



2010 REGULAR SEASON AND TOURNAMENT CHANGES

Revised 6/29/10

REGULATIONS:

Regulation II – LEAGUE BOUNDARIES in the Baseball and Softball Rule Books has been amended to read, in part:

Tee Ball Division: Any candidate who will attain the age of 4 years before May 1 (Softball: January 1) and who will not attain the age of 8 before May 1 (Softball: January 1) of the year in question shall be eligible to compete in the Tee Ball Baseball/Softball Division (subject to the Local League Board of Directors alignment of this division). This means that a child who will be 8 years old on May 1 (Softball: January 1) or later, is eligible to play that year; a child who will be 8 years old on April 30 (Softball: December 31) or earlier will not be eligible for either Local League play or tournament play at any time during the calendar year in question.

Congress Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately, this allows the local league to accept league-age 4-year-olds into the Tee Ball Division. It also reduces the maximum age permitted in Tee Ball from league-age 8 to league-age 7. Any league currently with league-age 8-year-olds in the Tee Ball Division may permit those players to remain in the Tee Ball Division for the 2010 season.

Regulation IV – THE PLAYERS in the Baseball Rulebook has been amended to read, in part:

***NOTE:** If a league elects to operate a Tee ball baseball program only, it must use the league age determination date as noted above.*

Regulation IV (a) - Junior League: Added language making it clear that when a 12-year-old player is found to be ineligible under this regulation, that player and/or his/her team are

subject to removal from the International Tournament by action of the Tournament Committee.
(Baseball Only)

Regulation IV – THE PLAYERS in the Softball Rule Book has been amended to read, in part:

A 12 year old player who is otherwise eligible under all conditions would be eligible for selection to either the *Major League or Junior League* Division tournament team.

However, a local Little League's board of directors could decide that players league age 12 in the league will not try out for the Junior League Division, and will be eligible for only the Little League ("Majors") Division/Minor League Division.

A player may be selected to participate in one or more regular season games on a Major League team and/or a Junior League team. If a player participates in sixty (60) percent of the Regular Season games in each division as of June 15, he/she will be eligible to participate in either the Major or Junior Division from that point forward in regular season and/or tournament play.

If a player only participates in sixty (60) percent of the Regular Season games in one division (Major or Junior) as of June 15, she is only eligible to participate with that particular division from that point forward in regular season and/or tournament play.

A player may only be selected to and participate on one (1) tournament team.

Any player who is league age 12 must be permitted to play in the Major Division. The local league cannot force any player who is league age 12 to play in the Junior League Division.

Congress Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately, this allows 12-year-old softball players to play in the Major and/or Junior divisions of softball, if drafted at the same time. Requests for league-age 12-year-olds to participate as pool players (to be move up occasionally to the Junior Division) must be approved by the Charter Committee in Williamsport.

Regulation VI - Note 4: Added language making it clear that a resumed game or contest decided by forfeit does not constitute a "game" for the purpose of this regulation, unless one completed inning was played before the game ended or the game was forfeited.

Regulation VI – PITCHERS in the Baseball Rule Book has been amended to read, in part:

(a) Any player on a regular season team may pitch. *Exception: Any player, who has played the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings in a game, is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.*

Congress Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately, this prohibits a player – who has played the position of catcher in any part of four innings in a game – from being used as a pitcher at any time on that calendar day. This applies to all baseball divisions.

Regulation VI – PITCHERS in the Baseball Rule Book has been amended to read, in part:

Exception: Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Regulation VI (c) for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: 1. That batter reaches base; 2. That batter is put out; 3. The third out is made to complete the half-inning. **Note 1: A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.**

(d) Pitchers league age 14 and under must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- *If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.*
- *If a player pitches 51 - 65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.*
- *If a player pitches 36 - 50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.*
- *If a player pitches 21 - 35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.*
- *If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.*

Pitchers league age 15-18 must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- *If a player pitches 76 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.*
 - *If a player pitches 61 - 75 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.*
 - *If a player pitches 46 - 60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.*
 - *If a player pitches 31 -45 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.*
 - *If a player pitches 1-30 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.*
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Regulation VI – PITCHERS in the Baseball Rule Book has been amended to read, in part:

(k) Pitching in more than one game in a day:

Minor League and Little League – A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day;

Junior League and Senior League – *A player may be used as a pitcher in up to two games in a day. (Exception: If the player pitched 31 or more pitches in the first game, that player may not pitch in the second game on that day);*

Big League - A player may be used as a pitcher in up to two games in a day.

Congress Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately, this permits a player on a Junior League Baseball or Senior League Baseball team to pitch in two games in one day, provided the player does not deliver 31 or more pitches in the first game. The Big League regulation remains unchanged.

Regulation XIV – FIELD DECORUM in the Baseball and Softball Rule Books has been amended to read, in part:

(e) The use of tobacco and alcoholic beverages in any form is prohibited on the playing field, benches or dugouts. *Alcohol is prohibited at the game site.*

Regulation IX – SPECIAL GAMES in the Baseball and Softball Rule Books has been amended to read, in part:

(f) Tournament teams may participate in Special Games only *after June 15th.*

Congress Summary and Implementation: Beginning this season, this allows Tournament teams to participate in Special Games after June 15. It is important to note that any Special Games must first be approved in writing by the District Administrator and Regional Director before they are played. The date of announcement of tryouts and practices remains June 15. (Exception for 9-10 and 10-11 Tournament teams – The tryout/practice date is June 15 or two weeks before the first game, whichever is earlier.)

REGULAR SEASON PLAYING RULES:

Rule 1.07 in the Softball Rule Book has been amended to read:

1.07 – The pitcher’s plate shall be a rectangular slab of whitened rubber 24 inches by 6 inches. It shall be set in the ground as shown in Diagrams 1 and 2, so that the distance between the front side of the pitcher’s plate and home base (the rear point of home plate) shall be – (1) Minor League: 35 feet; (2) Little League (Majors) and Junior League: 40 feet; (3) *Senior and Big League: 43 feet.*

Congress Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately, this increases the pitching distance in Senior League Softball and Big League Softball from 40 feet to 43 feet. (Note: This means all leagues must make this change immediately. Leagues where the change is not possible for the 2010 season must document the reasons the change is not possible and submit them as a Charter Committee Waiver Request for consideration.)

Rule 1.10: Added language making it clear that any bat that has been altered must be removed from play. **(Baseball)**

Rule 1.11 (h) in the Softball Rule Book has been amended to read:

1.11 (h) – Shoes with metal spikes or cleats are not permitted. Shoes with molded cleats are permissible. ***Junior/Senior/Big League:** Shoes with metal spikes or cleats are permitted.*

Rule 1.11 (k) in the Baseball and Softball Rule Books has been amended to read:

1.11 (k) – Casts may not be worn during the game *by players and umpires.* **NOTE:** *Persons wearing casts, including managers and coaches, must remain in the dugout area during the game.*

Rule 1.14: Standardized the limits on the size of fielders' gloves. **(Baseball and Softball)**

Rule 2.00 in the Baseball Rule Book has been amended to read, in part:

A **Pitch** is a ball delivered to the batter by the pitcher. Exception: For the purpose of maintaining a pitch count, a balk or illegal pitch shall count as one pitch; even if a pitch is not actually thrown.

Rule 2.00 in the Softball Rule Book has been amended to read, in part:

BUNT is a batted ball not swung at but intentionally met with the bat and tapped slowly. *Holding the bat in the strike zone is considered an attempted bunt. In order to take a pitch, the batter must withdraw the bat backwards away from the ball. (Tee Ball: Bunts are not permitted. Batters are not permitted to take a half-swing. If the umpire feels the batter is taking a half-swing, the batter may be called back to swing again.)*

Congress Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately for all softball divisions, this mandates that the umpire call a strike when the batter holds the bat in the strike zone when the pitch is delivered, even if the batter does not “offer” at the pitch.

Rule 3.03 - No. 6: Added language making it clear defensive substitutions must be made while the team is on defense, and offensive substitutions must be made at the time the offensive player has her/his turn at bat or is on base. (Also added to Rule 3.03 for Big League.)

Rule 5.07, Minor League: Added language providing that the five-run rule may be suspended in the last half inning for either team, by option of the local league. **(Baseball and Softball)**

Rule 6.09 (b) in the Softball Rule Book has been amended to read:

The batter becomes a runner when –

(b) **Major/Junior/Senior/Big League:** the third strike called by the umpire is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied or (2) first base is occupied with two out. **NOTE:** A batter forfeits the opportunity to advance to first base when he/she enters the dugout or any other dead ball area.

Congress Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately for the Major Softball Division, players may advance on a dropped third strike. Little League will permit local leagues to adopt a rule requiring players not to advance. This option applies only for the regular season. In Tournament play, the rule will be implemented as noted above.

Rule 7.08 (a) (5) in the Softball Rule Book has been amended to read, in part:

Any runner is out when –

(a) (5) **Major/Junior/Senior/Big League Divisions:** *the runner fails to keep contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been released by the pitcher on the delivery. (NOTE: A local league may adopt a rule that requires the runner to keep in contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been batted or reaches the batter, or be called out.)*

(b) **Minor League/Tee Ball:** *the runner fails to keep in contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been batted or reaches the batter.*

Congress Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately for the Major Softball Division, runners may leave the base when the pitcher releases the ball. Little League will permit local leagues to adopt a rule requiring runners to remain on the base until the ball reaches the batter. This option applies only for the regular season. In Tournament play, the rule will be implemented as noted above.

Rule 8.03 (c) in the Softball Rule Book has been amended to read:

(c) **Major/Junior/Senior/Big League:** *If the pitcher desires to walk a batter intentionally, all pitches must be legally delivered to the batter.*

Congress Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately for the Junior, Senior and Big League Softball Divisions, this removes the ability to “waive” a batter to first base for an intentional walk. All softball divisions now fall under this same rule.

TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES:

Responsibility and Chain of Command: Added language making it clear that the Tournament Committee may impose penalties it deems appropriate, or may take action to correct a situation, regardless of the source of information.

TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES – PLAYING EQUIPMENT in the Softball Rule Books has been amended to read, in part:

Playing Equipment

Shoes with metal spikes or cleats are not permitted. Shoes with molded cleats are permissible. *Junior/Senior/Big League Players: Shoes with metal spikes or cleats are permitted.*

TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES – TOURNAMENT TEAM PRACTICE in the Baseball and Softball Rule Books has been amended to read, in part:

Little/Junior/Senior/Big League: Try-outs or practices by tournament teams shall not be held before June 15. *Tournament team practice may only take place against other teams within the same or contiguous districts in the same division, providing such practice is done out of uniform.* (Little League accident insurance for tournament teams will not go into effect until June 15, or the date of the release of the names of tournament Team members, whichever is later).

9-10 & 10-11 Year Old Divisions: Try-outs or practices by tournament teams shall not be held before June 15 or two weeks prior to the start of the tournament. *Tournament team practice may only take place against other teams within the same or contiguous districts in the same division, providing such practice is done out of uniform.* (Little League accident insurance for tournament teams will not go into effect until June 15, or the date of the release of the names of tournament Team members, whichever is earlier).

Congress Summary and Implementation: Beginning with the 2010 International Tournament, this allows Tournament Teams to practice with other players in their own Chartered Little League, another Chartered Little League in their district, or another Chartered Little League in a contiguous district. Such practice must be done out of uniform, but could be a “scrimmage” game.

TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES – SELECTION OF FIELDS in the Baseball and Softball Rule Books has been amended to read, in part:

Selection of Fields

Local leagues selected to host a section, state, division, region or world series tournament must have an approved ASAP safety plan.

Congress Summary and Implementation: Beginning with the 2010 International Tournament, the host leagues for the tournament levels noted must have an approved plan under the “A Safety Awareness Program.” This requirement does not apply to district tournaments.

TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES – CURFEW in the Baseball and Softball Rule Books has been amended to read:

Curfew

No inning shall start after *midnight prevailing time (12:30 a.m. prevailing time for **Junior League**; 1:00 a.m. prevailing time for **Senior/Big League**)*. NOTE: An inning starts the moment the third out is made completing the previous inning.

Congress Summary and Implementation: Beginning with the 2010 International Tournament, this allows a later curfew for all divisions of play.

Conditions of Tournament Play - Protests - C. Use of an ineligible player: Added language making it clear that any violation of Regulations may result in a team having an ineligible player.

TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES – RULE 2: FIELDS in the Softball Rule Book has been amended to read:

FIELDS: All fields are considered neutral. The home team shall be determined by the toss of a coin, the winner having the choice. *The official pitching distance shall be – (1) **9-10 Year Old Division**: 35 feet; (2) **10-11 Year Old Division, Little League (Majors) and Junior League**: 40 feet; (3) **Senior and Big League**: 43 feet.*

TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES – RULE 3: PLAYING RULES in the Softball Rule Book has been amended to read, in part:

NOTE: *In the 10-11 tournament division, the batter may advance on a dropped third strike and the base runner will be allowed to advance when the ball is released by the pitcher (6.09 and 7.08(a)(5)). These rules will not apply for the 9-10 tournament division.*

TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES – RULE 4: BASEBALL PITCHING in the Baseball Rule Book has been amended to read, in part:

4. PITCHING RULES – LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL, 9-10 YEAR OLD, 10-11 YEAR OLD DIVISION, AND JUNIOR LEAGUE

(a) Any player on a tournament team may pitch. **Exception:** *Any player, who has played the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings in a game, is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.*

(b) A tournament pitcher may not pitch in regular season or Special Games while the team is still participating in the tournament.

(c) Pitchers once removed from the mound may not return as pitchers

Junior/Senior League: 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.

(d) The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

League Age: 13-14 95 pitches per day

 11-12 85 pitches per day

 9-10 75 pitches per day

Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed above for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: (1) That batter reaches base; (2) That batter is put out; (3) The third out is made to complete the half-inning. **Note: A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.**

(e) *Pitchers league age 14 and under must adhere to the following rest requirements:*

- *If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.*
- *If a player pitches 51 - 65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.*
- *If a player pitches 36 - 50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.*
- *If a player pitches 21 - 35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.*
- *If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.*

(f) A player may not pitch in two games in a day. (**Exception: Junior League** - *If a player pitches in 30 or less pitches in the first game, that player may pitch in the second game on that day*);

4. PITCHING RULES – SENIOR LEAGUE AND BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL

(a) Any player on a tournament team may pitch. **Exception:** Any player, who has played the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings in a game, is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.

(b) A tournament pitcher may not pitch in regular season or Special Games while the team is still participating in the tournament.

(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 per game.

(d) The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

League Age: 16 – 18 (Big League) 105 pitches per day

14 – 16 (Senior League) 95 pitches per day

Exception : If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed above for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs:

(1) That batter reaches base; (2) That batter is put out; (3) The third out is made to complete the half-inning. **Note: A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.**

(e) Pitchers league age 14-18 must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- If a player pitches 76 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 61 - 75 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 46 - 60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 31 -45 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1-30 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.

(f) A player may be used as a pitcher in up to two games in a day. (Exception: **Senior League** - If the player pitched 31 or more pitches in the first game, that player may not pitch in the second game on that day).

(g) In a game suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed the following calendar day, the pitcher of record at the time the game was halted may continue to the extent of his/her eligibility, provided he/she delivered 60 or less pitches, and subject to each of these conditions:

1. If the pitcher delivered 30 or less pitches before the game was suspended, that pitcher's pitch count will begin at zero for the continuation portion of the game;
2. If the pitcher delivered between 31 and 60 pitches before the game was suspended, that pitcher's pitch count will begin with the number of pitches delivered in that game;

(h) In a game ("Game A") suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed more than one calendar day later, the provisions of (g.) above shall apply, unless the pitcher of record pitched in another game or games after Game

A was halted. In that event, eligibility to pitch in the continuation portion of Game A shall be determined by the number of pitches delivered in the game or games after Game A was halted.

TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES – RULE 13: REGULATION GAME in the Baseball and Softball Rule Books has been amended to read:

REGULATION GAME: Each tournament game must be played to the point of being an official game:

(b) Regulation games (when a winner can be determined) terminated because of weather, darkness or curfew must *be resumed if the visiting team ties the game or takes the lead in their half of the inning and the home team does not complete their at bat or take the lead in an incomplete inning*. This does not apply to games suspended or delayed by weather that may still be resumed before darkness or curfew (as defined in Tournament Rules and Guidelines – Curfew) on the same day.

Congress Summary and Implementation: Beginning with the 2010 International Tournament, this removes the requirement to “revert” to the previous full inning’s score when – after the game reaches the point of a regulation game – the visiting team ties the game or takes the lead, and the game is suspended before the home team completes its at-bat and does not take the lead, and the game cannot be resumed on that same day. In such a case, both teams must return at a later date to complete the game, which would resume at the exact moment at which the game was suspended.

NOTES:

Various Regulations, Regular Season Rules, and Tournament Rules: The deadline for submitting forms that deal with Tournament Eligibility - i.e., regular season player roster forms, Regulation II (d) and Regulation IV (h) forms, waiver requests, chartering, fee payments, combined teams and interleague play forms, etc. - is June 8, 2010.

Adults and Minors in Positions of Authority: Changes were made to Rule 2.00, Rule 4.1, Rule 9.01, Rule 9.03, Rule 9.04, and the Tournament Rules and Guidelines, making it clear that Minors may serve as coach or umpire under specific and limited circumstances as noted in each rule. (Summary: A coach who is 16 or 17 may only serve as a coach if the adult manager and another adult coach are appointed. A person who is not an adult (no age limit) may serve in a game as an umpire, including as plate umpire, provided one or more other adults are also umpires for that game. However, that non-adult umpire cannot be designated as umpire-in-chief for that game. The umpire-in-chief is not required to be the plate umpire.)

SAFETY:

Appendix A: Added Lightning Safety Guidelines.

Appendix D: Added Bat Modifications and Alterations Policy.