

FLORIDA DISTRICT 11 LITTLE LEAGUE
2019 TOURNAMENT RULES – SOFTBALL

Bats for major league and below: cannot be more than 33 inches in length nor more than 2 ¼ inches in diameter **with a 1.20 BPF** (Rule 1.10, page 63, 2019 Rule Book)

Bats for JR/SR League: cannot be more than 34 inches in length nor more than 2 ¼ inches in diameter **with a 1.20 BPF** (Rule 1.10, page 63, 2019 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 T-3b, pages 127 and 128, 2019 Rule Book).
 - (a) **the batter is out** unless 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) the **manager** of the team in violation will be **ejected** from the game,
 - (c) the **batter** who violated the rule will be **ejected** from the game, and
 - (d) the offensive team will lose one eligible adult base coach for the duration of the game.

An illegal bat **must** be removed from the game once discovered (Rule 1.10, page 63, and Rule 6.06(d), pages 92 and 93, 2019 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 118, 2019 Rule Book).

During games, there shall be only one (1) manager and not more than two (2) coaches allowed in the dugout with team players with one adult in the dugout at all times. **(Rule 1.01, page 59 and Rules 3.09 and 3.17, pages 77 and 78, 2019 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 78, 2019 Rule Book).

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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 (Playing Equipment, page 122, 2019 Rule Book).

BATTER TO REMAIN IN BATTER'S BOX: During tournament play, 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 “slap” or “slap 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 eight-foot circle 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. No pitch has to be thrown, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

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. (Rule T-3a, page 127 Tournament Rules, 2019 Rule Book).

Dropped Third Strike – Will NOT Apply in 8/9/10 Division of Play: the dropped third strike rule will not apply at the 8 to 10 year old division (Rule 3c, page 128, 2019 Rule Book).

LEAVING BASE EARLY (9/10/11 DIVISION AND ABOVE): any runner is out when the runner fails to keep contact with the base until the ball has been released by the pitcher on delivery (Rule 7.08(a)(5)(a), page 99, and Rule T-3d, page 128, 2019 Rule Book)

LEAVING BASE EARLY (8/9/10 DIVISION): any runner is out when the runner fails to keep contact with the base until the ball has been batted or reaches the batter (Rule 7.08(a)(5)(b), page 99, and Rule T-3d, page 128, 2019 Rule Book)

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 (Rule T-3e, page 128, 2019 Rule Book).

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PITCHER RULES:

RULE 8.01(g) AR, PITCHER STEPPING OFF PITCHER'S PLATE: If the hands are together while in the pitching position, the pitcher may not step back with the non-pivot foot. For the pitcher to remove herself from the pitching position after the hands have been brought together but prior to the start of the pitch, the pitcher must legally step back from the pitcher's plate with the pivot foot first (Rule 8.01(g), Approved Ruling, page 106, 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 she distinctly wipes off the pitching hand before contacting the ball (Rule 8.02(a)(1), page 108, 2019 Rule Book).

Pitching limits in 8/9/10 Division, 9/10/11 Division and Major Division: a player may pitch in a maximum of twelve (12) innings in a day, but if seven (7) or more, that player requires one day of rest prior to pitching in the next game (Rule 4e, f, and g, page 128, 2019 Rule Book).

If a player pitched in seven (7) or more innings on (Column A) and is still eligible, that player can pitch again on (Column B):

COLUMN A

Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

COLUMN B

Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday
Monday

Pitching limits in JR/SR Leagues: no pitching restrictions apply (Rule 4d, page 130, 2019 Rule Book).

REMOVAL OF PITCHER (8/9/10 DIVISION, 9/10/11 DIVISION, AND MAJOR DIVISION): 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 she was removed** (Rule 4d, page 128, 2019 Rule Book).

REMOVAL OF PITCHER (JR AND SR DIVISIONS): 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 she was removed**. A pitcher may be withdrawn from the game, offensively or defensively, and return as pitcher once per inning provided the return does not violate the substitution, visits per pitcher, or mandatory play rule(s) (Rule 4c, page 130, 2019 Rule Book).

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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. (Rules 8.06 (a) and (b), pages 109 and 110, 2019 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. 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, page 110, and Rule T-7, page 130, 2019 Rule Book).

A player removed from the pitcher's plate and returning as the pitcher of record shall retain the number of visits from their previous appearance as pitcher. To calculate the number of visits for a pitcher, all visits, regardless of the pitcher being removed and returned to the pitcher's position, shall be applied (Rule 8.06(b) **NOTE**, page 110, 2019 Rule Book).

OFFENSIVE TIME OUTS: Only one offensive time-out is permitted **each** inning (Rule T-7, VISITS (**NOTE**), page 130, 2019 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(a), page 108, 2019 Rule Book).

Intentional Walk: If the pitcher desires to walk a batter intentionally, all pitches must be legally delivered to the batter (Rule 8.03(c), page 108, 2019 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**. The pitcher may bring the hand in contact with the mouth or the lips provided she distinctly wipes off the pitching hand before contacting the ball. When a pitcher violates this rule, an umpire shall call the pitch a ball and warn the pitcher. (Rule 8.02 (a)(1) and (3), page 108, 2019 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 75, 2019 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 77, 2019 Rule Book and Page 16, 2019 Make The Right Call Manual).

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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 (Rule 7, VISITS, page 130, 2019 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 3.09, page 77, and Regulation XIV(f), page 55, 2019 Rule Book).

JR/SR League Additional Penalty for Illegal Pitches: If a Junior League or Senior League pitcher pitches an illegal pitch, in addition to the pitch being declared a ball to the batter, all base runners, if any, will advance one base without liability to be put out. This is similar to the “balk” call in baseball (Rules 8.01 and 8.05, PENALTY, pages 106, 107, 108, and 109, 2019 Rule Book).

Mandatory Play – International Tournament (Minor League through Junior League): 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, pages 130 and 131, 2019 Rule Book). There is no exception to this rule unless the game is shortened for any reason (Rule 9(c), page 131, 2019 Rule Book).

MANDATORY PLAY NOTIFICATION: Prior to the start of play in the top of the fourth (4th) inning (**Junior League:** fifth (5th) 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 (**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 (**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.

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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 (**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 (**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), page 131, 2019 Rule Book)

There is no mandatory play for SR League.

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 (Rule 10b and 10c, page 132, 2019 Rule Book).

BATTER SUBSTITUTION FOR PITCHER-TOURNAMENTS: 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** (Rule T-10c, **NOTE 2**, pages 132 and 133, 2019 Rule Book).

RUN RULE: **15-RUN RULE/10-RUN RULE:** If after three (3) innings (**Junior/Senior League:** four (4) innings), two and one-half innings (**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 (**Junior/Senior League:** five (5) innings), three and one-half innings (**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, pages 133 and 134, 2019 Rule Book)

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TIE GAMES: 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 134, 2019 Rule Book):

- a. the seventh inning (**Junior/Senior League:** eighth inning) will be played as normal.
- b. starting in the top of the eighth inning (**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.

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 99, 2019 Rule Book).**

JR/SR League: A runner may slide head-first on an advance to any base.

Head-first sliding **is 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 99, 2019 Rule Book). **There is no “must slide rule”, only the “no slide to avoid contact” rule** (Rule 7.08(a)(3), Approved Ruling, page 99, 2019 Rule Book and Page 35, 2019 Make The Right Call Manual).

RUNNERS NOT IMMEDIATELY ADVANCING OR RETURNING TO BASE: **If the pitcher has possession of the ball within the pitcher’s 8-foot radius circle** and is not making a play (a fake throw is considered a play), **runners** not in contact with their bases **must immediately attempt to advance or return to their base**. If no such immediate attempt is made, “No Pitch” is declared, the ball is dead, and the runner is out (Rule 7.08(a)(5) **NOTE 2**, page 100, 2019 Rule Book).

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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 102 and 103, 2019 Rule Book).

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 55, 2019 Rule Book).

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 133, 2019 Rule Book).