

2025 Little League Regular Season Rules Meeting
PA District 16/31
Wilkes-Barre High School
March 30, 2025

Rule Changes

Updates to Tournament Tie Game Rule

Directly impacting Tournament Rule 14, this change eliminates playing the seventh inning (Intermediate/Junior/Senior League: eighth inning) as normal for all tournament games that are tied after regulation. Now, the tiebreaker will begin immediately in the seventh inning (Intermediate/Junior/Senior League: eighth inning) by placing the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning on second base to begin each extra inning.

Rule Changes

Mandatory Play Removed in Senior League

Beginning with the 2025 season, the Mandatory Play requirement does not apply to the Senior League Baseball or Senior League Softball Divisions of play.

Rule Changes

One-Way Electronic Devices to the Catcher

As technology on and off the field continues to evolve, Little League has adjusted its Rule 3.17 in both baseball and softball to add an exception that permits a coach or manager to use one-way communication to the catcher while the team is on defense for the purpose of calling pitches. However, 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.

Rule Changes

Updates to Pregame Equipment Inspections

With adjustments made to both Rule 3.01 and Tournament Rule 3, the requirement for umpires to check equipment prior to the start of the game has been removed, placing responsibility for legal and proper equipment on the manager.

Rule Changes

Apparel and Equipment Regulations

- Bat Modifications/Alterations: Clarifies that products, such as, but not limited to, choke-knobs, choke-up assists, or thumb protectors are considered alterations to the bat and are not permitted.
- Pitcher's Undershirt (Softball Only): Clarifies that any part of the pitcher's undershirt or T-Shirt exposed to view cannot be the same color of the ball being used in the game.
- Neoprene Sleeves (Baseball Only): Permits neoprene sleeves to be worn without being covered by an undershirt, provided the neoprene sleeve is a solid color and not white or gray.
- Jewelry: Removes Rule 1.11(j) to remove the requirement that jewelry, other than medical alert, should be removed, permitting jewelry to be worn.
- Items Worn on Hands/Wrists: Clarifies that a pitcher may wear items on the glove hand, wrist, or arm (non-pitching arm) of a solid single color, provided it is not the same color as the ball being used in the game.
- Helmet Stickers: Permits the use of helmet stickers or decals, provided that such usage is not excessive, is not offensive, and does not make inappropriate references, such as that to drugs or alcohol.
- Approved Substances on Pitching Hand/Fingers (Softball Only): Clarifies non-approved substances on the pitching hand or fingers versus the use of approved substances under the judgement of the umpire.

Preliminary Rules

- Start promptly ON TIME
- Plate meeting will occur prior to game time.
- Three Coaches allowed in dugout
 - One coach must always be in the dugout

Preliminary Rules (cont.)

- Each team should provide 2 balls for the game
- No bats in hands in dugout
- Only one on-deck batter at the beginning of the next inning
- On-deck batters getting bats must have a helmet

Preliminary Rules (cont.)

- No Jewelry (unless exceptions)
- If a pitcher is warming up during the inning from inside the field, another player, with a helmet and a glove must accompany them and face toward the field.
- Coaches may warm up the pitchers between innings (Regular Season)
- Players must have a Catcher's mask with throat guard and a cup

Mandatory Play

- Regular Season: 6 Defensive outs and 1 at-bat
- Must complete their run around the bases

Equipment

- Make sure that the field is lined properly. Baselines (2 inch baseball/4 inch softball), runners lanes, batter's boxes (6ft/3ft)
- USA Bats for Baseball, 1.20 BPF for Softball
- Ball must be Little League Approved
- Dangling Throat Guards
 - Mandatory during warm-ups and games
- Protective Cup
- Arm Bands

Substitutions

- Player for player in the same lineup spot (unless using CBO)
- Special Pinch Runner
 - Once Each Inning
 - Does not apply if you're using continuous batting order
- Courtesy Runners
 - Pitcher or catcher with 2 outs (last recorded out or player on bench)
- A pitcher may be substituted for a batter once and still remain able to pitch as long as he has not been removed from the mound. (Once per game)

Batting

- One offensive timeout per inning
- One foot in the box
 - Warning then strike on batter
- Bunt (Baseball vs. Softball)
- Foul Ball vs. Foul Tip
- Uncaught Third Strike
 - First base open unless 2 out
 - Uncaught third is not played in the 8-10 division

Pitching

- Softball: Leaping is legal
- Illegal pitches (ball to batter)
- Visits
 - 1 per inning (second out); 8-10: 2 per inning (3rd out)
 - 2 per game (third out); 8-10: 3 per game (4th out)

Pitching (cont.)

- Pitchers cannot become catchers after 40 pitches (complete at-bat)
- Catchers cannot become pitchers after 4 innings (1 pitch = inning)
- Intentional Walks can be called at any time (add pitches to pitch count for baseball)
 - Second Intentional Walk must be thrown (per player)

Running

- Stealing rules (baseball vs. softball)
 - Baseball as ball cross plate
 - Softball on release of the pitch (8-10 ball crosses plate)
- Infield Fly
- Double First Base Rules
- No head first slides (only back into a base)
- Slide to avoid contact

Running (Softball)

- Circle Rule
 - Runner needs to decide which base
 - If pitcher makes a play, ball is live

Obstruction vs. Interference

- Obstruction occurs on the defense for impeding a runner without the ball
 - Entitled to base umpire thought they would have if the obstruction did not occur
 - Catcher's Interference
- Interference occurs on the offense for impeding the fielder
 - Runs into or causes a fielder to change course
 - Ball hits runner off the bat before a fielder has chance to make a play
 - Batter's Interference
 - Verbal Interference

Appeals

- Proper appeals must be made...
- Let the umpire know what you are appealing.

Dead Ball Areas

- 1 from mound
- 2 from field
- Based on time of throw

Run Rules

- 15 after 3 innings
- 10 after 4 innings
- 8 after 5 innings (Regular Season Only)

Extra Innings

- 7th inning will start with the last batter in the order on 2nd (i.e. 4 spot up to bat, 3 spot put on 2nd).

Jewelry

- Jewelry is now allowed.
- Umpires have judgement of distracting jewelry by a pitcher

Pace of Play

- Only 1 minute between innings
- Keep conferences to 1 minute

Weather Delays

- 30 minute delay after the most recent lightning/thunder strike

Conduct

- Umpires have jurisdiction once a game begins and determine field conditions throughout the game.
- No arguing of judgment calls (balls, strikes, safe, out, fair/foul)
- Wait until time is called to leave dugout to talk to an umpire or mound visit.
- Coaches are in charge of fan behavior. If a fan needs to be removed, it is the game manager's responsibility. Let the crew chief know who the game manager will be.

Scheduling/Concerns

- We will be doing our best to get all games scheduled. If you do not have an umpire prior to a game, you will be notified.
- Please have a contact person to contact Dave Baker or Dave Buchinski if a game is being cancelled or moved. If an umpire shows up to a field with no game and we were not contacted, that umpire shall receive full game fee.
- If there are any rules questions or concerns regarding umpires within games, please call Dave Baker or Dave Buchinski! Follow chain of command. Bob should not be involved with these concerns prior to discussion with the UIC.

District Contacts

- [Bob Bertoni: 570-574-5075](tel:570-574-5075)
- [Dave Baker: 570-574-6730](tel:570-574-6730)
- [Dave Buchinski: 570-262-5970](tel:570-262-5970)
- [Baseball: John Callahan: 570-479-1188](tel:570-479-1188)
- [Softball: Bill Kern: 570-498-5991](tel:570-498-5991)

QUESTIONS????

GOOD LUCK!!!

HAVE A GREAT SEASON!!!
