

CALIFORNIA DISTRICT 24 INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS: GUIDELINES

1. The team shall arrive at the playing field at least sixty (60) minutes prior to game time, being warmed up and ready to take the infield thirty (30) minutes prior to game time. **PRIOR TO EACH GAME, ALL TEAM EQUIPMENT MUST BE LEFT OUTSIDE THE DUGOUT UNTIL CHECKED BY THE GAME UMPIRES.**
2. RULES: Regular Season Rules will be followed
3. UMPIRES: Each participating team shall provide **two (2)** umpires for the game in which they are involved. **One (1) umpire must be an adult. EXCEPTION:** Each participating Minor/AAA/AA/A team (baseball and softball) shall provide **one (1)** umpire in which they are involved.
 - The designated home team umpires shall occupy first and third base umpiring assignments. **EXCEPTION:** For the Minor/AAA/AA/A division, the designated home team umpire shall occupy the field position.
 - The designated visitor's team umpires shall occupy the plate and second base umpiring assignments. **EXCEPTION:** For the Minor/AAA/AA/A division, the designated visitor's team umpire shall occupy the plate.
 - The Tournament Director must approve any deviation from these assignments.
 - In the event that the league does not provide umpires for the designated game, the Site Director shall appoint available persons to fill necessary assignments.
 - **The league that does not provide umpires will automatically be designated as the Visiting team.**
 - **The District 24 staff shall assign umpires for the final game of each division.**
 - All umpires shall be instructed to report to the Site Director for the designated game sixty (60) minutes prior to game time.
4. PITCHING RECORDS: Each team **must** use the Tournament Pitching Record, provided by the district. The Tournament Pitching Record **must** be turned in to the Site Director thirty (30) minutes prior to game time. **NOTE:** If this is the team's first game of this Invitational Tournament, the manager must provide the regular season pitching log/record that shows the last three (3) regular season games that the team has played. If no regular season pitching record is made available to the Site Director, the game will start as scheduled and the Tournament Director will be notified. **PENALTY:** The manager will be suspended for that game and if the up-to-date, regular season pitching record is not presented to the Site Director by the end of that game, the game may be deemed a forfeit.
5. Home team designation shall be determined by a coin toss conducted by tournament site staff with both team managers or designated substitute(s) present, sixty (60) minutes prior to the scheduled game time. Home team shall occupy the third base dugout. **EXCEPTION:** The league that does not provide umpires will automatically be designated as the Visiting team.
6. Three (3) copies of the line-up must be given to the Site Director thirty (30) minutes prior to the game time. Leagues will supply their own line-up sheets. The information **required** on the line-up sheet is the first name, last name, uniform number, position number and the names of the managers and coaches.

7. Team equipment will be checked before each game. Illegal or damaged equipment will be removed, and no protest will be considered.
8. The catcher must wear a hard cup, along with headgear that covers their ears with full mask and a **dangling** throat protector. This is the responsibility of the manager. Rule 1.17 shall be interpreted to include infield and outfield practice. Players who are catching for the batter for infield and outfield practice will wear the helmet/face mask. Each team is responsible to warm up their own pitcher.
9. **BASEBALL:** Each team will provide three (3) new regulation Little League approved baseballs per each tournament game played. **SOFTBALL:** Each team will provide two (2) new regulation Little League approved softballs per each tournament game played. (*11-inch for Minor SB and 12- inch for all other divisions of softball*)
10. Only the rostered team manager, two (2) coaches and a maximum of fifteen (15) rostered players shall be permitted in the dugout. All other persons shall occupy the identified spectator area. Managers and coaches **must** be rostered, during regular season play, in their **respective** division. **EXCEPTION:** More than fifteen (15) players will be allowed in the dugout if a team has obtained a charter waiver for regular season.

If the manager/coach participant is NOT rostered in their respective division, during regular season play, he/she must be approved to participate by the Tournament Director prior to the start of the tournament.
11. The game strategy shall be conducted from the dugout. Conversation from the dugout with the spectators may result in the offending player, coach, and manager being removed from the game.
12. There will not be any special seating provided for the team scorekeeper. All changes will be reported from the dugout through the home plate umpire directly to the official scorekeeper. Changes will then be announced. **PITCH COUNT REGULATIONS WILL BE ENFORCED AND KEPT BY THE OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER.**
13. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, only approved officials and approved newspaper photographers may be on the playing field during the game.
14. Managers, coaches, and players are to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. If you disagree with the umpire's decision, it is expected that the correct and appropriate procedure will be used in discussing the matter.
15. **THE USE OF FOUL LANGUAGE, GESTURES OR MAKING DEROGATORY REMARKS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** This may be cause for immediate removal of the offender from the game and/or the tournament.
16. Disruptive behavior by the spectators will NOT be tolerated and will be cause for removal of the offender(s) from the ballpark.
17. NO artificial noisemakers will be allowed. Use of "Walk -Up" music is not permitted. Please be sure spectators are advised prior to the start of the game.

18. Teams are expected to hustle on and off the field. There will be one (1) minute between innings.
19. Additional ground rules pertaining to specific playing field adjustments or expected conduct of team members will be discussed at the opening plate conference with the game umpires.
20. Managers or coaches cannot wear cutoff shorts, tank tops or open-toed shoes. The dress code shall be neat and appropriate for a Little League representative.
21. Once the game begins, NO PLAYER, MANAGER OR COACH may leave the dugout without permission of the game umpires. Stepping outside of the dugout for a smoke will constitute leaving the dugout without permission and that person will be prevented from re-entering the dugout for the remainder of the game. There will be no smoking or tobacco of any kind allowed in/or near the dugout.
22. Restroom privileges will be permitted providing:
 - a. Permission is first obtained from a game umpire.
 - b. The individual goes directly to and from the restroom without engaging in conversation with spectators. **Up to two (2) designated parents from each team (Minor/AAA/AA/A & Major Baseball AND ALL divisions of softball), determined prior to start of the game, will be allowed to accompany the team's players to the restroom.**
PENALTY: Offender may be removed from the game.
23. NO pins or good luck charms may be worn on the uniform or caps of the managers, coaches, or players.
24. NO jewelry may be worn on the field by the players, managers or coaches with the exception of jewelry that alerts medical personnel to a specific condition. **NOTE:** The rubber wristbands from charity organizations will be considered jewelry and may not be worn. Religious medals may be worn if they are covered and do not keep 'popping out' of their enclosure.
25. Electronic devices will be restricted per Rule 3.17. Use of Game Changer will be permitted. If there is a dispute, the ruling of the Tournament Director is final and binding.

PLAYING RULES

1. **CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER** will be in effect for **ALL** divisions of baseball and softball, Except Seniors
2. **CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER: 8- to 10-Year-Old, 9- to 11-Year-Old, Little League, Intermediate (50-70) Division, and Junior League: 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.**

a. **Baseball:** A player may be entered and/or re-entered defensively in the game at any time. Tournament Rule 4 (c) provisions apply: 8-to10-Year Old Division, 9-to11-Year Old Division, Little League: Pitchers once removed from the mound, may not return as pitchers. Intermediate (50/70) and Junior Division: A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game. **Softball:** A player may be entered and/or re-entered defensively in the game at any time. Tournament Rule 4 provisions apply: 8-to10-Year Old Division, 9-to11-Year Old Division, Little League [Tournament Rule 4 (d)]: A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once in the same inning as he/she was removed. Junior League, Senior League [Tournament Rule 4 (c)]: A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once in the same inning as he/she was removed. A pitcher may be withdrawn from the game, offensively or defensively, and return as pitcher once per inning provided the return does not violate the substitution, visits per pitcher, or mandatory play rule(s). Penalty: See Rule 10(f).

b. If a player is injured, becomes ill, or must leave the game site after the start of the game, the team will skip over him/her when his/her time at bat comes up without penalty. If the injured, ill, or absent player returns, he/she is merely inserted into their original spot in the batting order and the game continues. Also, if a player arrives later to a game site, if the manager chooses to enter him/her in the lineup (see Rule 4.01 NOTE 2), he/she would be added to the end of the current lineup.

c. An improper batter will be considered as batting out of turn (see Rule 6.07).

d. If a player is unable to complete a plate appearance due to injury, illness or ejection, the next batter in the lineup shall take his/her place at the plate and assume the count of the original batter.

e. If a batter becomes a runner by reaching base safely and is unable to run the bases due to injury, illness, or ejection, he/she shall be replaced by the player who recorded the last out or with a Courtesy Runner if applicable (see Tournament Rule 2 (d) Courtesy Runner).

f. There is no exception to this rule. This rule does not apply to Senior Divisions of play.

NOTE: The rule replaces **Regulation IV (i)** and **Rule 3.03**

g. Managers are solely responsible for ensuring that all players fulfill the requirements of playing participation.

h. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to impose penalties (including, but not limited to removal of the manager, forfeiture of a game, and/or disqualification of the team or coaches from further tournament participation) may be imposed if, in the opinion of the Tournament Committee:

1. if a manager or coach takes any action that results in making a travesty of the game, causing players to intentionally perform poorly for the purpose of extending or shortening a game, or;
2. a team fails to meet the requirements of this rule more than once during the International Tournament, which begins with District play and ends at the World Series level (State level for 8-to-10- and 9-to-11-Year-Old Divisions), or;
3. a manager willfully and knowingly disregards this rule.

Special Pinch Runner/Courtesy Runner - Baseball and Softball (All Divisions)

8- to 10-Year-Old, 9- to 11-Year-Old, Little League, Intermediate (50-70) Division, and Junior League: 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.

Senior Division: Twice a game but not more than one time per inning, a team may utilize a player who is not in 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.

3. **MANDATORY PLAY (Regulation IV (i)):** Required for ALL divisions INCLUSIVE of SENIOR baseball and SENIOR softball.
4. **RUN RULE:** Rule 4.10 (e) will be in effect for the duration of this tournament.
NOTE: If the visiting team has a lead of fifteen (15), ten (10), or eight (8) runs or more respectively, the home team must bat in its half of the inning.
5. On fields using **temporary/portable pitching mounds**, use of metal cleats by pitchers shall be prohibited.
6. **EJECTIONS:** The ejection of a player, manager or coach will result in a mandatory minimum one (1) game suspension. The suspended manager, coach or player may not be present at the next physically played game. This includes all pre-game and post-game activities. All ejections will be reviewed by the Tournament Director. If it is a repeated offense, a more severe penalty may be applied.
 - a. All suspensions resulting from ejections will not wait for District action but will take place immediately on the next physically played game.
 - b. Any physical or verbal altercation between player, manager, coach, umpire, or spectator will require disciplinary action, not to exclude expulsion from the tournament site