

2018 VIRGINIA DISTRICT 4, 9, 10, & 16

LITTLE LEAGUE INTERMEDIATE / JUNIOR / SENIOR DIVISION INTERLEAGUE REGULATIONS AND PLAYING RULES (UPDATE SPRING 2018)

The following regulations and playing rules are in effect for all Intermediate, Junior, and Senior Division Interleague play and take precedence over local league regulations and playing rules. All other regulations and playing rules, unless specifically modified by these Interleague Regulations and Playing Rules, provided in the current Official Little League Baseball Regulations and Playing Rules apply as written and intended. These Interleague Regulations and Playing Rules are subject to modifications as approved and implemented by the Interleague Rules Committee.

PREGAME: Home team is responsible for field preparation, which must be completed 30 minutes prior to game time. The visiting team may use the field at 25 minutes prior to game time; the home team 15 minutes prior to game time. If a previous game delays the start of the next game, an abbreviated warm-up of 5 minutes will be imposed. Both the home team and the visiting team shall supply the umpire with 2 new baseballs prior to the start of the game. Managers should be prepared to share information regarding their eligible pitchers prior to the start of the game.

DUGOUTS: Only eligible players in uniform, a manager, and two coaches, shall occupy the bench or dugout. Players, coaches, and manager should remain in the dugout or on the field throughout the game. An adult manager or coach must be in the dugout at all times. The home team will occupy the first base dugout.

GRACE PERIOD: There is a 15-minute grace period for Intermediate and Junior Division, and a 20-minute grace period for the Senior Division, before the game is suspended due to insufficient players. Games must be played with at least 9 eligible players on each team at all times.

RAINOUTS / CANCELLATIONS: Do not assume a rainout! Call the appropriate field closure number AND the manager of the opposing team to verify. The Home Team Manager should then contact the appropriate Commissioner/Divisional Vice President for their league ASAP to cancel the umpires.

UMPIRES: A minimum of one volunteer or contracted umpire will be scheduled by the home team.

BATTING LINEUPS & SUBSTITUTIONS (Spring and Fall):

Intermediate & Juniors: will use a continuous batting order with all players present, and free defensive substitutions at all times.

Seniors: will follow the Official Little League Baseball Regulations and Playing Rules in the Spring (9-man roster) and will use a continuous batting order with all players present and free defensive substitutions in the Fall.

All Levels: Late arrivals must be placed at the bottom of the batting order, when utilizing the continuous batting order, with both teams' scorekeepers notified and any player leaving the game before the game ends will be skipped without penalty (provided 9 eligible players remain in the batting order). Courtesy Runners for pitchers, catchers or any position are never allowed. For Seniors when batting 9 using the Official Little League Baseball Regulations and Playing Rules you may use a special pinch runner (in accordance with Rule 7.14) provided that this player is not in the game.

PLAYER POOL: Up to 3 eligible players not on the roster of a team may be recruited according to the Local League's regulations and rules governing the player pool to complete a 9-player lineup. Pool players may not play any more defensive outs than any rostered player and may play any defensive position except pitcher. Pool players must bat at the bottom of the lineup when utilizing a continuous batting order and may not start ahead of regular team players when using a 9-man roster (unless additional rostered players arrive late).

OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER: Both teams should maintain their own scorebook but only the Home Team scorebook is the official scorebook. Scorekeepers should routinely check to be sure both books are in sync.

OFFICIAL PITCH COUNT RECORDER: Both teams should maintain their own pitch count record for all pitchers on both teams but only the Home Team pitch count record is the official pitch count record. Pitch count recorders should routinely check to be sure both records are the same. Pitch counts will be reported to the Official Scorekeeper after each half inning.

BALKS: Balk warnings for Intermediate and Junior Divisions will not exceed one warning per pitcher. Balk warnings shall not be given for Senior Division pitchers.

RUN LIMITS:

Intermediate and Juniors: Will play with a 5 run limit per inning, with the declared last inning, 7th inning, or any inning following the 7th inning (in case of tied game) allowing unlimited runs (Exception: If a player hits a home run over the fence, all runs scored on that play will count).

Seniors: There will be no run limit for the Senior Division.

MERCY RULE: If one team is ahead by 15 or more runs after 4 innings (3 ½ if Home team), or 10 or more runs after 5 innings (4 ½ if Home team), the losing team shall concede the game.

TIME LIMITS AND OFFICIAL GAMES: Once five (5) innings have been completed, for games that have a game following it on the same field, no new inning shall start later than 2 hours and 15 minutes after the actual start time of the game, but in no case shall a game exceed two hours and 45 minutes. Scorekeepers should note in the scorebook the time the game begins per the umpire-in-chief. Innings already in progress will be completed. Games must complete five (5) innings to be considered

“Official” games. Interleague games that have completed five (5) innings and are then called due to the above time limit will be considered complete and official games.

TIE GAMES: Official games that end with a tie score will not be rescheduled or continued at a later date.

PROTEST COMMITTEE: All protests must follow rule 4.19 of the Official Little League Baseball Regulations and Playing Rules. All protests must first be submitted by the manager to the umpire on the field of play and then in writing to the local league president within 24 hours. The game umpire-in-chief shall also submit a report immediately. All protests involving two Interleague teams shall be handled by a 3-person protest committee consisting of the two local league presidents involved (or their designees) and the District Umpire Consultant from the District involved if both teams are from the same District, or from the third non-involved District if the teams are from two different Districts. The committee will report to the District Administrator who is from the District involved if both teams are from the same District, or from the third non-involved District if the teams are from two different Districts. That District Administrator’s decision is final

FOOT IN BOX: After entering the batter’s box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at-bat. This is not an option.

Exceptions: A player may step out of the box if one of the following exceptions apply.

1. On a swing, slap, or check swing
2. When forced out of the box by a pitch
3. When the batter attempts a “drag bunt”
4. When the catcher does not catch the pitched ball
5. When a play has been attempted
6. When time has been called
7. When the pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher’s plate after receiving the ball
8. When the catcher leaves the catcher’s box
9. On a three ball count pitch that is a strike that the batter thinks is a ball

Penalty: If the batter leaves the batter’s box or delays play and none of the exceptions apply, the umpire shall warn the batter. After one warning on a batter, the umpire shall call a strike. Any number of strikes can be called on each batter. In assessing the penalty, no pitch has to be thrown and the ball is live. The batter may return to their position in the batter’s box and assume the new count at any time.

BAT RULE UPDATE: Beginning with the 2018 season, non-wood and laminated bats used in the Intermediate (50-70) Division and Junior League divisions 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. Bats meeting the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) standard may also be used in the Intermediate (50-70) Division and Junior League divisions.

All bats used in the Intermediate (50-70) Division and Junior League shall not be more than 34” inches in length; nor more than $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths ($\frac{15}{16}$) inches in diameter ($\frac{7}{8}$ inch for bats less than 30”) at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed eighteen (18) inches from the small end.

NOTE 1: Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball or BBCOR logo.

There are no changes to the bat standards used in the Senior League division. All bats used in the Senior League division must meet the BBCOR standard.