

# T-Mobile LITTLE LEAGUE HOME RUN DERBY

## Local Competition Operator Rules & Regulations

*\*All participating leagues should follow their state and local government's guidelines surrounding youth sports participation, public gatherings, and mitigation recommendations prior to hosting a local event. All rules within the [Little League® Rulebook](#) are to be implemented and the [Best Practices on Organizing, Playing, and Watching Little League During Coronavirus Pandemic](#) should be used as a reference during the competition; including, but not limited to those contained below:*

### Participant Eligibility

- Only chartered Little Leagues are eligible to host a local competition.
- Participants must currently be registered and meet all eligibility requirements within their chartered Little League for the 2021 season.
- The Baseball competition is open to athletes [league age](#) 9 – 12 years old.
- The Softball competition is limited to female athletes [league age](#) 9 – 12 years old.
- All Home Run Derby Local Operators must agree to comply with the following before registering: 1) all of the T-Mobile Little League Home Run Derby Rules and Regulations; 2) Terms & Conditions; 3) Privacy Policy; and 4) will maintain and have in their possession all required releases and event documents. The local operator must further certify that they are fully eligible to enroll their league in this competition as a member of the local league Board of Directors. If the local league takes insurance coverage locally and not through the national Little League insurance coverage through AIG, the local operator must have verified with their local insurance carrier and can confirm that insurance coverage will be in effect for the T-Mobile Little League Home Run Derby.
- All Participants are required to submit the Participant Release signed by their legal guardian prior to participating. Any participant that is found to have not submitted their Participant Release or other required documents prior to participating in their Local Home Run Derby will be disqualified and their results will not be accepted. Furthermore, any leagues that require a COVID-19 waiver for player or volunteer participation during the 2021 season will need to comply with the same process for this event.
- There is no minimum number of participants.

### Operations

- **Field Dimensions:** Baseball: Fence Distance 170' / Softball: Fence Distance 130'
  - To create a shortened fence distance, draw a chalk line through the outfield 170' feet for baseball and 130' for softball from home plate or use cones.
- **Judges:** At least three evaluators must be stationed near the outfield fence to judge if ball landed over or on chalk/cones.

- **Pitching:**
  - Adult pitcher(s) to be designated by the League Operator. Where possible, the same pitcher should be used for a minimum of five (5) batters in each round before rotating pitchers.
  - The pitcher must be positioned and pitching from behind an L-Screen for the baseball competition or square screen for the softball competition.
    - The screen is to be positioned no closer than 30ft from home plate for the baseball and softball competition.
    - Live arm pitching is preferred. Pitching machines may be used if necessary. The use of side toss is not permitted. The same pitching method should be used for all participants.
- **Dates & Timing:** Local Home Run Derby date and times must be submitted, updated if weather delay, and finalized within the Home Run Derby portal two-weeks prior to the Local Home Run Derby taking place.
  - The contest can take place any time during the day as long as it is completed before 10:00 PM.
- **Results:** Results must be submitted within one (1) week of the local contest taking place and no later than June 27, 2021 (date subject to change). Results will be submitted by event administrator via online portal at [LittleLeague.org/HomeRunDerby](http://LittleLeague.org/HomeRunDerby).
- **Admission:** No admission charge is permitted.
  - Fans should only be encouraged to attend as permitted and in accordance with local and state guidelines. Local guidelines should also be followed as it relates to social distancing, masks, and other COVID-19 mitigation requirements.
- **Field Decorum:** Batboys and/or batgirls are not permitted. All players shall be on their benches in the dugouts or in the bullpen and socially distanced, if required.
- **Equipment:** Should be inspected prior to the start of the competition
  - Balls – The balls used must be licensed and meet Little League specifications and standards. Baseballs shall weigh not less than five (5) ounces nor more than five and one fourth (5 ¼) ounces, and measure not less than nine (9) nor more than nine and one-fourth (9 ¼) inches in circumference. A 12" Little League licensed softball must be used for the softball competition. The ball shall be not less than eleven and seven-eight (11 7/8) inches nor more than twelve and one-eight (12 1/8) inches in circumference and shall weigh not less than six and one quarter (6 ¼) ounces nor more than seven (7) ounces.
  - Bats –
    - Prior to the start of the competition, participants must declare any bat they might use, and all bats should be inspected by a competition judge to ensure that they meet the requirements listed below:
      - Baseball Rule – 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).
      - Softball Rule – The bat must be a softball bat which meets Little League specifications and standards as noted in this rule. It shall be a smooth, rounded stick and made of wood or a material tested and proved acceptable to Little League standards. The bat shall be no more than 33 inches in length, not more than two and one-quarter (2¼) inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenth (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30



- A square screen is recommended behind second base, manned by an adult, to gather all baseballs or softballs.
- A First Aid Kit should be present and must be in accordance to league's ASAP Plan and safety code.
- Appropriate adjustments must be made for softball e.g. using softballs and square screens for pitchers.

### **Duties & Obligations of Local Operator**

- The Local Operator acknowledges and agrees to follow all rules, regulations, and guidelines set forth in the T-Mobile Little League Home Run Derby Rules.
- The Local Operator of the local T-Mobile Home Run Derby competition is responsible for setting the date, time, and location of their local competition.
- The Local Operator of the local T-Mobile Home Run Derby competition must determine an appropriate way to include league age eligible participants in accordance with the Little League mission.
- The Local Operator of the local T-Mobile Home Run Derby agrees to collect completed Participant Releases from all participants prior to the participant taking part in the local competition and providing these forms and waivers by uploading to website when submitting results. Failure to collect and provide completed Participant Releases will lead to immediate disqualification from the competition.
- The Local Operator of the local T-Mobile Home Run Derby agrees to upload a photo of the Champion to official website. Local Operator will receive directions on content requirements of photo prior to competition.
- Equipment donations will be released to participating leagues only if event results and photo of event winner are submitted via online portal.
- Upon completion of the local T-Mobile Home Run Derby competition, the Local Operator must submit final total results and completed Participant Waivers via [LittleLeague.org/HomeRunDerby](http://LittleLeague.org/HomeRunDerby).
- Note: The Local Operator may host a competition for multiple Little League programs.
  - Each league must provide a roster of participants to the Local Operator.
  - One T-Mobile Little League Home Run Derby kit provided to the host league.

## Event Structure

### **1<sup>st</sup> Round**

- All participants receive 10 outs each
- Any pitch that is swung on with the ball ultimately not landing over the fence in fair territory is an out
- Any fair ball that lands over the fence in fair territory is a home run. A ball that lands on the chalk/cone line is NOT counted as a home run
- At the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Round, the 10 participants with the most home runs will advance to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round (\*if event has less than 10 participants, all participants advance to 2<sup>nd</sup> round)

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Round**

- The 10 participants receive 10 outs each
- Batting order will be determined by number of Home Runs hit in first round with the lowest total number hitting first.
- Any pitch that is swung on with the ball ultimately not landing over the fence in fair territory is an out
- Any fair ball that lands over the fence in fair territory is a home run. A ball that lands on the chalk/cone line is NOT considered a home run
- At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round, the 5 participants with the most total home runs (combined totals from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> rounds) will advance to the Final Round (\*if event has less than 5 participants, all participants advance to the Final Round)

### **Final Round**

- The 5 participants receive 10 outs each
- Batting order will be determined by total Home Runs hit in first and second rounds with the lowest total number hitting first.
- Any pitch that is swung on with the ball ultimately not landing over the fence in fair territory is an out
- Any fair ball that lands over the fence in fair territory is a home run. A ball that lands on the chalk/cone line is NOT considered a home run
- At the end of the Final Round, the participant with the most total home runs (combined totals from 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Final rounds) is the league's T-Mobile Little League Home Run Derby Champion

### **Tie-Breakers**

Should there be a tie between two participants at the end of any round that would determine advancement to the next round or the final champion, the following tie breaking procedure will be used:

In the event of a tie at the end of the first, second, or final round, there will be a swing-off between the participants who are tied that will determine which participant advance (after 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> rounds) or wins (after final round). Each participant will receive three (3) additional outs at a time, the contestant with the most home runs after the three (3) additional outs will advance or be crowned the champion. The additional outs will repeat until the tie is broken. Tie-breaking home runs do not count towards total home runs.

## **Advancement**

Information regarding the next stages of the T-Mobile Little League Home Run Derby will be announced in the coming months.

# T-Mobile LITTLE LEAGUE HOME RUN DERBY

## 2021 T-Mobile Little League® Home Run Derby FAQs

### **Who can participate?**

The competition is open to athletes league age 9-12 years old who are currently registered and meet all eligibility requirements within their chartered Little League for the 2021 season. The baseball competition is open to athletes league age 9 – 12 years old and the softball competition is limited to female athletes league age 9 – 12 years old. A participant's league age is determined per Little League Baseball and Softball [guidelines](#). There is no minimum or maximum of the number of participants.

### **When and where will the local competitions be held?**

Local competitions will be held right at local Little League parks from February 15, 2021 through June 27, 2021\*.

*\*Dates are subject to change*

### **Where can I find more information regarding the Regional Finals and Championship events?**

Information regarding the Regional Finals and Championship events of the T-Mobile Little League Home Run Derby will be shared at a later date.

### **How do I know if my athlete advanced to the Regional Finals?**

Once all local competitions have been completed and results have been verified, our team will directly contact any individuals that have advanced to the next round of the competition. Please note, winning a local competition does not immediately qualify your Little Leaguer for any advancement opportunities. Information regarding the next stages of the T-Mobile Little League Home Run Derby will be announced in the coming months.

### **What if we already host a home run competition?**

You can use the results of the home run competition as long as they fall within the T-Mobile Little League Home Run Derby event [rules](#). Leagues will still need to register and submit all results through the website portal.

### **What do we need to host a competition?**

Participating leagues will need a baseball/softball field with either a permanent fence, temporary fence, chalk or cone line at the distances of 170' for baseball and 130' for softball. These distances are typically shorter than standard fence dimensions – we recommend a chalk line on the field at each distance, cones or the use of a temporary fence. All equipment including baseballs/softballs will need to be provided by hosting leagues and should meet Little League specifications.

### **What will we receive in our host toolkit?**

The League Officer who registers will receive a digital toolkit within 48 hours that includes all of the information needed to run a competition including rules, scoresheets, sample social media graphics, and a media advisory template. A physical toolkit will also be sent with the event banner, staff t-shirts, and pins within 10 business days.

**What equipment will the league receive from T-Mobile for participating?**

Each participating league will receive the following from T-Mobile for participating in the 2021 T-Mobile Little League Home Run Derby, while supplies last.

- Six Dozen AD 100 LL-XL WS Baseballs (if participating in baseball division)
- Four Dozen OLL 12 PL-WS Softballs (if participating in softball division)
- 2 Ball Buckets (If participating in baseball division)
- 2 Ball Buckets (if participating in softball division)

**How can I promote my local competition for players to register?**

Each digital toolkit will include a media advisory template, posters, and sample social media posts to encourage your local sluggers to join! Some other fun ways to drive participation include but are not limited to, incorporating the Home Run Derby into a pre-existing league event, such as opening day or closing ceremonies, or hosting during a community wide event.

**Is there a fee to participate in the T-Mobile Little League Home Run Derby?**

There is no fee associated with participating in the T-Mobile Little League Home Run Derby.

**Can I host a District wide competition?**

Yes, you are able to host a competition with multiple league participation. You must register through the website and identify the hosting league as such during the registration process.

**What file types are accepted for photos and scoresheets?**

The upload tool accepts the following formats: jpg, jpeg, pdf. All participating leagues will be required to submit completed scoresheet, participant release forms, and champion photo.

**Are pitching machines permitted?**

Live arm pitching is preferred, but pitching machines may be used if necessary. The use of side toss is not permitted.

**Who can be shaggers for my local competition?**

Up to 5 of your Little Leaguers can be in the outfield, but they must allow all balls to land (no catching).

**How do I determine the batting order for my local competition?**

In the first round, it is recommended that the batting order be random draw. In the following rounds, the participant with the lowest total number of home runs will hit first and so on.

**Can I share photos or videos from my local event on social media?**

Absolutely! We encourage you to share your experience on your league's social media platforms. When sharing please make sure to use the hashtag #LittleLeaguersSwingBig!