



2018 Rulebook Changes



Waivers – Regulation I(d) and III(c)

- Divisions: Major Baseball
- *Little League International Charter Committee will waive Regulation I(d) and Regulation III(c) with respect to the maximum number of 12-year-olds on a team for the 2018 season for this division to provide leagues flexibility this season to structure their Little League (Major) Division to accommodate more than 10 teams; waiving Regulation I(d).*
- As Little League Baseball fully transitions to the new Age Determination Date of August 31, grandfathering the four months of children born between May 1 and August 31, 2005, for the 2018 season, leagues will have 16 months of league age 12-year-olds. To assist leagues in the placement of players league age 12 on Little League Baseball (Major) Division teams, the Little League International Charter Committee will waive both Regulation I(d) and Regulation III(c) with respect to the maximum number of 12-year-olds on a team for the 2018 season for this division. This will provide leagues flexibility this season to structure their Little League (Major) Division to accommodate more than 10 teams; waiving Regulation I(d).



Regulation IV- Players

- *As announced in 2015, the new age determination date of August 31 for players born on or before April 30, 2005, will be effective starting with the 2018 Little League Baseball season. The four-month group of individuals in the Major division, born between May 1 and August 31, 2005, who have been grandfathered into the rule will begin utilizing the new, August 31 age determination date beginning with the 2019 season. (Pages 38-40 in Baseball*
- **EXCEPTION:** For the 2018 season, players born May 1-August 31, 2005, shall use the April 30 age determination date and shall be considered league age 12-year-olds. See Regulation IV(a).



Regulation XVI – Use of Little League Name and Emblem

DIVISIONS – BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

Synopsis: All suspended games will be resumed exactly where they were left off. Regular Season pitching will be governed by Regulation VI. Tournament pitching will be governed by Tournament Rule 4.

Regulation VI Note 3:

In suspended games resumed on another day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of their eligibility for that day, provided said pitcher has observed the required days of rest.



Regulation XIV (a)

- Divisions: All divisions of Baseball, Softball, and Challenger
- *Revises language to allow Board of Directors to act on behavior on or off the field and including social media. (Page 55 in Baseball and Softball, 42 in Challenger).*
- Summary:
- The actions, on or off the field, of players, managers, coaches, umpires, and league officials must be above reproach. Any player, manager, coach, umpire, or league representative who is involved in a verbal or physical altercation, or an incident of unsportsmanlike conduct, at the game site or any other Little League activity including through online or social media, is subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.



Regulation XVI- Use of Little League Name and Emblem

- *Includes International Tournament marks as licensed and registered Little League marks. (Page 57 in Baseball and Softball; 42 in Challenger).*
- Summary:
- Use of the Official Emblem and/or words "Little League," "Little League Baseball," "LL," "LLB," "Dugout," "Little Leaguer," "Senior League Little League," "Big League Little League," "Little League Softball," "Little League Challenger Division," related International Tournament trademarks, etc. registered under Federal Certificate in U.S. Patent Office, is granted to chartered leagues and cannot be extended by local leagues to any other organization for any purpose whatsoever



Rule 1.10 – The Bat Baseball

Beginning with the 2018 season, non-wood and laminated bats used in the Little League (Majors) and below, shall bear the USA Baseball logo signifying that the bat meets the USABat – USA Baseball’s Youth Bat Performance Standard. All BPF – 1.15 bats will be prohibited beginning with the 2018 season. Additionally, starting in 2018, the bat diameter shall not exceed 2-5/8 inches for these divisions of play. Additional information is available at LittleLeague.org/batinfo.



Rule 1.15(a) The Glove-Softball

- Divisions: All divisions of Softball
- *Mandates a pitcher's glove shall not be nor have the color of the ball being used in the game (Page 65).*
- Summary:
- The pitcher's glove shall be of one solid color or multi-colored as long as the color(s) are not the color of the ball being used in the game. A glove that is judged to be distracting is illegal.



Rule 1.15(c) and Rule 8.02(a)(2)- The Pitcher-Softball

- Divisions: All divisions of Softball
- *Allows items to be worn on a pitcher's glove arm (non-pitching arm) so long as they are of a solid, single color: black, white, gray, or uniform color. (Pages 65 and 108).*
- Summary:
- Pitchers shall not wear any item on the pitching hand, wrist, or arm. A pitcher may wear items on the glove hand, wrist, or arm (non-pitching arm) of a solid single color: black, white, grey, or a uniform color. A pitcher shall not wear any items on his/her hands, wrists, or arms which the umpire may judge to be distracting. [See also Rule 1.11(j).] EXCEPTION: A pitcher may wear a compression sleeve on the pitching arm of a solid, single color: black, white, grey, or a uniform color.



Rule 8.01 (q)- The Pitcher-Softball

- Divisions: All divisions of Softball
- *Clarifies the pitcher's release and follow through must be past the vertical line of the body. (Page 107).*
- Summary:
- The release of the ball and follow through of the hand and wrist must be forward and past the straight, vertical line of the body



Rule 8.01 Note/8.05 Note 1 The Pitcher (Softball)

- Divisions: Junior/Senior League Softball
- *Updates the penalty for a batter hit by a pitch during an illegal pitch for Junior and Senior divisions. (Pages 108-109)*
- Summary:
- The penalty imposed for violation of all subsections of rule 8.01, with the exception of subsection (i), is an illegal pitch. Violation of (i) is ruled as a No Pitch.
- Junior/Senior League: The pitch shall be called a ball and all base runners advance one base without liability to be put out. If a play follows the illegal pitch, the manager of the offense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline the illegal pitch penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play. However, if the batter hits the ball and reaches first base safely, and if all base runners advance at least one base on the action resulting from the batted ball, the play proceeds without reference to the illegal pitch.



Rule 9.01(d)Note- The Umpire Rule 9.01(e)Note

- Divisions: All divisions of Baseball, Softball, and Challenger
- *Clarifies that any parties caught stealing and relaying pitch selection will be ejected – local league option.*
- Summary:
- Each umpire has authority to disqualify any player, coach, manager, or substitute for objecting to decisions or for unsportsmanlike conduct or language and to eject such disqualified person from the playing field. If an umpire disqualifies a player while a play is in progress, the disqualification shall not take effect until no further action is possible in that play.



Tournament Rules

Responsibility and Chain of Command

- *Updates wording regarding International Tournament behavior and the Tournament Committee's authority. (Page 122 in Baseball, 116 in Softball)* Tournament Committee also reserves the right in its sole discretion to impose any penalties if, in its judgment, any player, manager, coach, umpire, or other volunteer conducts him/herself in any manner, on or off the field, that does not positively reflect the high standard Little League holds for sportsmanship, citizenship, and decorum. This includes displays of unsportsmanlike conduct, "making a travesty of the game," or violating any rules, regulations, or policies contained herein during the game, at the game site, at any other location or time related to the International Tournament. The Committee also reserves the right to impose any penalty the Committee deems appropriate if the Committee determines action is necessary to correct a situation brought to its attention, regardless of the source of that information. The decision of the Tournament Committee is final and binding.