

# CHANGES TO 2004 OFFICIAL REGULATIONS

## I - THE LEAGUE

- (a) **NOTE 3:** Participants league age 6 are permitted to advance to Minor League Coach Pitch or machine pitch after participation in Tee Ball for one year.
- (c) **9.** Conduct an annual background check on all personnel that are required to complete a “Little League Volunteer Application” prior to the applicant assuming his/her duties for the current season. No local league shall permit any person to participate in any manner, whose background check reveals a conviction or guilty plea for any crime involving or against a minor. A local league may prohibit any individual from participating as a volunteer or hired worker, if the league deems the individual unfit to work with minors. A local league must conduct a search of the applicable government operated statewide sex offender registry. If no sex offender registry exists in a State /Province, the local league must conduct a statewide/province-wide criminal background check through the appropriate governmental agency unless prohibited by law. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in the suspension or revocation of tournament privileges and/or the local league’s charter by action of the Charter or Tournament Committee in Williamsport. If a local league becomes aware of information, by any means whatsoever, that an individual, including, but not limited to, volunteers, players and hired workers, has been convicted of or pled guilty to any crime involving or against a minor, the local league must contact the applicable government agency to confirm the accuracy of the information. Upon confirmation of a conviction for, or guilty plea to, a crime against or involving a minor, the local league shall not permit the individual to participate in any manner.
- Note: Information regarding background checks is available at [www.littleleague.org](http://www.littleleague.org).

## II - LEAGUE BOUNDARIES

- (d) **Regulations II (d) - Processing Procedure**  
*The league president will process a II(d) form. Once the president completes the form, he/she must compile “residency requirement” verification that each youngster meets the conditions of II(d) as outlined above. The league president will present this verification to the District Administrator for review. Once the district administrator verifies the documentation meets the regulations, the district administrator will sign the II(d) form granting his or her approval. The league and the district will maintain the form and documentation in their files. This verification process is only required once during a participant’s career. The league must maintain this form and documentation for this player for the duration of his/her career until the player graduates from the program or breaks service with the league. Tournament team players will be required to carry a copy of this form and documentation with them throughout the tournament. If contested during tournament play, the league will be required to produce the documentation. Additionally, if it is determined at a later date that the player does not meet the conditions of II(d), the player is ineligible for further*

***participation. Situations in which documentation is not available must be referred to the Charter Committee through the regional office for a decision. The decision of the Charter Committee is final and binding.***

#### **IV - THE PLAYERS**

- (g) Player roster forms supplied by Little League Headquarters must be completed and filed no later than May 28, 2004. Players claimed under Regulation II (d) and/or IV (h) must be declared on appropriate forms available from Little League Headquarters annually. It is highly recommended that rosters be supplied to Headquarters via the Little League Data Center. Look for related information online at [www.littleleague.org](http://www.littleleague.org).
- (h) ***Regulation IV(h) – Processing Procedure***  
***The league president will process a IV(h) form. Once the president completes the form, he/she must compile “residency requirement” verification that each youngster meets the conditions of IV(h) as outlined above. The league president will present this verification to the District Administrator for review. Once the district administrator verifies the documentation meets the regulations, the district administrator will sign the IV(h) form granting his or her approval. The league and the district will maintain the form and documentation in their files. This verification process is only required once during a participant’s career. The league must maintain this form and documentation for this player for the duration of his/her career until the player graduates from the program or breaks service with the league. Tournament team players will be required to carry a copy of this form and documentation with them throughout the tournament. If contested during tournament play, the league will be required to produce the documentation. Additionally, if it is determined at a later date that the player does not meet the conditions of IV(h), the player is ineligible for further participation. Situations in which documentation is not available must be referred to the Charter Committee through the regional office for a decision. The decision of the Charter Committee is final and binding.***
- (j) Any request for a waiver pertaining to the eligibility of a player must be submitted in writing, by the president of the local Little League through the district administrator, to their respective Regional Director not later than May 28 of the current year. Requests submitted after that date will not be considered.

#### **V - SELECTION OF PLAYERS**

- (c) **Alternate method of operation**  
To aid leagues that are having a difficult time getting enough players for their regular season teams the following option is available:

A pool of players from existing regular season teams can be created with players that are willing to participate in extra games during the regular season when teams face a shortage of rostered players for a regular season game.

**Guidelines:**

1. The league's Player Agent will create and run the pool. The league's Player Agent will use the pool to assign players to teams that are short of players on a rotating basis.
2. Managers and/or coaches will not have the right to randomly pick and choose players from the pool.
3. Players used from the pool will not be allowed to pitch, except during the player's own regular season scheduled game
4. Pool players that are called and show up at the game site must play at least nine consecutive defensive outs and bat once.

## **VI - PITCHERS**

This regulation applies only to the Little League (Majors) Division and Minor League.

(f) **NOTES:**

2. Innings pitched in games declared "Regulation Tie Games" or "Suspended Games" shall be charged against pitcher's eligibility for that week. **Note (1):** In suspended games resumed in a subsequent week, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of their remaining eligibility for the calendar week in which the game is resumed. **Note (2):** Innings pitched in games that do not complete one (1) full inning shall not count towards a pitcher's total for that particular pitching week.

## **CHANGES TO 2004 OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES**

### **1.00 - OBJECTIVES OF THE GAME**

**1.01 - Note: Competitive minor leagues and above may only use nine players on defense. See Rules 4.16 and 4.17.**

**1.10 (Baseball)** - The bat must be a baseball 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 of material tested and proved acceptable to Little League standards.

**1.10 (Softball)** - 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 of material tested and proved acceptable to Little League standards.

**1.15 -**

(a) The pitcher's glove shall be of one solid color other than white or gray, or if multi-colored, white and light gray shall not be included in the colors.

**1.16** - Each league shall provide in the dugout or bench of the offensive team six (6) (seven (7) for Junior/Senior/Big League Baseball) protective helmets which must meet NOCSAE specifications and standards. Use of the helmet by the batter, all base runners and base coaches is mandatory. Use of a helmet by an adult base coach is optional. Each helmet shall have an exterior warning label. The helmets provided by each league must meet NOCSAE specifications and bear the NOCSAE stamp as well as an exterior warning label as noted above. Note: Helmets may not be painted and may not contain tape or decals unless approved in writing by the helmet manufacturer.

**4.04** - The batting order shall be followed throughout the game unless a player is substituted for another. Substitutes must take the place of the replaced player's position in the batting order except as covered by Rule 3.03. A league may adopt a policy of a continuous batting order that will include all players on the team roster present for the game batting in order. If this option is adopted, each player would be required to bat in his/her respective spot in the batting order. However, a player may be entered and/or re-entered defensively in the game anytime provided he/she meets the requirements of mandatory play. **NOTE:** If adopted and a child 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 child arrives late to a game site, if the manager chooses to enter him/her in the lineup (see Rule 4.01 **NOTE**), he/she would be added to the end of the current lineup.

**4.05** - The offensive team shall station two base coaches on the field during its time at bat, one near first base and one near third base. The coaches shall not leave their respective dugouts until the pitcher has completed his/her preparatory pitches to the catcher. Base coaches shall-

- (1) be eligible players in the uniform of their team; an adult manager and/or coach. Both base coaches may be adult managers or coaches.
- (2) be an adult manager or coach only if there is at least one other adult manager or coach in the dugout.
- (3) remain within the base coaches' boxes at all times, except as provided in Rule 7.11;
- (4) talk to members of their own team only.

An offending base coach shall be removed from base coach's box.

**4.07** - When a manager, coach or player is ejected from a game, they shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in that game. They may not sit in the stands and may not be recalled. Any manager, coach or player ejected from a game is suspended for his or her team's next physically played game and may not be in attendance at the game site from which they are suspended.

## **7.00 - THE RUNNER**

**7.14** - Once each inning a team may utilize a player who is not in the batting order as a special pinch-runner for any offensive player. 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.

# 2004 TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES

## Managers and Coaches

The president of the League, the District Administrator or District Staff shall not serve as manager or coach.

**Little League:** The manager and coach (es) shall be regular season team managers and/or coaches from the Little League Baseball (Majors) Division.

**9-10 Division & 11 Year Old Division:** The manager and coach (es) shall be regular season team managers and/or coaches from the Little League Baseball (Majors) Division or Minor League Division.

**Junior League:** The manager and coach(es) shall be regular season team managers and/or coaches from the Junior Division or Senior Division.

**Senior League:** The manager and coach(es) shall be regular season team managers and/or coaches from the Junior Division, Senior Division or Big League Division.

**Big League:** The manager and coach (es) shall be regular season team managers and/or coaches from the Senior Division or Big League Division.

**NOTE: An individual that manages or coaches in another youth baseball program is not eligible to be appointed to manage or coach a tournament team in the Little League program at the same age division as defined in Regulation I (a).**

## Tournament Eligibility Affidavit

It shall be the league president's responsibility to review and certify the birth records (league age) and residence (as defined by Little League Baseball, Incorporated) of all players. When the league finally decides on the makeup of the team, names must be entered on the league's Eligibility Affidavit. Once the District Administrator certifies the eligibility affidavit, the tournament team will be required to have in its possession:

1. the tournament affidavit;
2. copies (originals not required) of the records used to verify date of birth for all players on the affidavit;
3. a map showing the actual boundaries of the league, with locations noted for the residences of the parent or legal guardian (court appointed) of every participant named on the affidavit.
4. **three or more documents to determine residency of the parent(s) or guardian for each player named on the tournament affidavit.**

**IMPORTANT: Alternates are not authorized. They shall not accompany the team and shall not be listed on the Eligibility Affidavit.**

Eligibility Affidavit must be certified by the District Administrator or his or her designated appointee and presented by the team manager to the Tournament Director before every game. NOTE: The Eligibility Affidavit becomes official once the team plays its first tournament game.

## Participation in Other Programs

A player may participate in other youth baseball programs prior to the first game involving that player's team. Once play begins for a tournament team, players named on that team's tournament affidavit may NOT participate in any other youth baseball program until that team is eliminated from tournament play.

## League Eligibility

In order for a Little League program to be eligible to enter a team or teams into the International Tournament (including 9-10 Year Old Division and 11 Year Old Division) the following must be accomplished no later than May 28, 2004:

- 1) The league must be chartered in the division(s) for which they wish to enter a tournament team(s). (Examples: Chartered in Little League Majors to enter a Major Division team (11-12 year old); chartered in Senior League to enter a Senior Division team, etc.);
- 2) All required waivers submitted and approved prior to cutoff date established in Regulation IV (j). (Examples: Regulation II (d), Regulation IV (h), player out of boundaries, etc.);
- 3) All regular season team rosters must be submitted to Little League Baseball in accordance with requirements outlined in Regulation IV (g);
- 4) Fees incurred by the league must be paid in full by May 28, 2004.

Failure to meet any of the listed requirements could result in a team or teams being declared ineligible by the Tournament Committee at Little League Baseball.

## Player Eligibility

Players are eligible for Tournament Play, provided they meet the criteria established by the Little League "Residency Eligibility Requirement" and the following:

**Little League (Majors Division)** - Any player League Age 11 or 12, who has participated as an eligible player in one-half the regular season games as of June 15 on a Little League Baseball (Majors Division) team, with the exception of the school baseball season.

**9-10 Year Old Division** - Any player League Age 9 or 10, who has participated as an eligible player in one-half the regular season games as of June 15, with the exception of the school baseball season, on a:

1. Little League Baseball (Majors Division) team, or;
2. Minor League Baseball team.

**11 Year old Division** - Any player League Age 11, who has participated as an eligible player in one-half the regular season games as of June 15, with the exception of the school baseball season, on a:

1. Little League Baseball (Majors Division) team, or;
2. Minor League Baseball team.

**Big League** - Any player League Age 16, 17 or 18, with amateur status, who has participated as an eligible player in one-half the regular season games by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the high school or college baseball season, on a:

1. Big League Baseball Team, or;
2. Senior League Baseball Team.

**Senior League** - Any player League Age 14, 15 or 16, with amateur status, who has participated as an eligible player in one-half the regular season games as of June 15, with the exception of the middle school, junior high school or high school baseball season, on a:

1. Big League Baseball Team, or;
2. Senior League Baseball Team, or;
3. Junior League Baseball Team.

**Junior League** - Any player League Age 13 or 14, who has participated as an eligible player in one-half the regular season games as of June 15, with the exception of the middle school, junior high school or high school baseball season, on a:

1. Senior League Baseball Team, or;
2. Junior League Baseball Team.

**NOTE 1:** Consistent with a manager's ability to conduct the affairs of his or her team, a manager may disqualify a player from the team for the current season, subject to Board of Directors approval, if the player repeatedly misses practice or games.

**NOTE 2:** The Big League Baseball, Senior League Baseball and Junior League Baseball Tournaments are divided by age, without regard to the regular season division in which a player participates, as noted above.

**CONDITION 1:** Participation must be within the chartered league named on the Eligibility Affidavit.

**CONDITION 2:** A player who is not able to participate in a number of local league regular season games because of participation in a school baseball program will receive an adjustment on the minimum participation in games required under this rule.

**Example:** If, for any given division, Team A played 20 regular season games before June 15, and a player missed 10 games because of participation in a school baseball program, that player is required to have participated in only five (5) regular season games to be eligible for the Tournament Team.

**CONDITION 3:** A player may be named to the roster of, and practice with, only **ONE** Little League International Tournament Team. Once the affidavit is signed by the local league president, player agent and District Administrator (or their representatives), the players listed on the affidavit shall not be eligible to participate on any other Little League International Tournament Team for the current year.

An 11-year-old regular season Major division player, a 14-year-old and a 16-year-old may be eligible for one of two (2) tournament teams. These players may only be chosen for one of those teams, either the 11-year-old tournament team or the Little League Baseball 11- and 12-year-old tournament team. The 14-year-old may be chosen for the Junior Division tournament team, or the Senior Division tournament team, and the 16-year-old may be chosen for the Senior Division tournament team, or the Big League Division tournament team. But in no case may these players be chosen for both, practice for both or participate with both teams.

*Violation of this rule may be cause for revocation of tournament privilege by the Tournament Committee.*

## **TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES**

The Official Little League, Junior League, Senior League and Big League Baseball Playing Rules shall govern tournament play except as noted below:

9. **MANDATORY PLAY:** 9-10 Year Old Division, 11 Year Old Division, Little League, Junior League, and Senior League: Every player on a team roster shall participate in each game for a minimum of three (3) consecutive defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time.
  - a. Managers are responsible for fulfilling the mandatory play requirements.
  - b. There is no exception to this rule unless the game is shortened due to weather, darkness or curfew. **NOTE:** A game is not considered shortened if the home

- team does not complete the offensive half of the sixth or seventh inning (or any extra inning) due to winning the game.
- c. Failure to meet the mandatory play requirements in this rule is a basis for protest. If one or more players on a roster do not meet this requirement, it shall result in forfeiture of the game (by action of the Tournament Committee), if protested before the umpire(s) leave the playing field. **NOTE:** The Tournament Committee reserves the right to impose additional penalties to the tournament team, manager or coach (es) for violation of the mandatory play rule.
  - d. To be assured of meeting the minimum participation requirements, in a complete game, all substitutes who have not entered the game previously **SHOULD ENTER THE GAME DEFENSIVELY** at or before the start of their half of the third inning (visitors) or fourth inning (home). This is the responsibility of the manager.
  - e. For the purposes of this rule, “three (3) consecutive defensive outs” is defined as: A player enters the field in one of the nine defensive positions when his/her team is on defense and occupies such position while three consecutive outs are made; “bat at least one (1) time” is defined as: A player enters the batters box with no count and completes that time at bat by being put out or by reaching base safely.
10. **SUBSTITUTIONS/RE-ENTRY:** This tournament rule replaces regular season Rule 3.03 (re-entry) for all levels of tournament play.
- a. If illness, injury or the ejection of a player prevents a team from fielding nine (9) players, a player previously used in the lineup may be inserted, but only if there are no other eligible substitutes available. The opposing team manager shall select the player to re-enter the lineup. A player ejected from the game is not eligible for re-entry.
  - b. Any player who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game in the **SAME** position in the batting order, provided:
    1. the player being removed has played defensively for a minimum of three (3) consecutive defensive outs, and;
    2. the player being removed has completed one time at bat during the game.

**NOTE 1:** See the definitions in Rule 9-e above on complying with this rule defensively and offensively.

**NOTE 2:** A player who has met the above requirements, and is a pitcher at the time he/she 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.
  - c. A starter and his/her substitute must not be in the lineup at the same time, except as provided in Rule 10-a.
  - d. Improper substitution is a basis for protest. Protests involving improper substitution not resolved before the next pitch or play shall not be considered.
  - e. Rule 7.14, Special Pinch Runner will apply during the tournament.
  - f. Junior/Senior/Big League only: 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. Big League only: Rule 3.03, Designated Hitter, and Rule 8.04, Intentional Walk, **WILL** apply during tournament.