

FL DISTRICT 11

2024 TOURNAMENT RULES SUMMARY – BASEBALL

IMPORTANT RULE CHANGES FOR 2024

- **AT-BAT DEFINITION:** It is clarified that for purposes of satisfying Mandatory Play for Tournament Play only, the definition of At-Bat does not apply in Tournament Play. The term “At-Bat” is defined in Rule 2.00 as a player completing his or her “at bat” after that player is retired is a batter, retired as a batter-runner, reaches base and scores, or reaches base and the inning or game ends. If the “completion” aspect of this rule applied during Tournament Play, there could be no courtesy runners for pitchers or catchers until everyone had “completed” their “at-bat”.

- **ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING COURSE:** is now mandatory for ALL LITTLE LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS who are required to complete a Little League Volunteer Application and Background Check. **This includes ALL MANAGERS AND COACHES OF ALL-STAR TEAMS.** This free online training is available through USA Baseball, the governing body of amateur baseball in the United States and will only take approximately 20 minutes to complete. A certificate of completion link will be sent to your email for you to print and save. **PRINT THIS CERTIFICATE FOR EACH COACH/MANAGER AND INCLUDE WITH LEAGUE AFFIDAVIT BOOKS.**

Go to the following web site:

<https://usabdevelops.com/memberships/131/login>

Click on “Education” at the top of the Home page, then “Courses”, scroll down to “Abuse Awareness for Adults” and click on that link, enter your email address and password or click “Register” to set up an account. Click on “Go To Course”. Your host will be David Ross, former catcher and manager of the Chicago Cubs and was on the Cubs when they won the World Series in 2016.

- **DIAMOND-LEADER PROGRAM:** All managers and coaches will be required to complete the Little League Diamond Leader Training Program by obtaining a certificate of completion at LittleLeague.org/DiamondLeader. The completed certificate will be required to be available for inspection at all tournament sites and should be included in each league’s affidavit books (Tournament Rules, page 174, 2024 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 are prohibited.** Additionally, **the bat diameter shall not exceed 2 5/8 inches** for these divisions of play (Rule 1.10 pages 93 and 94, 2024 Rule Book). Please note that this means big-barrel bats are allowed at all levels of play as long as they have the “USA Baseball” logo on them. **Bats for minor and major league: 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, page 93, 2024 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 mark. 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 93 and 94, 2024 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 94, 2024 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 1.10, page 88, Rule 6.06(d), page 136, and Rule T-3(b), page 189, 2024 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 94, and Rule 6.06(d) Approved Ruling, page 136, 2024 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 197, and Regulation XIV(d), Field Decorum, page 80, 2024 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 189, 2024 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, page 115, 2024 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, except that play-calling bands may be worn on a pitcher’s non-pitching wrist or forearm (Rule 1.11(a)(3), pages 95 and 96, 2024 Rule Book).
- Play-calling bands are permitted to be worn on the non-pitching wrist or arm (Rule 1.11(a)(3), pages 95 and 96, 2024 Rule Book). Play-calling bands are permitted as long as **(1)** the equipment is worn on the wrist or forearm as the manufacturer intended, **(2)** the band is not attached to the belt or any other location on the person, and **(3)** for pitchers, the band may be worn on their non-pitching arm provided the band is a solid color that is **NOT** white, gray, or optic yellow. If the umpire considers the band distracting to the batter, the umpire may have the band removed.
- **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 98, 2024 Rule Book).
- Only one offensive time-out is permitted **each** inning (Rule 5.10(d) (NOTE), page 131, and Tournament Rule 7, VISITS (NOTE), page 197, 2024 Rule Book).
- **Bunts:** the mere holding of the bat in the strike zone is **not** an attempted 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 a strike (Rule 2.00, BUNT and Approved Ruling, page 101, 2024 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 132 and 133 and Tournament Rule 3.a, pages 188 and 189, 2024 Rule Book)

A pitcher’s pitch count will **not** be increased for strikes called under this rule (See **RULING**, Page 29, 2022 Make The Right Call Manual)

- **REGULATION GAME:** A game is a regulation game if four innings (five innings for Junior and Senior Divisions) in which one team has scored more runs than the other [three and one-half (3 ½) if the home team is ahead or four and one-half (4 ½) if the home team is ahead in Junior and Senior Divisions] (Tournament Rule 13(a), pages 200 and 201, 2024 Rule Book).
- **NO TIME LIMITS:** There are no time limits on games; there are curfews on games: no inning shall start after midnight (12:30 AM for **50/70 and Junior League**; 1:00 AM for **Senior League**) (Curfew, pages 183 and 184 and Tournament Rule 13(c), page 201, 2024 Rule Book).
- **MANAGERS/COACHES NOT PERMITTED TO WARM UP PITCHERS:** managers or coaches are not permitted to warm up a pitcher at home plate or in the bullpen or elsewhere at any time; they may stand by to observe a pitcher during warm-up in the bullpen (Rule T-3(f), page 190, 2024 Rule Book).

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- **Mandatory Play – (Minor Division through Junior Division):** Tournament teams will adopt a continuous batting order during tournament play to include **all players** on the team affidavit who are present at the start of the game. It is clarified that **for purposes of satisfying Mandatory Play for Tournament Play only**, the definition of At-Bat does not apply in Tournament Play. The term “At-Bat” is defined in Rule 2.00 as a player completing his or her “at bat” after that player is retired is a batter, retired as a batter-runner, reaches base and scores, or reaches base and the inning or game ends. If the “completion” aspect of this rule applied during Tournament Play, there could be no courtesy runners for pitchers or catchers until everyone had “completed” their “at-bat”. This will allow defensive players to play when and how much a manager decides. If a player arrives late to a game and the manager chooses to enter him in the lineup, that player would be placed at the bottom of the lineup. Managers are solely responsible for ensuring that all players fulfill this mandatory play requirement. **This rule does not apply to Senior Division.** (Rule T-9, pages 197, 198, and 199, 2024 Rule Book).
- **MANAGER RESPONSIBILITY-MANDATORY PLAY:** Managers are responsible for fulfilling the mandatory play requirements, even if notification is not made by umpires or tournament directors. **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 may 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(h), pages 198 and 199, 2024 Rule Book).
- **COURTESY RUNNER (Minor Division through JR Division):** A tournament team may permit a “courtesy runner” for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are two (2) outs. Utilizing a continuous batting order, the courtesy runner may be in the team’s batting order and **must be** the player in the batting order who made the last out (Rule T-3(d), page 189, 2024 Rule Book). This rule does not limit the number of times a catcher and/or pitcher can utilize a courtesy runner during a tournament game. It has been clarified that **for purposes of satisfying Mandatory Play for Tournament Play only**, the definition of At-Bat does not apply in Tournament Play (Significant Updates for 2024, page 5, 2024 Rule Book).
- **SPECIAL PINCH RUNNER USAGE-SENIOR LEAGUE ONLY:** **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 189, 2024 Rule Book).

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- **SUBSTITUTION AND RE-ENTRY – SENIOR DIVISION:** Any player who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game in the **SAME** position in the batting order **ONCE**, provided such player occupies the same batting position as he or she did in the starting line-up. Defensive substitutions must be made while the team is on defense. Offensive substitutions must be made at the time the offensive player has his turn at bat or is on base. A starter and his substitute must not be in the lineup at the same time, except for injury, illness, or ejection. (Rule T-10(b), (c), (d), (e), and (i) pages 199 and 200, 2024 Rule Book.).
- **DESIGNATED HITTER-SR LEAGUE ONLY:** Designated Hitter **WILL** apply during tournament play. Any player in the starting line-up, including the designated hitter (DH), 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 (Tournament Rules 10(h) and 10(i), page 200, 2024 Rule Book).
- **ON-DECK BATTER (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 80, 2024 Rule Book).
- **MANAGERS/COACHES IN THE DUGOUT:** A maximum of three (3) adults who are named on the affidavit will be permitted to act as manager/coaches for that game and in the team dugout (Tournament Rules, page 175, 2024 Rule Book). **NOTE:** Pursuant to Rule 4.05(b), page 118, of the 2024 Rule Book, base coaches may be adults and/or players provided at least one adult manager or coach remains in the dugout.
- **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 (**SENIOR 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 (**SENIOR 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; (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game, the pitcher is removed from the mound prior to the batter completing his at-bat (Rule T-4(a), pages 190 and 194, 2024 Rule Book).

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- **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; (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game, or (4) the pitcher is removed from the mound prior to the batter completing his at-bat. 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 (Rule T-4(d), **NOTE**, pages 191, 192, 194, and 195, 2024 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, assuming eligibility with pitch count and number of visits for that game (Tournament Rule 4.c, pages 191 and 194, 2024 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 159, 2024 Rule Book).
- **DAYS OF PITCHING LIMITS:** Under no circumstances shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days (Rule T-4(e) **NOTE 1**, pages 192 and 195, 2024 Rule Book).
- **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; (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game, or (4) the pitcher is removed from the mound prior to the batter completing his/her at-bat. 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), page 195, 2024 Rule Book).
- **Under no circumstances shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days** (Regulation VI(d), **NOTE 1**, page 67, and Tournament Rule 4(e)., **NOTE 1**, pages 192 and 195, 2024 Rule Book).

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- **REMOVAL OF PITCHER DUE TO PITCH LIMIT:** Pitching rules are as follows pursuant to Regulation VI – Pitchers, sections (b), (c) and (d), pages 65, 66, and 67, and Rules T-4(d) and (e), pages 191, 192, 194, and 195 in the 2024 Rule Book.

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:

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 7 to 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: A pitcher's pitch count for the purposes of day(s) rest threshold is determined by the first pitch thrown to a batter. The pitcher may not start a new batter once the per game limit amount of pitches has been met.

DAYS OF REST FOR PLAYERS AGE 14 AND UNDER:

That pitcher may pitch again as follows:

<u>Number of pitches</u>	<u>Number of Days</u>
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 PLAYERS AGE 15 OR 16:

That pitcher may pitch again as follows:

<u>Number of pitches</u>	<u>Number of Days</u>
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's pitch count for the purposes of determining day(s) rest threshold is determined by the first pitch thrown to a batter.

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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 (Regulation VI(d) – PITCHERS **NOTE 2**, pages 66 and 67, and Rule T-4(e), **NOTE 2**, pages 192 and 195, 2024 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, 2023 Rule Book)
- **PITCHER VISIT LIMITS:** For **9- to 11-Year-Old Division and above**, a manager or coach may come out once in one inning to visit the pitcher but the second time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. A manager or coach may come out twice in one game to visit the pitcher, but the third time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. (Rule T-7, page 197, 2024 Rule Book). For **8- to 10-Year-Old Division**, a manager or coach may come out twice in one inning to visit the pitcher but the third time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. A manager or coach may come out three times in one game to visit the pitcher, but the fourth time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. (Rule T-7, page 197, 2024 Rule Book). A manager or coach who is granted time out to talk to any defensive player will be charged with a visit to the pitcher. When a manager requests timeout to make a pitching change, it shall not be considered a visit to the pitcher provided the manager makes the pitching substitution prior to speaking to any defensive player (Rule 8.06(c), APPROVED RULING 1, page 164, and Rule T-7, page 197, 2024 Rule Book).
- **INTENTIONAL WALKS:** For all divisions of play, an intentional walk without throwing any pitches may be requested by the defense, prior to or during the at-bat, one time per game per batter by announcing such decision to the plate umpire. The appropriate number of “balls” needed based on the count on the batter at the time of the manager’s request **will be added to the pitch count**. Any additional intentional walks desired by the defense on that same batter would then require four pitches be thrown and called “ball” by the umpire (Rule 6.08(a)(2), pages 139 and 140, 2024 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, 2023 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 110, 2024 Rule Book).

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- **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 113, 2024 Rule Book).
- **15-RUN RULE/10-RUN RULE:** If after three (3) innings (50/70, Junior, & Senior League: four (4) innings), two and one-half innings (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 (50/70, Junior, & Senior League: five (5) innings), three and one-half innings (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 T-12, page 200, 2024 Rule Book).
- There is no 8-run rule in Tournament Play (Rule T-12, NOTE 3, page 200, 2024 Rule Book).
- **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 146, 2024 Rule Book). **There is no “must slide rule”, only the “no slide to avoid contact” rule** (Rule 7.08(a)(3), Approved Ruling, page 146, 2024 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 146, 2024 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.
- **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 146, 2024 Rule Book).

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- **TIE GAMES:** During tournament play, when the completion of six innings (**Junior/Senior League:** seven innings) and the score is tied, the following tie-breaker will be played to determine a winning team (Rule T-14, page 201, 2024 Rule Book):
 - a. the seventh inning (**50/70, Junior, & Senior League:** eighth inning) will be played as normal.
 - b. starting in the top of the eighth inning (**50/70, Junior, & Senior 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 150, 151, and 152, 2024 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 116 and 117, 2024 Rule Book and Page 19, 2022 Make The Right Call Manual)
- **TIME LIMITS:** **THERE ARE NO TIME LIMITS, OTHER THAN CURFEWS, DURING TOURNAMENT PLAY** (Tournament Rule 13, pages 200 and 201, 2024 Rule Book).

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- **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 114, 2023 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, 2022 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 80, 2024 Rule Book).
- **The traditional batting donut is not permissible** (Rule 1.10, **NOTE 1**, page 94, 2024 Rule Book).
- **RUNNING THROUGH FIRST BASE RULE:** Any runner is out when failing to return **at once** to first base and overrunning or over-sliding that base. If attempting to run to second base, the runner is out when tagged (Rule 7.08(j), page 148, 2024 Rule Book). Please note that **there is no requirement for the runner to “turn out” into foul territory** in order to be declared safe without liability to be put out. The runner simply must immediately return to first base without making any move to run toward second base, regardless of whether that runner turns out into foul territory or turns into fair territory prior to immediately returning to first base.
- The possession and/or use of firearms, tobacco products, cigarettes (including e-cigarettes and vapors), controlled substances, and alcoholic beverages in any form is **prohibited on the playing field, benches, or dugouts**. **Alcohol is prohibited at the game site** (Regulation XIV(e), Field Decorum page 80, 2024 Rule Book).

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

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