pitcher delays the game by violating this rule, the umpire shall call "Ball."

NOTE: The intent of this rule is to avoid unnecessary delays. The umpire shall insist that the catcher return the ball promptly to the pitcher, and that the pitcher take a position on the pitcher's plate promptly.

8.05 With a runner or runners on base, it is an illegal pitch – Major/Minor League [a balk in **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**] when –

- (a) the pitcher, while touching the plate, makes any motion naturally associated with the pitch and fails to make such delivery;
- (b) the pitcher, while touching the plate, feints a throw to first base and fails to complete the throw;
- (c) the pitcher, while touching the plate, fails to step directly toward a base before throwing to that base;
- (d) the pitcher, while touching the plate, throws, or feints a throw to an unoccupied base, except for the purpose of making a play;
- (e) the pitcher makes a quick pitch; Umpires will judge a quick pitch as one delivered before the batter is reasonably set in the batter's box.

Rule 8.00 – The Pitcher

NOTE: Rule 8.05(e) is an illegal pitch (Rule 2.00). **Little League (Major)/Minor League:** The penalty for Rule 8.05(e), regardless of whether there are runners present or not, is a ball. This is an instance in which an illegal pitch, by Little League (Major)/Minor League definition, can occur without runners on base. **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** With runners on base, Rule 8.05(e) is penalized with a balk; with no runners on base, Rule 8.05(e) is penalized with a ball. (See exceptions in “PENALTY.”)

- (f) the pitcher delivers the ball to the batter while not facing the batter;
- (g) the pitcher makes any motion naturally associated with the pitch while not touching the pitcher’s plate;

NOTE: Rule 8.05(g) is an illegal pitch (Rule 2.00). **Little League (Major)/Minor League:** The penalty for Rule 8.05(g), regardless of whether there are runners present or not, is a ball. This is an instance in which an illegal pitch, by Little League (Major)/Minor League definition, can occur without runners on base. **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** With runners on base, Rule 8.05(g) is penalized with a balk; with no runners on base, Rule 8.05(g) is penalized with a ball. (See exceptions in “PENALTY.”)

- (h) the pitcher unnecessarily delays the game;
- (i) the pitcher, without having the ball, stands on or astride the pitcher’s plate or while off the plate feints a pitch;
- (j) the pitcher, while touching the plate, accidentally or intentionally drops the ball;
- (k) the pitcher, while giving an intentional base on balls, pitches when the catcher is not in the catcher’s box;
- (l) **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League only:** The pitcher, after coming to a legal position, removes one hand from the ball other than in an actual pitch, or in throwing to a base;
- (m) **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League only:** The pitcher delivers the pitch from the set position without coming to a stop.

NOTE 1: Little League (Major) and Minor League – 8.05(l) and 8.05(m) shall not be enforced at any time.

Rule 8.00 – The Pitcher

NOTE 2: A batter hit by a pitch shall be awarded first base without reference to the illegal pitch.

PENALTY FOR AN ILLEGAL PITCH: Little League (Major)/Minor League: The ball is dead and no runners will advance. The pitch shall be called a ball even if the pitch is not actually thrown. **EXCEPTION:** If the delivered and a play follows the illegal pitch, the play shall be allowed to continue as a delayed dead ball. Upon completion of the play, the manager of the offense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline the illegal pitch penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play. However, if the batter hits the ball and reaches first base safely, and if all base-runners advance at least one base on the action resulting from the batted ball, the play proceeds without reference to the illegal pitch.

When an illegal pitch is called, regardless of whether the pitch is completed or not by the pitcher, a pitch will always be charged to the pitcher's pitch count. ([Rule 2.00 Definitions: Pitch](#))

NOTE: Under no circumstances shall a balk be called in Little League (Major) or Minor League.

PENALTY FOR A BALK: The balk applies only to **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**. The ball is dead, and each runner shall advance one base without liability to be put out unless the batter reaches first on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batter, or otherwise, and all other runners advance at least one base in which case the play proceeds without reference to the balk. When a balk is called and the pitch is delivered it will be considered neither a ball nor strike unless the pitch is ball four (4) awarding the batter first base and forcing all runners on base to advance.

When a balk is called, if the pitch is delivered, a pitch shall be charged against the pitch count regardless of whether the batter put the pitch into play. However, on a balk that is called on a pickoff attempt or in an instance that the pitcher does not deliver the pitch, no pitch shall be charged to the pitch count.

NOTE: Umpires should bear in mind that the purpose of the balk rule is to prevent the pitcher from deliberately deceiving the base runner. If there is doubt in the umpire's mind, the "intent" of the pitcher should govern. However, certain specifics should be borne in mind:

(1) Straddling the pitcher's plate without the ball is to be interpreted as intent to deceive and ruled a balk.

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(2) With a runner on first base and the runner attempting to steal second, the pitcher may make a complete turn, without hesitating toward first, and throw to second. This is not to be interpreted as throwing to an unoccupied base.

A.R. 1 – If the pitcher violates (a) through (m) in this rule and throws wild to a base, the runner or runners may advance at their own risk. (Delayed dead ball.)

A.R. 2 – A runner who misses the first base to which that runner is advancing and who is called out on appeal shall be considered as having advanced one base for the purpose of this rule.

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 once (**Minor Division:** twice) in one inning to visit with the pitcher, but the second time (**Minor Division:** third 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 twice (**Minor Division:** three times) in one game to visit with the pitcher, but the third time (**Minor Division:** fourth 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.

NOTE 1: Intermediate (50/70) Division / Junior / Senior: A pitcher remaining in the game defensively, but moving to a different defensive position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game. If returning to the position of pitcher, they shall retain the number of visits from their previous appearance as pitcher. To calculate the number of visits for a pitcher, all visits, regardless of the pitcher being removed and returned to the pitcher's position, shall be applied.

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NOTE 2: A player removed from the pitcher's plate and returning as the pitcher of record shall retain the number of visits from their previous appearance as pitcher. To calculate the number of visits for a pitcher, all visits, regardless of the pitcher being removed and returned to the pitcher's position, shall be applied.

A.R. – A pitcher once removed as pitcher from the pitcher's plate may return to the pitcher's plate as pitcher even if they have no visits remaining. In such cases, a manager or coach may only come out to remove the player as pitcher and is prohibited from conferring with any defensive player.

- (c) A manager or coach may confer with any other player(s), including the catcher, during the visit with the pitcher. 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.

A.R. 1 – When a manager requests timeout to make a pitching change, it shall not be considered a visit to the pitcher provided the manager makes the pitching substitution prior to speaking to any defensive player. Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior: This applies when a pitcher moves to another position and returns as a pitcher later in the same game.

A.R. 2 – A conference with the pitcher or any other fielder to evaluate the player's condition after an injury shall not be considered a visit for the purposes of this rule. The manager or coach should advise the umpire of such a conference, and the umpire should monitor the conference.

Rule 9.00 – The Umpire

9.01 (a) The league president shall appoint one or more adult umpires to officiate at each league game. The umpire shall be responsible for the conduct of the game in accordance with these official rules and for maintaining discipline and order on the playing field during the game.

NOTE 1: Plate umpire must wear mask, shin guards, and chest protector. Male umpire must wear protective cup.

NOTE 2: It is highly recommended all umpires attach a “dangling” type throat protector to their mask.

- (b) Each umpire is the representative of the league and of Little League International, and is authorized and required to enforce all of these rules. Each umpire has authority to order a player, coach, manager, or league officer to do or refrain from doing anything which affects the administering of these rules and to enforce the prescribed penalties.
- (c) Each umpire has authority to rule on any point not specifically covered in these rules.
- (d) Each umpire has 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.

NOTE: The local league has the option to adopt this rule application. The stealing and relaying of signs to alert the batter of pitch selection and/or location is unsportsmanlike behavior. If, in the judgment 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 a team’s subsequent offense.

- (e) A manager, coach, or player shall not leave their position in the field or bench area during a fight or physical confrontation; a manager or coach who attempts to prevent a fight or restore order, in the umpire’s judgment, is not in violation of this rule.

PENALTY: The umpire shall eject the offender(s) from the game

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immediately. Failure to comply with the ejection may result in the umpire suspending the game and referring it to the Board of Directors for further action.

- (f) All umpires have authority at their discretion to eject from the playing field (1) any person whose duties permit that person's presence on the field, such as ground crew members, photographers, newsmen, broadcasting crew members, etc., and (2) any spectator or other person not authorized to be on the playing field.
- (g) Umpires may order both teams into their dugouts and suspend play until such time as league officials deal with unruly spectators. Failure of league officials to adequately handle an unruly spectator can result in the game remaining suspended until a later date.

9.02 (a) Any umpire's decision which involves judgment, such as, but not limited to, whether a batted ball is fair or foul, whether a pitch is a strike or a ball, or whether a runner is safe or out, is final. No player, manager, coach, or substitute shall object to any such judgment decisions.

(b) If there is reasonable doubt that any umpire's decision may be in conflict with the rules, the manager may appeal the decision and ask that a correct ruling be made. Such appeal shall be made only to the umpire who made the protested decision.

(c) If a decision is appealed, the umpire making the decision may ask another umpire for information before making a final decision. No umpire shall criticize, seek to reverse, or interfere with another umpire's decision unless asked to do so by the umpire making it.

(d) No umpire may be replaced during a game unless injured or ill.

9.03 (a) If there is only one umpire, that umpire must be an adult and shall have complete jurisdiction in administering the rules. This umpire may take any position on the playing field which will enable said umpire to discharge all duties (usually behind the catcher, but sometimes behind the pitcher if there are runners.)

(b) If there are two or more umpires, one shall be designated Umpire-in-Chief and the others field umpires or a plate umpire.

(c) The Umpire-in-Chief may be a plate umpire or a field umpire. The Umpire-in-Chief's duties, in addition to any field or plate duties, shall be to:

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- (1) take full charge of, and be responsible for, the proper conduct of the game;
 - (2) make all decisions except those commonly reserved for the other field umpires or plate umpire; and
 - (3) announce any special ground rules.
- (d) If no adult umpire is available for a game, and non-adult umpires are used exclusively for that game, the local Little League must assign an adult as Game Coordinator, or the game cannot be played. The Game Coordinator must not be a manager or coach of either team in the game, and cannot be assigned as Game Coordinator for more than one game at a time. The Game Coordinator's duties shall be:
- (1) To be included in the pregame meeting as noted in [Rule 4.01](#);
 - (2) To remain at the game at all times, including between half-innings, in a position to see all actions on the field and in close proximity to the field (not in any enclosure). If, for some reason, the Game Coordinator is not present or is unable to perform his/her duties for any reason, the game must be suspended until the Game Coordinator returns, or until a new adult Game Coordinator is present and assumes the duties of Game Coordinator for the remainder of the game;
 - (3) To oversee the conduct of all players, managers, coaches, and umpires in the game;
 - (4) To have the authority to disqualify any player, coach, manager, or substitute for objecting to the decisions of an umpire, for unsportsmanlike conduct or language, or for any of the reasons enumerated in these Playing Rules, and to eject such disqualified person from the playing field. If the Game Coordinator disqualifies a player while a play is in progress, the disqualification shall not take effect until no further action is possible in that play;
 - (5) To have the sole ability to judge as to whether and when play shall be suspended during a game because of inclement weather conditions or the unfit condition of the playing field; as to whether and when play shall be resumed after such suspension; and as to whether and when a game shall be terminated after such suspension. Said Game Coordinator shall not call the game until at least thirty minutes after play as suspended. The Game Coordinator may continue suspension as long as there is any

Rule 9.00 – The Umpire

chance to resume play. (This supersedes [Rule 3.10.](#))

A.R. – The Game Coordinator should not interrupt or stop a game until all play and action ends. At that time, the Game Coordinator can alert the plate umpire to stop the game, and at that time enforce any part of 9.03(d).

9.04 (a) The plate umpire shall stand behind the catcher. **Exception: Local League Option:** The plate umpire may stand behind the pitcher. This umpire usually is designated as the Umpire-in-Chief. The plate umpire's duties shall be to:

- (1) call and count balls and strikes;
- (2) call and declare fair balls and fouls except those commonly called by field umpires;
- (3) make all decision on the batter except those specifically reserved to the Umpire-in-Chief, or field umpire;
- (4) inform the official scorer of the official batting order, and any changes in the lineups and batting order, on request.

(b) A field umpire may take any position on the playing field best suited to make impending decisions on the bases. A field umpire's duties shall be to:

- (1) make all decisions on the bases except those specifically reserved to the Umpire-in-Chief, or the plate umpire;
- (2) take concurrent jurisdiction with the Umpire-in-Chief in calling "Time," illegal pitches, **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** balks, or defacement or discoloration of the ball by any player;
- (3) aid the Umpire-in-Chief in every manner in enforcing the rules, excepting the power to forfeit the game, shall have equal authority with the Umpire-in-Chief in administering and enforcing the rules and maintaining discipline.

(c) If different decisions should be made on one play by different umpires, the Umpire-in-Chief shall call all the umpires into consultation, with no manager or player present. After consultation, the Umpire-in-Chief shall determine which decision shall prevail, based on which umpire was in the best position and which decision was most likely correct. Play shall proceed as if only the

Rule 9.00 – The Umpire

final decision had been made.

- 9.05** (a) The umpire shall report to the league president within 24 hours after the end of a game all violations of rules and other incidents worthy of comment, including the disqualification of any manager, coach, or player, and the reasons therefore.
- (b) When any manager, coach, or player is disqualified for a flagrant offense such as the use of obscene or indecent language, or an assault upon an umpire, manager, coach, or player, the umpire shall forward full particulars to the league president within 24 hours after the end of the game.
- (c) After receiving the umpire's report that a manager, coach, or player has been disqualified, the league president shall require such manager, coach, or player to appear before at least three members of the Board of Directors to explain their conduct. In the case of a player, the manager shall appear with the player in the capacity of an advisor. The members of the Board present at the meeting shall impose such penalty as they feel is justified.

NOTE: The Board may impose such penalties that it feels are warranted, but may not lessen the requirements of [Rule 4.07](#).

9.06 Umpires shall not wear shoes with metal spikes or cleats.

Tournament Rules and Guidelines

Little League Baseball®, 8- to 10-Year Old Division, 9- to 11-Year-Old Division, Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League, and Senior League Baseball *Points of Emphasis in Bold Italic*

Responsibility for scheduling and supervising all District tournament games comes under jurisdiction of the District Administrator. Little League International has the right to appoint Tournament Directors at other levels of tournament play.

Proper conduct at tournament time imposes a large responsibility upon all concerned. Good judgment and exemplary disciplines are demanded if Little League tournaments of the future are to remain worthwhile in the public esteem.

The Little League Baseball Tournament, 8- to 10-Year-Old Division Baseball Tournament, 9- to 11-Year-Old Division Baseball Tournament, Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League, and Senior League Tournaments are authorized by the Little League International Board of Directors. Leagues which exercise the option to participate in Tournament Play must pledge they will do so with full knowledge of the rules and in agreement that the rules will be upheld.

RULES

Except where noted in these Tournament Rules and Guidelines, the Little League Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules will be used in the conduct of the 8- to 10-Year-Old Division Tournament, the 9- to 11-Year-Old Division Tournament, the Little League Baseball Tournament, the Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League, and Senior League Tournaments.

8- to 10-Year-Old Division & 9- to 11-Year-Old Division

The objective of the 8- to 10-Year-Old Division and 9- to 11-Year-Old Division Tournament is to provide eight-, nine-, and ten-year-old players, and nine-, ten-, and eleven-year-old players, the opportunity to participate in a baseball tournament at the District, Sectional, and State levels at the conclusion of the regular season. Leagues are strongly encouraged to place the maximum number of players (14) on the Tournament Affidavit, thereby giving more players the opportunity to participate.

Responsibility and Chain of Command

It should be clearly understood by Tournament Directors and League Presidents that operation of the annual tournaments in Little League come under a different authority and jurisdiction from that normally observed during the playing season. Once the

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tournament season starts, authority is vested solely in the Tournament Committee at Williamsport.

There will be no waivers, resorting to local rules, or other variation unless granted explicitly from Williamsport. To administer the tournament properly and scale down thousands of teams to two finalists in the limited time afforded by the tournament season is an undertaking requiring considerable discipline. Once the tournament starts, it must proceed without interruption. If protests or disputes occur which cannot be settled by the umpires or Tournament Director through immediate and concise application of the rules, an appeal must be made through proper channels promptly to prevent a major blockage or loss of momentum.

Revocation of tournament privileges or forfeiture of a tournament game may be decided only by the Tournament Committee at Williamsport. Should a problem arise that cannot be resolved while a game is in progress, the game must be suspended by the Umpire-in-Chief and the problem referred immediately to the Tournament Director. If not resolved, it must be referred to the Regional Director. If still unresolved, it will be referred to the Tournament Committee in Williamsport. If the Tournament Committee deems any player to be ineligible, by league age, residency or school attendance, participation in other programs, or participation in less than eight (8) [**Senior League:** No minimum regular season games required] regular season games, it may result in forfeiture of tournament game(s), and/or suspension or removal of personnel from tournament play, and/or suspension or removal of personnel or teams from further Little League activities, and/or suspension or revocation of the local league's charter. These actions can only be taken by the Tournament Committee in Williamsport.

The Tournament Committee and the individual Regional Directors may appoint agents to act on their behalf, and any person so appointed shall have the authority to act as, and exercise the duties of, the Tournament Committee or the individual Regional Directors.

The Tournament Committee also reserves the right in its sole discretion to impose any penalties if, in its judgment, any player, manager, coach, umpire, or other volunteer conducts him/herself in any manner, on or off the field, that does not positively reflect the high standard Little League holds for sportsmanship, citizenship, and decorum. This includes displays of unsportsmanlike conduct, "making a travesty of the game," or violating any rules, regulations, or policies contained herein during the game, at the game site, at any other location or time related to the International Tournament. The Committee also reserves the right to impose any penalty the Committee deems appropriate, if the committee determines action is necessary to correct a situation brought to its attention, regardless of the

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source of that information. The decision of the Tournament Committee is final and binding.

Knowledge of the rules must be guaranteed before a Tournament Director is declared qualified. All Tournament Directors will undergo a thorough and instructive briefing session prior to taking on their duties, must signify that they understand the rules, and regardless of personal feelings, they are in full agreement and can interpret them properly. At the time of the District tournament meeting, it will be required that each league president or the representative in attendance signify that the league and tournament team managing personnel are knowledgeable of Tournament Rules and are in full agreement with these conditions.

Selection of Tournament Teams (Recommended Method)

Little League would gain immeasurably in esteem of the public if all tournament teams were selected by the players themselves. Players relish the challenge of competition, but their anxiety to excel is in balance with an intuitive respect and admiration for teammate and opponent alike who demonstrate superior ability and skill.

1. It is not required that players be selected for the position they occupy during the regular season. For example, a pitcher who is also a good outfielder or infielder may be placed on the roster and used in whatever position the manager deems to be of advantage.
2. Tournament team candidates should be selected upon their playing ability and eligibility. The roster should include sufficient pitching strength to meet tournament schedules.
3. The following plan was taken from the experience of dedicated volunteers. The principle is to have all components of a league determine and participate in fair and democratic selection of the tournament team. This would eliminate many of the complaints, abuses, pressures, and charges of favoritism which are directed toward the League President. The following groups should each select its tournament team.
 1. Group 1 – Players
 2. Group 2 – League Officers
 3. Group 3 – Team Managers
 4. Group 4 – Team Coaches
 5. Group 5 – Volunteer Umpires

Tournament Rules and Guidelines

Every player on the eligible teams is entitled to vote. Each group submits its list of players at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the league. The names are to be read and counted from each of the groups, and the players in the order of total votes received will become eligible for the tournament team.

Where more than one player has an equal number of votes to qualify for the last position or positions, final selection should be made by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at the time of the meeting.

NOTE: Method of selection is to be determined by the local league Board of Directors.

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Teams

Each chartered league shall be eligible to enter a team. Alternates are not authorized.

NOTE: A league may enter more than one tournament team, provided the teams are deemed fair and balanced, with the District Administrator's approval.

Where two or more charters have combined to form a single program, a tournament team must be selected for each charter composed of players from within its own chartered area. Exceptions can only be made by the Charter Committee.

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.

Senior League: Teams and Eligibility Affidavit shall consist of, and must be limited to, a maximum of sixteen (16) players, one (1) manager, and a maximum of two (2) coaches.

Managers and Coaches

The District Administrator or District Staff shall not serve as manager or coach. The league president and player agent may be eligible for selection by the local league Board of Directors to coach or manage with written approval from their respective District Administrator.

As a condition of eligibility for selection as a tournament team manager/coach, the regular season manager/coach must have also completed the Little League Diamond Leader Training Program (LittleLeague.org/DiamondLeader). This program must be completed prior to the individual being named a tournament team manager/coach and before participating in any practices or games. Tournament Team managers/coaches who have completed the program should be prepared to produce the Little League Diamond Leader completion certificate if requested by the District Administrator/Tournament Director.

8- to 10- Division: The manager and coach(es) shall be regular season team managers and/or coaches from the Minor League Division or Little League Baseball (Major) Division.

9- to 11-Year Old Division: The manager and coach(es) shall be regular season team managers and/or coaches from the Minor League Division or Little League Baseball (Major) Division.

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Little League: The manager and coach(es) shall be regular season team managers and/or coaches from the Little League Baseball (Major) Division or Intermediate (50-70) Division.

Intermediate (50-70) Division: The manager and coach(es) shall be regular season team managers and/or coaches from the Little League Baseball (Major) Division or Intermediate (50-70) Division.

Junior League: The manager and coach(es) shall be regular season team managers and/or coaches from the Junior Division or Senior Division.

Senior League: Any individual who meets the requirements of Regulation I(c) 8, 9 & 10, and completed the required Little League Diamond Leader Training Program, is eligible for selection as a Senior Division tournament manager or coach.

Managers/Coaches in the Dugout – A maximum of three (3) adults who are named on the affidavit (or authorized replacements as noted on the affidavit) will be permitted to act as manager/coaches for that game. The named adults must be listed on the affidavit, or must be authorized temporary replacements as noted on the affidavit. If there is a third adult listed on the affidavit, that adult is permitted to be in the dugout or on the field during that game.

NOTE: Base coaches may be adults and/or players provided at least one adult manager or coach remains in the dugout. See 4.05(b).

Umpires

The Tournament Director shall have full responsibility for providing volunteer Little League umpires for tournament play. Umpires from leagues involved in the game should not be assigned. The District Administrator shall not umpire.

There should be at least two umpires in each game. More are recommended when available.

The designated Umpire-in-Chief for each game must be an adult.

Tournament Eligibility Affidavit

It shall be the league president's responsibility to review and certify the birth records (league age) by viewing the original birth record and residence or school attendance (as defined by Little League Baseball, Incorporated) of all players. When the league finally decides on the makeup of the team, names must be entered on the league's

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Eligibility Affidavit. Once the District Administrator certifies the Eligibility Affidavit, the tournament team will be required to have in its possession:

1. the Eligibility Affidavit;
2. a map, signed, and dated by the league president and District Administrator, showing the actual boundaries of the league, with locations noted for the residences of the parent or legal guardian (court-appointed) or location of the school for every participant named on the affidavit;
3. a tournament verification form for each player; **NOTE: Players who established “residence” or “school attendance” for regular season and/or tournament in a prior season using the Tournament Player Verification form, and can produce the form with proper proofs and signatures, will NOT need to complete a new Tournament Player Verification form.**
4. three or more documents to determine residency of the parent(s) or legal guardian (court-appointed) or a document to support school attendance/enrollment for each player named on the tournament affidavit;
5. **waivers [i.e. II(d), IV(h), Charter Committee, etc.]**
6. Original birth records inspected by the District Administrator (or his/her appointee), shall be returned to the parents or legal guardians and are not to be carried by the tournament team or accompany the tournament affidavit.

IMPORTANT: Alternates are not authorized. They shall not accompany the team and shall not be listed on the Eligibility Affidavit.

Eligibility Affidavit must be certified by the District Administrator or his or her designated appointee and presented by the team manager to the Tournament Director before every game. Each Tournament team must have twelve (12) eligible players for the District Administrator to certify. **EXCEPTION:** A District Administrator may certify the Eligibility Affidavit for those teams that provide a justifiable reason for not having twelve (12) players.

NOTE: The Eligibility Affidavit becomes official once the team plays its first tournament game.

Player Participation In Other Programs

Any violation of Regulation I(g) by the local Little League may result in revocation of the league's charter and/or suspension of tournament privileges for the league or individuals

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associated with such team. An individual, or a group of such individuals, that participates in a non-Little League program, club, tournament, event, or game, are subject to the provisions of [Regulation I\(g\)](#) and [Regulation IV\(a\) Note 2](#).

Release of Names

The release of names of players selected for the tournament team shall not be made before May 15, and not until the availability and eligibility of all prospective team members have been established. (The group accident insurance program for Little League tournament team try-out and practice will not go into effect until May 15.)

Violation of this rule may be cause for revocation of tournament privilege by the Tournament Committee.

League Eligibility

In order for a Little League program to be eligible to enter a team or teams into the International Tournament (including 8- to 10-Year-Old Division and 9- to 11-Year-Old Division) the following must be accomplished as indicated:

1. The league must be chartered in an age appropriate division(s) for which it wishes to enter a tournament team(s), no later than **June 1, 2026**.
2. The league must have scheduled and played, at a minimum, a 12-game [**Senior League:** No minimum regular season games required] (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 1: Forfeited games shall not count towards the 12-game [**Senior League:** No minimum regular season games required] regular season.

NOTE 2: For Junior Tournament eligibility, Senior League players league age 12, 13 and 14 must have played in a minimum of eight (8) Regular Season games.

3. All waiver requests (for the league, team, player, manager, and/or coach) of any kind must be submitted and approved not later than **June 1, 2026**.
4. Team number revisions and fees incurred by the league must be paid in full by **June 1, 2026**.
5. All combined team and interleague play requests that may involve tournament play must be submitted and approved not later than **June 1, 2026**.

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Failure to meet any of the listed requirements could result in a team or teams being declared ineligible by the Tournament Committee at Little League International.

Player Eligibility

Players are eligible for Tournament Play, provided they meet the criteria established by the Little League “Residency and School Attendance Player Eligibility Requirement,” “Player Participation In Other Programs,” and the following:

8- to 10-Year-Old Division – Any player League Age 8, 9, or 10, with amateur status, who has participated as required by Mandatory Play as an eligible player in eight (8) regular season games (Special Games may be counted toward this requirement) with their rostered regular season team by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the school baseball season.

9- to 11-Year-Old Division – Any player League Age 9, 10, or 11, with amateur status, who has participated as required by Mandatory Play as an eligible player in eight (8) regular season games (Special Games may be counted toward this requirement) with their rostered regular season team by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the school baseball season.

Little League (Major) Division – Any player League Age 10, 11, or 12, with amateur status, who has participated as required by Mandatory Play as an eligible player in eight (8) regular season games (Special Games may be counted toward this requirement) with their rostered regular season team by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the school baseball season.

Intermediate (50-70) Division – Any player League Age 11, 12, or 13, with amateur status, who has participated as required by Mandatory Play as an eligible player in eight (8) regular season games (Special Games may be counted toward this requirement – See **Regulation IX**) with their rostered regular season team by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the school baseball season.

Junior League – Any player League Age 12, 13, or 14, with amateur status, who has participated as required by Mandatory Play as an eligible player in eight (8) regular season games (Special Games may be counted toward this requirement – See **Regulation IX**) by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the middle school, junior high school, or high school baseball season.

Senior League – Any player League age 12,13,14,15, or 16, with amateur status, who has/is registered with a local league in which they meet the residency or school enrollment requirements by the start of Tournament Play.

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EXCEPTION: The local league Board of Directors may permit a player to be eligible for selection, who does not meet the minimum game requirement, if they provide a physician's note documenting an injury or illness prior to or during the current season prohibiting his/her participation and such note releases the player for the balance of the Regular Season and/or Tournament Play.

NOTE 1: Forfeited games shall not count towards a team's 12-game [**Senior League:** No minimum regular season games required] regular season nor towards any player's minimum game participation requirement.

NOTE 2: Consistent with a manager's ability to conduct the affairs of his or her team, a manager may disqualify a player from the team for the current season, subject to Board of Directors approval, if the player repeatedly misses practice or games.

NOTE 3: Tournaments are divided by age, without regard to the regular season division in which a player participates, as noted above.

CONDITION 1: Participation must be within the chartered league/district named on the Eligibility Affidavit unless written approval is granted by the respective Region Director and Charter Committee.

CONDITION 2: A player who is not able to participate in a number of local league regular season games because of participation in a school baseball program will receive an adjustment on the minimum participation in games required under this rule. In order to receive the adjustment, each player must register with the league prior to the start of regular season games within that division and participate in sixty (60) percent of the games available to them [**Senior Division:** No minimum regular season games required].

EXAMPLE: If, for any given division, Team A played 10 regular season games before June 15, and a player missed five (5) games because of participation in a school baseball program, that player is required to have participated in only three (3) regular season games to be eligible for the Tournament Team.

CONDITION 3: A player may be named to the roster of, and practice with, only ONE Little League International Tournament Team at a time. Once the affidavit is signed by the local league president, player agent, and District Administrator (or their representatives), the players listed on the affidavit shall not be eligible to participate on any other Little League International Tournament Team until the team is eliminated from the Tournament. Once the team is eliminated from the Little League International Tournament, players from that team may be added to the affidavit of a second team so long as: 1) The player meets all eligibility requirements as outlined in Tournament Player

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Eligibility; 2) There is space on the team affidavit for an additional player; 3) The player is not replacing another eligible and available player currently named on the affidavit, and 4) The player must be assessed capable to play within the division of play.

Baseball players league age 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 may be eligible for selection to multiple tournament teams. These players may only be selected to one tournament team at a time. Under no circumstances may these players be chosen for, practice with, or participate with more than one tournament team at a time. Only under the circumstances listed in Condition 3 may a player be selected to a second tournament team.

Violation of this rule may be cause for revocation of tournament privilege by the Tournament Committee.

Tournament Requirement for Non-Citizens

A participant who is not a citizen of the country in which he/she wishes to play, but meets residency or school attendance requirements as defined by Little League, may participate in that country if:

1. his/her visa allows that participant to remain in that country for a period of at least one year, or;
2. the prevailing laws allow that participant to remain in that country for at least one year, or;
3. the participant has an established bona fide residence in that country for at least two years prior to the start of the regular season.

Exceptions can only be made by action of the Charter Committee in Williamsport.

Insurance

Accident: A league shall not be accepted for tournament play unless covered by accident insurance, which includes tournament play. It is strongly recommended that a medical release for each player on the Affidavit be carried by the team manager.

Liability: Liability Insurance must be carried by the league on whose field tournaments are played as well as all leagues who participate in the tournament. Minimum coverage of \$1,000,000 single limit, bodily injury, and property damage. The policy must include coverage for claims arising out of athletic participants.

If insurance is purchased locally, a copy of the policy must be on file at Little League

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International.

Replacement of Player, Manager, or Coach

Any player, manager, or coach listed on the Eligibility Affidavit who is unable to participate because of injury, illness, vacation, or other justifiable reason may be replaced by another eligible person. If a player, manager, or coach is replaced, that person may not be returned to the Eligibility Affidavit. Permanent replacements must be from the league's regular season teams and meet all eligibility requirements and shall be recorded and approved by the District Administrator or Tournament Director in the space provided on the Eligibility Affidavit.

Exception: If a manager or coach is unable to attend a game for a justifiable reason, a Tournament Director could approve a temporary replacement as outlined in the Little League Tournament Team Eligibility Affidavit. Temporary replacement of a manager or coach must be entered on the Eligibility Affidavit. A manager or coach who is ejected from a game may not be replaced for the team's next physically played game. (See [Rule 4.07](#))

Playing Equipment

The dimensions and other specifications of all playing equipment used must conform to those set forth in the Little League, Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League, and Senior League Baseball Playing Rules except for those noted below:

Every member of the team must wear a conventional uniform which includes shirt, pants, socks, and cap. This may be a regular season uniform.

Each team must provide at least six (6) [7 for **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**] NOCSAE approved safety helmets with warning labels. The batter, [all base runners, on-deck batter for **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**], and player base coaches must wear approved helmets. All male players must wear athletic supporters. Catchers (male) must wear the metal, fiber, or plastic type cup.

Catchers must wear a mask with (NOCSAE) approved catchers helmet (**skull cap type are not acceptable**) and "dangling" type throat guard during practice, infield/outfield, pitcher warm-up, and games.

All catchers must wear approved chest protector and shin guards. Catchers must wear approved long or short model chest protectors. Shoes with metal cleats or spikes shall not be worn by players, managers, coaches, or umpires. **Intermediate (50-70) Division/**

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Junior/Senior League: Players may wear shoes with metal spikes.

Schedules

Each District Administrator must finalize tournament schedules two (2) weeks prior to the start of the tournament or June 20 (whichever is earliest). Schedules for each level (District, Section, Division, State, Regional) must utilize Little League International approved single elimination brackets, double elimination brackets, modified double elimination brackets, or pool play/elimination format with pool play tie breaker format as noted in this section. All other tournament formats must be approved by the Tournament Committee.

NOTE: Schedules shall not be altered once a tournament starts without Tournament Committee approval.

A.R. – A District Administrator may utilize the modified double elimination format for Tournament Play. Modified double elimination must use an approved Little League double elimination bracket, eliminating the “if” game. No other modification are acceptable.

8- to 10-Year-Old, 9- to 11-Year-Old, and Little League Divisions: A team may play two (2) games in a day once during each level of Tournament (District, Section, Division, State, Regional) without a waiver.

Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: Teams may participate in a maximum of two (2) games in a day.

NOTE 1: Inclement weather may be justification to revert to single elimination in order to complete a tournament on schedule, with the approval of the Region Director. **NOTE 2:** The 8- to 10- and 9- to 11-Year-Old Divisions advances to State level only. **NOTE 3:** Consult approved schedules for specific dates. Tournament dates may vary.

Tournament Team Practice

Try-outs and practices by tournament teams shall not be held before May 15. Tournament team practice may only take place against other Little League teams within the same or contiguous districts in the same division, providing such practice is done out of uniform. (The group accident insurance program for Little League tournament team try-out and practice will not go into effect until May 15.)

Special Games by tournament teams shall not be held before June 1. (The group accident

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insurance program for Little League tournament teams participating in Special Games will not go into effect until June 1.)

Violation of this rule may be cause for revocation of tournament privileges by the Tournament Committee.

Selection of Fields

Local leagues selected to host a District, Section, State, Division, Region, or World Series tournament must have an approved Safety Plan for the current year on the Data Center. Learn more at LittleLeague.org/SAFE.

All games shall be played upon Little League fields approved by the Tournament Director. Exception to this rule can only be made with the consent of the Region Director.

Fields must be enclosed with an outfield fence. Outfield fences for the **Little League Division** must be a maximum of 225 feet from home plate and a minimum of 195 feet; for **8- to 10- and 9- to 11-Divisions**, a maximum of 225 feet and a minimum of 180 feet; for **Intermediate (50-70) Division**, a maximum of 300 feet and a minimum of 225 feet; for **Junior League**, a maximum of 350 feet and a minimum of 250 feet; for **Senior League**, a maximum of 420 feet and a minimum of 280 feet. Tournament Directors should not permit portable outfield fences to exceed 200 feet [250 feet for **Intermediate (50-70) Division**; and 300 feet for **Junior/Senior League Baseball**]. Conventional dirt mounds are approved for tournament play. A Little League approved artificial mound is permitted at the District level. A request to use an artificial mound for the Section tournament level and above may be submitted to the Tournament Committee in Williamsport (through the District Administrator/Tournament Director and Regional Office). An artificial mound must not be used at the Section level and above unless approved in writing by the Tournament Committee for a specific tournament site/level, and only for the current year. The Tournament Director or assistant shall judge fitness of the playing field before the game starts.

8- to 10-Year-Old, 9- to 11-Year-Old, Little League Divisions: The on-deck batter's position is not permitted.

NOTE: For additional information about field selection see "Physical Conditions."

Games Under Lights

Games under lights may be scheduled at all levels of tournament play. The District Administrator having jurisdiction must determine that lighting installations meet minimum standards approved by Little League International.

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Curfew

No inning shall start after midnight prevailing time [12:30 a.m. prevailing time for **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior League**; 1:00 a.m. prevailing time for **Senior League**].

NOTE 1: An inning starts the moment the third out is made completing the previous inning.

NOTE 2: Neither 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 Playing 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.

Starting Time of Games

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.

Admission Charge

There shall be no charge for admission to Little League, 8- to 10-Year-Old, or 9- to 11-Year-Old Division Tournament games. An admission charge is permitted for **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**.

Conditions of Tournament Play

Protests

This rule replaces [Rule 4.19](#).

No protest shall be considered on a decision involving an umpire's judgment. Equipment which does not meet specifications must be removed from the game.

Protest shall be considered only when based on:

A. The violation or interpretation of a playing rule;

When a manager claims that a decision is in violation of the playing rules, the following steps must be taken:

1. A formal (verbal) protest must be made to the Umpire-in-Chief at once by the manager or coach.
2. The Umpire-in-Chief must immediately call a conference of all umpires working the game.
3. If the problem cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the managers, the Umpire-in-Chief shall be required to consult with the Tournament Director or District Administrator.
4. 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 at this time.
5. If the managers do not accept the decision of the Regional Director (or his/her designated agent), 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.

NOTE 1 – PROTESTS INVOLVING PLAYING RULES NOT RESOLVED BEFORE THE NEXT PITCH OR PLAY SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

NOTE 2 – UMPIRES, TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS, AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS DO NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO DECLARE A FORFEITURE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Conditions of Tournament Play

B. The use of an ineligible pitcher.

Ineligibility under this rule applies to violations of [Tournament Playing Rule 4](#). If an ineligible pitcher delivers one or more pitches to a batter, that game is subject to protest and action by Tournament Committee in Williamsport.

1. If the facts establishing or verifying an ineligible pitcher become known DURING a game, and the ineligible pitcher participates in the game, subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) A protest may be lodged by the manager or coach with the Umpire-in-Chief, who shall consult with the Tournament Director or District Administrator.
 - (b) 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.
2. If the facts establishing or verifying an ineligible pitcher become known AFTER a game, and the ineligible pitcher participated in the game, subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) 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.
 - (b) 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.

PENALTY: See [Tournament Rule 4\(i\)](#).

C. 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, or participation as an eligible player for eight (8) [**Senior:** No minimum regular season games required] games during the regular season in the proper division.

1. If the facts establishing or verifying the ineligibility of a player are known to the 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:

Conditions of Tournament Play

- (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.

In addition to the penalties described above in A, B, and C, 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.

NOTE: 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.

Must Play To Advance

A team shall not advance from one level of Tournament to a higher level of tournament play without first having competed against and defeated a scheduled opponent at the tournament level from which it is seeking to advance. Any team advancing without play must do so with the approval of the District Administrator, who must certify that the advancing team has participated in a Little League regular season schedule of games against other Little League teams and has met all other requirements to establish eligibility for tournament play.

Tournament Playing Rules

The Little League, Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League, and Senior League Baseball Playing Rules shall govern tournament play except as noted below:

1. **BASEBALLS:** Baseballs licensed by Little League with the “RS-T” (regular season and tournament) designation must be used.

NOTE: Specific baseball models for tournament play can be found at LittleLeague.org/TournamentBalls.

2. **FIELDS:** All fields are considered neutral. The home team shall be determined by the toss of a coin, the winner having the choice.

3. **PLAYING RULES:** A copy or access to the Little League Rulebook App for Little League, Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League, and Senior League Baseball Regulations and Playing Rules and the Tournament Rules and Guidelines must be available at each tournament site and at the time the game is to be played. This is the responsibility of the Tournament Director. Written ground rules established by the Tournament Director or assistant must be reviewed with both managers and Umpire-in-Chief at least ten (10) minutes before the start of the game. It is suggested the same be available to news media if requested.

- a. 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 “drag 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 dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher’s plate after receiving the ball 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 none 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

Tournament Playing Rules

batter. **Minor/Major Division:** No pitch has to be thrown, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance. **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior:** No pitch has to be thrown and ball is live.

NOTE: The batter may return their position in the batter's box and assume the new count at any time during the at-bat, unless such enforced penalty is the third strike.

- b. In all Tournament levels and divisions, a batter is out for illegal action when the batter enters the batter's box with one or both feet entirely on the ground with an illegal bat (see bat specifications Rule 1.10) or is discovered having used an illegal bat prior to the next player entering the batter's box. The ball is dead. Runners must return if they advanced on the play.

NOTE: If the infraction is discovered before the next player enters the batter's box following the turn at bat of the player who used an illegal bat:

1. The ball is dead, the batter is out, and runners must return if they advanced on the play. The manager of the defense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline this part of the penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play.
2. 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 base coach for the duration of the game.

A.R. – Any of the remaining adults in the dugout may be used as the one adult base coach at any time during the duration of the game.

A.R. – When an illegal bat is discovered, it **MUST** be removed from the game at that point.

- c. **9- to 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- to 10-Year-Old Division**.
- d. **8- to 10-Year-Old, 9- to 11-Year-Old, Little League, Intermediate (50-70) Division, and Junior League: COURTESY RUNNER:** A tournament team may permit a "courtesy runner" for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are two (2) outs. Utilizing continuous batting order, 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.

Tournament Playing Rules

Senior Division: 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.

A.R. 1 – The courtesy runner must always be the player in the batting who made the last out. If a team chooses to use a courtesy runner and the player who made the last out is the pitcher or catcher of record, that pitcher or catcher of record must be used as the courtesy runner. A team may not skip the pitcher or catcher of record if that pitcher or catcher of record made the last out and is therefore due to be the courtesy runner.

A.R. 2 – If the pitcher and catcher of record are on base with two outs, the offense may use a courtesy runner for both the pitcher and catcher of record at the same time. When assigning courtesy runners in such situations, the player who is scheduled to bat soonest shall be placed on the base closest to scoring. **EXAMPLE:** With two outs, the pitcher is on second base and the catcher is on third base. The offense elects to use courtesy runners for both the pitcher and catcher. The player who made the second out of the inning becomes the courtesy runner for the pitcher at second base. The player who made the first out of the inning (due up soonest) becomes the courtesy runner for the catcher at third base.

- e. Each umpire has 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 judgment 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 a team's subsequent offense.
- f. Managers or coaches are not permitted to warm up a pitcher at home plate or

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in the bullpen or elsewhere at any time. They may stand by to observe a pitcher during warm-up in the bullpen.

- g. Umpires are not required to inspect equipment prior to the start of the game. The managers of both teams will confirm with the umpire(s) at the plate conference that all equipment is proper and legal according to Little League Rules. **PENALTY:** If illegal equipment is used during the game, the manager of the team will be removed for the remainder of the International Tournament, the player who used the illegal equipment will be ejected from the game.

4. PITCHING RULES – LITTLE LEAGUE, 8- TO 10-YEAR-OLD, 9- TO 11-YEAR-OLD, INTERMEDIATE (50-70) DIVISION, AND JUNIOR 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. Exception: Any player, who has played the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings in a game, is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.

A player who played the position of catcher for three (3) innings or less, moves to the pitcher position, and delivers 21 pitches or more in the same day, may not return to the catcher position on that calendar day. **EXCEPTION:** If the pitcher reaches the 20-pitch limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to return to the catcher position, until any one of the following conditions occur: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game; or (4) the pitcher is removed from the mound prior to the batter completing his/her at-bat.

- b. A tournament pitcher may not pitch in regular season or Special Games while the team the player is a member of is still participating in the tournament.
- c. Pitchers once removed from the mound may not return as pitchers. **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior League:** A pitcher remaining in the game defensively, but moving to a different defensive 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 pitch limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

Tournament Playing Rules

League Age	
Age	Pitch Limit
13-14	95 pitches per day
11-12	85 pitches per day
9-10	75 pitches per day
8	50 pitches per day

EXCEPTION: If a pitcher reaches the pitch 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 retired; (3) the third out is made to complete the half inning or the game; or (4) the pitcher is removed from the mound prior to the batter completing his/her at-bat. **(NOTE: If a pitcher reaches 40 pitches while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day, until any one of the following conditions occurs: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; (3) the third out is made to complete the half inning or the game; or (4) the pitcher is removed from the mound prior to the batter completing his/her at-bat. The pitcher would be allowed to play the catcher position provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter. If a player delivers 41 or more pitches, and is not covered under the threshold exception, the player may not play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.)**

- e. 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.

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- 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 1: Under no circumstance shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days.

NOTE 2: A pitcher's pitch count for the purposes of day(s) rest threshold is determined by the first pitch thrown to a batter. The pitcher may not start a new batter once the limit imposed in Regulation VI(c) has been met.

f. A player cannot pitch in two games in a day.

(EXCEPTION: Junior League – If a pitcher reaches 30 pitches while facing a batter in the first game, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to pitch in the second game on that day, until any one of the following conditions occurs: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; (3) the third out is made to complete the half inning or the game; or (4) the pitcher is removed from the mound prior to the batter completing his/her at-bat. The pitcher would be allowed to pitch in a second game provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter. If a player delivers 31 or more pitches in the first game, and is not covered under the threshold exception, the player may not pitch in the second game that day. League age 12-year-olds participating in the Junior Division are not eligible to pitch in two games in a day.);

- g.** 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.
- h.** In a game ("Game A") suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed more than one calendar day later, the provisions of (g) above shall apply,

Tournament Playing Rules

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.

- i. 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. Violations protested or brought to the Tournament Committee's attention, 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, 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-), 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. 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.

4. PITCHING RULES – 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. **EXCEPTION:** Any player, who has played the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings in a game, is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.

A player who played the position of catcher for three (3) innings or less, moves to the pitcher position, and delivers 31 pitches or more in the same day, may not

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return to the catcher position on that calendar day. **EXCEPTION:** If the pitcher reaches the 30-pitch limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to return to the catcher position, until any one of the following conditions occur: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; (3) the third out is made to complete the half inning or the game; or (4) the pitcher is removed from the mound prior to the batter completing his/her at-bat.

- 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 defensively, but moving to a different defensive 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 pitch limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

League Age: 13 – 16 (Senior League) 95 pitches per day; 12, 85 pitches per day

EXCEPTION: If a pitcher reaches the pitch 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 retired; (3) The third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game. **NOTE:** If a pitcher reaches 40 pitches while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day, 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 would be allowed to play the catcher position provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter. If a player delivers 41 or more pitches, and is not covered under the threshold exception, the player may not play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.

- e. Pitchers league age 13-16 (Pitchers league age 12 must adhere to the appropriate requirements for their league age as outlined in Tournament Rule 4(e).) 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.

Tournament Playing Rules

- 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 1: Under no circumstance shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days.

NOTE 2: A pitcher's pitch count for the purposes of day(s) rest threshold is determined by the first pitch thrown to a batter. The pitcher may not start a new batter once the limit imposed in Regulation VI(c) has been met.

f. A player may be used as a pitcher in up to two games in a day.

(EXCEPTION: If a pitcher reaches 30 pitches while facing a batter in the first game, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to pitch in the second game on that day, until any one of the following conditions occurs: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; (3) the third out is made to complete the half inning or the game; or (4) the pitcher is removed from the mound prior to the batter completing his/her at-bat. The pitcher would be allowed to pitch in a second game provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter. If a player delivers 31 or more pitches in the first game, and is not covered under the threshold exception, the player may not pitch in the second game that day. League age 12-year-olds participating in the Senior Division are not eligible to pitch in two games in a day.);

- g.** 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 60 or less pitches, and subject to each of these conditions:
- 1.** If the pitcher delivered 30 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 31 and 60 pitches before the game was suspended, that pitcher's pitch count will begin with the number of pitches delivered in that game;

Tournament Playing Rules

- h. In a game ("Game A") suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed more than one calendar day later, the provisions of (g) 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.
- i. 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. Violations protested or brought to the attention of the Tournament Committee, 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. 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.

- 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

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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\(b\)](#).

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- to 11-Year-Old Division, Little League, Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League, 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.

8- to 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. The rule applies to each pitcher who enters a game.

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

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.
9. **MANDATORY PLAY – CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER: 8- to 10-Year-Old, 9- to 11-Year-Old, Little League, Intermediate (50-70) Division, and Junior League:** All Tournament Teams must adopt a policy of a continuous batting order that will include all players on the team affidavit present at the start of the game, to appear in the batting order. Each player is required to bat in his/her respective spot in the batting order.
 - a. A player may be entered and/or re-entered defensively in the game at any time. Tournament Rule 4 (c) provisions apply: **8-to 10-Year Old Division, 9-to 11-Year Old Division, Little League:** Pitchers once removed from the mound, may not return as pitchers. **Intermediate (50/70) and Junior Division:** A pitcher remaining in the game defensively, but moving to a different defensive position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game.

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- b. If a player is injured, becomes ill, or must leave the game site after the start of the game, the team will skip over him/her when his/her time at bat comes up without penalty. If the injured, ill, or absent player returns, he/she is merely inserted into their original spot in the batting order and the game continues. Also, if a player arrives later to a game site, if the manager chooses to enter him/her in the lineup (see Rule 4.01 NOTE 2), he/she would be added to the end of the current lineup.
- c. An improper batter will be considered as batting out of turn (see Rule 6.07).

If a player is unable to complete a plate appearance due to injury, illness or
- d. ejection, the next batter in the lineup shall take his/her place at the plate and assume the count of the original batter.

If a batter becomes a runner by reaching base safely and is unable to run the
- e. bases due to injury, illness, or ejection, he/she shall be replaced by the player who recorded the last out or with a Courtesy Runner if applicable (see Tournament Rule 3 (d) Courtesy Runner).
- f. There is no exception to this rule. This rule does not apply to Senior Divisions of play.

NOTE: The rule replaces **Regulation IV(i)** and **Rule 3.03**.

- g. Managers are solely responsible for ensuring that all players fulfill the requirements of playing participation.
- h. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to impose penalties (including, but not limited to removal of the manager, forfeiture of a game, and/or disqualification of the team or coaches from further tournament participation) may be imposed if, in the opinion of the Tournament Committee:
 - 1. if 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 this rule.

For more information and frequently asked questions on Tournament Mandatory Play visit: LittleLeague.org/MandatoryPlay.

Tournament Playing Rules

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. **Senior League Only:** Any player who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game in the **SAME** position in the batting order.
- d. Defensive substitutions must be made while the team is on defense. **Senior League Only:** Offensive substitutions must be made at the time the offensive player has her/his turn at bat or is on base.
- e. **Senior League Only:** A starter and her/his substitute must not be in the lineup at the same time, except as provided in [Playing Rule 10\(a\)](#).
- f. **8- to 10-, 9- to 11-, 10- to 12-, Intermediate (50-70) Division, and Junior League:** Mandatory Play improper substitutions [see Tournament Rule 9], if discovered, shall be dealt with as a “Batting Out of Order.” See Rule 6.07. **Senior League Only:** Improper substitution is a basis for protest. Protests involving improper substitution not resolved before the next pitch or play shall not be considered.
- g. [Tournament Rule 3\(d\)](#) will replace [Rule 7.14](#), as the Courtesy Pinch Runner (8- to 10-Year Old, 9- to 11-Year-Old, Little League, Intermediate (50-70), Junior League) and Special Pinch Runner (Senior League) Runner rule.
- h. **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League only:** A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different defensive position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game. **Senior League only:** [Rule 3.03](#), Designated Hitter, WILL apply during the tournament.
- i. **Senior League:** 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 re-enter the game in any position once that player is removed from the line-up.

Tournament Playing Rules

- 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. 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.)

- 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 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 its half of the inning.

NOTE 2: A game determined by the 15-run or 10-run rule, shall be considered a regulation game.

NOTE 3: There is no 8-run rule in Tournament Play, as outlined in Rule 4.10(e) for Regular Season only.

- 13. 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 **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**] in which one team has scored more runs than the other [three and one-half (3½) if the home team is ahead or four and one-half (4½) if the home team is ahead in **Intermediate (50-70) Division/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 its half of the inning and the home team does not complete its 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.

Tournament Playing Rules

- c. If two games are scheduled for the same site, no “time limit” may be imposed on the first game.

- 14. **TIE GAME:** When the completion of six innings [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** seven innings], and the score is tied, starting in the top of the seventh inning [**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** eighth 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.
- 15. **REPLAYING GAMES:** No tournament game may be replayed without specific approval from the Tournament Committee at Williamsport.
- 16. **UNAUTHORIZED AGREEMENTS:** No agreements shall be made between managers, and/or Tournament Directors, and/or umpires contrary to Tournament Rules.
- 17. **ALTERCATIONS:** A manager, coach, or player shall not leave their position in the field or bench area during a fight or physical confrontation; a manager or coach who attempts to prevent a fight or restore order, in the umpire’s judgment, 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 individuals and/or teams up to and including forfeiture of a game, further suspension and/or disqualification.

- 18. **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 and postgame activities. Ejections shall be noted in the tournament team’s eligibility 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.

Officials

Officials

Scorers

The Tournament Director having jurisdiction shall appoint and provide an official scorer for each game. The official scorer shall, immediately following each game, enter each team's Eligibility Affidavit:

1. Date of game.
2. Name of each player who pitched.
3. Number of pitches.
4. Name of opponent.
5. Score of game.
6. Signature of Tournament Director or assistant. This record shall be accepted as official.

Financial Responsibility

Unless officially notified to the contrary by Little League International Headquarters in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, each league shall assume full responsibility for expenses incurred in tournament competition. Participating teams which choose not to accept housing and/or meals provided by the host shall reside and eat elsewhere at their own expense, and shall be responsible for their own local transportation.

Compensation to defray travel expenses for teams traveling 150 miles or more per one round trip, to Region tournaments and beyond will be paid by Little League Baseball, Incorporated, to local leagues in the form of a credit toward the next year's fees (U.S. leagues only). All Tournament fees and adjustments to Tournament Teams enrolled must be submitted through the Little League Data Center (LittleLeague.org/DataCenter) to Little League International by **September 15, 2026**. **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 through the Little League Data Center (LittleLeague.org/DataCenter) to Little League International by **September 15, 2026**, in order for reimbursement to be paid. **EXCEPTION:** The local league president may request, in writing, reimbursement by check. This request must accompany the mileage reimbursement form.

Officials

Mileage compensation is \$1 per mile. Little League International, Williamsport, Pennsylvania, will make all arrangements and reservations for transporting the Regional champions to and from the World Series.

Guidelines for Conduct of Tournament

The following standards for the conduct of tournament play are for the guidance and information of Tournament Directors and participating leagues. Experience of hundreds of field directors responsible for the conduct of the tournament at all levels over many years is reflected in these guidelines which should be studied carefully and applied totally to assure successful staging of the various levels of play.

District Administrators

District Administrators or their appointed assistants will direct the tournaments. This responsibility may not be delegated to a local league. The Tournament Director conducts or supervises play up to and including the final game of that level; collects or directs the collection of all funds belonging to the tournament; pays or directs payments from moneys so collected or received; and makes required reports to leagues involved and to the Regional Office.

The league or leagues hosting tournaments may not assume responsibility for, nor physically operate, the tournament. The league or leagues may not retain tournament income, may not make payments from nor obligate tournament funds for any purpose.

At the district tournament meeting the Tournament Rules should be reviewed in briefing league representatives, umpires, and others involved in the tournament. Before assigning tournament games, the District Administrators should inspect all prospective sites. It cannot be emphasized too strongly that providing the best possible playing conditions on regular fields is the obligation of the District Administrator.

Tournament Director

1. District, Sectional, Divisional, State, or Regional Tournament Director may provide appropriate awards to participating teams and players.
2. Each Tournament Director shall report as follows:
 - a. Advise each participating league of schedule, time, and site of games.
 - b. Forward completed schedule to the Regional Director showing winners at each level of play.
 - c. Pay allowable expenses and distribute balance of tournament income to the District Fund and/or leagues on a per-game basis. Where one or more teams travel greater distances than others, a mileage allowance may be paid before distributing the per-game shares.

Guidelines for Conduct of Tournament

- d. Forward completed financial report to the Regional Director within ten (10) days following final game of each level of tournament.

NOTE: 8- to 10-Year-Old Division and 9- to 11-Year-Old Division advances to State level only.

Physical Conditions

It is essential that the best possible playing conditions be provided at every level of the tournament. The following conditions are recommended for tournament games:

1. Facilities:

- a. Grass outfield (Regional, Divisional, State, and Sectional Tournaments). Grass infield (Regional, Divisional, and State Tournaments).
- b. Outfield fences must be a maximum of 225 feet from home plate and a minimum of 195 feet (**Little League**); For **8- to 10- and 9- to 11-Year Old**, a maximum of 225 feet and a minimum of 180 feet; For **Intermediate (50-70) Division**, a maximum of 300 feet and a minimum of 225 feet; For **Junior League**, a maximum of 350 feet and a minimum of 250 feet; For **Senior League**, a maximum of 420 feet and a minimum of 280 feet.
- c. Outfield fences of safe-type construction, a minimum of 4 feet in height, maximum of 6 feet.
- d. Batter's eye 24 feet wide minimum at center field.
- e. Backstop not less than 20 feet from home plate. **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League** backstop should not be less than 35 feet from home plate.
- f. Back drop of 6 to 8 feet of canvas in back of home plate if no press box is in that position.
- g. Two foul poles at least 6 feet above the top of the fence.
- h. A protective screen in front of dugouts.
- i. Lights, if used, must meet minimum Little League standards.
- j. Only conventional dirt pitching mounds are approved for tournament play.

Exception: A Little League approved artificial mound is permitted at the District level. A list of licensed and approved artificial mounds can be found at

Guidelines for Conduct of Tournament

LittleLeague.org/FieldSupplies.

2. Groundskeeper's services:

- a. Grass cut to proper height. No holes or other unsafe conditions.
- b. Infield dragged and in playable condition.
- c. Markings according to regulations. Bases must be regulation size and properly secured.

3. Additional Facilities:

- a. Public address system and announcer.
- b. Scoreboard and operator(s).
- c. Adequate seating (Sectional – 500; Divisional/State – 1,000; Regional – 1,500 minimum).
- d. Adequate parking.
- e. Policing. Local police departments should be advised of the event and requested to cooperate with league personnel.
- f. First aid, medical, and ambulance services available.
- g. Rest rooms.
- h. Baseballs (if not otherwise provided by Tournament Director).
- i. Adult volunteer insurance should be provided by each league involved.

NOTE 1: 8- to 10-Year-Old and 9- to 11-Year-Old Divisions advance to State level only.

NOTE 2: Host leagues may retain concession income.

Assistants and Committees

To assure a successful tournament, it is desirable that the director (particularly at Sectional, Divisional, State, and Regional levels) appoint assistants and committee chairpersons to undertake the various functions which are essential. The following are suggested:

1. **Finance:** To solicit donations, supervise collections at games, sale of advertising and programs, etc. Host leagues may not conduct fund raising projects unless

Guidelines for Conduct of Tournament

approved by the Tournament Director.

2. **Housing:** Players, managers, coaches, and umpires may be provided hotel or motel accommodations and food allowance.
3. **Publicity:** Obtain and make available to all news media names of teams, players, time of games and sites, results of games, and other information essential to news media in the interest of promoting the tournament. Addresses and/or telephone numbers of players must not be released to anyone for any purpose.
4. **Transportation:** Arrangements for meeting teams upon arrival and delivery to points of departure. Arrange for transportation of managers and coaches.
5. **Program:** When authorized by the Tournament Director as a fund raising project, the Program Chairperson should work with the Finance Chairperson to assemble material, sell ads, etc. Programs should not be published unless self-supporting.
6. **Parking and Police:** If deemed necessary, arrange for traffic control, parking, and related functions.
7. **Medical:** Have names and phone numbers of doctors, nurses, ambulance, and hospital available and arrangements made for their services, if required. If possible, a doctor or nurse should be in attendance.
8. **Ceremonies:** Arrange for flag raising, welcome, introductions, etc. These should be brief and meaningful.
9. **Umpires:** Recommended minimum of two, a maximum of six. Services on a voluntary basis. Normal expenses may be provided.
10. **Official scorekeepers.**

Expenses

Tournament Directors are authorized to pay from tournament income the following costs:

1. Championship pennant.
2. Approved Little League pins for players, managers, coaches (all teams), and umpires.
3. Postage, telephone, and out-of-pocket expenses.

NOTE: Tournament Director should secure, at no cost to the tournament, baseballs

Guidelines for Conduct of Tournament

(if not provided by host league), umpires, and scorekeepers.

Radio

Broadcasting of tournament games is permitted with authorization from the Tournament Director. Commercial sponsorship must be consistent with Little League policy. Fees or donations paid for the broadcasting rights must accrue to the tournament fund at that level.

Television

Only Little League International may authorize the televising or streaming (live or recorded) of any tournament games during the International Tournament on a media entity's digital/app/web platforms. The District Administrator or Tournament Director may recommend approval, but may not make commitments or sign any agreement or contracts for the televising of games. Not later than two weeks prior to the start of the tournament at the level to be televised, the director having jurisdiction shall submit in writing complete details, including any commercial advertising or sponsorship, of the proposal to Little League International. Videotaping, or digital recording of games is permissible provided digital tapes are not sold or used for any commercial purposes. Brief, televised reports on tournament games and activities on news programs are permitted.

Livestreaming

With livestreaming becoming much easier to accomplish, local leagues may be interested in webcasting or livestreaming games through their owned and/or officially operated local league website, official social media account(s), subscription-based platforms, or other digital platform. Leagues are permitted to stream/webcast games, both regular season and International Tournament games through the State/Country level through these league-owned and managed platforms (for example: official league social media accounts, subscription-based livestream platform, website) granted they follow all Little League policies regarding commercialization and trademarks and have the appropriate releases from all participants and notices for attendees.

For any stream/webcast that is through any outlet that is not fully owned and/or operated by a local league, or for Little League International Tournament Regional level games, an agreement is required to outline the livestreaming/webcasting agreement. Agreements may be arranged with Little League International by contacting Media@LittleLeague.org.

Guidelines for Conduct of Tournament

For more information on livestreaming/webcasting of Little League International Tournament games, visit LittleLeague.org/TournamentStreaming. Guidance on regular season streaming/webcasting can be found in the FAQ section of the Rulebook and at LittleLeague.org/Livestreaming. (See [Regulation XV](#).)

Little League reserves the right to modify or change requirements around broadcasting, livestreaming and/or the distribution of regular season and tournament games at any time with updated guidance available at LittleLeague.org/Livestreaming.

Programs

The District Administrator or Tournament Director may authorize the publication of a program or scorecard as a means of providing additional financing for the tournament at that level. However, they may not execute contracts or other commitments in the name of, or as agents for, Little League International.

All funds (net) realized from advertising and/or sale of programs must be applied to the tournament fund at that level.

International Tournament Pool Play Format: Section I – Guidelines

The Pool Play Format should only be used in divisions in which there is a reasonable expectation for all teams to play all games for which they are scheduled. In divisions in which teams traditionally drop out at the last moment, or partway through the tournament, the standard double-elimination or single-elimination formats should be used instead.

The following conditions must apply to all Pool Play Format tournaments, unless specified as optional:

- A.** In the event a team or teams drop out of a pool play format tournament before the first game of the tournament is played (by any team in the tournament), the pools must be redrawn. If a team or teams drop out or is/are removed by action of the Tournament Committee after the first game is played, the matter must be referred to the Tournament Committee for a decision.
- B.** A Pool Play Format tournament may have one or more pools.
- C.** The pool assignments (or “draw”) must either be a blind draw, or must be based on geographic considerations. Pool assignments must never be “seeded” based on the expected ability of the teams.
- D.** In all cases, the results of Pool Play have no bearing on the next segment of play, with the exception of rules and regulations regarding rest periods for pitchers, (i.e., losses do not “carry over”).
- E.** It is preferable for each team in a given pool to be scheduled to play all other teams in that pool once.
- F.** Each team within any one pool must be scheduled to play an equal number of games as the other teams in that pool.
- G.** In the case of a one-pool tournament, one team may advance to become the tournament champion, based solely on the results of pool play, at the discretion of the tournament director. More commonly in a one-pool tournament, however, two teams advance to play each other for the tournament championship.
- H.** If more than one pool is used, and the total number of teams in the largest and smallest of the pools combined is less than ten (10), the number of teams in the largest pool must be no more than one team greater than the number of teams in the

International Tournament Pool Play Format: Section I – Guidelines

smallest pool. Example:

Acceptable	
Pool A	Pool B
4 teams	5 teams

Not Acceptable	
Pool A	Pool B
3 teams	6 teams

- I. If more than one pool is used, and the total number of teams in the largest and smallest of the pools is ten (10) or more, the number of teams in the largest pool must be no more than two teams greater than the number of teams in smallest pool. Example:

Acceptable	
Pool A	Pool B
4 teams	6 teams

Not Acceptable	
Pool A	Pool B
3 teams	7 teams

- J. In the case of tournaments involving more than one pool, one or more teams may advance out of each pool to the next segment. In most cases, when two teams advance, the schedule may be arranged so that teams will “cross over” for the purpose of seeding in the next round. For example, in a two-pool tournament:
1. The first-place team in Pool A plays the second-place team in Pool B.

International Tournament Pool Play Format: Section I – Guidelines

2. The first-place team in Pool B plays the second-place team in Pool A.
 3. The winners of those two games play each other for the championship.
 4. A consolation game may be scheduled between the losing teams. The crossover method, however, is not required. At the discretion of the tournament director, the teams advancing from pool play could be re-drawn for placement in the next round via blind draw.
- K.** In the case of tournaments involving more than one team advancing out of pool play into a playoff, the playoff format may be single- or double elimination, at the discretion of the tournament director. However, if the published format calls for double-elimination, and the tournament director subsequently wishes for it to revert to single-elimination because of delays caused by weather, etc., this can only be approved by the Tournament Committee in Williamsport.
- L.** The tournament director may, at his/her discretion, use a format in which all teams that finish the pool play round with a specific won-lost record will advance. In the following examples, the format calls for advancing all teams (from a 10-team pool in which each team plays only seven games) that finish pool play with zero or one loss. Example 1: Among the 10 teams in the pool, two finished with 7-0 records, while two others finished with 6-1 records. Result – These four teams advance and the other six teams are eliminated. Example 2: Among the 10 teams in the pool, one finished with a 7-0 record, while two others finished with 6-1 records. Result – These three teams advance and the other seven teams are eliminated.
- M.** The tiebreaker methods published herein by Little League International are the only methods that will be used when a tiebreaker is required. If any question or controversy arises, it must be referred to the Regional Headquarters before advancing a team.
- N.** A manager is not permitted to purposely forfeit any game for the purpose of engineering the outcome of pool play, and may be removed from the tournament by action of the Tournament Committee in Williamsport. Additionally, the Tournament Committee may remove such a team from further tournament play.
- O.** Only the Tournament Committee can forfeit a game in the International Tournament, and reserves the right to disregard the results of a forfeited game in computing a team's won-lost record and Runs-Allowed Ratio. ([Section IV](#))
- P.** When a manager or coach instructs his/her players to play poorly for any reason, such as, but not limited to the following, such action may result in the manager's removal

International Tournament Pool Play Format: Section I – Guidelines

by the Umpire-in-Chief, and/or removal of the manager, coach(es) and/or team from further tournament play.

NOTE: This policy is not intended to prevent a manager from using lesser-skilled players more frequently if he or she wishes, even if such action may result in losing a game:

1. losing a game to effect a particular outcome in a Pool Play Format tournament;
2. so as to lose a game by the 10-run rule;
3. to delay the game until the curfew; to allow an opponent to tie the score so that more innings may be played, etc.

International Tournament Pool Play Format: Section II – Segments of a Pool Play Tournament

- A.** Under this format, there are two distinct segments to a pool play format tournament.
- 1.** In Segment 1 – The Pool Play Round, the teams are divided into a number of pools (usually two to four pools). Each team in each of the pools should play the other teams in that pool once. By decision of the tournament director, one or more teams with the best records(s) in the pool will advance to the next segment.
- NOTE:** In a one-pool format, one or more teams may advance to become the tournament champion. If only one team advances, there is no second segment.
- 2.** In Segment 2 – The Elimination Round, the teams advancing out of Segment 1 are matched up in either a standard single-elimination format, or a standard double-elimination format.
- B.** Once a segment is completed, games played previously have no bearing on the next segment, with the exception of:
- 1.** rules and regulations regarding the required rest periods for pitchers;
 - 2.** rules and regulations regarding players, managers and/or coaches that were ejected and the prescribed penalties resulting from the ejection.

International Tournament Pool Play Format: Section III – Tiebreaker Procedures

- A.** In all cases, the team(s) advancing past Segment 1 must be the team(s) with the best won-lost record(s) during pool play. The tournament director will decide the number of teams that will advance beyond pool play, and such determination must be made available to the leagues/teams involved before the tournament begins.
- B.** When records are tied, however, the following procedures must be applied in order, so that the tie can be broken. These procedures also apply to determining the seeding for Segment 2 (the playoff round), if seeding for Segment 2 is based on results of pool play.
- 1.** The first tiebreaker is the result of the head-to-head match-up(s) during pool play (Segment 1) of the teams that are involved in the tie.
 - a.** If one of the teams involved in the tie has accomplished EVERY ONE of the following, then that team will advance:
 - i.** Defeated all of the other teams involved in the tie at least once; AND,
 - ii.** Defeated all of the other teams involved in the tie in every one of the pool play games it played against those teams; AND,
 - iii.** Played each of the teams involved in the tie an equal number of times.
- Example:** Three teams are tied with identical records for first place at the end of pool play, and one team is to advance to Segment 2. Teams A, B and C played against each other once in pool play. Team A won all of its games against Team B and Team C during pool play. Result – Team A advances, while Team B and Team C are eliminated.
- 2.** If the results of the head-to-head match-up(s) during pool play of the teams that are involved in the tie cannot break the tie (because no team defeated each of the other teams in the tie each time they played, or because no team has defeated all of the other teams involved in the tie in every one of the pool play games played between those teams, or because the teams involved in the tie did not play one another an equal number of times during pool play), then the tie is broken using the Runs-Allowed Ratio (see [Section IV](#)).
- C.** In all cases, if the tie-breaking principles herein are correctly applied and fail to break the tie, or if these guidelines are not applied correctly (in the judgment of the

International Tournament Pool Play Format: Section III – Tiebreaker Procedures

Tournament Committee in Williamsport), then the matter will be referred to the Tournament Committee, which will be the final arbiter in deciding the issue. If a tie cannot be broken through the proper application of these guidelines (in the opinion of the Tournament Committee), then a playoff, blind draw or coin flip will determine which team(s) will advance. This is a decision of the Tournament Committee.

International Tournament Pool Play Format: Section IV – Runs-Allowed Ratio

- A. For each team involved in a tie in which head-to-head results cannot be used (because no team defeated each of the other teams in the tie each time they played, or because no team has defeated all of the other teams involved in the tie in every one of the pool play games played between those teams, or because the teams involved in the tie did not play one another an equal number of times during pool play), the tournament director will calculate: The total number of runs given up in all pool play games played by that team, divided by 6 innings or more for extra innings for Little League and below [7 innings or more for extra innings for **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**]. This provides the Runs-Allowed Ratio.
1. **Example:** The Hometown Little League (Major) team has given up eight (8) runs in all four (4) of its pool play games. 8 divided by 24 equals .3333.
 2. The Runs-Allowed Ratio for Hometown Little League (.3333 in the example above) is compared to the same calculation for each of the teams involved in the tie.
- B. The Runs-Allowed Ratio is used to advance ALL teams after it is determined that head-to-head cannot be used.
- C. If, after computing the Runs-Allowed Ratio using results of all pool play games played by the teams involved in the tie:
1. one team has the lowest Runs-Allowed Ratio, that team advances. After one team has advanced using the Runs-Allowed Ratio, each subsequent team needed to advance is determined by the Runs-Allowed Ratio until all teams are determined and seeded.
 2. two or more teams remain tied with the same runs-Allowed Ratio, and the methods detailed in Section III – Tiebreaker Procedures cannot be used (because no team defeated each of the other teams in the tie each time they played, or because no team has defeated all of the other teams involved in the tie in everyone of the pool play games played between those teams, or because the teams involved in the tie did not play one another an equal number of times during pool play), then the Runs-Allowed Ratio must be recomputed using statistics only from the pool play games played between the teams involved in the tie. The results are used to advance ONE team, and any other ties must revert to the Runs-Allowed Ratio using all remaining teams.

International Tournament Pool Play Format: Section IV – Runs-Allowed Ratio

- D.** If a game is forfeited, in most cases the score of the game will be recorded as 6-0 (for **Little League Divisions and below**) or 7-0 [for **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**]. However, only the Tournament Committee in Williamsport can decree a forfeit, and the Tournament Committee reserves the right to disregard the results of the game, to assign the score as noted above, or to allow the score to stand (if any part of the game was played).
- E.** In the event a team (defined for this purpose as a minimum of nine players) fails to attend a scheduled game, and it is determined by the Tournament Committee in Williamsport that the failure to attend was designed to cause a forfeit or delay the tournament for any reason, the Tournament Committee reserves the right to remove the team from further play in the International Tournament and/or remove those adults it deems responsible from the team and/or local league.

Appendix A – Lightning Safety Guidelines

Each year across the United States, thunderstorms produce an estimated 25 million cloud-to-ground flashes of lightning – each one of those flashes is a potential killer. According to the National Weather Service, an average of 73 people are killed by lightning each year and hundreds more are injured, some suffering devastating neurological injuries that persist for the rest of their lives. A growing percentage of those struck are involved in outside recreational activities.

Officials responsible for sports events often lack adequate knowledge of thunderstorms and lightning to make educated decisions on when to seek safety. Without knowledge, officials base their decisions on personal experience and, sometimes, on the desire to complete the activity. Due to the nature of lightning, personal experience can be misleading.

While many people routinely put their lives in jeopardy when thunderstorms are nearby, few are actually struck by lightning. This results in a false sense of safety. Unfortunately, this false sense of safety has resulted in numerous lightning deaths and injuries during the past several decades because people made decisions that unknowingly put their lives or the lives of others at risk.

For organized outdoor activities, the National Weather Service recommends those in charge have a lightning safety plan, and that they follow the plan without exception. The plan should give clear and specific safety guidelines in order to eliminate errors in judgment. Prior to an activity or event, organizers should listen to the latest forecast to determine the likelihood of thunderstorms. NOAA Weather Radio is a good source of up-to-date weather information. Once people start to arrive, the guidelines in your league's lightning safety plan should be followed.

A thunderstorm is approaching or nearby. Are conditions safe, or is it time to head for safety? Not wanting to appear overly cautious, many people wait far too long before reacting to this potentially deadly weather threat. The safety recommendations outlined here based on lightning research and the lessons learned from the unfortunate experiences of thousands of lightning strike victims.

Thunderstorms produce two types of lightning flashes, 'negative' and 'positive.' While both types are deadly, the characteristics of the two are quite different. Negative flashes occur more frequently, usually under or near the base of the thunderstorm where rain is falling. In contrast, positive flashes generally occur away from the center of the storm, often in areas where rain is not falling. There is no place outside that is safe in or near a thunderstorm. Consequently, people need to stop what they are doing and get

Appendix A – Lightning Safety Guidelines

to a safe place immediately. Small outdoor buildings including dugouts, rain shelters, sheds, etc., are NOT SAFE. Substantial buildings with wiring and plumbing provide the greatest amount of protection. Office buildings, schools, and homes are examples of buildings that would offer protection. Once inside, stay away from windows and doors and anything that conducts electricity such as corded phones, wiring, plumbing, and anything connected to these. In the absence of a substantial building, a hard-topped metal vehicle with the windows closed provides good protection. Occupants should avoid contact with metal in the vehicle and, to the extent possible, move away from windows.

Who should monitor the weather and who is responsible for making the decision to stop activities?

Lightning safety plans should specify that someone be designated to monitor the weather for lightning. The 'lightning monitor' should not include the coaches, umpires, or referees, as they are not able to devote the attention needed to adequately monitor conditions. The 'lightning monitor' must know the plan's guidelines and be empowered to assure that those guidelines are followed.

When should activities be stopped?

The sooner activities are stopped and people get to a safe place, the greater the level of safety. In general, a significant lightning threat extends outward from the base of a thunderstorm cloud about 6 to 10 miles. Therefore, people should move to a safe place when a thunderstorm is 6 to 10 miles away. Also, the plan's guidelines should account for the time it will take for everyone to get to a safe place. Here are some criteria that could be used to halt activities.

1. If lightning is observed. The ability to see lightning varies depending on the time of day, weather conditions, and obstructions such as trees, mountains, etc. In clear air, and especially at night, lightning can be seen from storms more than 10 miles away provided that obstructions don't limit the view of the thunderstorm.
2. If thunder is heard. Thunder can usually be heard from a distance of about 10 miles provided that there is no background noise. Traffic, wind, and precipitation may limit the ability to hear thunder less than 10 miles away. If you hear thunder, though, it's a safe bet that the storm is within ten miles.
3. If the time between lightning and corresponding thunder is 30 seconds or less. This would indicate that the thunderstorm is 6 miles away or less. As with the previous two criteria, obstructions, weather, noise, and other factors may limit the ability to use this criterion. In addition, a designated person must diligently

Appendix A – Lightning Safety Guidelines

monitor any lightning. In addition to any of the above criteria, activities should be halted if the sky looks threatening. Thunderstorms can develop directly overhead and some storms may develop lightning just as they move into an area.

When should activities be resumed?

Because electrical charges can linger in clouds after a thunderstorm has passed, experts agree that people should wait at least 30 minutes after the storm before resuming activities.

What should be done if someone is struck by lightning?

Most lightning strike victims can survive a lightning strike; however, medical attention may be needed immediately – have someone call for medical help. Victims do not carry an electrical charge and should be attended to at once. In many cases, the victim's heart and/or breathing may have stopped and CPR may be needed to revive them. The victim should continue to be monitored until medical help arrives; heart and/or respiratory problems could persist, or the victim could go into shock. If possible, move the victim to a safer place away from the threat of another lightning strike.

Appendix D – Bat Modifications and Alterations

While Little League International has not received any reports of Little League volunteers or players making alterations to bats designed to increase their performance, it has been an issue in some upper levels of play.

In an effort to ensure this does not become a problem in Little League, this policy statement has been prepared.

No bat, in any level of Little League Baseball or Softball play, is permitted to be altered. This is of particular concern especially when it is clearly done to enhance performance and violate bat standards. Making such alterations to bats is clearly an inappropriate attempt to gain an unfair advantage, and cheating has no place in our program. Umpires, managers, and coaches are instructed to inspect bats before games and practices – as they always should – to determine if bats might have been altered.

This includes using the appropriate Little League Bat Ring. If a bat does not clearly pass through the correct size ring, or if it has a flat spot on it, the bat must not be used. (This may simply indicate the bat has become misshapen with use, and does not necessarily indicate it was purposely altered. Still, the bat must be removed.)

Other signs to look for include contorted or mangled end-caps or knobs on non-wood bats. This could indicate that machinery was used to “shave” the inside of the bat to make it lighter. Bats with evidence of this type of tampering also must not be used.

Little League International wishes to make it clear that tampering with bats (or any other piece of equipment) is dangerous, and the equipment must not be used in any Little League game or practice.

Appendix G – 2026 Little League Baseball Age Chart

For Baseball Divisions Only



JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AGE
2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021	2021	4
2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2020	2020	2020	2020	5
2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2019	2019	2019	2019	6
2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2018	2018	2018	2018	7
2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2017	2017	2017	2017	8
2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2016	2016	2016	2016	9
2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	10
2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2014	2014	2014	2014	11
2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2013	2013	2013	2013	12
2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012	2012	13
2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2011	2011	2011	2011	14
2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2010	2010	2010	2010	15
2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2009	2009	2009	2009	16

Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. League age indicated at right.

Operating Policies

Through proper guidance and exemplary leadership, the Little League® program assists children in developing the qualities of citizenship, discipline, teamwork and physical well-being. In an effort to ensure these values are upheld, Little League International has created these position statements that must be observed at all levels of Little League.

Definitions

1. **Little League International:** This refers to the overall organization known as Little League Baseball, Incorporated, or Little League Baseball and Softball (hereinafter “Little League International”)
2. **League(s):** This refers to each league and/or district, chartered with Little League International, which operates within a specific community” geographic boundaries with a local Board of Directors elected by the membership (hereinafter “Leagues”)
3. **League Officer(s):** This refers to the local Little League(s) Board of Directors elected by the membership within each League (hereinafter “League Officer(s)”).
4. **Little League Trademarks:** Throughout this policy, all registered and protected names, logos, and designations are collectively referred to as the “Little League Trademarks.”
5. **Sports Connect:** Stack Sports and Stack Pay, Playmetrics, or other associated / affiliated companies or services operated as a part of Little League local league technology requirements (hereinafter “Sports Connect”)

Little League Child Protection Program

Purpose

The safety and well-being of all participants in Little League® is paramount. Little League promotes a player-centric program where young people grow up happy, healthy, and, above all, safe. Little League strives to create an environment that is as safe as possible both on and off the field. Little League does not tolerate any type of abuse against a minor, including, but not limited to, sexual, physical, mental, and emotional (as well as any type of bullying, hazing, or harassment). Little League's goal is to prevent child abuse from occurring through required screenings, mandatory training and education, awareness, and mandated reporting of abuse.

Local Little League programs should establish a zero-tolerance culture that does not allow any type of activity that promotes or allows any form of misconduct or abuse (mental, physical, emotional, or sexual) between players, coaches, parents/guardians/caretakers, spectators, volunteers, and/or any other individual. League officials must remove an individual that is exhibiting any type of mental, physical, emotional, or sexual misconduct and must report the individual to the authorities immediately. Local Little League programs that fail to enforce the zero-tolerance culture or fail to abide by the terms of this policy could face potential revocation or termination of their Tournament eligibility and/or of their Little League charter.

Applicability

The Child Protection Program applies to anyone who has any involvement in a local Little League program, as well as anyone who participates in Little League-approved programs and activities, including, but not limited to, Board of Directors members, volunteers, managers, coaches, umpires, spectators, players, or anyone who provides regular services to the league and/or has repetitive access to or contact with players or teams. Anyone with questions on who the Child Protection Program applies to should contact Little League International at SecuritySpecialist@LittleLeague.org.

Enforcement

Local leagues must establish a culture prohibiting any type of activity that promotes or allows any form of mental, physical, emotional, or sexual misconduct behavior between players, coaches, parents, volunteers, and any other individual. League officials must remove any individual that is exhibiting any type of mental, physical, emotional, or sexual misconduct and must report the individual to the authorities immediately.

As part of the chartering process, local leagues agree to comply with all aspects of the

Little League Child Protection Program

Little League Child Protection Program. Any violation of the Child Protection Program may result in the suspension or revocation of a local league's tournament privileges and/or charter by action of the Charter or Tournament Committees in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Any questions regarding the interpretation of the Child Protection Program should be directed to Little League International at SecuritySpecialist@LittleLeague.org. The Little League Child Protection Program will be updated and modified as necessary.

Definitions

Defining child abuse is the first step in battling it. Child abuse can take several different forms, and it is important to understand what is considered child abuse and other terms that are mentioned herein.

Abuse or Neglect: The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) (42 U.S.C.A §5106g), as amended by the CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010, defines child abuse and neglect as, at a minimum, “any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation;” or “an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.”

Different types of Child Abuse or Neglect

- Neglect is the negligent failure of a minor's caretaker to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision which threatens harm to a minor's health, safety, or welfare.
- Physical Abuse is any non-accidental, intentional, deliberate act that results in physical injury.
- Emotional and Psychological Abuse is any act that diminishes the sense of identity, dignity, and self worth by humiliation, intimidation, verbal assault, and emotional deprivation.
- Sexual Abuse is any type of maltreatment, violation, or exploitation that refers to the involvement of the child in sexual activity to provide sexual gratification or financial benefit to the perpetrator.
- Bullying is an intentional, repetitive harmful act, words, and behavior that makes the victim feel hurt, scared, and/or ashamed. Bullying can also be an imbalance of real or perceived power between the bully and the victim. Different types of bullying include, but are not limited to, physical bullying,

Little League Child Protection Program

verbal bullying, emotional bullying, harassment, and hazing.

- Grooming is the process where an individual creates a relationship with a minor or the minor's family to gain trust so he or she can take advantage of a minor for a sexual purpose.

Child/Minor: Any individual who is younger than 18 years of age or who is not an emancipated minor.

League Programs and Activities: Any games, practices, tournaments, approved activities, and/or approved special games are considered Little League programs and activities.

Volunteer: Any person in the organization who provides regular service to the league and has contact with minors: coaches, managers, the Board of Directors, program workers, concession volunteers or workers, bus and carpool drivers, maintenance workers, or anyone that has repetitive access to or contact with players or teams.

LOCAL LEAGUE CHILD PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

All chartered Little League programs **must** adhere to the following requirements to remain affiliated with Little League Baseball and Softball:

1. COMPLETE BACKGROUND CHECKS

Utilize the Little League volunteer application form to conduct annual background checks through J.D. Palatine (JDP) on volunteers and prohibit anyone with any offenses that would disqualify them as a participant in any Little League activity.

2. MANDATORY TRAINING & CONTINUING EDUCATION

Annually require all volunteers to complete the Little League Abuse Awareness Training.

3. MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Report Child Abuse, including sexual abuse involving a minor, to the proper authorities within 24 hours.

4. NON-RETALIATION FOR REPORTING

Adopt a policy that prohibits retaliation against "good faith" reports of child abuse.

5. PROHIBIT ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

Adopt a policy that limits one-on-one contact with minors without being in an

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observable and interruptible distance from another adult.

1. COMPLETE BACKGROUND CHECKS

A. Volunteer Application

All local leagues are required to use the [Little League Official Volunteer Application](#) for all managers, coaches, members on the Board of Directors, and any other person, or volunteer, who provides regular service to the league and/or has access to minors. The Little League Official Volunteer Application is available within the Little League registration platform [through Sports Connect](#) which leagues are required to use as part of the Central Registration system. The applicant must submit a government-issued photo identification card for the league to verify that the information on his/her volunteer application is correct. The completed volunteer application enables the local Little League program to complete and review a background check.

An annual background check, in compliance with Little League Regulation I(c) 8 and 9, is required to be conducted on every individual before the applicant assumes **any** of his/her duties for the current season. All background checks must be completed through JDP and will not be accepted through any other providers. Information regarding free background check services is available at LittleLeague.org/BackgroundChecks.

Each league has the right to interview applicants. The applicant must be interviewed by an approved board member. All volunteers selected to participate must be educated on Little League's Child Protection Program and his/her role in the protection of minors in the program. The volunteer must also be advised that as a volunteer, he/she is a mandatory reporter per the [SafeSport](#) Law.

A minimum of three reference checks must be provided by each new volunteer. The board has the right to have an approved board member conduct reference checks before a new volunteer is allowed participation in a Little League program. All information from reference checks should be documented, dated, and signed by the board member conducting the reference check. Reviewing the reference check is important to determine if any information from the reference differs from what is represented on the volunteer application and/or during the review.

B. Background Check Process

Per Little League Regulation 1(c) 8 and 9, every individual is required to complete a volunteer application **every year** before the applicant assumes any of his/her duties for the current season. The individual is required to consent to a background check during the volunteer application process.

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The league's Board of Directors is responsible for comparing the individual's information on the Little League Official Volunteer Application and a government-issued photo identification card to verify that the information provided on both is identical (full name, DOB, and address). The league should confirm that the full legal name is correct (for example, John J Smith JR. not Johnny Smith). Some states and local counties only provide full legal name, and DOB as identifiers for the National Criminal Database. **The league's Board of Directors must review any criminal history that is reported on the background check results to determine if the individual is eligible to volunteer in the local league. It is the responsibility of the local league Board of Directors to conduct, review, and verify that the background check process is completed on all volunteers and that all volunteers are eligible to volunteer.**

Little League provides every chartered United States league up to 125 free background checks through JDP. JDP offers a quick and easy option for potential volunteers to complete their volunteer application and a background check through [Sports Connect](#), which leagues are required to use as part of the new Central Registration system. On Sports Connect, volunteers can complete the Official Little League Volunteer Application and background check in one platform. As the Preferred League Technology Platform Provider of Little League, Sports Connect is integrated together with JDP to provide a process for the league officer to review and approve a potential volunteer directly in the Sports Connect platform. For more information on how a league can utilize Sports Connect/JDP Integration, visit LittleLeague.org/JDPSC.

On October 1 each year, the background check system will reset for the upcoming season. The JDP background check includes a nationwide criminal search, a national sex offender registry search, a review of the U.S. Center for SafeSport's Centralized Disciplinary Database, and the Little League International Ineligible/Suspended List. Background checks completed through JDP include a National Criminal File, plus Developed Names search and social security ID search.

C. Understanding State Laws

Numerous States have enacted laws that require additional background check requirements that are different from or supplement those mandated by Little League. For additional information on state requirements, visit LittleLeague.org/StateLaws). Local leagues are required to satisfy both the state-specific requirements and the Little League requirements. Local leagues are required to determine the applicability of, and comply with, all federal, state, local and municipal laws and ordinances, and administrative rules and regulations regarding background checks including, but not limited to, requirements regarding sex offender registry checks, criminal history records

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or reports, fingerprinting, certifications or other requirements as associated with volunteers, coaches, participants and/or employees. It is strongly recommended that local leagues consult with legal counsel in their own jurisdictions to determine the applicability, if any, of state and local requirements to their programs regarding background checks.

D. Offenses That Prohibit Participation

Local Leagues shall not permit any person to participate in any manner whose background check reveals a conviction for, guilty plea, no contest plea, or admission to any crime involving or against a minor. An individual is also prohibited from participating as a volunteer if he/she appears on the [U.S. Center for SafeSport's Centralized Disciplinary Database](#) and/or Little League International's Ineligible/Suspended List. A local league may impose stricter guidelines and prohibit any individual from participating as a volunteer if the league deems the individual unfit or inappropriate to work or volunteer in the league. If a potential volunteer appears on the National Sex Offender Registry, the league must contact Little League International at SecuritySpecialist@LittleLeague.org before appointing the volunteer to participate in any capacity in the league. Little League International will advise of the next steps and aid the decision-maker in the process.

NOTE: If an individual involved with a league, or any activity of the Little League program, is under investigation for any type of child abuse, or has a current or pending charge against, or involving, a minor, that individual must be suspended until the outcome of the investigation or pending charges are complete and the allegations are resolved. This includes criminal charges as well as any pending investigation by Child Protective Services or the equivalent agency of any state.

If a local league becomes aware of information at any time, by any means whatsoever, that an individual, including, but not limited to, volunteers, or players has a current pending charge for, been convicted of, pled guilty, pled no contest, or admitted to any crime involving or against a minor, the local league must immediately contact the applicable governmental agency to confirm the accuracy of the information before allowing the volunteer to participate in their position or per their Little League Constitution suspend the volunteer until the information is received and reviewed. In addition, if a local league becomes aware of and confirmed the accuracy of information through Child Protective Services, or the equivalent agency of any state, that a volunteer has been the subject of a founded, sustained or indicated child abuse investigation, the volunteer shall be suspended and not be permitted to participate in any manner, regardless of if the individual was charged criminally.

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E. Notification of Suspension to Little League International

Once a local league has confirmed the accuracy of the information and has suspended or made ineligible a volunteer for any offences that prohibits participation, the league must notify Little League International by submitting an email to SecuritySpecialist@LittleLeague.org, so that the individual can be added to Little League International's Suspended/Ineligible list.

F. Properly Handling Sensitive Documents

The local Little League program must exercise due diligence to protect any information that is provided. To protect the privacy of volunteers and others, the following best practices have been established:

- The local League President shall only share, on a need-to-know basis, any personal, non-public record or information contained in the volunteer application or attached documents, with other League Officers to make personnel decisions.
- The records of a volunteer will remain on the JDP Portal as long as the local league is an active user with JDP.

2. MANDATORY TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

Training and Education are important tools in the prevention of abuse. In 2018, the "Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and SafeSport Authorization Act of 2017" became Federal law. All individuals who complete the volunteer application for a league must annually complete Little League's Abuse Awareness Training. This includes anyone who wishes to be a manager, coach, member of the Board of Directors, volunteer, and any other person who provides regular services to the league and/or has repetitive access to or contact with players or teams. As part of creating a player-centric environment, each local league should also provide ongoing education to its members beyond the minimal required training. Each league should create a program within its league to keep parents, volunteers, and players informed in all aspects of player protection and safety.

A. Mandatory Abuse Awareness Training

The Little League Abuse Awareness Training, in compliance with Little League Regulation I(c)(10), is required to be completed annually by every individual before assuming any of his/her duties for the current season. The free Little League Abuse Awareness Training provides resources to create a positive and safe environment for

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all athletes, coaches, parents, legal guardians, and umpires by understanding how to recognize misconduct and abuse of all types. Topics covered include how to identify and report incidents and what abuse awareness policies should be in place. The interactive Abuse Awareness training should take approximately 45 minutes. The training can be accessed at LittleLeague.org/AbuseAwareness and LittleLeague.org/Training.

The league is responsible for ensuring all volunteers have completed the training. Upon completion of the training, volunteers should print out a copy of the certification of completion for their records and provide a copy to the league. League Officials will also be able to access a list of those who have completed the Little League Abuse Awareness Training through the Little League Data Center. The training must be completed on or after October 1 of each year to be considered valid for the upcoming season.

It is important that all volunteers in a league complete the training on an annual basis. Even though it may be a training the individual has completed in the past, it is important to keep the information that comes from this training fresh in everyone's mind. The more individuals in a league or involved in a league that have the information that the Abuse Awareness Training provides, the better.

B. Recommended Continuing Education Opportunities for Leagues:

To help create a player-centric environment, each league should implement the following continuing education for its members:

- **Meet with Volunteers:** As Little League is a volunteer-led program, membership in local leagues changes from year to year. It is important to hold regular meetings in which both volunteers and parents can talk about child abuse and ask questions. The Child Protection Program should be reviewed with participants annually. Since Little League could not exist without the time and effort from volunteers and parents, it is important to communicate directly with the volunteers. For that reason, the Little League Child Protection Program should be freely copied and distributed to all adults in the local league. Local Leagues are encouraged to maintain a link on their local league website to the Little League Child Protection Program in addition to including the [USA Baseball Report Abuse link](#) for instructions how to report any alleged abuse or misconduct.
- **Make Your Position Clear:** Little League has clearly defined rules for dealing with child abuse. Make adults and minors aware that the local league will not tolerate child abuse in any form. Suspected abuse must be reported and retaliation for good faith reporting is prohibited.

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- **Stress the Role of Adults in Your League:** Minors should be encouraged to take an active role in protecting themselves, but the responsibility for ensuring their safety ultimately rests with the adults. Adults can identify potentially uncomfortable situations, for themselves, as well as for children. The welfare of the players in your league is the highest priority in any situation.
- **Advise Parents of Training Opportunities for Minors:** USA Baseball also provides Abuse Awareness for Minors training at [USABase.org](https://www.usabaseball.org/abuse-awareness). Parents should be advised of this resource that is available for their children.
- **Participate in Little League SAFE:** Little League SAFE is the organization's comprehensive safety program, replacing the longtime ASAP initiative. It includes specific child protection requirements, such as background checks, Abuse Awareness Training, and the adoption of strong child protection policies, that help leagues maintain a safe environment for all participants. By participating in Little League SAFE, leagues build a community-wide commitment to preventing abuse and promoting safety on and off the field.
- **Provide Additional Resources:** Many organizations will gladly assist your efforts to protect your players, several of which are listed below. Feel free to provide the name of the below organizations and the websites to parents, volunteers, umpires, as well as minors.
 - [SafeSport](https://www.safesport.org/)
 - [SafetoCompete.org](https://www.safetocompete.org/)
 - [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](https://www.namcc.org/)
 - [American SPCC](https://www.american-spcc.org/)

C. Grooming

Grooming is a tactic used by sexual predators to methodically build a trusting relationship with victims, parents, and the community to place themselves in a position of trust, which the perpetrator then uses to draw the victim into a sexual relationship. Many times, the perpetrator becomes a family friend. Grooming can be subtle and hard to recognize. It's important to bring awareness of grooming to all individuals in the league. Understanding the grooming process and behaviors of grooming can help prevent abuse from occurring. The required Abuse Awareness Training for all volunteers is one way to begin to raise awareness within the league of grooming. The more individuals in the league that are equipped with knowledge to understand and

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recognize grooming, the better protected the children are within the league.

Leagues can use the following resources to help educate the members of the league on grooming:

USA Center for SafeSport:

- [What Parents Need to Know: Grooming in Sport](#)

Safe to Compete:

- [The Discussion Guide \(Ages 5-10\)](#)
- [The Discussion Guide \(Ages 11-17\)](#)
- [Tips for Protecting Child Athletes from Sexual Abuse](#)

D. **Bullying**

Any type of bullying can have serious effects on players. Anyone who engages in harassment, in any form (verbal, physical, cyber, etc.), or commits violence or acts of intimidation shall be prohibited from participating in Little League. This applies to player-to-player, adult-to-player, player-to-adult, and adult-to-adult interactions. The league should strive to have a safe and encouraging environment for all individuals participating in the league. The following types of behavior are not accepted in the Little League culture and should not be tolerated at the local league:

- **Physical Bullying:** Hitting, pushing, shoving, punching, strangling, hair-pulling, stealing, excessive tickling, or any other deliberate and inappropriate touching.
- **Verbal Bullying:** Hurtful, deliberate name-calling, banter, taunting, intimidating, threatening, gossiping, and teasing.
- **Emotional Bullying:** Rejection, terrorizing, extorting, humiliating, blackmailing, rating/ranking of personal characteristics, such as race, disability, ethnicity, or perceived sexual orientation, manipulating friendships, isolating, and peer pressure.
- **Social/Cyber Bullying:** Deliberately excluding, alienating, ignoring, spreading rumors, impersonation, inappropriate photographs, video shaming, and hacking social media accounts.
- **Harassment:** Harassment includes bullying, and all of the actions listed above,

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as well as subjecting someone to unwanted sexual advances, involving physical contact or explicit written or verbal language.

- **Hazing:** An initiation, ritual process involving different types of harassment that intentionally humiliates the individual or a group.

Leagues can use the following resources to help educate members of the league on bullying:

[Bullying 101: Understanding and Responding](#) | [Resources](#) | [USAB Develops](#)

E. Creating a Player-Centric Environment

Both children and adults may experience frustration at times. It is important to recognize when a person needs to take a break from activities to calm down. Adult volunteers should never escalate a situation when someone is upset. Instead, he/she should attempt to de-escalate any stressful situation.

Little League recommends that local leagues create and issue a “Code of Conduct” that is upheld by players, managers, coaches, board members, umpires, other volunteers, and parents. This should be reviewed each season to establish a safe environment for everyone involved with the local Little League season.

If an individual (player, volunteer, or parent) feels stressed out and cannot handle the situation, he/she should remove themselves from the area until the issue is de-escalated. These situations might include:

- A coach screaming at an umpire – the game should be paused until the coach and umpire can remove themselves until the issue is de-escalated.
- A player gets emotional about a bad play and starts to break down on his teammates – The coach should remove the player from the dugout until he can resolve the issue.
- A parent in the crowd that does not agree with the placement of their child in the lineup/field – A volunteer should remind the parent about respecting the game and ask them to step away or to respect the coach’s decision.

Create a positive area for players to enjoy the game and have fun by implementing a “Cheer Only Zone” at the field to remove the negativity for players.

Leagues can utilize the free training tools available at Littleleague.org/Training for their board members on how to implement a positive coaching experience through:

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Little League Diamond Leader Training Program

Focused on ensuring children have a positive, well-rounded experience on and off the field, the Little League Diamond Leader Training Program is a FREE educational resource that provides coaches with an understanding of the impact that mental, social, and emotional well-being has in youth sports through detailed information, interactive scenarios, and a variety of additional resources. Through this course, which navigates Little League volunteers through real-life scenarios that are being faced in local leagues all around the world each year, coaches will have a better understanding of the impact he/she has on the players, both on and off the field.

Coaching Girls in Little League (New in 2026)

Focused on providing coaches the tools and knowledge needed to provide a positive experience for female athletes at all levels of Little League. Newly launching in 2026, this free course focuses on both coaching an all-female team as well as coaching a co-ed team and will be available at Littleleague.org/Training once it launches. Coaches completing this course will be better prepared to provide an inclusive team environment for all athletes.

Additionally, Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) provides education, tools, and resources that help coaches, parents, and organizations create a positive, player-centered sports culture. Their approach emphasizes building character, fostering teamwork and inclusivity, and reinforcing the joy of the game. Through workshops, online courses, and practical coaching frameworks, PCA has tools and resources that empower adults to cultivate environments where young athletes feel supported, respected, and motivated – ensuring that every player not only improves their skills but also has fun and develops a lifelong love for the sport.

3. MANDATORY REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE

When an allegation of abuse is made against a local Little League volunteer, the league must protect the child from any further potential abuse by keeping the alleged abuser away from all children in the program until the incident is reported to one or more of the below outlets and completely investigated. The Safe Sport Act extends mandatory reporting to all volunteers in the league. All fifty (50) States and the District of Columbia have enacted laws which address mandatory reporting of child abuse to protect the health and safety of children. Little League has compiled a summary of all currently existing federal and state laws regarding mandatory reporting of child abuse at LittleLeague.org/StateLaws. It is strongly recommended that local leagues consult with legal counsel in their jurisdiction to determine the applicability, if any, of federal, state

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and local requirements and laws to its programs regarding the reporting of child abuse. **An individual who is required, but fails to report suspected child abuse, is subject to criminal and civil penalties.**

A. Investigating Suspected Abuse

Once a report of abuse has been made, the league should promptly notify the alleged abuser that he/she is suspended from any involvement with the league until the investigation is completed. Little League urges local leagues to work with a lawyer who can advise them regarding the obligations of the league and advise about the rights of an alleged abuser. If the investigation substantiates the allegations, the local league must assure that the individual will not have any further contact with the children in the local league. All information and statements received from the parties involved with the incident (suspect, victim, witness, etc.) must be passed onto the proper authorities. **Local Little League officials should not attempt to investigate suspected abuse. Let law enforcement and child services professionals conduct the investigation.**

B. Reporting of Suspected Abuse

As child abuse reporting laws vary from state to state, each league should refer to the law of its specific state for guidance. Federal law establishes a nationwide standard of duty to report suspected child abuse. Any volunteer who participates in the league must report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, within 24 hours to the proper authorities. If a case of abuse is suspected within a league, it must be reported to the appropriate child services organizations and/or local law enforcement, as well as to the League President and District Administrator. **REMEMBER: If you or someone else is in immediate and serious danger, you should call 911.**

After making a report to law enforcement, the league may also consider contacting one of the following organizations for additional support:

- [U.S. Center for SafeSport](#)
- [The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#)
- [The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline](#)

After making a report of abuse or becoming aware of a report of abuse involving a volunteer in the league, the local Board of Directors must also notify Little League International by emailing SecuritySpecialist@LittleLeague.org.

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C. Suspension/Termination

If allegations of abuse are made against an individual in the league, the local league must take steps to ensure that the individual will not have any further contact with the children in the local league.

While allegations of abuse are under investigation or if criminal charges are pending, the league must promptly notify the individual that he/she is suspended until the matter is resolved by an external investigation or through the court system. While an individual is suspended, he/she may not volunteer in any local league activity.

If the allegations of abuse against an individual are substantiated, the local league must notify the individual that he/she is terminated from their position and may no longer volunteer for Little League in any capacity. The Board of Directors should communicate with the members of their local league about the termination.

D. Communication from the League

The local league's Board of Directors must be prepared to contact parents if a substantiated abuse allegation is made against a volunteer or participant within their league. The league must remember that both parties (suspect and victim) have privacy rights. The league must only provide information available in a public record, without any commentary. Public records are documents that are received from a governmental body/agency and are available to the general public (such as police or sheriff's records, court records, a statement from the arresting police department). If a league is contacted by the media, assistance is available by contacting Little League International at Media@LittleLeague.org. Additional tips on how to handle crisis communications can also be found at LittleLeague.org/CrisisCommunication.

4. NON-RETALIATION REPORTING

A local league may not retaliate against any individual within the league who makes a good faith report of suspected abuse, even if the allegation is later determined to be unsubstantiated. Reporters of abuse cannot be afraid to come forward in cases where he/she either has firsthand knowledge of or a good faith belief that abuse has occurred, even if there is a possibility that the report is wrong. The local league should encourage all individuals in the league to be vigilant and observant in regard to the safety and protection of the children in the league. Many states provide immunity to those who report suspected child abuse in "good faith."

5. PROHIBIT ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

Most child sexual abuse or grooming is perpetrated in isolated, one-on-one situations. By reducing such interactions between players and adult volunteers, you reduce the risk

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of child sexual abuse. However, one-on-one time with trusted adults is also healthy and valuable for a child. Policies concerning one-on-one interactions protect children while allowing for these beneficial relationships. To minimize the chance of an individual's opportunity to groom or abuse a player, the league must adopt a one-one-one policy relating to the interactions between a player and any adult volunteer of the league during the league's programs and activities. The League should adopt a policy prior to the start of the season and provide a copy to all volunteers within the league. At a minimum, the policy should include the following:

- Volunteers are prohibited from being alone with a minor athlete during the league's programs and events unless:
 - There is an emergency.
 - There is written permission from the player's parent/legal guardian.
 - The volunteer is the player's parent/legal guardian, sibling, or personal care assistant.
- A volunteer's interactions with players must be observable and interruptible by another adult.
- Volunteers are prohibited from contacting players directly through social media or electronic communication unless another adult volunteer or the player's parent/legal guardian is copied.
- Volunteers are discouraged from interacting one-on-one with unrelated minor athletes in settings outside of local league program and activities (such as the volunteer's home, a restaurant, a vehicle, or personal communication including electronic communication).
- Players may not reside with unrelated volunteers for the purpose of participation qualification within the league.
- If a volunteer is in a position where he/she is left alone with a player, he/she should not leave the child so long as the volunteer has exhausted all the options above to comply with the guidelines of the policy. Likewise, if a child is injured and must be transported to a hospital, urgent care, or treatment center, the volunteer should not leave the child alone if all options have been exhausted to comply with the policy in an emergency where medical treatment is necessary.
- Physical contact between volunteers and players should be very limited. Some

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examples of appropriate physical touch include high fives or administering appropriate first aid.

SUMMARY

The safety and well-being of all participants in the Little League program is paramount. The Little League Child Protection Program provides the necessary tools for local leagues to create an environment that is as safe as possible for its players. Protection begins at the local league level. Every local Little League program must place the safety and well being of its players above all else. Each league must adhere to the requirements of the Child Protection Program and utilize the additional resources provided to customize its own program to protect its participants which meets the unique needs of the league. Parents/Guardians play a critical role in assuring the safety of their players. It is critical that leagues arm parents/guardians with awareness and share the Child Protection Program with everyone within the league. Little League International is available to aid local leagues regarding the Child Protection Program by contacting SecuritySpecialist@LittleLeague.org.

Little League Participant Disability Policy

Policy

Little League Baseball, Incorporated (“LLI”) aims to promote fair play for all participants through the uniform adherence to LLI’s Official Regulations and Playing Rules (the “Rules”) concerning performance and play. Accordingly, all local leagues chartered by LLI pledge to abide by the Rules, and all updates thereto.

LLI encourages participation of all children, and acknowledges that some of its participants may require a modification of the Rules due to the participant claiming rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (the “ADA”). In such instances, LLI will afford participants with a disability as defined by the ADA the opportunity to request modifications of the Rules. LLI is a non-discriminatory organization, and in considering such requests, LLI will ensure compliance with the ADA.

Procedure

The Charter and/or the Tournament Committee (the “Committee”) at LLI considers all waiver requests to the Rules. The Committee will consider requests for a waiver to or modification of its Rules for an individual with a disability, upon the written request of the individual, his or her team coach, or his or her legal representative utilizing the procedure for such request as outlined below. LLI and its participating local leagues shall adhere to the Rules until a waiver for the participant is submitted and approved in accordance with this procedure.

A. Length of Waiver Requested

The Committee will consider a waiver request submitted by the participant in the season in which the waiver was received by the Committee. Unless otherwise requested by the participant, the Committee will consider and grant a modification of the Rules for only the season in which the waiver was received. If a participant requests a waiver be approved for longer than a single season, the Committee, in its sole discretion, may extend the waiver request beyond the season in which the request was received, including for the duration of a participant’s LLI eligibility. If any waiver is approved by the Committee to extend beyond the season in which received, then the Committee shall identify the length and terms of such approval in the letter resolving the waiver request.

B. Materials Required for Committee’s Consideration

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In order to initiate review by the Committee, the participant, his/her team coach, or his or her legal representative, must deliver a written request for a waiver to the League President of the local league. The participant's waiver request shall include, at a minimum:

1. The LLI rule in question.
2. An identification of the participant's disability as defined under the ADA and a narrative asserting how the proposed modification of the Rule relates to his or her disability and participation in LLI.
3. Supporting evidence from a licensed physician regarding (a) the participant's disability; (b) duration of the disability; (c) activities limited by disability; and (d) individualized symptoms related to the disability.
4. An executed limited release of confidentiality and waiver of privacy signed by the participant's parent or legal guardian, which will allow the Committee to communicate with the participant's attending physician, health care profession, rehabilitation professional, or the licensed physician who provided the supporting statement outlined above. The release shall be restricted to authorize the Committee to (a) verify the participant's disability in question, and not the participant's broader health history or records; (b) identification of individualized symptoms and effects of the disability as it concerns the participant; and (c) medical professional's opinion concerning the modification of the Rule requested (the "Release"). The Committee will not exercise its rights under the Release until it determines, in its sole discretion, that the additional information to be provided through the Release is necessary to complete the waiver request. Upon such a determination, the Committee or its designee shall notify the participant's parent or legal guardian of its intent to communicate with the participant's attending physician, health care profession, rehabilitation professional, or the licensed physician.
5. If the participant is requesting the use or introduction of equipment into the field of play which is not otherwise permitted by the Rules, then the request shall specifically identify the make, model, and specifications of the equipment or apparatus seeking to be introduced into the field of play for the participant's benefit. All of LLI's specification standards referenced in a Rule are incorporated

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into the evaluation of the waiver request. Accordingly, equipment submitted by the disabled participant for the waiver request must meet LLI's performance requirements. All equipment used in the field of play must comply with LLI's Rules, until the participant seeking its introduction receives an approved waiver for use in the field of play. The Committee, in its discretion, may require testing of any equipment requested by the participant in the waiver, but not otherwise permitted by the Rules, to ensure compliance with performance standards. LLI will pay for the reasonable costs associated with testing of equipment required by the Committee to assess compliance with LLI's performance standards, as directed by the Committee.

C. Approval Process

Once the waiver materials are assembled on behalf of the participant, the request will be evaluated as follows:

1. The participant, or his or her representative, shall deliver the waiver materials to the President of the local league.
2. The President may add additional facts concerning the request received to the record for consideration by the Committee. Thereafter, the President shall forward the assembled materials to the District Administrator.
3. The District Administrator may add additional facts concerning the request received to the record for consideration by the Committee. Thereafter, the District Administrator shall forward the assembled materials to the Regional Director.
4. The Regional Director will present the waiver materials to the Committee for action.
5. The Committee will take action on the waiver request and inform the Regional Director of its decision. The Regional Director will thereafter inform the District Administrator, who in turn shall inform the President of the local league for dissemination to the participant.

D. Guidelines for Review

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In order for the modification of a Rule to be approved, the Committee must first determine that the participant is disabled as defined under the ADA. Accordingly, the Committee is entitled to know that the participant has a covered disability for which a modification of the Rules is requested, and the information identified in Section B of procedure for inclusion with the waiver proposal is necessary to properly evaluate any such request.

The Committee will not grant a waiver when the requested accommodation is unreasonable under the circumstances, provides an unfair competitive advantage for the participant requesting the modification of the Rules, presents a threat to other participants or coaches, or alters the essential nature of the game. The Committee may consult with the participant, his or her representatives, coaches, and local league officials as part of considering the modification of the Rule.

E. Permitted Time for Committee's Decision

Any participant seeking a waiver request under this ADA waiver procedure should submit the request within a reasonable time after registering for participation in his/her local league. In the event the participant becomes disabled and claims rights under the ADA during the season, then the participant shall submit a waiver request outlined in this procedure within a reasonable period of time.

A request shall not be considered fully submitted unless it contains all of the contents. The Committee will strive to render a decision on all waiver requests within a reasonable amount of time, and all such decisions should be rendered no later than three (3) weeks after the request is fully submitted and received by the Committee, unless testing of equipment is directed by the Committee. If the waiver request concerns equipment or apparatus and the Committee directs testing of the equipment, then a review of the waiver request will involve testing the equipment or apparatus to ensure compliance with LLI's performance standards. Accordingly, the timeline for review of such an equipment waiver request will be dependent upon the requisite testing period. No equipment may be utilized by a participant unless the equipment complies with LLI's Rules or until the Committee approves the requested waiver for use of equipment.

Little League Inclusive Participation Policy

Policy

Little League Baseball, Incorporated (“LLI”) aims to promote inclusive play for all participants through the uniform adherence to LLI’s Official Regulations, Rules and Operating Policies (the “Rules”) concerning performance and play. Accordingly, all local leagues chartered by LLI pledge to abide by the Rules, and all updates thereto.

LLI is committed to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to participate fully in its programs and recognizes that some participants may require a waiver of the Rules in order to participate in a manner consistent with their affirmed gender identity, or sex characteristics regardless of the gender listed on their birth certificate. In such instances, LLI will provide children who identify as transgender, non-binary, or intersex, who have variations in sex development the opportunity to request a waiver of the Rules. These requests will be considered with the goal of supporting inclusive, respectful, and affirming participation for every child.

This policy will be implemented in full compliance with all applicable local, state, federal and international laws. A waiver will not be granted where it conflicts with current law. Given that legal requirements may vary across jurisdictions, including from state to state and county to county, any waiver granted will apply solely within the jurisdiction in which it was requested and approved. Additionally, as laws may vary from state to state and country to country, any waiver granted is applicable only in the jurisdiction from which it was sought. If the child subsequently participates outside the jurisdiction in which the waiver was granted, the waiver may be rescinded if the waiver violates local, state, federal or international laws.

Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions apply:

- **Transgender Person:** refers to an individual who has an identity different from that typically associated with the sex assigned at birth. It is distinct from sexual orientation.
- **Gender Identity:** A person’s inner sense of being male or female, another gender, or no gender. It may or may not be consistent with the sex assigned at birth.
- **Gender Expression:** The way a person publicly expresses their gender to

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others through appearance and mannerisms (e.g., dress, speech, movement)

- **Intersex (formally referred to as Disorder of Sexual Development or DSD):** Intersex is a general term used to describe individual persons born with physical sex characteristics (such as chromosomes, gonads, or genitalia) that do not fit typically binary notation of male or female bodies. These variations may result from a range of natural biological conditions. While being intersex is distinct from being transgender, individuals in both groups may encounter similar difficulties when navigating gender designations in contexts such as athletic participation.

Procedure

Unless modified by this policy, the Process to Obtain Waivers of Rules and Regulations as outlined in the Operating Policy for Local League Administration shall be followed. Per the policy, the Charter and/or the Tournament Committee (the “Committee”) at LLI considers all waiver requests to the Rules. The Committee will consider requests for the waiver of the Rules for an individual whose gender identity does not match the gender listed on their birth certificate upon the written request of the individual, their parent, or his or her legal representative. LLI and its participating local leagues shall adhere to the Rules until a waiver for the participant is submitted and approved in accordance with this procedure.

A. Material Required for Committee’s Consideration

To initiate review by the Committee, the child, his or her parent, or his or her legal representative must provide a written request for waiver to the President of the local league. The waiver request should include, at a minimum:

1. The child’s name and level of play in the local Little League program within which they wish to participate.
2. The child’s current transcript and school registration information.
3. A written statement from a parent or legal representative of the child affirming that the child lives consistently with their affirmed gender identity, including through their gender expression both at home and in public settings.
4. Additional documentation is requested when submitting the waiver request which demonstrates that the child lives consistently with their affirmed gender identity, such as written confirmation from a licensed health care provider, revised birth certificate or passport

Little League Inclusive Participation Policy

evidencing gender, school photographs, etc.

5. The league president may add additional facts concerning the request received to the record for consideration by the Committee.
6. The President shall forward the assembled materials to the respective Region Director.
7. The waiver request must be submitted in writing by the league president before the start of the league's regular season or June 1, whichever occurs first.
8. The Region Director will present the waiver materials to the Committee for action.

B. Review Process

The waiver request will be evaluated as follows:

1. All communications, discussions and documentation submitted as part of the approval process shall be kept confidential, unless the child and family elect to make these records open and available.
2. Any protected health information provided pursuant to this policy shall be treated as confidential by both the local league and the Committee, shared only with individuals identified as taking part in the review process and shall be appropriately protected from disclosure.
3. The child's request to participate in a manner consistent with his/her gender identity will be scheduled for review and eligibility before the Committee as expeditiously as reasonably possible.
4. The Committee shall have the right to request additional information to support the waiver request.
5. A waiver request is not considered submitted unless it contains the content outlined herein and any additional information requested by the Committee. The Committee will strive to render a decision on all waiver requests within a reasonable amount of time, and all such decisions should be rendered no later than three (3) weeks after the request is fully submitted with all required documentation received by the Committee.

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6. The Committee will inform the Region Director of its decision. The Region Director will thereafter inform the President of the local league for dissemination to the participant.
7. The Committee shall properly and securely destroy all records received as part of the review process upon rendering a decision.

C. Length of Waiver

The Committee will consider a waiver request submitted on behalf of the child in the season in which the waiver was received by the Committee. Unless otherwise requested, the Committee will consider and grant a waiver of the Rules for only the season in which the waiver was received. If a waiver request is for longer than a single season, the Committee, in its sole discretion, may extend the waiver grant beyond the season in which the request was received, including for the duration of a participant's LLI eligibility. If any waiver is approved by the Committee to extend beyond the season in which it is received, the Committee shall identify the length and terms of such approval in the letter resolving the waiver request.

D. Guidelines for Review

For waiver of the Rule to be approved, the Committee must determine that the participant is living consistently with his/her gender identity. Each waiver requested will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Committee.

The Committee must determine if the waiver is in full compliance with all applicable local, state, federal and international laws in the jurisdiction where the waiver is requested. The Committee will not grant any waiver that conflicts with current law.

The Committee may consult with the participant, his or her representatives and the individuals listed above as part of the review process. Should the Committee find that consultation with additional individuals (e.g., school officials, District Administrators, coaches), is necessary for the Committee to make an informed decision, the Committee will first seek a confidentiality waiver from the child's legal guardian before any such consideration.

LLI recognizes that transgender athletes may be at different stages in their personal journeys including whether they have pursued hormonal treatments or gender-affirming surgeries.

Little League Trademarks

Introduction

Little League International is a federally chartered nonprofit organization founded in 1939 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. In 1964, Little League International was granted a federal charter by the United States Congress, codified at 36 U.S. Code § 30901, et seq., which affirms its exclusive right to use and control its name, marks, and logos. The Little League Trademarks represent more than just a name; they reflect the mission, values, and history of the world's largest and most trusted global youth sports organization.

This policy outlines the proper use of the Little League Trademarks by chartered Leagues, districts, local sponsors, partners, vendors, and any individual or organization seeking to associate with Little League International. It is intended to protect the reputation and value of the Little League brand while helping Leagues and volunteers understand how to use the Little League Trademarks appropriately in support of League operations.

Any use of the Little League Trademarks must comply with the guidelines outlined in the Operating Policies, and the Official Regulations and Playing Rules of Little League International. The misuse of the Little League Trademarks, whether intentional or unintentional, may result in loss of charter status or legal action.

If you have questions about how to apply this policy, or if you suspect unauthorized use of the Little League Trademarks, please contact the Little League International Licensing Department at Licensing@LittleLeague.org.

Overview of Little League Trademarks

In addition to the rights granted by the United States Congress, Little League International also owns numerous federal and international trademark registrations for its wordmarks and logos. These registrations provide additional legal protection and ensure that the Little League Trademarks are recognized and enforceable across multiple jurisdictions.

Registered and Protected Marks

The following are examples of protected Little League Trademarks, but do not represent a complete list. Little League International continually monitors and updates its portfolio of trademarks to reflect the growth of its programs, events, and brand identity. For a complete and up-to-date list, please visit LittleLeague.org/Trademarks.

Primary Trademarks

Little League Trademarks

These marks serve as the foundation of the Little League brand and receive the highest level of recognition and protection.

- The term “LITTLE LEAGUE®” represents the organization and its programs worldwide.
- The Little League Keystone logo, with or without the accompanying wordmark, “LITTLE LEAGUE,” is the primary symbol/logo of the Little League brand.



Names and Word Marks:

Little League Little League exclusively owns the following: LITTLE LEAGUE®, LITTLE LEAGUER®, LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL®, LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL®, LITTLE LEAGUE CHALLENGER DIVISION®, SENIOR LEAGUE LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL®, GIRLS WITH GAME®, LIVE YOUR SERIES®, SANDLOT FUN DAYS®, LL®, LLB®, and LLWS™.

Other Logos and Emblems:

In addition to our Primary Logos, including the Keystone Logo, Little League exclusively owns the following: Character, Courage, and Loyalty logo; oval baseball and softball logos; International Tournament marks; and other official Little League International logos.

Capitalization and Style Requirements

The term “Little League” in any form must always be capitalized and used only to refer to official programs, activities, events, and communications. When using any Little League Trademark in regard to the entire Little League organization, including affiliation to the program, the appropriate ® or ™ symbol must be included. These are not required when referencing the official name of a local league or district.

Use as a Generic Term

The Little League Trademarks must never be used as a generic descriptor for youth sports generally (e.g., referring to any non-affiliated youth program as “Little League”). They identify only official Little League International programs and activities.

Parks and Recreation Leagues

Special considerations may apply to chartered Leagues operated through local Parks

Little League Trademarks

and Recreation Departments; however, all Little League Trademark requirements in this policy still apply.

Global Protection

The Little League Trademarks are protected not only in the United States, but also internationally. All domestic and international Leagues must follow the usage and protection standards outlined in this policy. This includes use for Little League Trademarks and other creative elements.

Authorized Use by Chartered Local Leagues

Chartered Leagues are permitted to use the Little League Trademarks to identify their program, promote official activities, and foster community recognition. This use must include their League identifier such as town name or other unique naming convention to their locale. These rights are limited in scope and , are only valid during an active charter year.

Leagues receive these limited rights through the annual charter agreement process. Use of the Little League Trademarks is permitted solely in connection with officially sanctioned Little League International activities and operations, as defined in the complete Operating Policies as well as Official Regulations and Playing Rules of Little League.

Authorized Use of Little League Trademarks

Chartered Leagues may use the Little League Trademarks as follows:

- On player uniforms, as part of the official applied patch (Regulation 1.11e), on uniforms as part of League name
- On signage at League facilities (e.g., scoreboards, dugouts, banners)
- In printed materials (schedules, programs, flyers)
- On the League websites and social media
- In press releases or other event announcements prepared by the League

All such uses must clearly identify the local league and may not imply endorsement of an individual, commercial entity or business, or other outside organization. All such uses must follow the Little League Brand Guidelines where applicable.

Little League Trademarks

League-Created Logos

Chartered Leagues may design a custom logo to represent their program. If the logo includes the term “Little League,” it must be used in conjunction with the full name of the local league. Custom logos must comply with all uniform regulations outlined in Rule 1.11(e) of the Little League Rulebook.

A League may not file to trademark a custom League logo if it contains “Little League,” “LL,” or any other wordmark owned by Little League International.

For questions about logo design or compliance, you are encouraged to contact the Little League International Licensing Department at Licensing@LittleLeague.org.

Little League Brand Marketing & Promotional Materials

Leagues can download official Little League International logos, customizable branded flyers, and other print-on-demand materials from the Data Center under “League Resources.”

The logos available for download include the Official Community and Official Program identifiers, which designate a League as an officially chartered program within Little League International.

The Primary Trademarks, which include the Little League Keystone logo and the “Little League®” wordmark, represent the overall organization and are not available for download in the Data Center. The use of the Little League’s Primary Trademarks requires prior written approval. To request approval, please contact the Licensing Department at Licensing@LittleLeague.org.

Duration of Permission

The right to use the Little League Trademarks is valid only while a League remains officially chartered. If a League’s charter is revoked, suspended, or not renewed, all use of the Little League Trademarks must immediately cease, including logos and names appearing on websites, social media, uniforms, signs, and printed materials.

Fundraising, Advertising and Sponsorship

Chartered Leagues and districts may engage in fundraising and accept sponsorships to support their operations. All such activities must comply with Little League International guidelines, applicable state laws, and community standards.

Little League Trademarks

Fundraising Participation

- Leagues may organize fundraising activities, but individuals (e.g., families, volunteers) who do not wish to participate must be provided with an alternative way to support the League (e.g., a direct contribution or volunteer hours).
- As noted in Regulation XIII, no player or volunteer may be denied participation in the regular season or tournament play, including for lack of fundraising participation.
- These rules apply throughout the year, including at the start of the Little League International Tournament. Additional information is available at LittleLeague.org/TournamentFundraising

Compliance with the Law

Chartered Leagues and districts operating under a tax-exempt, non-profit status must comply with state requirements for charitable solicitations. In some cases, additional requirements may be needed before soliciting funds in the state or community using the Little League name. Leagues must maintain their charitable status at all times if soliciting funds using Little League Trademarks.

Little League International strongly encourages Leagues to consult with legal counsel to ensure that all fundraising practices, solicitations, sponsorships, and related financial activities comply with such requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, laws governing charitable solicitations, permits, tax reporting, and the proper use of charitable funds among other fundraising topics. Little League International does not provide legal advice and assumes no responsibility for a League's compliance with any applicable legal obligations related to fundraising.

Resources are available at LittleLeagueUniversity.org by searching “state laws fundraising” and “non-profit fundraising.”

Fundraising and Local Sponsorship Guidelines

- Sponsorships and donations should be viewed as community contributions in support of the League's mission. They do not provide the sponsor with any rights in the operation of the League or its teams.
- Sponsors may not use the Little League Trademarks in their own advertising, websites, or social media. The recognition of sponsors must come from the League itself. For example, if a business donates cash or equipment, the League (not the business) must issue any public acknowledgment.
- Leagues are responsible for securing all applicable requirements for charitable

Little League Trademarks

solicitation, sponsorship procurement, raffles and event fundraisers, and other applicable laws.

- Leagues may not permit a business or other third-party entity to receive an “official designation” as part of any donation or local sponsorship.
- The term of any such local sponsorship or commitment should not exceed the length of the League’s annual charter.
- The League must issue all press releases or announcements on behalf of any local sponsorship or fundraising donation.
- League fundraising activities must at all times be legally compliant and refrain from using the prohibited categories listed below in any form.

Prohibited Transactions, Sponsorships, Donations or Product Relationships

Leagues and districts are prohibited from accepting sponsorships, donations, advertisements —or engaging in any transactions, including concession sales or fundraisers —with organizations, products or services associated with:

- Alcohol
- Tobacco products of any kind
- E-cigarettes or vaping
- Marijuana, cannabidiol (CBD) oil, hemp derivatives, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), or other controlled substances
- Firearms
- Gambling
- Political campaigns (individuals or parties)
- Adult or mature content

Leagues should also avoid any sponsorships that may be objectionable to their local community. Little League International reserves the right to restrict or prohibit any sponsorship, advertisement, or donation to a League that is deemed inconsistent with the mission and values of Little League International.

Responsible Stewardship in Fundraising and League Sponsorship

Little League Trademarks

- Leagues and districts must ensure that all funds collected in the name of the League are used solely for legitimate League purposes. Great care must be taken to prevent misappropriation or misuse of funds.
- At no time should an individual fundraise on behalf of the League without permission from the League Board of Directors. This includes individuals who sell merchandise on behalf of the League, set up crowdfunding websites, or other situations where funds are raised outside of the auspices of the League's Board of Directors oversight. This includes fundraising during the Little League International Tournament.
- Little League International does not limit participation in its activities, including fundraising activities, on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or religious preference.

Operational Guidance

- Chartered Leagues should consult their District Administrator for guidance on fundraising and sponsor solicitation.
- Guidance should emphasize fundraising efforts that take place within the boundaries of the League.
- Use simple written sponsorship agreements and carefully review all provisions before signing. Leagues should never agree to provisions that shift liability to the League or requires the League to indemnify the sponsor in any manner or that transfer ownership or give permission to use Little League Trademarks.
- Carefully review any third-party fundraising proposals before approval.
- Make fundraising and sponsorship a standing agenda item at League meetings and ask volunteers to promptly report any proposed outside fundraising plans.
- Proper documentation of all funds raised should also be shared with League membership.

Little League International Tournament Fundraising

The above fundraising and sponsorship policies apply year-round, including during the International Tournament. Additional guidance is available at LittleLeagueUniversity.org – [Fundraising & State Laws](#).

Limitations and Restrictions

Little League Trademarks

The use of the Little League Trademarks is strictly limited to activities conducted by chartered Leagues. These marks may not be used in any way that implies affiliation with, endorsement by, or approval from Little League, unless such use has been expressly authorized in writing.

General Restrictions on Trademark Usage

- The Little League Trademarks may only be used in connection with official Little League International activities.
- The Little League Trademarks may not be used to promote or advertise any other sports program or unaffiliated organization.
- The Little League Trademarks may not be used as part of a composite or co-branded name with another organization.
- The Little League Trademarks may not appear on websites, flyers, commercials, print advertisements, or social media that promote third-party sports programs, businesses, or events.
- Chartered Leagues may recognize sponsors and donors, but businesses may not use the Little League Trademarks in any marketing, press/media, advertising, or branding.
- The Little League Trademarks may not be used in commercial advertisements, endorsements, or public relations materials for local businesses.
- The Little League Trademarks may not be shared with vendors or third parties of any kind, to produce signage or products without written permission from Little League International (Licensing@LittleLeague.org).
- It is the policy of Little League International not to endorse any company, product, or service except for Little League International approved partners and licensees; any use of the Little League Trademarks that implies such an endorsement is unauthorized and Leagues will be advised that such endorsement should be removed.

Sublimation of the Official Little League Patch

Sublimation of the official Little League patch on uniforms is not permitted. Leagues may not authorize vendors to sublimate the patch. For current requirements, visit LittleLeague.org/Patch.

Little League Trademarks

Third-Party Fundraising and Unauthorized Use

Chartered Leagues may not authorize outside individuals or businesses to raise money, solicit sponsorships, or promote products/services using the Little League Trademarks. Unless authorized by Little League International, third parties may not:

- Solicit donations or sponsorships on behalf of a League
- Sell products, advertising, or fundraising services using the Little League Trademarks
- Represent themselves as agents or fundraisers for Little League International or any League
- Request, access, or receive player, parent, or volunteer information for any reason

If a League is approached by a third party offering fundraising or promotional assistance, the League must:

- Maintain full control over all branding, communications, and messaging
- Never allow a third party to use the Little League Trademarks
- Contact the Licensing Department (Licensing@LittleLeague.org) for review prior to entering any agreement
-

Leagues should also be aware of potential fraud. Unauthorized solicitation of funds in the name of Little League International or local League, disproportionate funds raised, or the cashing of checks made out to “Little League” without authorization may constitute fraud or forgery.

Exploitation Prohibited

The Little League International program and its participants must never be exploited for the financial or reputational benefit of an outside individual, business, or organization.

Examples of prohibited exploitation include:

- Using images or stories of Little League participants in advertising without permission
- Hosting events “in the name of Little League” that benefit unrelated causes

Little League Trademarks

- Charging fees, selling access, or leveraging the League's name to create personal or business profit

Exploitative uses not only violate trademark policy but may also mislead families, donors, sponsors, or the public about the values of the Little League International program. Leagues that permit unauthorized or exploitative use of the Little League Trademarks or program content may be subject to charter revocation or other disciplinary action.

Licensed and Approved Products/Partners

Little League International encourages all Leagues and districts to use official licensed partners and official sponsors for the production of items such as uniforms, banners, trophies, awards, and fundraising products. These licensed vendors are familiar with the policies and style requirements related to Little League Trademarks and can help ensure proper use.

A current list of approved licensed vendors is available at LittleLeague.org/Licensing.

Pins

Leagues and districts must use an official Little League licensed vendor for the production of pins, awards or commemorative items.

Single-Use Agreements

If a licensed vendor is unable to meet the specific needs of a League or district, Little League International may consider the use of a non-licensed vendor through a single-use agreement. These one-time permissions allow for the limited use of the Little League Trademarks on a custom product, that considers:

- Little League International approves the vendor to be used and the product.
- A licensed vendor is not able to produce such product.
- The product is not mass produced or resold.
- The marks are used solely for the League or district's internal use.
- The supplier does not claim affiliation with or endorsement by Little League International.
- The supplier is only permitted to use the Trademarks one-time. Additional use requires additional requested permission.

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To request a single-use agreement, please contact the Licensing Department at Licensing@LittleLeague.org or visit LittleLeague.org/Licensing for more information and downloadable forms.

International Leagues

International Leagues are encouraged to use licensed vendors when available. If an approved vendor cannot meet a specific international need, Leagues may request a single-use agreement for a country-specific supplier by contacting the Licensing Department at Licensing@LittleLeague.org.

Use by Licensee and Approved Vendors

Official licensees, sponsors, and authorized vendors may use the Little League Trademarks only as authorized by a written license agreement with Little League. These agreements define the specific products, services, and contexts in which marks may be used.

Licensees must:

- Follow all Little League Licensing Agreement terms, style guidelines, and brand standards
- Include the proper ® or ™ designation when displaying the Little League Trademarks
- Never sublicense the rights to another party without written consent from Little League
- Provide approved manufacturer requirements, quality control standards, and other insurance provisions

Unauthorized Use by Vendors and Businesses

The following uses are strictly prohibited without a written license from Little League International:

- Selling merchandise (apparel, hats, pins, etc.) featuring the Little League Trademarks
- Advertising a business using phrases like “Official Sponsor of (Local) Little League” or “Endorsed by Little League”
- Including the Little League Trademarks in digital content, packaging, or signage

Little League Trademarks

- Creating awards, giveaways, or commemorative items featuring the Little League Trademarks

Even if the intent is to support a League or recognize youth athletes, no vendor or business may use the Little League Trademarks without prior written permission from Little League International.

Media and Editorial Use

Media outlets may reference the Little League Trademarks in factual reporting and coverage of games, events, and official League activities. However, certain restrictions apply to protect the integrity of the Little League brand:

- Wordmarks (e.g., “Little League®,” “Little League Baseball®,” “Little League Softball®,” “LLWS™”) may be used in factual reporting and editorial content, provided they are used in the proper form (capitalized, with the ® or ™ where applicable) and only to identify official Little League International programs and activities.
- Logos and emblems (e.g., the Keystone logo) may not be reproduced, displayed, or published without prior written permission from Little League International.

Use of game footage, interviews, or photographs is subject to Little League International’s media rights agreements and licensing policies.

For questions about media use, please contact Media@LittleLeague.org.

Enforcement and Misuse

Little League International is committed to protecting the integrity of the Little League Trademarks and the reputation they represent. Any misuse, whether intentional or unintentional, can create confusion, dilute the brand, and result in legal and reputational harm. Consistent, proper use of the Little League Trademarks is essential to maintaining public trust, avoiding confusion, and supporting the continued success of the program worldwide.

Monitoring and Compliance

Little League International monitors the use of the Little League Trademarks across digital platforms, media, printed materials, uniforms, merchandise, and advertising.

Little League Trademarks

Any reported or discovered misuse may result in an investigation, including outreach to the involved local league, vendor, or party involved. Chartered Leagues, districts, and affiliated entities are expected to cooperate fully in correcting any improper or unauthorized use of the Little League Trademarks.

Consequences of Misuse

Unauthorized use of the Little League Trademarks may result in one or more of the following actions:

- Written notice requiring correction or removal of the violation
- Suspension or revocation of a League's charter or tournament eligibility
- Termination of vendor approvals or licensing agreements
- Legal action, including fines, cease-and-desist letters, or formal enforcement proceedings

Unauthorized use of marks protected under Little League International's Congressional Charter and U.S. trademark law may result in civil penalties or other legal consequences.

Reporting Suspected Misuse

If you believe a League, business, or organization is using the Little League Trademarks improperly, or if you are unsure whether a particular use is permitted, please contact the Little League International Licensing Department at Licensing@LittleLeague.org. Reports may be submitted confidentially. All concerns will be reviewed promptly and handled with discretion.

Reporting Unauthorized Use by Non-Affiliated Leagues

Any youth baseball or softball program, or any other type of organization, that is not currently chartered with Little League International but uses the Little League Trademarks should be reported to Licensing@LittleLeague.org. Please provide links and/or photos of the infringing websites or materials when submitting a report.

Communications and League Promotions

Local League Communications

Successful communications in any organization helps cultivate and maintain the best image by not only encouraging better knowledge and understanding of the organization's goals, benefits, and operation, but also to effectively keep your players, parents, volunteers, and community informed.

At Little League International, making sure that the program is known within the community will help earn the respect and support that is essential to successful League operations. To establish the League as an effective youth sports program in the community requires an active plan for communication, focused around reaching all levels of community interest. That can come through working with local media outlets, maintaining league websites and social media accounts, and keeping parents and volunteers informed on all League information.

Communications from Little League International

Little League International communicates all official correspondence relevant to League operations and administration directly to the elected League Officers, including the League President, as they are listed on the Little League Data Center. It is important for Leagues to ensure their officer information is updated in the [Little League Data Center](#).

The League Officers should disseminate the information to the League membership and parents in order to ensure all Rules, Regulations, and Operating Policies are easily understood, and are strongly encouraged to make this information generally available to the public through local media outlets or the League's own digital outlets. Resources are available to help support League operations on *Little League University* ([LittleLeagueUniversity.org](#)).

Additionally, Little League International communicates regularly with parents and volunteers, providing useful information, education, and other promotions to enhance the Little League experience.

Leagues have an open line of communication to Little League International at all times and are urged to make use of it whenever necessary.

Communicating with the Media

Little League International is the most trusted organization in youth sports, and often times, local media outlets will want to be informed on your League's activities and operations. The news media can be an important opportunity for your League to

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promote itself, especially within your own community.

Identifying a person in your League to handle your media relations is a great way to ensure that your League's news and events get to the local media outlets. Develop a media list of the best contacts at the various news outlets that cover your community, and be sure to send them media alerts to invite them to upcoming events and press releases to share important news, information, and activities. Getting the word out through the media about what you're accomplishing can help your League grow. You're encouraged to develop a positive, working relationship with the media. Sample press releases and templates can be found at LittleLeagueUniversity.org.

Sometimes Leagues are faced with situations that require additional guidance from Little League International. If a member of a media outlet contacts you about a sensitive situation, please contact your District Administrator or the appropriate Little League International Regional Office.

Additional resources can be found at LittleLeague.org/CrisisCommunications.

Media outlets are encouraged and permitted to cover (write stories, take photos, and shoot video) League events, regular season games, and tournament action. At no time should the media interfere with your game operations. Any time a member of the media wishes to conduct an interview with a Little Leaguer, the player's parent(s) and/or manager or coach must be present throughout the interview. Only working news photographers and videographers with proper news organization credentials are permitted on the field of play, subject to League approval (as noted in Rule 3.15) in any level of Little League play unless pre-approved by Little League International. Such personnel should never be permitted in dugouts, nor anywhere on fair territory, and at no time should photographers or videographers interfere with game activity or pose a safety risk to players, volunteers, or themselves. If there is not ample room in foul territory for news photographers and videographers, they should not be permitted on the field and cover the games from outside the field of play.

Remember, the words "Little League" are registered trademarks and should never be used as merely a descriptive term for all youth sports programs. A League may inform members of the media that "Little League," "Little League Softball," and "Little League Baseball" are listed in the Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual, and should never be used in reference to non-Little League activities. Leagues may also instead share links to those stories to Media@LittleLeague.org and the Little League International Communications team can send a correction request to the outlet.

It is important to note that any news outlet can use photos and video of your League

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activities for editorial purposes only. Any promotional, advertising, or paid usage must be submitted to Little League International for approval.

Communicating Through Digital Media

Having a website and keeping it updated with information, important dates, contact information, game schedules and scores, and updates from Little League International is just one way to use online communications.

Another important online tool is social media. Creating social media accounts for your League or district can help you connect with a broader audience. Keep your social media posts light and fun, with photos from your Leagues, stories from the news, game schedules and results, and posts from Little League International's social media. When you have urgent messages you need to communicate or events to promote, use social media as a tool to spread the word.

It is recommended that all League social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, etc.) be setup as a business page/account with at least two administrators and a trusted, Super Administrator. Additional tips for operating your League's social media accounts are available on *Little League University*.

Remember, once it's posted on any website or social media page, that statement or image is public. Be careful when you're posting and make sure that you're reflecting your League in the most positive light and that you have permission to use the photo. It is also important to continually monitor the comments across your social media channels. If your community members start posting or commenting about a specific issue, encourage them to contact the League via email or attend the next public meeting. Engaging in a social media discussion that could become heated should be avoided.

Obtaining Approval to Use Personal Data & Participant/Volunteer Images

Leagues or districts should have a policy related to using images and video of League participants, parents, and other volunteers. Leagues should have parents or guardians, as well as volunteers, sign a Form Release and Waiver each season. A generic sample Form Release and Waiver can be found here: [LittleLeague.org/ModelRelease](https://www.littleleague.org/ModelRelease). This release should give the League permission to photograph, video, record audio, or utilize the image or likeness of the individuals in initiatives that show the League activities to support the growth and promotion of the League and its activities through any advertisements or social media sites. Such use should only grant permission to the League, and not to any other entity, including commercial entities.

The League must also adopt a policy for use of any personal information including

Communications and League Promotions

images, video, etc., to protect the privacy of the individual participants and their families. The policy must follow Little League International's Privacy Policy ([LittleLeague.org/PrivacyPolicy](https://www.littleleague.org/PrivacyPolicy)) and associated guidelines. At no time should the League share information, including personally identifiable data, images, or the like with any third parties, unless required by law.

If a League or district chooses to enter into an agreement with a photographer or videographer for a game, tournament, opening day, League picture day, or other League event, Little League International recommends that a formal agreement be arranged between the League and the photographer/videographer, and that all financial aspects of the agreement be fully understood by all parties. The formal agreement should be in the name of the League (i.e. Hometown Little League), not "Little League" as a standalone company name and wordmark. It is recommended that Form Release and Waivers be secured from participants before such an agreement is procured.

Chartered Leagues and districts are strictly prohibited from sharing, releasing, or selling any player, parent, or volunteer data (including images or video) to third parties for use in fundraising, marketing, commercialization or promotional activities.

Game Broadcasting and Streaming

Little League International in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, is the only body that can authorize or disallow the live streaming, webcasting, televising, or radio broadcasting of any game(s) for regular season or tournament play through any outlet that is not fully owned and/or operated by a League or district (e.g. broadcast by a local TV/Radio station). A contract (provided by Little League International) must originate with the local District Administrator, tournament director, or League president. (See Regulation XV and [LittleLeague.org/LiveStreaming](https://www.littleleague.org/LiveStreaming))

No third-party telecast, broadcast, webcast (recorded or live) of any Little League Baseball or Softball game (in any division) can take place unless the proper contract is completed and approved. This applies to all third-party productions, even if they are unsupported by advertising, sponsorship, or subscriptions. The financial aspect of any telecast, broadcast, webcast (recorded or live) should be fully understood by all parties.

With live-streaming becoming much easier to accomplish, Leagues may be interested in web-casting or live-streaming games through their own League website, official social media account, or other digital platform. Leagues are permitted to stream/web-cast games through these League-owned platforms, granted they follow all Little League policies regarding commercialization and trademarks.

For Leagues, districts, and media personnel, Little League International has guidelines

Communications and League Promotions

regarding how Little Leaguers should appear in the media, including newspapers, on television, in magazines, etc. To download a PDF file of the document, visit LittleLeague.org/Media.

Non-Editorial Media Request

If any business or entity contacts your League about participating in any situation outside of editorial coverage (e.g. local news) of your events or games (which includes but is not limited to: promotional activities, commercials, movie or television productions, documentary productions, or promotion of any commercial business), you must seek approval from Little League International prior to participating or providing approval from your League. Only Little League International reserves the right to grant or deny such permission of participation on behalf of our Leagues.

Crowdfunding or Other Online Fundraising

This policy is in regard to the use of any form of crowdfunding, crowdsourcing, or online fundraising platform for the financial benefit or gain of any level of Little League (i.e., local, district, state, provincial).

Crowdfunding can be defined as, the use of small amounts of capital from a large number of individuals or third parties, or donations to finance a project, business venture, or to fundraise for a specific cause or charity. Through the use of personal networking, social media platforms, and other digital based resources, funds can be raised to support these different campaigns or efforts from a grassroots level, such as a local Little League program.

Per the Little League Operating Policies, charitable funding and contributions can be collected through crowdfunding platforms, so long as standard Little League International policies are followed when utilizing this means of charitable fundraising. Current policies state that in no manner should there be any solicitation by a third party or individual in the name of or on behalf of a League; solicitation of funds is to be done by the League or district itself. Therefore, only the League Board of Directors may operate a crowdfunding platform at any time using the name of the league.

In addition, the use of any Little League Trademarks must be used in connection with the League name (i.e. “Hometown Little League” vs. just using “Little League”), and should not be misrepresented or altered in any way, without first contacting Little League International. It’s also important to keep in mind as with any League or district fundraiser that any promotion of the effort must be done by the League or district itself and not any outside entity such as local businesses or individual donors. Donations that are collected through this method should not be for any personal or business gain, but strictly to assist youth and to strengthen the community program. Leagues or districts should provide an explanation to its membership of how the money raised is to be used and determine if the membership should vote on such use if paid to individuals.

When evaluating different options be sure to investigate all the potential drawbacks that may impact the League or district’s ability to collect the funds associated with a crowdfunding campaign. Because of the ease of creation of one of these crowdfunding campaigns, Leagues and districts should also closely monitor for individuals fraudulently misrepresenting themselves as a fundraising entity. You should report any crowdfunding campaigns that do not have League permission to Licensing@LittleLeague.org.

Crowdfunding or Other Online Fundraising

League or District Online Stores/Fundraising (E-Commerce)

Leagues may desire to offer apparel, uniforms, and other products to their League membership using an online store to conduct business. This type of activity involves the use of Little League trademarks and must be approved by Little League International by emailing Licensing@LittleLeague.org.

Such sites are typically not as financially beneficial to Leagues as they may appear. Therefore, Little League International maintains relationships with technology service providers who may offer this service. Such providers may be found at LittleLeague.org/Technology. Before utilizing a service, Leagues should contact Marketing@LittleLeague.org for more information and guidelines.

NOTE: For more information regarding use of Little League Trademarks in relation to League fundraising and the solicitation of donations, please consult the Little League Policies and Principles section of the Official Playing Rules of Little League and LittleLeague.org for additional guidance.

Websites

Local League or District Websites, Team Management Apps

Leagues, Districts, and State Associations are permitted to host websites that assist with communicating information about their activities in the local community. In the United States, these websites must be on the Sports Connect platform. Among other information, the League name, affiliation with Little League International, divisions offered, registration, facilities locations, board members, schedules, and other information for parents and volunteers to contact the League should be clearly stated on the website.

Any League or district that wishes to host a website, which includes Little League Trademarks in any manner must submit their website address (www.) or URL (Universal Resource Locator) into the Little League Data Center annually. The URL should be a combination of a League or district's name in conjunction with the words "Little League" or "LL." An example of how a URL should appear: www.HometownLittleLeague.org or www.PA50LittleLeague.org. Leagues and teams should not use any commercial entity in their league URL.

Leagues have access to logos available for download within the data center, which include the Official Community and Official Program identifiers, designating a League as an officially chartered program within Little League International. These logos are approved to use in connection with websites and social media owned and operated by Leagues and districts. However, the use of other Little League International Trademarks, logos, and links to LittleLeague.org require permission from Little League International. Under no circumstances may a League, district, or person register a website using the words Little League for any other purpose other than to represent and support their League or district. This includes websites set up for the purposes of raising funds. If teams within Leagues also host websites, they are required to follow these guidelines and the guidelines for use of Little League Trademarks. It is strongly encouraged that local league board members approve all website content and the content of any associated team websites to ensure content being distributed is deemed appropriate for children in the Little League International program.

Should a League elect not to re-charter or change its affiliation, as soon as possible, the league must relinquish ownership of the domain name/URL containing Little League or LL at the local league's expense. Please contact (Support@LittleLeague.org).

Leagues are also encouraged to secure Form Release and Waivers as part of the player

Websites

and volunteer registration process as noted in the **Obtaining Approval to Use Personal Data & Participant/Volunteer Images** section.

Little League International reserves the right to review any League or district website that uses Little League International trademarks and logos to ensure appropriate permissions from those individuals is granted. Little League International may, at any time, require a League to remove content on League websites, including its social media sites, if content is deemed inappropriate.

Technology Provisions for League and District Websites and Online Registration and Payment Service

Little League International has partnered with a third-party technology provider, Sports Connect, as the official technology partner for League technology services. Sports Connect works with Leagues and districts to provide websites, online registration, payment solutions, scheduling, umpire payment services, email tools, donation collection, and many other technology services that can enhance the administrative functions for Leagues.

NOTE: As part of the Central Registration efforts which became mandatory in 2025, all Leagues in the United States are required to use Sports Connect for all player registration as well as the background check integration tool with JDP for volunteer service. This process will help ease the administrative burden of League volunteers while providing an enhanced experience to players throughout every step of their time in the Little League Baseball and Softball program.

Additional information on the use of websites, online registration, and other technology can be found on LittleLeague.org/Technology.

League or District Online Stores (E-Commerce)

LLeagues may desire to offer apparel, uniforms, and other products to their League membership using an online/e-commerce store to conduct business. This type of activity involves the use of Little League Trademarks and must be approved by Little League International.

Therefore, Little League International maintains relationships with technology service providers, who offer fan wear shops and other convenient digital services. Such providers may be found at LittleLeague.org/Technology.

Before utilizing a service, leagues should contact Marketing@LittleLeague.org for more information and guidelines.

Websites

NOTE: For more information regarding use of Little League Trademarks in relation to local league fundraising and the solicitation of donations for regular season and tournament, please consult the Little League Trademarks section of these Operating Policies and LittleLeague.org for additional guidance.

EXHIBIT B

League President's Phone Numbers
Day
Mobile/Home

Little League Baseball®

Tournament Team Eligibility Affidavit

League ID Number(s)
1360112
If playing in combination, enter all numbers

Year: 2026

League Name TULSA NATIONAL LL

League ID 1360112

City TULSA

State/Province OK

Country US

BASEBALL	Levels of Play (check one)	☐ 8-10-Year-Old	☐ 9-11-Year-Old	☒ Little League®
		☐ Intermediate (50/70)	☐ Junior League	☐ Senior League

- A. COMPLETE:** All spaces above must be completed, as well as all spaces for each participant.
- B. DOCUMENTATION:** A Tournament Player Verification Form shall be completed for each player. **NOTE:** Players who established "residence" or "school attendance" for regular season and/or tournament in a prior season using the Tournament Player Verification Form, and can produce the form with proper proofs and signatures, will be permitted to use that form (with documents) and will NOT need to complete a new Player Verification Form. Residency/School Attendance and all other eligibility documentation ("Eligibility Documentation") shall be attached to Tournament Player Verification Forms for each player. The team manager, set forth in the Tournament Team Eligibility Affidavit ("Affidavit") must provide this Affidavit to the Tournament Director at each level of play (District, Sectional, State, Divisional, Regional, World Series). This Affidavit which shall be certified by the District Administrator, or his/her authorized representative. All Residency Documentation shall be established and supported by documents dated or in force between February 1, 2025, and February 1, 2026. School attendance shall be established and supported by a document indicating enrollment for the current academic year, dated prior to October 1, 2025. The Eligibility Documentation will accompany each team and shall be reviewed by the Tournament Director at the Sectional, State, Divisional, Regional, and World Series levels of tournament play.
- C. ELIGIBILITY OF PITCHERS:** The team manager for the team listed herein is solely responsible for ensuring that any pitcher on this team who enters a game is eligible under all conditions listed in the Tournament Rules and Guidelines. *If an ineligible pitcher enters a game, it may result in forfeiture by action of the Tournament Committee in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.*
- D. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS:** A player may be deemed ineligible by the Tournament Committee because of a violation of Little League® Rules and Regulations regarding: 1) participation requirements; 2) league age; 3) residence or school attendance (as defined by Little League Baseball®, Incorporated); or 4) participation in at least 8 regular season games as an eligible player in the proper division(s) (excludes Senior Division). *If the Tournament Committee deems any player to be ineligible, that team shall be disqualified and removed from the International Tournament. The Tournament Committee may take action as a result of a protest or on its own initiative.*
- E. MAP OF BOUNDARIES:** This Affidavit must be further accompanied by a map (the "Boundary Map") showing the actual boundaries of the local Little League named above. The location of each player's parent or legal guardian complete residence (including street address, city, state, and zip code) or the location of the school in which the player is currently enrolled ("residence" and "school attendance" as defined by Little League Baseball, Incorporated) must be clearly marked and noted on the Boundary Map, with references to the names and/or numbers of the players as listed on this Affidavit. The league boundaries as detailed on the Boundary Map must be a physical structure (such as a road), or a geographic feature (such as a river). The boundary line will be considered to be in the center of such structures or features, unless noted otherwise. *Exception: Players qualifying via the enrollment of a sibling league age 7 or younger, or qualifying by age via Regulation II League Choice do not need to have their residence or school displayed on the boundary map.*
- The boundaries must not encroach on the territory of any other chartered Little League's boundaries. The Boundary Map accompanying this Affidavit must be signed and dated by the District Administrator and League President. The Boundary Map depicting the league's boundaries must also be on file with Little League International.
- F. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR OR TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE/DATE:** By initializing the "District Verification" box, the District Administrator verifies that the information regarding this player's eligibility under all regulations [league age, residence or school attendance, participation of a sibling league age 7 or younger or qualifying by age via Regulation II League Choice, and participation in 8 regular season games (excludes Senior Division) prior to the start of tournament play in their respective division] is all in accordance with Little League Rules and Regulations. This may not be completed prior to May 15 and not until the availability and eligibility of all prospective team members has been established.
- G. COMPLIANCE VERIFICATION:** It is agreed and understood that Little League shall have the right to request and require production of additional documentation and/or information which Little League deems necessary to verify complete compliance with all Little League Rules and Regulations and requirements. **NOTE:** This Affidavit is not complete unless: 1) all spaces are properly completed; 2) accompanied by a Boundary Map (E); 3) accompanied by eligibility waivers for any participants otherwise ineligible [Charter Committee or II(d)]; 4) a copy of the "Statement in Lieu of Acceptable Proof of Birth" for all players who lack such acceptable proof, along with copies of all documentation used to obtain the statement; and 5) a Tournament Player Verification Form for every player accompanied by Eligibility Documentation.
- This Affidavit and all accompanying documentation shall not be shared with or provided to opposing teams, media personnel, or any other persons unless specifically approved in writing by Little League Baseball, Incorporated. All personal data collected as part of the Little League Tournament Affidavit process will be handled and stored in accordance with the Little League International Privacy Policy (LittleLeague.org/PrivacyPolicy).*
- H. HEALTH COMPLIANCE:** It is agreed and understood that Little League shall have the right to implement and require measures to mitigate the spread of any illness, including but not limited to, mandatory testing of all participants listed on this affidavit at various levels of the International Tournament. A team may be removed from the tournament for
- 1) failure of any individual to comply with testing requirements;
 - 2) failure of any individual to comply with any mitigation measure implemented by Little League;
 - 3) the inability to field a team for any scheduled game due to isolation and/or quarantine requirements resulting from positive test results; or
 - 4) the inability to field a team for any scheduled game due to requirements established by Little League's health and safety protocols.
- All decisions of the Little League International Tournament Committee regarding player/team eligibility will be final and binding.

CERTIFICATION BY TEAM MANAGER

By my signature below, I certify that all the information contained on this Affidavit is true and correct, to the best of my knowledge. I have read and understand: 1) all of the Little League Rules and Regulations pertaining to eligibility; 2) I am solely responsible for the eligibility of pitchers and players on my team; 3) if an ineligible pitcher participates in a game for any reason, it may result in forfeiture, and/or removal of participants, including players, manager and coaches, or the entire team named herein, from the International Tournament, or any other disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the Tournament Committee in Williamsport; 4) If an ineligible player participates in a game for any reason it will result in removal of the entire team from the International Tournament; 5) I may lodge a protest in accordance with the Tournament Rules and Guidelines, and that my team is not required to continue playing until such protest has been resolved, (A) to my satisfaction, or, (B) by the Tournament Committee in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, the decision of which shall be final and binding; 6) I am solely responsible for the behavior of my team, the supporters, and fans; 7) If I, my coaching staff, or members of my team conduct him/herself in any manner, on or off the field, that does not positively reflect the high standards Little League holds for sportsmanship, integrity, and decorum, the Tournament Committee reserves the right in its sole discretion to discipline the team and/or impose penalties outlined in the Tournament Rules "Responsibility and Chain of Command," and the Tournament Committee's decisions will be final and binding. This includes unsportsmanlike conduct, "making a travesty of the game," or repeatedly/willfully violating any Little League Rules, Regulations, or Operating Policies during a game, at the game site, at any other location or event related to the International Tournament in any manner, or through any digital communication; 8) that I must maintain and be in possession of all required Tournament Player Verification Forms with Eligibility Documentation, Boundary Map, and Affidavit with pitching records throughout all levels of play; 9) that I accept section (H) Health Compliance above. I certify that my coaches and I have completed the required Abuse Awareness training. I further certify that I am fully eligible to be the manager of this tournament team, and the coaches named on this Affidavit are also eligible in accordance with Little League Rules and Regulations. Furthermore, I certify that we have completed the Little League Diamond Leader Training Program (applies to US leagues only).

Signature of Manager _____

Date Signed _____

Signature of Replacement Manager _____

Date Signed _____

(Note: Temporary replacements should not sign.)

CERTIFICATION BY LEAGUE PRESIDENT AND LEAGUE PLAYER AGENT

We, (League President, please print) STEPHEN M SKOCIK,

and (Player Agent, please print) Michael Cox,

have personally reviewed this Affidavit, as well as all Tournament Player Verification forms with supporting Eligibility Documentation (birth records, proof of residence or school attendance as defined by Little League Baseball®, Incorporated, and proof of participation (excludes Senior Division)), and Boundary Map regarding the tournament team herein. We have read and understand all rules and regulations pertaining to the eligibility of all individuals named on this Affidavit. By our signatures below, we certify that the names, dates of birth, and residences/school enrollment (as defined by Little League Baseball, Incorporated) of the persons listed on this Affidavit and the league boundaries as set forth on the Boundary Map are true and correct, and have been substantiated by legal documentation that is acceptable under Little League® Rules, Regulations, and Guidelines. I certify that the manager, coaches, and all players on this Affidavit are fully eligible under all Little League® Rules and Regulations. I certify that any player qualifying via the participation of a sibling league age 7 or younger under Regulation II had a sibling that meets that qualification and was an active participant in the league for the current season or has qualified by age via Regulation II League Choice. I certify that the league has confirmed completion of the required Abuse Awareness training by all league volunteers, including the tournament manager and coach(es). Should a controversy arise, we agree to accept the decision of the Charter Committee/Tournament Committee as final and binding. We accept section (H) Health Compliance above. We agree that the league will follow all Operating Policies as outlined in the current year's Little League Regulations, Playing Rules, and Operating Policies.

Signature of League President _____

Date Signed 6-18-26

Signature of Player Agent _____

Date Signed _____

CERTIFICATIONS BY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR AND ENSUING TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

By my signature below (or that of my authorized representative), I certify that the names, eligibility (as defined by Little League Baseball, Incorporated), and dates of birth of the persons listed on this affidavit are true and correct, and have been substantiated by legal documentation that is acceptable under Little League standards, or statement in lieu thereof from Little League International Headquarters.

Signature of District Administrator M. Abbott

Date Signed _____

* District Officials are verifying that they have reviewed the documents accompanying this Affidavit and they appear to meet Little League standards for tournament participation.

Signature of Sectional Tournament Director _____

Date Signed _____

Signature of State Tournament Director _____

Date Signed 7/1/26

Signature of Divisional Tournament Director _____

Date Signed _____

Signature of Regional Tournament Director _____

Date Signed _____

Signature of World Series Tournament Director _____

Date Signed _____

* Tournament Directors are verifying that they have reviewed the documents accompanying this Affidavit and they appear to meet Little League standards for tournament participation.

PLAYER INFORMATION

PLAYER'S NAME LINE: This should be the player's full name, as listed on the birth document(s). If the name has been changed, then a "Statement in Lieu of Acceptable Proof of Birth" (issued by the Regional Director or District Administrator) is required for that player to be eligible.

ADDRESS: The address listed for each player must be inside the boundaries as detailed on the attached map (required, see "E" on page 1), unless the league has received a waiver from the Charter Committee in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, for the current year for the player in question or the player has a sibling League Age 7 or younger that qualifies under Regulation II and maintained active participation during the current season or qualifying by age via Regulation II League Choice.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: The physical location of the school where the player attends classes is within the boundaries established by the local league (required, see "E" on page 1).

II(D): If the address listed in the player's information is outside the boundaries as detailed on the attached map (required, see "E" on page 1), then that player is eligible ONLY if this affidavit is accompanied by a properly completed and acceptable Regulation II(d) Waiver Form or a written waiver from the Charter Committee in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, for the current year. Please mark the box to indicate that the appropriate form is attached to this affidavit.

DOB: Acceptable proof of birth documents or any ONE of the following: 1) Original proof of age document, if issued by federal, state, or provincial registrars of vital statistics in the country in which the Little League player is participating; 2) If country of participation differs from the country of proof of age document, the proof of age document must be filed, recorded, registered, or issued within one (1) year of the birth of the child; 3) A government-certified copy of the original birth certificate, if the original certificate was filed, recorded, registered, or issued within one (1) year of the birth of the child; 4) A document issued by a local, state, provincial, or national government authority that lists the date of birth, with reference to the location and filed, recorded, registered, or issued date of the original birth certificate. (Such original birth certificate must have been filed, recorded, registered, or issued within one (1) year of the birth of the child.); 5) A "Statement in Lieu of Acceptable Proof of Birth" issued by a Little League Regional Director or District Administrator. **Note:** The proof of birth date documents must personally be inspected by the local Little League President, Player Agent, AND District Administrator (or his/her designated appointee).

GAMES PLAYED BY THE START OF TOURNAMENT PLAY (Excludes Senior Division): If the number of games listed for the player (page 4) is fewer than 8 regular season games, then the player is eligible ONLY if this affidavit is accompanied by a written waiver for the current year from the Charter Committee in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The number must refer only to actual games played by the team (page 3) and player (page 4) prior to the start of tournament play in their respective and/or age-appropriate division. **Note:** Forfeited games shall not count towards a team's 12-game regular season nor towards any player's games played requirement. This may not be completed prior to May 15 and not until the availability and eligibility of all prospective team members has been established. **Exception:** The period during which a candidate was a member of a middle school, junior high school, or high school baseball or softball team, is not to be considered in this evaluation. If this is the case, games played as a member of a school team must be noted on a separate sheet and carried with this affidavit. (See "Eligibility" in Tournament Rules and Guidelines.) A local league Board of Directors may permit a player to be eligible for selection who does not meet the games played requirement, if they provide a physician's note documenting an injury or illness prior to or during the current season prohibiting his/her participation and such note releases the player for the balance of the Regular Season and/or Tournament play.

REGULAR SEASON TEAM INFORMATION

Please list all regular season teams for players listed on this affidavit.

Regular Season Team Code: The letter associated with the team. The team noted must be a team in the proper or age-appropriate division of this league or a team in a combination approved by the Regional Director for the level of play on the front page of this Affidavit.

For example, players league age 12 may be tournament eligible for the Little League (Major), Little League Intermediate (50/70), Junior League, or Senior League tournament team with regular season participation in the Major Division. See the current year's Tournament Rules or visit LittleLeague.org/Tournament to fully review Tournament Player Eligibility.

Team Name: Name as it appears on the regular season roster.

Code	TEAM NAME	GAMES PLAYED BY START OF TOURNAMENT	REGULAR SEASON DIVISION	LEAGUE I.D. NUMBER
Z	Tigers	15	LL Major	9999
A	Cardinals	12	Major	1360112
B	Mudcats	12	Major	1360112
C	Rough Riders	12	Major	1360112
D	Royals	12	Major	1360112
E				
F				
G				
H				
I				
J				
K				
L				
M				
N				
O				
P				

MANAGER/COACH INFORMATION

Phone Number(s): List primary and mobile numbers. This will assist District staff in case of game rescheduling.

	Name	Email Address	Team Code	Primary Phone	Mobile Phone (if different)
M	Abbott, Cole		A		
C	Leu, Trevor		A		
C	Robinson, Stepen		B		

PLAYER INFORMATION

Player Name		Team Code	League Age	District Staff Verification
Address of Parent or Legal Guardian or Address of School		Games played by start of Tournament by this player	Type of Waiver	
Birthdate (MM/DD/YY)	Residence or School Inside Map? ☐ Yes ☐ No			
Ex.		Team Code	12	Initials
		2		I.N.T.
		Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☐ Sibling Participation ☐ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
		15		06/15/2025
1.		Team Code	10	Initials
		C		MA
		Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☐ Sibling Participation ☐ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
		12		6/14
2.		Team Code	12	Initials
		B		MA
		Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☐ Sibling Participation ☐ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
		12		6/14
3.		Team Code	12	Initials
		B		MA
		Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☐ Sibling Participation ☐ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
		12		6/14
4.	G, C	Team Code	12	Initials
		C		MA
		Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☐ Sibling Participation ☒ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
		12		6/14
5.		Team Code	11	Initials
		B		MA
		Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☐ Sibling Participation ☒ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
		12		6/14
6.		Team Code	11	Initials
		A		MA
		Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☐ Sibling Participation ☐ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
		12		6/14

Note Roster Size: Each roster must carry a minimum of 12 players unless waived by the District Administrator with their signature on this affidavit. Maximum rosters size is 14 (16 for Senior League).

7.			Team Code	12	Initials
			A		MA
			Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☐ Sibling Participation ☐ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
		Residence or School Inside Map? ☒ Yes ☐ No	12		6/16
8.			Team Code	12	Initials
			B		MA
			Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☐ Sibling Participation ☒ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
		Residence or School Inside Map? ☐ Yes ☒ No	12		6/16
9.			Team Code	12	Initials
			B		MA
			Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☐ Sibling Participation ☐ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
		Residence or School Inside Map? ☒ Yes ☐ No	12		2/12
10.			Team Code	12	Initials
			C		MA
			Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☐ Sibling Participation ☐ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
		Residence or School Inside Map? ☒ Yes ☐ No	12		6/16
11.			Team Code	12	Initials
			B		MA
			Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☐ Sibling Participation ☐ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
		Residence or School Inside Map? ☒ Yes ☐ No	12		6/16
12.			Team Code	11	Initials
			C		MA
			Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☐ Sibling Participation ☐ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
		Residence or School Inside Map? ☒ Yes ☐ No	12		6/16
13.			Team Code	12	Initials
			B		MA
			Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☒ Sibling Participation ☐ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
		Residence or School Inside Map? ☐ Yes ☐ No	12		6/16
14.			Team Code	12	Initials
			A		MA
			Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☐ Sibling Participation ☐ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
		Residence or School Inside Map? ☒ Yes ☐ No	12		6/16
15.			Team Code		Initials
			Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☐ Sibling Participation ☐ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
		Residence or School Inside Map? ☐ Yes ☐ No			4
16.			Team Code		Initials
			Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☐ Sibling Participation ☐ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
		Residence or School Inside Map? ☐ Yes ☐ No			

PLAYER REPLACEMENT

The spaces below are to be used for replacement of players. Such replacements MUST be permanent only. When a player is replaced, his/her original space shall be marked with a HEAVY black line. Once a player on the original affidavit is replaced, he/she cannot return to the team. Exceptions can only be made in writing by the Tournament Committee in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

* Tournament Directors are verifying that they have reviewed the documents accompanying this Affidavit and they appear to meet Little League standards for tournament participation.

Address of Parent or Legal Guardian or Address of School		Team Code	League Age	Tournament Director Verification
Birthdate (MM/DD/YY)	Residence or School Inside Map? ☐ Yes ☐ No	Games played by start of Tournament by this player	Type of Waiver	
A.		Team Code		Initials
		Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☐ Sibling Participation ☐ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
	Residence or School Inside Map? ☐ Yes ☐ No			
B.		Team Code		Initials
		Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☐ Sibling Participation ☐ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
	Residence or School Inside Map? ☐ Yes ☐ No			
C.		Team Code		Initials
		Games Played	☐ Reg II(d) ☐ Sibling Participation ☐ Charter Committee ☐ League Choice	Date App.
	Residence or School Inside Map? ☐ Yes ☐ No			

MANAGER/COACH REPLACEMENT

Temporary replacement of a manger or coach must be entered each time an individual serves as a temporary manager or coach. After the first time an individual serves as temporary replacement for a manager or coach at any level of tournament play, that individual cannot be used again in the tournament until 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. Violations of these requirements are subject to action by the Tournament Committee in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. When a manager or coach is permanently replaced, his/her original space on page 4 shall be marked with a HEAVY black line. Once a manager or coach on the original affidavit is replaced, he/she cannot return to manage or coach the team. Exceptions can only be made in writing by the Tournament Committee in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

	Name	Email Address	Team Code	Primary Phone	Secondary Phone	P/T	Date
M							
C							
M							
C							
M							
C							
M							
C							
M							
C							

League: TULSA NATIONAL LL (#1360112)
Division: Little League®

Senior League

League Age	Max Pitches Per Day	# of Pitches Thrown	Days of Rest
8	50	1 - 20	0
9-10	75	21 - 35	1
11-12	85	36 - 50	2
13-14	95	51 - 65	3
		> 65	4

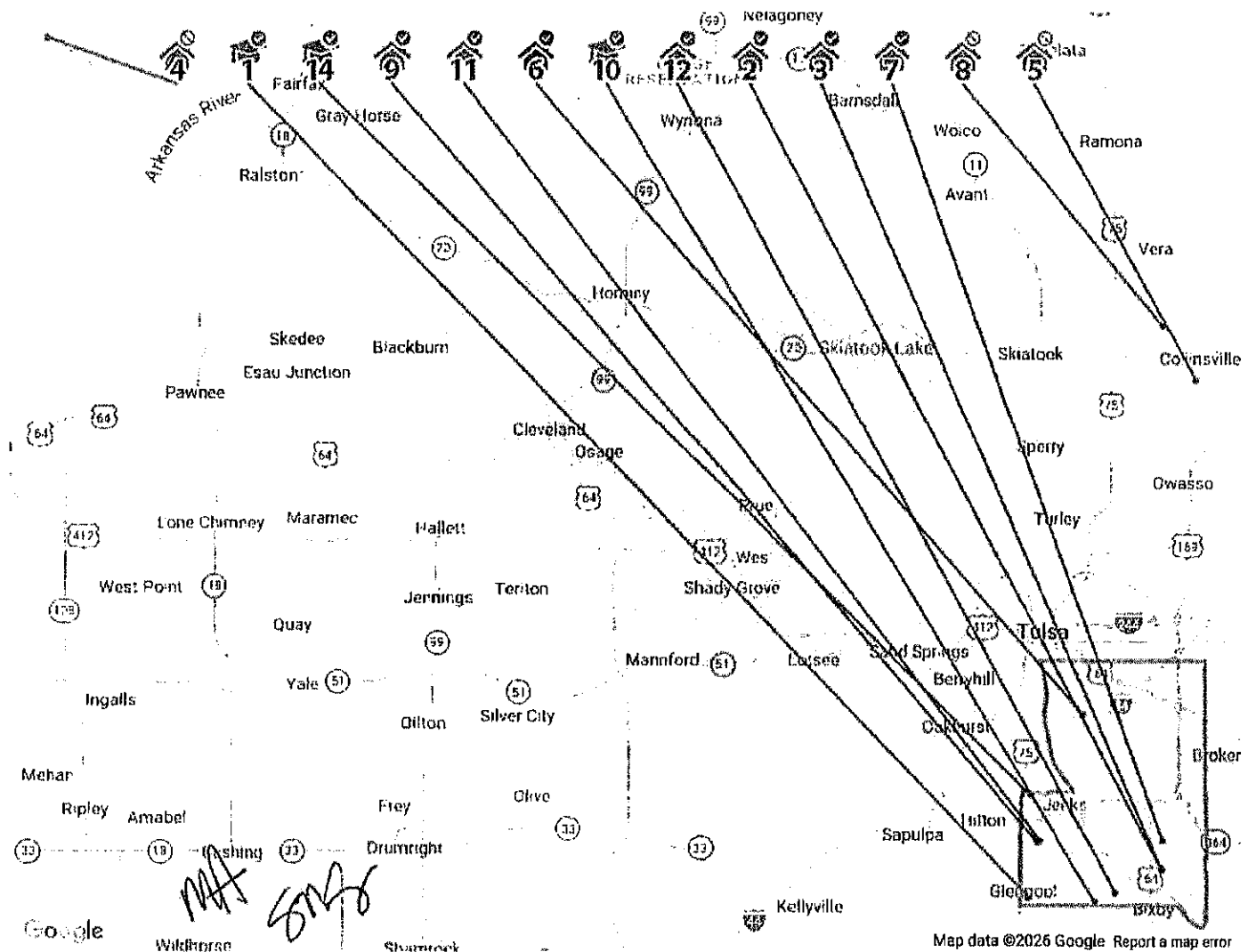
League Age	Max Pitches Per Day	# of Pitches Thrown	Days of Rest
12-16	95	1 - 30	0
		31 - 45	1
		46 - 60	2
		61 - 75	3
		> 75	4

[illegible][illegible]

*** Under no circumstance shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days (Tournament Rule 4)

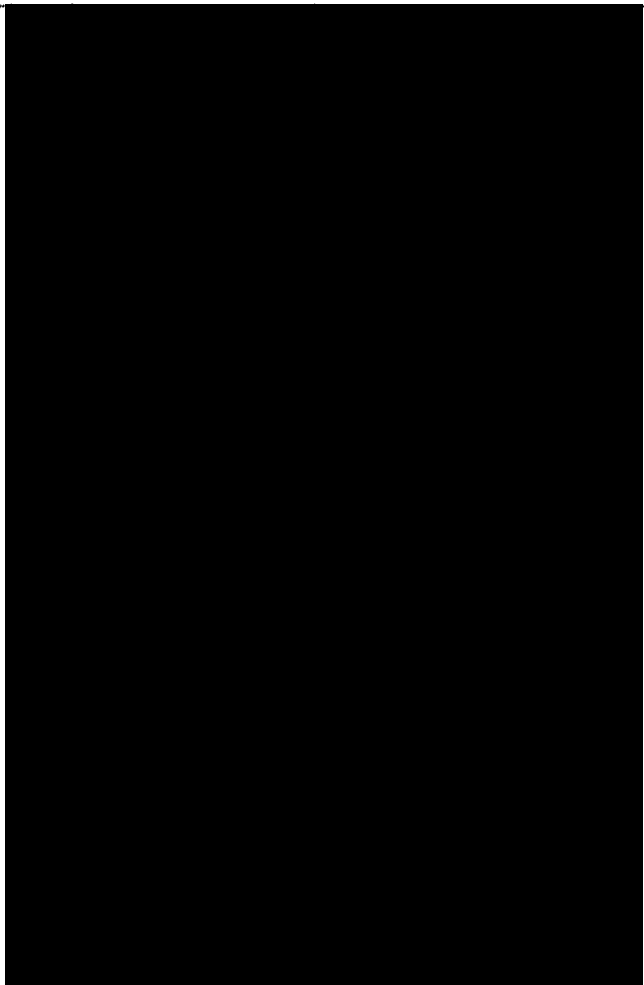
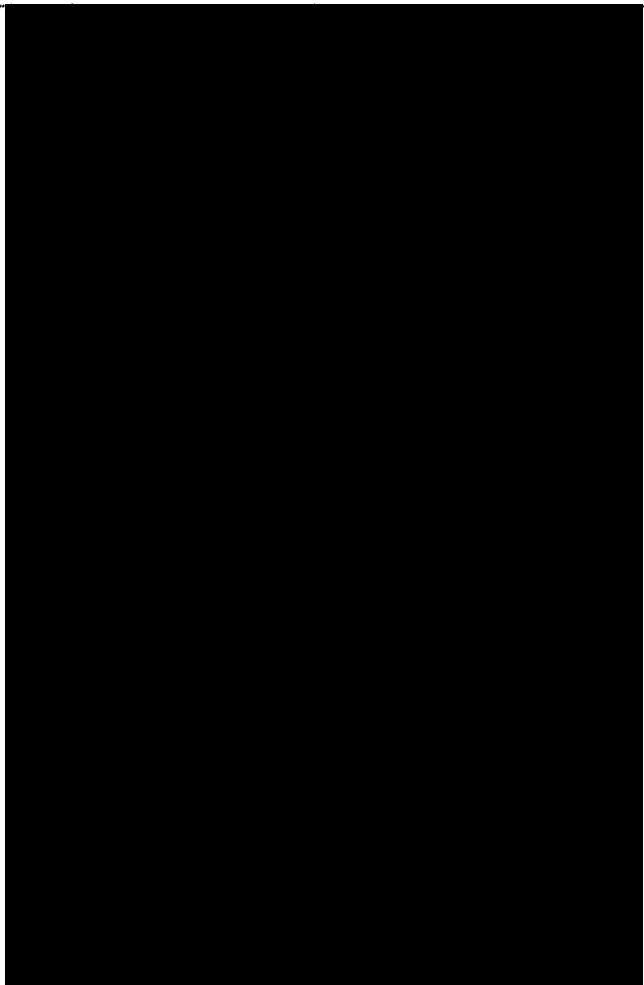
Affidavit ID# 2026-131-111897
TULSA NATIONAL LL (#1360112)

Player Map ID# 1271646818
Little League Baseball® - Little League Tournament



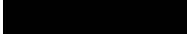
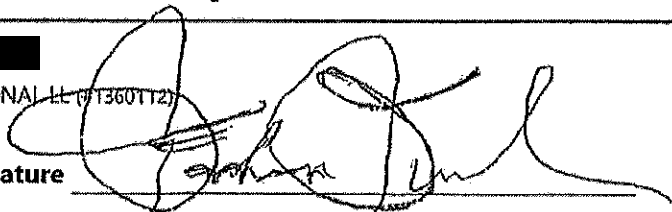
Players Using Residence or School Eligibility

#	Player	Address	Type	In/Out	Waiver
1			 School	 In	
2			 Home	 In	
3			 Home	 In	
4			G O	 Home	 Out
	TULSA NATIONAL LL (#1360112)				

#	Player	Address	Type	In/Out	Waiver
5			 Home	 Out	Charter Committee
6			 Home	 In	
7			 Home	 In	
8			 Home	 Out	Charter Committee
9			 Home	 In	
10			 School	 In	
11			 Home	 In	
12			 Home	 In	
14			 School	 In	

Addresses are plotted on the map using latitude/longitude coordinates from Google Maps. Any address(es) designated "**Approximate Address Match**" are plotted at an approximate location based on a partial address match. Additional verification is recommended for these addresses to ensure that these players meet eligibility requirements.

Players Using Other Eligibility Methods

#	Player	Eligibility Method
13	 TULSA NATIONAL LL (91360112)	Sibling Participation
League President Signature 		Date Signed <u>6-16-26</u>
District Administrator Signature 		Date Signed <u>6-17-26</u>

Affidavit ID# 2026-131-111897

Player Map ID# 1271646818

EXHIBIT C



July 7, 2026

Stephen Skocik, President
Tulsa National Little League

Stephen:

This letter is to acknowledge that the following player(s) is/are eligible for selection to a Little League International Tournament team for **Tulsa National Little League for the 2026 tournament season due to a technical error related with the Sports Connect Central Registration System and the Little League Data Center.**

Player	League Age	League Choice Sibling
C G	12	
	11	
	12	

Approval is granted based on the confirmation from the parents of the sibling relationship and confirmation from the league that the league choice sibling was registered and was an active participant within the league for the entire 2026 season.

Proper entry within the tournament affidavit will need to be manually input with the designation of Charter Committee Waiver.

This letter shall accompany each tournament team player listed above.

Best wishes for a safe and successful 2026 tournament season.

Sincerely,

Little League International Charter Committee
539 US Route 15 Highway
PO Box 3485
Williamsport, PA 17701



CC: Mindy Abbott – DA, OK-01

EXHIBIT D

Subject:

FW: Tulsa National LLBB Team

From: Blaine Whitmire <bwhitmire@littleleague.org>

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2026 12:36 PM

To: Stephen Skocik <stephen.skocik@gmail.com>

Cc: Mindy Abbott <coleabbott16@icloud.com>; Mindy Abbott <oklahomalittleleague@yahoo.com>

Subject: Tulsa National LLBB Team

Internal Email: This email originated from Little League's email system.

Stephen,

Following multiple protests regarding the eligibility of players on the Tulsa National Little League Baseball team, the Little League International Tournament Committee has determined that a player who participated on the team is ineligible.

As a result, the committee has removed Tulsa National Little League from the Little League Baseball Southwest Region Tournament and declared its previous game a forfeit. The decision of the Little League International Tournament Committee is final and binding.

Thanks,

Blaine Whitmire

Southwest Region Director

Little League International

p. 254-756-1816 ext. 5001

a. 3700 S. University Parks Drive Waco, TX 76706

<https://www.littleleague.org/region/southwest-region/>

