

2026 Little League Regular Season Rules Meeting
PA District 16/31
Greater Nanticoke Area High School
April 12, 2026

Rule Changes

Use of Pine Tar: Permits the use of pine tar or any other similar adhesive substance at all levels.

Products to Assist the Batter: Choke-knobs and choke-up assists are not permitted.

Sleeves Worn by the Pitcher: Removed "neoprene" sleeve to now include all sleeves.

Rule Changes

Courtesy Runner: Clarifies the placement of runners when the courtesy runner is used with 2 outs.

Malfunctioning One-Way Device: Must provide reasonable amount of time to fix device.

When a Player is Injured, Ill, or Leaves the Game Site: Skip to the next batter in the lineup.

Rule Changes

Double First Base: The fielder and runner can use either part of the base.

Visits to the pitcher and Returning as Pitcher (SB): The number of visits remaining does not prevent a pitcher once removed as returning as pitcher.

Preliminary Rules

- Responsibility for legal and proper equipment is on the manager.

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.)

- Jewelry is now allowed
- 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)

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 allowed.
- Umpires have judgement of removing 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
- Umpires of discretion of field conditions once game has started

Conduct

- 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, Dave Buchinski, or Mike Lehman 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, Dave Buchinski, or Mike Lehman! 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)
- [Mike Lehman: 570-899-0590](tel:570-899-0590)
- [Softball: Bill Kern: 570-498-5991](tel:570-498-5991)

QUESTIONS????

GOOD LUCK!!!

HAVE A GREAT SEASON!!!
