

2025 Little League Tournament Rules Meeting
PA District 16/31
June 9, 2025
Wilkes-Barre High School

Score Reporting

- Umpires will text the final score and number of innings to **Dave Baker @ 570-574-6730** for record keeping and to update the website.

Pre-Game Practice

- Team on whose field the game is played may practice from 5:00 to 5:20pm.
- The other team may practice from 5:20pm to 5:40pm.
- From 5:40 to 5:55 pm the field must be free for pre-game care.
- At 6:00 pm, introduction of teams will take place and remain there for the National Anthem and Little League Pledge.

:20 minutes for Home Team on field practice
:20 minutes for Away Team on field practice
:15 minutes for pre-game field care and Plate Meeting
:10 for team introduction, National Anthem and Little League Pledge.

Preliminary Rules

- No more equipment checks: Umpires shall ask at pre-game meeting if players are properly equipped according to Little League rules.
- An umpire or game manager will conduct a coin toss prior to the game to establish home/away. Furthest traveling team will call the toss.
- Plate meeting will occur 10 minutes prior to game time.
 - Have lineups for the plate umpire
- 3 Coaches at all times
 - Warm-ups and during game (infraction = ejection of manager)
 - Extra coaches or parents may not coach from outside the dugout.
 - Book must be kept from inside the dugout
 - One coach must always be in the dugout

Preliminary Rules (cont.)

- Each team will provide 2 balls for the game
- Official book and pitch counter will be in the press box
- 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 allowed: Unless deemed distracting or a safety issue
- Arm Bands: Must be worn on non-pitching hand and not on belt
 - Must be a solid color: not white, gray, or optic yellow (softball)
 - SLEEVES may be worn as long as they meet the same color standards.
- 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.
- Only players may warm up the pitchers
 - Must have a Catcher's mask with throat guard and a cup

Mandatory Play

- Tournament: Continuous Batting Order
 - May use a courtesy runner for pitcher or catcher with 2 outs
 - Last out will be runner
- Defensive substitutions can be made at any point-in-time
- If a player is injured and does not return, umpires are to mark it on lineup cards and report to Dave Baker.

Equipment

- Make sure that the field is lined properly. Baselines (2 inch baseball/4 inch softball), runners lanes, batter's boxes
- 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

Substitutions

- Defensive substitutions may happen at any point in time.
- All substitutions (i.e. pitching changes, courtesy runners, etc.) will come through the umpire. Umpire and coach will give the changes to the official book.

Batting

- One offensive timeout per inning
- One foot in the box
 - Warning then strike on batter
- 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

- Know your pitch count rules (Official count will come from press box)
 - Umpires are not to get involved with pitch count rules
 - May finish batter and revert back to threshold
- Illegal pitches (ball to batter): i.e. starting and stopping with a runner on with runners on base. Nothing with bases empty.
- 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)
 - You will be charged with a visit if you go out between innings to talk to your players.

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)
 - Only one announced intentional walk per player. A second one to the same player must be pitched.

Running

- Stealing rules (baseball vs. softball)
 - Baseball as ball crosses plate
 - Softball on release of the pitch (8-10 ball crosses plate)
- Courtesy Runners: 2 outs for pitcher and catcher
 - Last out of the inning.
- Infield Fly
- Double First Base Rules
- No head first slides
- Slide to avoid contact

Running (Softball)

- Circle Rule
 - Runner needs to decide which base
 - If pitcher makes a play, ball is live
 - Make sure we have a circle in all games

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
 - Runner's Lane (Make sure we have one)
 - Verbal Interference

Appeals

- Proper appeals must be made... LIVE BALL
- 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

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).

Weather Delays

- 30 minute delay after the most recent lightning/thunder strike
- If we have inclement weather and we do not think we can get a full game in, call the District Administrator to get input if we should delay or postpone.
- Please have volunteers ready to go to cover fields and work on them.
- Curfew: Cannot start an inning after midnight.

Protests

- Crew Chief will find the game manager and call Bob Bertoni: 570-574-5075. The Crew Chief will explain the protest. Bob will give a ruling.
- If you don't like the ruling, Crew Chief will ask Bob to call Bristol.
- If you do not like their ruling, Crew Chief will ask Bob to call Williamsport. Their ruling is final.
If you cannot get in touch with Bob, you may call Dave Baker or Dave Buchinski

Conduct

- NO TOBACCO PRODUCTS!! AUTOMATIC EJECTION!!
- 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)
 - Player Body Language - Pitching, strike zone, throwing equipment
- Coaches must stay inside dugouts! No sitting on buckets outside of dead ball territory!
- Wait until time is called to leave dugout to talk to an umpire or mound visit.
- Game managers 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.

Tournament Contacts

- District Administrator - Bob Bertoni: 570-574-5075
- Umpire-in-Chief - Dave Baker: 570-574-6730
- Assistant UIC - Dave Buchinski: 570-262-5970
- Softball ADA - Bill Kern: 570-498-5991
- Information Officer - Phil Schoener: 570-905-6902

QUESTIONS????

GOOD LUCK!!!

HAVE A GREAT
TOURNAMENT!!!