

2025 Little League Baseball Tournament Rule Differences

	8-10 Baseball	9-11 Baseball	Major Baseball	Intermediate 50/70	Junior Baseball	Senior Baseball
Participation (NOTE 2)	Regulation IV (a) Note 2: Consistent with a manager’s ability to conduct the affairs of his/her team; a manager may remove a player(s) from the team, subject to Board of Directors approval, for the current season if the player(s) repeatedly misses practices or games. Manager must make B of D aware of situation ASAP.					
Eligibility Play 8 games of scheduled & played 12 game season	8–10-year-old Division	9–11-year-old Division	10-, 11-, or 12-year-old Major Division	11-, 12- or 13-year old Division	12-, 13- or 14-year old Division	12-, 13-, 14-, 15- or 16-Year-old Division (No minimum games played requirement)
Managers & Coaches	Teams are allowed three (3) eligible coaches in the dugout regardless of tournament team roster size. Managers and coaches are NOT allowed to warm-up pitchers.					
Roster Size (Max)	14 players				14 players	16 players
Mandatory Play Requirement (Rule 9)	MANAGERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FULFILLING MANDATORY PLAY. CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER (CBO): 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.					Not required
Mandatory Play Requirement (Rule 9 (a))	MANAGERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FULFILLING MANDATORY PLAY. A player may be entered and/or re-entered defensively in the game at any time. Rule Change 2023: There is no defensive mandatory play requirement. 2024 Rule Change: Rule 2.00 At Bat: Running requirement does not apply in tournament play.					Not required
Manager Responsibility (Rule 9 (a) & (c))	Failure to meet MPR. SEE ATTACHMENT FOR RULE 9					Not required
Curfew	No new inning starts after 12:00 Midnight			No new inning starts after 12:30 AM		No new inning starts after 1:00 AM
Equipment	No metal cleats, long or short model chest protector for male catcher, protective cup, no skull caps, dangling throat protector and 6 NOCSAE batting helmets (non-glare surfaces) (NO paint)			Metal cleats, long or short model chest protector for male catcher, protective cup, no skull caps, dangling throat protector and 7 NOCSAE batting helmets (non-glare surfaces) (NO paint)		
Modifying Helmets	No attachments can be added to batting helmets without written approval from that helmet manufacturer.					
Bats (Rule 1.10)	Max. Length 33”-Max. Diameter 2 5/8” with USA Baseball logo.			Max.Length-34” Max. D-2 5/8” All bats must be USA Baseball or BBCOR		Max. Length-36”-Max. Diameter-2 5/8” ALL bats must be marked BBCOR
	NO Softball Bats					
Illegal Bats-Penalty (6.06 d)	If a batter uses an illegal bat and is discovered before the next batter enters the batter’s box 1. The opposing Manager may decline the rule and take the play, 2. The Manager of the offensive team is ejected, and the batter is ejected plus the offensive team will lose (1) adult base coach for the duration of the game.					
Pitching—Rest	Age 8:50 Pitches/day Age 9-10: 75 Pitches 1 to 20: No Rest 21 to 35: 1 day 36 to 50: 2 days 51 to 65: 3 days 66 or more: 4 days	Age 10: 75 Pitches Pitches/day Age 11: 85 Pitches Pitches/day Same Rest	Age 11 to 12: 85 Pitches/day Same Rest	Age 11 to 12: 85 Pitches/day Age 13 to 14: 95 Pitches/day Same Rest		Age 15 to 16 Senior: 95 Pitches/day 1 to 30: No Rest 31 to 45: 1 Day 46 to 60: 2 Days 61 to 75: 3 Days 76 or More: 4 days
Pitching Exceptions (Threshold vs. Rest) Regulation VI (d)	If a pitcher reaches a day(s) of rest threshold while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until anyone of the following conditions occurs: 1. That batter reaches base; 2. That batter is retired; The 3 rd out is made to complete the half-inning. The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he/she reached during that at-bat, provided that pitcher is removed before delivering a pitch to another batter.					
Pitching Hand (8.01 f)	A pitcher must indicate visually which hand he/she will pitch to a batter and can’t change hands with same batter.					
Pitcher to Catcher Restriction	A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game CANNOT play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day. Doesn’t pertain to THRESHOLDING A PITCHER.					
Catcher to Pitcher Restriction	Any player that has played the position of catcher in any part of 4 or more innings in a game CANNOT pitch for the remainder of that day.					
Responsibility	Manager is responsible to remove pitcher when he/she reaches age limit on pitches.					
Congress Rule Change	NO pitcher will be permitted to pitch in 3 consecutive days. (T4 (e) Note 1)					
Consecutive Games	If less than 20 pitches were pitched in previous game.			If less than 30 pitches in 1 st game.		

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Return to Mound (Rule 4 c.)	Pitchers once removed from the mound may NOT return as pitchers.			A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, may return as a pitcher any time in the remainder of the game, but only once per game. Visit count does not reset. (T Rule 4 c)		
Pitch in Two (2) games in one day	SEE Rule 4. f. and the Division of Play					
No Eligible Substitutes (Rule 10 a)	Opposing manager shall select player to enter as substitute if no eligible substitutes are available.					
Defensive Conferences (Visits) With Pitcher or any other defensive player.	3 in the same inning or 4 th time in game change pitcher.	1 in an inning, pitcher must be removed from the mound on the 2 nd visit in the same inning. Pitcher must be removed from the mound on the 3 rd visit in the game.				
	Visit count resets with each pitching change. Coaches may go to the mound to visit pitcher, catcher, or any other defensive players.			Visit count resets for new pitcher but does NOT reset for returning pitcher.		
Offensive Conferences (Rule 7)	Only ONE (1) per inning.					
Protests: All Protests are to be called in to the DA Immediately!!!!	Playing Rules: Before next pitch/play/attempted play. Ineligible pitcher: Before the umpires leave the playing field. Ineligible player: As soon as facts become known by accuser, but in any event before the next game for either team.					
10 Run Rule	After 4 innings, 3 ½ if home team is ahead			After 5 innings, 4 ½ if home team is ahead		
15 Run Rule	After 3 innings, 2 ½ if home team is ahead			After 4 innings, 3 ½ if home team is ahead		
Tie Breaker	7 th Inning Player scheduled to bat last at second base, no outs.			8 th Inning Player scheduled to bat last at second base, no outs.		
Uncaught 3rd Strike (Rule 3 c)	Batter is out.	Third strike is not caught by the catcher when first base is occupied before two are out. See Rule 6.05 (b) & 6.09 (b)				
On-Deck Batter	Not permitted—Only the lead-off batter is permitted outside the dugout between half-innings			Permitted, on deck batters must stay on their teams side of the dugout.		
Courtesy Runner (Rule 3 d)	JUNIORS & BELOW: 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.					
Special Pinch Runner (Rule 3 d)	SENIOR DIVISION ONLY: Twice a game but not more than one time per inning, a team may utilize a player who is not 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.					
Base Coaches (Rule 6)	2 Adult base coaches allowed at all levels provided that 1 adult coach remains in dugout at all times. (NOTE: See Rule 4.05)					
Designated Hitter (Rule 10 h)	Not Allowed				Allowed-Rule 3.03(e)	
Regulation Game (Complete)	6 full innings, 5 ½ if home team is ahead			7 full innings, 6 ½ innings if home team is ahead		
Regulation Game (Called)	4 full innings or 3 ½ innings if home team is ahead			5 full innings or 4 ½ innings if home team is ahead		
Batter-1 foot in box (Rule 3 a)	After entering the batter’s box, the batter must keep 1 foot in the box, with exceptions. After one warning on a batter, the umpire shall call a strike. Any number of strikes can be called on each batter. Minor/Major Divisions: No pitch has to be thrown, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance. Intermediate (50/70)/Junior/Senior: No pitch has to be thrown and the ball is live.					
Stealing Signs	The stealing of “signs” is unsportsmanlike behavior and MAY result in the ejection of the Player and the Manager.					
Ejections (Rule 17)	See Rule 4.07—Coach or manager ejected cannot be replaced.					