



2018 Rule Changes

Please note: These changes are NOT listed in the printed version of the 2018 rulebooks,



Regulation III (c)

- Operating Policies – Local League Draft Methods
- *Major League Divisions of Baseball and Softball*

Synopsis: This eliminates the maximum of eight (8) – 12-year-olds on a Major Division team

Little League (Major) Division: Local league must establish the age structure for the Little League (Major) Division. It is recommended that the local Little League set a maximum and/or minimum number of participants of a particular league age per team. For Intermediate (50/70) Division/Junior/Senior League, it is recommended that the local Little League set a maximum and/or minimum number of participants of a particular league age. (Example: If the league has all 15- and 16-year-olds in its Senior League Division, it may have a local rule that states that each team must carry between four and eight players of league age 16.)



Regulation VI (d)- Pitchers, Tournament Rule 4

- Baseball
- Synopsis: This restricts a player from pitching in three consecutive days in Regular Season and Tournament.



Regulation VI Note 3- Pitchers

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.



Rule 4.10 (d)

- DIVISIONS: All Baseball and Softball
- Rule 4.10(d)
If a game is called before it has become a regulation game, it shall be resumed exactly where it left off.



Tournament Rule 11

- Tournament Rule 11
SUSPENDED GAMES: Any game in which a winner cannot be determined in accordance with the playing rules shall be resumed from the exact point at which it was suspended regardless of the number of innings played
- Incomplete (not regulation) or tie games are considered suspended games.
- NOTE: A contest decided by forfeit does not constitute a "game" for the purposes of this rule, unless one complete inning was physically played before the game was forfeited. (Forfeits are only by decree of the Tournament Committee in Williamsport.)



Regulation VII (a)- Schedules;

Baseball and Softball

Synopsis: This allows a Board of Directors to only schedule a 10-game Regular Season schedule for Senior Baseball and Softball teams. For Senior Division Tournament eligibility, a team must play a 10-game Regular Season schedule

Regulation VII: (a)

The schedule of games for the regular season shall be prepared by the Board of Directors of the league and must provide for not less than twelve (12) games [Senior Division: Ten (10) games] per team per regular season against other Little League teams within their respective division, exclusive of playoff and tournament games. Tee Ball: It is recommended that no more than twelve (12) games be scheduled per team per season.



Tournament League Eligibility

- The league must have scheduled and played, at a minimum, a 12-game [Senior League: Ten (10)-game] (per team) regular season, exclusive of playoffs and tournament games, for each division, or age appropriate division, entering tournament prior to the first game in their respective tournament. See Reg. VII. NOTE 1: Forfeited games shall not count towards the 12-game [Senior League: Ten (10)-game] regular season. NOTE 2: For Junior Tournament eligibility, Senior League players league age 13 and 14 must have played in a minimum of eight (8) games.



PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- Junior League - Any player League Age 12, 13, or 14, with amateur status, who has participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games (Special Games may be counted toward this requirement - See Regulation IX) by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the middle school, junior high school or high school baseball/softball season, on a:
 - Senior League Baseball/Softball Team, or;
 - Junior League Baseball/Softball Team.
- Senior League - Any player League Age 13, 14, 15, or 16, with amateur status, who has participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games (Special Games may be counted toward this requirement - See Regulation IX) by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the middle school, junior high school or high school baseball/softball season, on a:
 - Senior League Baseball/Softball Team, or;
 - Junior League Baseball/Softball Team.



Rule 3.03

- Baseball and Softball.
- Synopsis: This revises the substitution rule for all divisions of play for the Regular Season.
- A player in the starting line-up who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game, in the SAME position in the batting order, provided:
 - (a) his or her substitute has completed one time at bat and;
 - (b) has played defensively for a minimum of six (6) consecutive outs



Rule 3.03 - Pitchers

- Baseball: pitchers once removed from the mound may not return as pitchers; Intermediate (50/70) Division/Junior/Senior: A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher any time in the remainder of the game, but only once per game.
- NOTE: A player who has met the mandatory play requirements, and is a pitcher at the time she/he is removed, may be removed for a substitute batter and re-enter the game as a pitcher once, provided the pitcher was not physically replaced on the mound.



Rule 3.03

- Softball: 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.
- Minor/Major Divisions: NOTE: A pitcher, withdrawn from the game for a substitute offensively or defensively, may not re-enter the game as a pitcher. This applies to continuous batting order.
EXCEPTION: A pitcher may re-enter the game as a pitcher, if withdrawn for a pinch-hitter or pinch-runner, and then returned to the game at the beginning of the next half-inning. Junior/Senior Divisions: A pitcher may be withdrawn from the game, offensively or defensively, and return as pitcher once per inning provided the return does not violate either the substitution, visits per pitcher, or mandatory play rule(s).



Rule 4.10 (e)

- Synopsis: This allows a local league to implement a 15-run rule after three [four innings for Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League]. This would be mandatory during the International Tournament.
- If after three (3) innings [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: four innings], two and one-half innings [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: three and one-half innings] if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If after four (4) innings [Intermediate (50/70) Division/Junior/Senior League: five innings], three and one-half innings [Intermediate (50/70) Division/Junior/Senior League: four and one-half innings] if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. NOTE: (1) If the visiting team has a lead of fifteen (15) or ten (10) runs or more respectively, the home team must bat in its half of the inning. (2) The local league may adopt the option of not utilizing this rule.



Rule 8.06

- This rule, which applies to each pitcher who enters a game, governs the visits of the manager or coach to the pitcher at the mound.
- (a) A manager or coach may come out once (Minor Division: twice) in one inning to visit with the pitcher, but the second time (Minor Division: third time) out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. Example: If a manager visits Pitcher A once in the first inning, then makes a pitching change in the same inning, Pitcher B would be allowed one visit in that inning before being removed on the second visit.



Rule 8.06

- (b) A manager or coach may come out twice (Minor Division: three times) in one game to visit with the pitcher, but the third time (Minor Division: fourth time) out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. Example: If a manager visits Pitcher A twice in the first three innings, then makes a pitching change in the fourth inning, Pitcher B would be allowed two visits in that game before being removed on the third visit, subject to the limits in (a) above– MINOR AND MAJOR BASEBALL



Tournament Rule 7

– Visits

- the manager or coach will be permitted to go to the mound to confer with the pitcher or any defensive player(s). A manager or coach who is granted a time out to talk to any defensive player will be charged with a visit to the pitcher.
- 9- to 11-Year-Old Division, Little League, Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League, and Senior League: A manager or coach may come out once in one inning to visit with the pitcher, but the second time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. The manager or coach may come out twice in a game to visit with the pitcher, but the third time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. The rule applies to each pitcher who enters a game.
- 8- to 10-Year-Old Division: A manager or coach may come out twice in one inning to visit with the pitcher, but the third time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. The manager or coach may come out three times in a game to visit with the pitcher, but the fourth time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. The rule applies to each pitcher who enters a game.
- NOTE: Only one offensive time-out will be permitted each inning.



Use of Ineligible Player

- Synopsis: This would disqualify and remove any team from the Little League International Tournament who is found to have used an ineligible player during a game