

LOCAL GROUND RULES

# STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



# JUNIOR SOFTBALL

**July 6, 7, & 8, 2018**

Hosted by **District # 11**  
**St. Augustine Little League**  
**1470 Osceola Elementary Road**  
**St. Augustine, FL 32084**

## LOCAL GROUND RULES



### **LITTLE LEAGUE** **JR SOFTBALL STATE TOURNAMENT – 2018** **HOST: ST. AUGUSTINE LITTLE LEAGUE** **July 6, 7, & 8, 2018**

### **FIELDS: THOMPSON & HERBIE WILES**

#### GENERAL AND LOCAL GROUND RULES

Managers will meet with the Tournament Director at **3:00 PM on Friday, July 6, 2018** to review rules and other administrative tasks. The meeting will be held in the room above the concession stand in between the Ashlar Lodge Field and the Richard L Waler Jr Family Field. Games will begin on Friday, July 6, 2018 with game times being 6:00 PM and 8:30 PM. Saturday and Sunday game times will be at 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM.

**POOL PLAY:** This tournament is being played under the Pool Play rules of the 2018 Little League Rule Book. As such, each team will play every other team in the tournament one time. The team with the most wins will win the tournament. In the case of a tie, the Tiebreaker Procedures specified in the 2018 Rule Book (Sections III and IV, pages 141, 142, and 143) will apply:

- the first tie-breaker is head-to-head results for the teams that are involved in the tie
- the second tie-breaker is the runs-allowed ratio (taken to the fourth percentage place, ie, **0.0000**) where the total number of runs given up in all pool play games is divided by the number of half-innings played on defense. The lowest percentage wins the tie-breaker.
- the third tie-breaker is the runs-allowed ratio (taken to the fourth percentage place, ie, **0.0000**) for **only** those games played between the teams involved in the tie. The lowest percentage wins the tie-breaker.

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**BATS:** must be a softball bat and cannot be more than 34 inches in length nor more than 2 1/4 inches in diameter and non-wood bats must be printed with “BPF 1.20” (Rule 1.10, page 63, 2018 Rule Book). **Manager, not umpires,** are responsible for eligible bats.

**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** the infraction is discovered before the next player enters the batter’s box (Tournament Playing Rules #3.b., pages 127 and 128, 2018 Rule Book):

- i. the **batter is out** (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 immediately at the end of the play), **and**
- ii. the manager of the offensive team will be ejected from the game, the batter who violated the rule will be ejected from the game, and the offensive team will lose one eligible adult base coach for the duration of the game.

**USE OF ONE PITCHER IN TWO (2) GAMES:** There are no pitching restrictions at this level (Tournament Rule 4.d, page 130, 2018 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, 2018 Rule Book). A manager or coach is permitted to use a scorekeeping and/or pitch-counting application on an electronic device without penalty, provided such device is not used to receive messages of any sort.

**BENCH/DUGOUT:** The offensive team shall station two base coaches on the field during its time at bat. The base coaches are required to remain within the coaches boxes during their offensive time at bat. The base coaches may be both manager and **coach (provided an adult coach is in the dugout with the players)**, manager/coach and player, or both players. Once the game has started, **all coaches and players must remain in the dugout** except for bathroom breaks or other “emergencies” (NOTE: going to the concession stand for snacks is not an “emergency”). No one except players in uniform, a manager, and not more than two coaches shall occupy the bench or dugout. An adult manager/coach **must be** in the dugout with the players at all times during the game (Rule 3.09, page 77, Rule 3.17, page 78, Rule 4.05(b), page 80, and Rule 6, page 130, 2018 Rule Book).

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, pages 71 and 77, 2018 Rule Book).

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**MANDATORY PLAY:** 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. Managers are responsible for fulfilling the mandatory play requirements. **Failure to meet the mandatory play requirements is a basis for protest. Sanctions, including forfeiture or manager suspension, will be imposed by the Tournament Committee in Williamsport.** A game shortened due to a 10-run rule is **not** a violation of the minimum play rule (Tournament Rule 9, pages 123 and 124, 2016 Rule Book). **MANDATORY PLAY:** 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. Managers are responsible for fulfilling the mandatory play requirements. **Failure to meet the mandatory play requirements is a basis for protest. Sanctions, including forfeiture or manager suspension, will be imposed by the Tournament Committee in Williamsport.** A game shortened due to a 10-run rule is **not** a violation of the minimum play rule (Rule 9, pages 130 and 131, 2018 Rule Book). **SEE RULE BELOW!**

**TOURNAMENT MANDATORY PLAY (JUNIOR LEAGUE AND BELOW – BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL):** At the conclusion of the fourth inning (Junior Divisions) and prior to the start of play in the fifth inning (Junior Divisions), **the umpire-in-chief in consultation with the official scorekeeper** shall notify both managers that all players who have not completed their mandatory play requirement must be inserted into the line-up. The manager shall insert any player who has not met the mandatory play requirement into the line-up in a position that will allow mandatory minimum play to be satisfied absent a shortened game. **Managers are solely responsible for fulfilling the mandatory play requirement.** Failure to meet the mandatory play requirement 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 (2018 Rule Book and 2018 Little League International Congress Agenda Results, Item 12).

**10-RUN AND 15-RUN RULE FOR ALL DIVISIONS (BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL):** This new rule adds to the 10-Run Rule discussed in Rule 4.10(e) and Tournament Rule 12. There will now be an additional rule: **15-Run rule after four (4) innings for JR League.** The 10-run rule remains in effect whereby, if after five (5) innings for JR League, one team is ahead by 10 runs, the losing team will concede the game to the opposing team (Rule 4.10(e), page 86 and Tournament Rule 12, page 141, 2018 Rule Book and 2018 Little League International Congress Agenda Results, Item 7).

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**PITCHER VISITS (MAJOR LEAGUE AND ABOVE – BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL):** A manager may come out twice in one inning but must remove the pitcher upon the second visit in that inning, or may come out three times per game but must remove the pitcher upon the third visit during the game (2018 Little League International Congress Agenda Results, Item 8).

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 4.d., page 128, 2018 Rule Book).

**SUBSTITUTIONS AND 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 mandatory play requirements. Defensive substitutions must be made while the team is on defense and offensive substitutions must be made at the time the offensive player has his turn at bat or is on base. A player who has met the mandatory play requirements and is a pitcher at the time he is removed, may be removed for a substitute batter and re-enter the game as a pitcher once, provided the pitcher was not physically replaced on the pitcher's plate (Rule 10, pages 131 and 132, including NOTE 2, 2018 Rule Book).

**SPECIAL PINCH RUNNER:** Twice per game but not more than once 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 (Rule 3.e., page 128, 2018 Rule Book).

**STARTING PITCHER SUBSTITUTION FOR VISITING TEAM:** If a team has thirteen (13) or more 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 lineup 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 (Rule 10, NOTE 2, pages 131 and 132, 2018 Rule Book).

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- In the event of potential lightning, you will be warned by the Thor Guard lightning system. The system will sound one 15 second blast of the horn, which will suspend all games. A strobe light will begin flashing and remain flashing until safe conditions return. Players should be directed to leave equipment on the benches in the dugouts and proceed to their automobiles for safety. Managers are instructed to proceed to the pavilion by the concession stand by Rotary Field for further instructions once players are safe. You may return only after three 5 second blasts of the horn are sounded and the strobe light stops flashing. If you remain outdoors after the warning, you do so at your own risk.
- Pre-game practice and warm up may be held on game field **ONLY IN THE OUTFIELD. NO INFIELD PRACTICE MAY BE HELD ON THE GAME FIELD.** Infield practice may be held on adjacent fields other than game fields (GAME FIELDS: Thompson, Herbie Wiles, and McDonald's Fields). We ask that you be considerate of field space and allow other teams to warm up also.
- Batting cages are located beside the Herbie Wiles Field, AD Davis Field, and behind the McDonald's Field.
- If there is any illegal equipment during the process of checking equipment, that equipment will be given to the Tournament Director until that team is no longer playing in the tournament. It is the manager's responsibility, not the umpires', to remove illegal bats from play prior to each game.
- Teams must be in their dugouts **at least 25 minutes prior to game start times.** The teams should have all of their equipment outside their respective dugouts for the umpires to check at this time. The teams will be announced, including managers and coaches, for each team's first game during the tournament. Team announcements will not occur prior to subsequent games, with the exception of the Championship Game. During all games, players will be announced as they come to the plate.
- Plate meeting with the manager and umpires will be at home plate 10 minutes prior to scheduled game start time. Official line-ups, as provided to each team by the Tournament Director, will be given **in their entirety** to the plate umpire at this time. Any line up given to PA announcer or other team prior to the plate meeting is not considered official and is not required to be on the lineup cards provided by the Tournament Director.
- Lead-off batters **ONLY** will be allowed out of the dugout area between innings; on-deck batters as well as manager/coach will not be allowed out of the dugout area between innings until instructed by the umpire when to come onto the field (usually after the catcher throws down to 2<sup>nd</sup> Base after pitcher warm-ups).
- No parents or other outside parties will be allowed inside the dugouts at any time during the game nor will any player or coach leave the dugout areas without umpire permission during the game. No bats will be allowed to be swung in the dugouts.

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- All substitutions should be made with the plate umpire; defensive substitutions are made when the team is on defense and offensive substitutions are made as each substitute comes up to bat.
- During games, pitchers on teams playing on Thompson Field may warm up in the bull pens located just outside the right field fence of THOMPSON FIELD. Pitchers on teams playing on Herbie Wiles Field may warm up in foul territory outfield corners corresponding to the pitcher's respective dugout (ie, first-base dugout uses right field corner and third-base dugout uses left field corner). The pitcher will pitch to the fence corner (not towards first or third bases), ie, the catcher will place herself in the outfield corner to receive warm-up pitches. A player/spotter with a glove and helmet will place herself behind the pitcher to protect that pitcher from being hit with a foul ball. In all cases, coaches must notify umpires that their pitchers are going to warm up in the designated areas. **An alternative would be to have pitchers warm up in the batting cages beside Herbie Wiles Field.** In all cases, coaches must notify umpires that their pitchers are going to warm up in the designated areas. Pitchers and properly equipped catchers **only** may go to the bullpens; coaches **must remain** in their respective dugouts during games.
- Any balls thrown and deflecting off dugout fascia boards without entering the dugouts will be considered live and playable; any ball entering the dugout areas through the dugout fence openings will be declared dead, and bases awarded accordingly. Dugout area is defined as fenced-in area including up to the concrete floor.
- Please help keep the games moving. Hydrate players and keep them hustling in and out of dugouts during half-innings.
- **No coolers will be allowed inside the park except for one team cooler per dugout.**