

**2021 TOURNAMENT RULES SUMMARY – BASEBALL**

**IMPORTANT RULE CHANGES FOR 2021**

- **MANDATORY PLAY:** is revised to define “**at-bat**” as a player who come to bat and is either (1) retired, (2) retired as a batter-runner or runner, (3) scores, or (4) the inning or game ends. **Pinch runners cannot be utilized on any runner who has not completed the “at-bat” requirement as that will constitute an illegal substitution** (Regulation IV(i), pages 55 and 56, Rule 2.00, AT-BAT, page 95, and Tournament Rule 9.d, page 193, 2021 Rule Book)
- **TIME LIMITS:** For regular season **ONLY**, a local league may establish a time limit per game to define a regulation game versus innings played with a minimum time limit set at **1 hour and 45 minutes**. **THERE ARE NO TIME LIMITS DURING TOURNAMENT PLAY** (Tournament Rule 13, page 196, 2021 Rule Book)
- **ON-DECK BATTER (50/70, JR AND SR DIVISION ONLY):** the on-deck batter is to be positioned in the **on-deck circle closest to their dugout** (Regulation XIV(b), Approved Ruling, page 76, 2021 Rule Book)
- **COURTESY RUNNER-REGULAR SEASON ONLY: THERE ARE NO “COURTESY RUNNERS” DURING TOURNAMENT PLAY.** The special pinch runner rule will apply instead. (Tournament Rule 3.d, page 184, 2021 Rule Book)
- **INTENTIONAL WALKS-8/9/10, 9/10/11, & MAJOR DIVISIONS:** a **defensive team may intentionally walk a batter at any time during a player’s at-bat**. After calling for and receiving “time” from the plate umpire, the defensive manager will make the intentional walk request, the ball will be dead and no runners may advance unless forced by the batter’s award. The appropriate number of “balls” needed based on the count on the batter at the time of the manager’s request to complete the Intentional Walk will be added to the pitch count (Rule 6.08(a)(2), pages 134 and 135, 2021 Rule Book). For **INTERMEDIATE (50/70), JR, and SR,** the pitcher **must pitch four pitches** declared “balls” by the umpire, the ball is live, and base runners may advance (Rule 4.03(a), page 112 and Rule 6.08(a)(1), page 134, 2021 Rule Book)

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- **BATS (Major Division and Below):** Non-wood and laminated bats used in Little League (major division and below), Intermediate (50/70) Division, and Junior League shall bear the **USA Baseball logo** signifying that the bat meets the USA Baseball Performance Standard. **All BPF – 1.15 bats will be prohibited.** Additionally, **the bat diameter shall not exceed 2 5/8 inches** for these divisions of play (Rule 1.10 pages 89, 90, and 91, 2021 Rule Book). **Please note that this means big-barrel bats will be allowed at all levels of play as long as they have the “USA Baseball” logo on them.** **Bats for major league and below: cannot be more than 33 inches in length nor more than 2 and 5/8 inches in diameter and non-wood or laminated bats shall be printed with a USA Baseball mark (Rule 1.10, pages 89 and 90, 2021 Rule Book)**
- **BATS (Intermediate (50/70) or Junior Divisions):** Cannot be more than 34 inches in length nor more than 2 and 5/8 inches in diameter and non-wood or laminated bats shall be printed with a **USA Baseball logo** (Rule 1.10, pages 89, 90, and 91, 2021 Rule Book). Bats meeting the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (**BBCOR**) standard **may also be used** in the **Intermediate (50/70) Division and Junior League Division.** **NOTE:** There is no “drop-#” restriction on BBCOR bats in 50/70 or Junior Divisions (Rule 1.10, pages 89, 90, and 91, 2021 Rule Book)

**BATS (Senior League):** cannot be more than 36 inches in length nor more than 2 5/8 inches in diameter (cannot use a 2 3/4 inch diameter bat) and must not have less than a **“-3” rating, ie, “a drop 3”** (weight of bat cannot be less than 3 ounces of the length of the bat) **SR League Bats:** all bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (**BBCOR**) performance standard, **which will include having a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark on the bat. Aluminum/alloy and composite bats shall be marked as to their material makeup being aluminum/alloy or composite.** (Rule 1.10, page 90, 2021 Rule Book)

- **Penalties for use of illegal bats:** an illegal bat must be removed from the game. Additionally, if the batter enters the batter’s box with one or both feet **entirely** on the ground with an illegal bat or is discovered having used an illegal bat during his turn at bat and prior to the next player entering the batter’s box **and** the infraction is discovered before the next player enters the batter’s box: (Rule 6.06(d), page 131, and Rule T-3(a), pages 183 and 184, 2021 Rule Book).
  - a) the manager of the defense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline the penalty and accept the play (as long as this election is made at the end of the play),
  - b) for the **first violation**, the offensive team will **lose** one eligible adult base coach for the duration of the game,
  - c) for the **second violation**, the **manager** of the team will be **ejected** from the game, and
  - d) any **subsequent violations** will result in the **newly designated manager** being **ejected**.

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An illegal bat **must** be removed from the game once discovered (Rule 1.10, NOTE 4, page 90, and Rule 6.06(d) Approved Ruling, page 131, 2021 Rule Book)

- **MANAGERS/COACHES IN THE DUGOUT:** If a tournament team has twelve (12) or more eligible players in uniform at the game site at the start of a game, then the maximum number of three (3) adults who are named on the affidavit will be permitted to act as manager/coaches for that game. **However,** if a tournament team has eleven (11) or fewer players in uniform at the game site at the start of a game, then a maximum of two (2) adults must be named at the start of the game as manager and coach. If there is a third adult listed on the affidavit, that adult is not permitted to be in the dugout or on the field during that game. **NOTE:** Pursuant to Rule 4.05(b), base coaches may be adults and/or players provided at least one adult manager or coach remains in the dugout. **The “start of the game” is at the time of the preliminary plate meeting** with the umpire crew. (Tournament Rules, page 170, Rule 1.01, page 81, and Rule 3.17, page 110, 2021 Rule Book)
- **LEAVING DUGOUT WITHOUT PERMISSION:** A manager or coach may not leave a dugout for any reason during a game without receiving permission from an umpire. The manager or coach may be removed from the field for the remainder of the game for violation of this rule (Tournament Rule 7, VISITS, page 191, and Regulation XIV(d), Field Decorum, page 76, 2021 Rule Book)
- **Dropped Third Strike – Will NOT Apply in 8/9/10 Division of Play:** For the **8/9/10 Tournament,** on a dropped third strike by the catcher, the batter will be out (Tournament Rule 3.c, page 184, 2021 Rule Book)
- **Electronic Equipment in Dugouts:** the use of electronic devices in the dugout is allowed for players, coaches, or managers **as long as** the devices are **not used for communication;** the penalty for violation of this rule is **ejection from the game** (Rule 3.17, pages 110 and 111, 2021 Rule Book)
- Any part of the pitcher’s undershirt or T-shirt exposed to view shall be of a solid color. The pitcher’s undershirt sleeves, if exposed, shall not be white or gray. Neoprene sleeves, if worn by a pitcher, must be covered by an undershirt. **NOTE:** a pitcher shall not wear any items on his/her hands, wrists, or arms which may be distracting to the batter, ie, sweat bands (Rule 1.11(a)(3), page 91, 2021 Rule Book)
- **Dangling Throat Guards on Catcher’s Masks:** Catchers must wear a mask with (NOSCAE) approved catcher helmet and “dangling” type throat guard during pitcher warm-up and games (Rule 1.17, page 94, 2021 Rule Book)
- Only one offensive time-out is permitted **each** inning (Rule 5.10(d) (**NOTE**), page 126, and Tournament Rule 7, VISITS (**NOTE**), page 192, 2021 Rule Book)

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- **BATTER TO REMAIN IN BATTER’S BOX:** After entering the batter’s box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat. **Exceptions:**
  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 or the catcher leaves the catcher box.
  8. On a three ball count pitch that is a strike that the batter thinks is a ball.

**PENALTY:** If the batter leaves the batter 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. **Minor/Major Division:** No pitch has to be thrown, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance. **Intermediate (50/70), Junior, Senior Divisions:** NO pitch has to be thrown and the ball is live.

**NOTE:** The batter may return to their position in the batter’s box and assume the new count at any time during the at-bat, unless such enforced penalty is the third strike. (Rules 6.02(c), pages 127 and 128 and Tournament Rule 3.a, pages 183 and 184, 2021 Rule Book)

A pitcher’s pitch count will not be increased for strikes called under this rule (See **RULING**, Page 27, 2020 Make The Right Call Manual)

- **SPECIAL PINCH RUNNER USAGE:** Twice a game but not more than one time per inning, a team may utilize a player who is not in the batting order as a special pinch-runner for any offensive player. A player may only be removed for a special pinch-runner one time during a game. 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 lineup, is again eligible to be used as a pinch-runner (Tournament Rule 3.d, page 184, 2021 Rule Book)
- **BATTER SUBSTITUTION FOR PITCHER:** If a team has thirteen (13) players in uniform at the start of a game and is the visiting team, they may substitute a batter for the starting pitcher listed in the line-up prior to the pitcher facing a batter without violating Rule 3.03(c) provided that the pitcher of record pitches to the first batter in the bottom of the first inning in accordance with Rule 3.05. All other rules governing the pitcher are still in effect – **does not apply to Senior League** (Tournament Rule 10c, **NOTE 2**, page 195, 2021 Rule Book)

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• **PITCHER/CATCHER:**

**PITCHING THRESHOLDS (Catcher To Pitcher):** 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. A player who played the position of catcher for three (3) innings or less, moves to the pitcher position, and delivers 21 pitches or more (**SR League:** 31 pitches or more) in the same day, may not return to the catcher position on that calendar day. **EXCEPTION:** If the pitcher reaches the 20-pitch limit (**SR League:** 30-pitch limit) while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to return to the catcher position, until any of the following conditions occur: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game. (Rule T-4a, pages 185 and 188, 2021 Rule Book)

**PITCHING THRESHOLDS (Pitcher To Catcher):** If a player delivers 41 or more pitches, and is not covered under the threshold exceptions, the player may not play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day. **THRESHOLD EXCEPTION:** If a pitcher reaches 40 pitches while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day, until any of the following conditions occur: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game. The pitcher would be allowed to play the catcher position provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter (Regulation VI(c), page 62, and Tournament Rule 4d, pages 186 and 189, 2021 Rule Book)

**FOR 50/70 and JR/SR LEAGUE ONLY:** If the pitcher is removed prior to reaching his/her maximum pitch counts for a game, that pitcher may return to the mound if he/she remains in the game in another field position, but only once per game (Rule 4c, pages 136 and 139, 2019 Rule Book)

**RULE 8.02(a)(1), PITCHER BRINGING HANDS TO MOUTH:** the pitcher may bring the hand in contact with the mouth or the lips provided he distinctly wipes off the pitching hand before contacting the ball (Rule 8.02(a)(1), page 154, 2021 Rule Book)

**DAYS OF PITCHING LIMITS:** Under no circumstances shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days (Tournament Rule 4e, **NOTE,** pages 186 and 189, 2021 Rule Book)

**REMOVAL OF PITCHER DUE TO PITCH LIMIT:** Managers are responsible for the removal of pitchers once the pitcher has reached his/her maximum pitch count for the day. The manager should establish an official pitch count recorder for the team who may or may not also be the official scorekeeper. The failure of the pitch-count recorder or the umpire-in-chief to notify the manager of a pitcher reaching the pitching maximum for the day does not relieve the manager of his responsibility to remove that ineligible pitcher. Pitchers must be removed, based on the pitcher's age, from that position (but may remain in the game at another position) once the pitcher has reached a certain number of pitches for any particular game as follows (Tournament Rule 4d, pages 185, 186 and 189, 2021 Rule Book):

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Age 13 to 16 :	95 pitches allowed per day
Age 11 to 12 :	85 pitches allowed per day
Age 9 to 10 :	75 pitches allowed per day
Age 8 :	50 pitches allowed per day

If the pitcher reaches the limit imposed above on his/her last pitch to a particular batter, the pitcher **must be removed** prior to delivering a pitch to the next batter.

**Exception:** If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed above while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until that batter reaches base, is put out, or the third out for the inning is made on another player.

**DAYS OF REST FOR ALL BUT SR LEAGUE:**

That pitcher may pitch again as follows:

<b><u>Number of pitches</u></b>	<b><u>Number of Days</u></b>
66 or more	after 4 calendar days of rest
51 to 65	after 3 calendar days of rest
36 to 50	after 2 calendar days of rest
21 to 35	after 1 calendar day of rest
1 to 20	0 calendar days of rest

**DAYS OF REST FOR SR LEAGUE:**

That pitcher may pitch again as follows:

<b><u>Number of pitches</u></b>	<b><u>Number of Days</u></b>
76 or more	after 4 calendar days of rest
61 to 75	after 3 calendar days of rest
46 to 60	after 2 calendar days of rest
31 to 45	after 1 calendar day of rest
1 to 30	0 calendar days of rest

**NOTE FOR DAY(S) OF REST EXCEPTION:** If a pitcher reaches a day(s) of rest threshold 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 retired,
3. the third out is made to complete the half-inning

The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he reached during that at-bat, provided that pitcher is removed before delivering a pitch to another batter (Tournament Rule 4.d, **EXCEPTION**, pages 186, 187, and 190, 2021 Rule Book)



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**PITCHING IN MORE THAN ONE GAME IN A DAY:** A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day for any division **other than Junior or Senior leagues.** **Junior/Senior League:** If a player delivers 31 or more pitches in the first game, and is not covered under the threshold exceptions, the player may not pitch in the second game that day. **THRESHOLD EXCEPTION:** If a pitcher reaches 30 pitches while facing a batter in the first game, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to pitch in the second game on that day, until any of the following conditions occur: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game. The pitcher would be allowed to pitch in a second game provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter. **A league age 12-year-old participating in the Junior Division is not eligible to pitch in two games in a day** (Tournament Rule 4.f, pages 187 and 190, 2021 Rule Book)

**PITCHER VISIT LIMITS:** For 9/10/11 DIVISION and above, a manager or coach may come out once (**8/9/10 Division – twice**) in one inning to visit the pitcher but the second time (**8/9/10 Division – third time**) out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. A manager or coach may come out twice (**8/9/10 Division – three times**) in one game to visit the pitcher, but the third time (**8/9/10 Division – fourth time**) out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. (Tournament Rule 7, page 192, 2021 Rule Book). When a manager requests timeout to make a pitching change, it shall not be counted as a visit to the pitcher provided the manager makes the pitching substitution prior to speaking to any defensive player. This is important where a pitcher remains in the game at the Intermediate, JR, or SR level of play and the manager plans to return that player to the pitching position at some time during the remainder of the game. However, **when a manager or coach is granted time out to talk to any defensive player will be charged with a visit to the pitcher** (Rule 8.06(c), Approved Ruling 1, page 159, and Tournament Rule 7, pages 191 and 192, 2021 Rule Book)

**WARM-UP PITCHES BETWEEN INNINGS:** A pitcher shall be permitted to pitch no more than eight (8) preparatory pitches to the catcher **but no more** than one minute of preparatory pitches between half-innings (Rule 8.03, page 155, 2021 Rule Book)

**INTENTIONAL WALKS:**

**Minor/Major Division ONLY** Prior to a pitch being thrown, the defense may elect to “Intentionally Walk” the batter by announcing such decision to the plate umpire. Such notification must be made by the defensive manager. The manager must request and be granted “Time” by the umpire and then inform the umpire of the defense’s intent to walk the batter. The ball is dead and no other runners may advance unless forced by the batter’s award. **Four (4) pitches will be added to the pitch count** (Rule 6.08(a)(2), pages 134 and 135, 2021 Rule Book)

**Under no circumstances shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days** (Regulation VI(d), NOTE, page 62, and Rule T-4(e), NOTE, page 186, 2021 Rule Book).

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**Intermediate (50/70), Junior, and Senior ONLY:** If a pitcher wishes to intentionally walk a batter, he must do so by pitching four pitches intentionally outside the strike zone that are not struck at by the batter, are called “balls” by the umpire, and the catcher is within the catcher’s box at the time of delivery of each pitch. All such pitches will count in determining that pitcher’s pitch count (Rule 4.03(a), page 112, and Rule 6.08(a)(1), page 134, 2021 Rule Book)

**FOREIGN SUBSTANCE APPLIED TO GAME BALL:** The pitcher shall not apply a foreign substance of any kind to the ball (this includes dirt or clay) or deface the ball in any manner. A pitcher may use a rosin bag for hands only. When a pitcher violates this rule, an umpire shall call the pitch a ball and warn the pitcher. (Rule 8.02 (a)(2) through (6), page 154, 2021 Rule Book). If the violation is repeated during the game, the umpire shall remove the pitcher from the game. No player shall intentionally discolor or damage the ball by rubbing it with soil, rosin, etc. or any other foreign substance. The umpire shall demand the ball and remove the offender/player from the game. If the umpire cannot locate the offender/player and the pitcher delivers such discolored or damaged ball to the batter, the pitcher shall be removed from the game at once (Rule 3.02, page 106, 2021 Rule Book)

**PITCHER WARMUP BY MANAGER/COACH PROHIBITED:** Managers and coaches must not warm up a pitcher at home plate or in the bull pen or elsewhere at any time (this includes before or during the game) (Rule Regulation XIV(f), page 76, and Rule 3.09, page 109, and, 2021 Rule Book)

**UNANNOUNCED SUBSTITUTE PITCHER:** If a player who has not been announced as a substitute for the pitcher delivers one warm-up pitch to the catcher, that player now becomes the pitcher of record (assuming eligibility) and must pitch to at least one batter (Rule 3.08(a)(1), page 109, 2021 Rule Book)

- **Mandatory Play – International Tournament (8/9/10 Division through Junior Division):** If a tournament team has thirteen (13) or more eligible players in uniform at a game, then every player on a team roster shall participate in each game for a minimum of one (1) at bat. If a tournament team has twelve (12) or fewer eligible players in uniform at a game, then every player on a team roster shall participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) consecutive defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time (Rule T-9, page 192, 2021 Rule Book). There is no exception to this rule unless the game is shortened for any reason (Rule 9(c), page 193, 2021 Rule Book). “MANDATORY PLAY” is revised to define “at-bat” as a player who come to bat and is either (1) retired, (2) retired as a batter-runner or runner, (3) scores, or (4) the inning or game ends (Tournament Rule 9.e, page 194, 2021 Rule Book). Pinch runners cannot be utilized on any runner who has not completed the “at-bat” requirement as that will constitute an illegal substitution (Regulation IV(i), pages 55 and 56, Rule 2.00, AT-BAT, page 95, and Tournament Rule 9.d, page 193, 2021 Rule Book)



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- **MANDATORY PLAY NOTIFICATION:** Prior to the start of play in the top of the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) inning (**Intermediate (50/70) and Junior League:** fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) inning), the umpire-in-chief or other individual designated by the game Tournament Director in connection with the official scorekeeper, shall advise both team managers of their obligation to insert all players who have not completed their mandatory play requirements into the line-up as outlined below. A manager's failure/refusal to insert players into the line-up as outlined below shall result in immediate ejection of the manager and removal for the remainder of the International Tournament.
  1. If a team has 12 or fewer players in uniform at the start of a game, and is:
    - a. **Visiting Team:** Any player(s) who has yet to enter the game to meet the defensive requirement of mandatory play must be inserted prior to the first pitch or play in the bottom half of the fourth inning (**Intermediate (50/70) and Junior League:** fifth inning) into one of the next six (6) positions in the line-up, that will ensure all requirements of mandatory play will be satisfied, absent a shortened game, including one at-bat.
    - b. **Home Team:** Any player(s) who has yet to enter the game to meet the defensive requirement of mandatory play must be inserted prior to the first pitch or play in the top half of the fifth inning (**Intermediate (50/70) and Junior League:** sixth inning) into one of the next three (3) positions in the line-up, that will ensure all requirements of mandatory play will be satisfied, absent a shortened game, including one at-bat.
  2. If a team has 13 or more players in uniform at the start of a game, players must be inserted into the line-up to bat offensively during the:
    - a. **Visiting Team:** fourth or fifth inning, or as one of the first three batters in the sixth inning (**Intermediate (50/70) and Junior League:** fifth or sixth inning, or as one of the first three batters in the seventh inning), that will allow their one at-bat to be satisfied.
    - b. **Home Team:** fourth inning or as one of the first three batters in the fifth inning (**Intermediate (50/70) and Junior League:** fifth inning or as one of the first three batters in the sixth inning), that will allow their one at-bat to be satisfied.

Managers are responsible for fulfilling the mandatory play requirements, even if notification is not made. **Failure to meet the mandatory play requirements in this rule is a basis for protest and, if protested or brought to the Tournament Committee's attention, it shall result (by action of the Tournament Committee) in the removal of the team's manager, without replacement, for the remainder of the International Tournament.** (Rule T-9(a), (b) and (d), pages 192, 193, and 194, 2021 Rule Book)

**There is no mandatory play for SR League.**

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- **SUBSTITUTION/RE-ENTRY:** Any player who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game in the **SAME** position in the batting order. A substitute entering the game for the first time may not be removed prior to completion of his/her mandatory play requirements. This rule does NOT apply to SR League Division (Tournament Rule 10.b and 10.c, pages 194 and 195, 2019 Rule Book).
- **FIFTEEN AND TEN-RUN RULE:** If after three (3) innings (**Intermediate (50/70)/Junior/Senior League:** four (4) innings), two and one-half innings (**Intermediate (50/70)/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)/Junior/Senior League:** five (5) innings), three and one-half innings (**Intermediate (50/70)/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 victory to the opponent. During regular season, the local Little League may adopt the option of not utilizing this rule. However, this rule will apply during Tournament Play at all levels. (Rule 4.10(e), pages 116 and 117, and Tournament Rule 12, page 196, 2021 Rule Book)
- **BUNTS and ATTEMPTS AT BUNT:** If no attempt is made to make contact with a ball outside the strike zone while in the bunting stance, **it shall be called a ball**. The batter **must offer** at the pitch for it to be called a strike. The position of the bat is irrelevant unless the batter attempts to make contact with the ball (Rule 2.00 – DEFINITIONS, BUNT, page 96, 2021 Rule Book)
- **HEADFIRST SLIDING:**  
  
8/9/10, 9/10/11, and Major Divisions Only: **When a runner is advancing or stealing a base, there is no head-first sliding. If a runner does slide head-first while advancing, that runner shall be called “Out” (Rule 7.08(a)(4), page 141, 2021 Rule Book).**  
  
50/70/JR/SR League: **A runner may slide head-first on an advance to any base. Head-first sliding is always allowed for all runners in any league if they are attempting to return to a base they occupied.**
- **NO SLIDE TO AVOID RULE:** Any runner is out when the runner does not slide or attempt to avoid contact with a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag (in other words, the runner “trucks” the fielder as in football or rugby) (Rule 7.08(a)(3), page 141, 2021 Rule Book). **There is no “must slide rule”, only the “no slide to avoid contact” rule** (Rule 7.08(a)(3), Approved Ruling, page 141, 2021 Rule Book)
- **If a defensive player blocks** the base, **home plate**, or baseline **clearly without possession of the ball**, a delayed “dead ball” obstruction shall be called and the runner is safe (Rule 7.06(b), **NOTE 2**, page 136, 2021 Rule Book)

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- **SR LEAGUE ONLY:** Designated Hitter will apply during tournament play. Any player in the starting line-up, including the designated hitter, who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game ONCE, provided such player occupies the same batting position as he or she did in the starting line-up. A substitute (non-starter) may not re-enter the game in any position once that player is removed from the line-up (Rules 10h and 10i, page 196, 2021 Rule Book)
  
- **TIE GAMES:** When the completion of six innings (**Intermediate (50/70), JR and SR League:** seven innings) and the score is tied, the following tie-breaker will be played to determine a winning team (Tournament Rule 14, page 197, 2021 Rule Book):
  - a. the seventh inning (**Intermediate (50/70), JR and SR League:** eighth inning) will be played as normal.
  - b. starting in the top of the eighth inning (**Intermediate (50/70), JR and SR League:** ninth inning) and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base. **EXAMPLE:** If the number five batter is the lead-off batter, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base. An eligible substitute or special pinch runner may be inserted for that runner.
  
- **APPEALS:** Any appeal under Rule 7.10 (tag-ups on fly balls, runners advancing or returning to a base and failing to touch each base, or a runner failing to touch home plate and making no attempt to return to touch home plate, and home plate is tagged. Any appeal under this rule must be made before the next pitch, or any play or attempted play. **No appeal can be made if the ball is dead.** If the violation occurs during a play which ends a half inning, the appeal must be made before all the defensive players have left fair territory.

In making an appeal, the pitcher shall not throw to a base while the foot is in contact with the pitcher's plate. In putting the ball back into play, after taking the pitching position, the pitcher shall step backwards off the pitcher's plate (with the pivot foot first) to begin the appeal. **Successive appeals may not be made on a runner at the same base.** If the defensive team on its first appeal errs, a request for a second appeal on the same runner at the same base shall not be allowed by the umpire (Rule 7.10, pages 145 and 146, 2021 Rule Book)

- **All fielders, except the catcher, must be positioned in fair territory** when play begins (**including first- or third-basemen attempting to hold on runners**). **NOTE:** There is no penalty for this infraction; the umpire should just have the player move into fair territory (Rule 4.03, pages 112 and 113, 2021 Rule Book and Page 19, 2020 Make The Right Call Manual)

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**2021 TOURNAMENT RULES SUMMARY – BASEBALL**

- **ENDING GAME:** When the winning run is scored in the last half-inning of a regulation game, the umpire shall not declare the game ended **until** the runner forced to advance from third has touched home plate **and** the batter-runner has touched first base (Rule 4.09(b), page 115, 2021 Rule Book).

Tie game in the bottom of the sixth inning, two outs. Batter receives ball four and all runners begin to advance. The runner from third base touches home plate. The batter rushes to join in the endgame celebration without having first touched first base. The batter then enters the dugout with the rest of the team. **RULING:** Umpire will call the batter out for abandoning his/her effort to advance. In this instance, the third out is a result of the batter being called out before touching first base, therefore it is a force out. No run scores and the game continues with the score still tied. (**NOTE:** the player must enter dead ball territory before he/she can be called out for abandonment.) (Rule 4.09(b) Situation, page 21, 2020 Make The Right Call Manual)

- **UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:** 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 local league Board of Directors (Regulation XIV(a), page 76, 2021 Rule Book)

Any comments, concerns, suggestions, or questions regarding rules should be directed to:

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