



Policies

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Summary

Residency Eligibility Requirements – Added language to strengthen the policy, including adding a date of February 1 to establish residence for eligibility. Page 16.

Full Text of Change, with Surrounding Wording

Residence shall be established and supported by documents, **dated on or before February 1 of the current year**, from THREE OR MORE of the following categories ...



Regulations

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Summary

Regulation I – Added language that would prohibit the league president from resigning in an effort to be tournament team coach, after January 1. Page 22.

Full Text of Change, with Surrounding Wording

*The president may manage, coach or umpire provided he/she does not serve on the Protest Committee. **The president of record or anyone who assumes the position or duties of president, on or after January 1 of the current year, is not eligible to serve as tournament team manager or coach.** The president will not serve in the capacity of District Administrator. Player agents...*



Regulations

SOFTBALL

Summary

Regulation I – Senior League: Added language allowing Senior Softball Divisions to be chartered at the District level. Page 25.

Full Text of Change, with Surrounding Wording

Senior/Big League: EXCEPTION: A **Senior/Big League** may be a district-operated program, supervised by the District Administrator. Such a district-wide program may draw participants from within the boundaries of each chartered league in the district. However, each Local League wishing to do so may retain its own team/league structure. **NOTE:** District Administrators, even if they operate a district-wide **Senior/Big League** program, are not permitted ...



Regulations

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Summary

Regulation III – Tee Ball: Added language allowing local leagues to accept league-age 4-year-olds and reduces the maximum age permitted in the Tee Ball Division to league-age 7. Page 31 (Baseball), Page 32 (Softball).

Full Text of Change, with Surrounding Wording

Tee Ball: Local League must establish the age structure for the Tee Ball Division. Players league age **4 and 5** are eligible only for Tee Ball. **Exception:** Participants league age 6 are permitted to advance to Minor League Coach Pitch or Machine Pitch after participation in Tee Ball for one year.



Regulations

SOFTBALL

Summary

Regulation IV – Major and Junior Divisions: Added language allowing 12-year-old softball players to play in the Major and/or Junior divisions of softball, if drafted at the same time. Requests for league-age 12-year-olds to participate as pool players (to be move up occasionally to the Junior Division) must be approved by the Charter Committee in Williamsport. Page 33-34.

Full Text of Change

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

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

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



Regulations

BASEBALL

Summary

Regulation VI – Junior and Senior: Added language to prohibit players from pitching in more than (1) one game in a day if they exceed 30 pitches in the first game. Page 40.

Full Text of Change, with Surrounding Wording

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



Regulations

BASEBALL

Summary

Regulation VI: Added language prohibiting the catcher from pitching if he/she caught in (4) four or more innings.
Page 38.

Full text of Change, with Surrounding Wording

(a) Any player on a regular season team may pitch.

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



Regulations

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Summary

Regulation IX (f): Added language allowing Tournament Teams to participate in Special Games after June 15th. Page 42.

Full Text of Change, with Surrounding Wording

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



Regulations

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Summary

Regulation IX: Added language to preclude an individual or league from receiving compensation for requiring players to use or wear a certain item. Page 43.

Full Text of Change

(d) No Little League volunteer, employee or participant, while acting in such capacity, shall execute a contract for or otherwise agree to, accept personal compensation or remuneration for the use of, or for promoting the use of, any product or service.

(e) A local Little League or District shall not require any player to use any specific brand/manufacturer of equipment, for the purpose of the league receiving compensation (including deferred compensation) for such a requirement.

(Continued on next slide)



Regulations

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Regulation XIII (Continued from previous slide)

(f) A local Little League may permit a Regular Season Team and/or Tournament Team to include the name of a team sponsor on the uniform, and the Local League may receive a fee for such sponsorships, provided the sponsorship does not conflict with any Little League Rule, Regulation and/or Policy. Such sponsor shall have no authority with regard to the composition or operation of the team, or its manager and/or coaches. **NOTE: Once a Tournament Team plays its first game in the International Tournament, a reference to a company, product, or service (including, but not limited to, a slogan or logo) shall not be added to any Tournament Team uniform or equipment.**

(g) Violation of any part of this regulation shall result in penalties up to and including removal from the Little League program and/or revocation of the league's charter and/or forfeiture of International Tournament game(s).



Playing Rules

SOFTBALL

Summary

Rule 1.07- Senior and Big League: Increased the pitching distance from 40 feet to 43 feet. Page 49

Full Text of Change, with Surrounding Wording

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



Playing Rules

BASEBALL

Summary

Rule 1.10 - Junior/Senior/Big League: Added language prohibiting use of composite bats. The new standard for 2011-2012 will be BBCOR for Junior, Senior and Big League. Page 52-53.

Full Text of Change

EXCEPTION: For the 2010-2011 Junior, Senior and Big League regular and tournament season, composite bats are prohibited unless an approved waiver has been granted by Little League International. This waiver will be based on additional testing verifying that the composite bat(s) meet current standards. A list of any approved composite bats can be found on the Little League website at www.littleleague.org. Beginning January 1, 2012, all bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be labeled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color. Aluminum and composite bats shall be labeled as approved tamper evident, and be marked as to their material makeup being aluminum or composite. This marking shall be silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one-half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color.



Playing Rules

SOFTBALL

Summary

Rule 2.00: Added language to the definition of a bunt, mandating that the umpire call a strike when the batter holds the bat in the strike zone when the pitch is delivered, even if the batter does not “offer” at the pitch. Page 53.

Full Text of Change, with Surrounding Text

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



Playing Rules

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Summary

Rule 3.03- Senior League: Added language permitting the use of a designated hitter.

Full Text of Change, with Surrounding Text

Senior/Big League Designated Hitter Rule

(1) At the beginning of a game, each manager may list on the lineup card a designated hitter to bat throughout the game for a designated player in the regular lineup.



Playing Rules

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Summary

Rule 3.17: Added language allowing the use of electronic devices in the dugout provided these devices are not used for communication. Page 65 (Baseball) 63 (Softball)

Full Text of Change

Penalty: If, in the umpire's judgment, any player, manager or coach uses an electronic communications device during the game, the penalty is ejection from the game

NOTE 1: 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.



Playing Rules

SOFTBALL

Summary

Rule 6.09 (b) – Major Division: Added language allowing the batter to become a runner on a dropped third strike. Page 76.

Full Text of Change, with Surrounding Text

6.09 - The batter becomes a runner when -

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



Playing Rules

SOFTBALL

Summary

Rule 7.08 (a) (5) – Major Division: Added language allowing runners to leave the base when the pitcher releases the ball.
Page 79.

Full Text of Change, with Surrounding Text

7.08 - Any runner is out when – (a)(5) **Major/Junior/Senior/Big League Divisions: the runner fails to keep contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been released by the pitcher on the delivery. NOTE 1: A local league may adopt a rule that requires the runner to keep in contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been batted or reaches the batter, or be called out.**



Playing Rules

SOFTBALL

Summary

Rule 8.03 (c) Junior, Senior and Big League: Removed wording that allowed pitchers the ability to “waive” a batter to first base for an intentional walk. All pitches must be thrown. Page 87.

Full Text of Change, with Surrounding Text

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



Playing Rules

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Summary

Rule 9.03 (d) – Added language allowing the local league to designate an adult Game Coordinator if an adult umpire is not present

Full Text of Change

(d) If no adult umpire is available for a game, and non-adult umpires are used exclusively for that game, the local Little League must assign an adult as Game Coordinator, or the game cannot be played. The Game Coordinator must not be a manager or coach of either team in the game, and cannot be assigned as Game Coordinator for more than one game at a time. The Game Coordinator's duties shall be:

(1) To be included in the pre-game meeting as noted in Rule 4.01.

(2) To remain at the game at all times, including between half-innings, in a position to see all actions on the field and in close proximity to the field (not in any enclosure). If, for some reason, the Game Coordinator is not present or is unable to perform his/her duties for any reason, the game must be suspended until the Game Coordinator returns, or until a new adult Game Coordinator is present and assumes the duties of Game Coordinator for the remainder of the game;

(Continued on next slide)



Playing Rules

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Rule 9.03 (d) (Continued from previous slide)

- (3) To oversee the conduct of all players, managers, coaches and umpires in the game;
- (4) To have the authority to disqualify any player, coach, manager, or substitute for objecting to the decisions of an umpire, for unsportsmanlike conduct or language, or for any of the reasons enumerated in these Playing Rules, and to eject such disqualified person from the playing field. If the Game Coordinator disqualifies a player while a play is in progress, the disqualification shall not take effect until no further action is possible in that play;
- (5) To have the sole ability to judge as to whether and when play shall be suspended during a game because of inclement weather conditions or the unfit condition of the playing field; as to whether and when play shall be resumed after such suspension; and as to whether and when a game shall be terminated after such suspension. Said Game Coordinator shall not call the game until at least thirty minutes after play as suspended. The Game Coordinator may continue suspension as long as there is any chance to resume play. (This supersedes Rule 3.10.)



Tournament Rules and Guidelines

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Summary

Tournament Organization – Managers and Coaches: Removed the requirement limiting a tournament team to a manager and one coach if the team had 12 or fewer eligible players in uniform at the game site. Any team, regardless of the number of players on the affidavit or at the game site, is now permitted to have one manager and up to two coaches (provided such manager and coaches are eligible).



Tournament Rules and Guidelines

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Summary

Tournament Team Practice: Added wording allowing Tournament Teams to practice with other players in their own chartered Little League, another chartered Little League in their district, or another chartered Little League in a contiguous district. Page T-9.

Full Text of Change, with Surrounding Wording

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

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



Tournament Rules and Guidelines

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Summary

Selection of Fields: Added wording requiring host leagues for the tournaments beyond the District level to have an approved plan under the “A Safety Awareness Program.” Page T-9.

Full Text of Change, with Surrounding Wording

Selection of Fields

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

All games shall be played upon Little League fields approved by the Tournament Director. Exception to this rule can only be made ...



Tournament Rules and Guidelines

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Summary

Curfew: Changes were made to allow a later curfew for all divisions of play. Page T-10 (Baseball) T-9 (Softball).

Full Text of Change, with Surrounding Wording

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

NOTE: Neither Tournament Directors and officials nor tournament teams are permitted to circumvent the curfews established above by continuing, suspending and restarting or starting a game after curfew has been reached and play is required to be terminated.



Tournament Rules and Guidelines

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Summary

Rule 4 – Pitching Rules: Removed requirement for protests to be lodged before umpires leave the field and allows the Tournament Committee to take action even when there is no protest. Page T-14 (Baseball), T-13 (Softball).

Full Text of Change, with Surrounding Text

These rules replace the regular season pitching regulations. ***Violation of these pitching rules is subject to protest and action by the Tournament Committee in Williamsport if protested **or brought to the Tournament Committee's attention.*****



Tournament Rules and Guidelines

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Summary

Rule 9 – Mandatory Play - 9-10 Year Old Division, 10-11 Year Old Division, Little League and Junior League: Removed requirement for protests to lodge before umpires leave and allows the Tournament Committee to take action even when there is no protest. T-18(Baseball) T-16 (Softball).

Full Text of Change, with Surrounding Wording

(c) Failure to meet the mandatory play requirements in this rule is a basis for protest. If one or more players on a roster do not meet this requirement, and if protested **or brought to the Tournament Committee's attention**, it shall result (by action of the Tournament Committee) in the suspension of the team's manager for the next two scheduled tournament games, even if those games are played at the next tournament level. Additional penalties ...



Tournament Rules and Guidelines

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Summary

Rule 9 – Mandatory Play – 9-10 Year Old Division, 10-11 Year Old Division, Little League and Junior League: Changes were made to increase the mandatory playing time if a team has 12 or fewer eligible players in uniform at a game. Page T-18 (Baseball) T-16 (Softball).

Full Text of Change

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 three (3) consecutive defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time. If a tournament has twelve (12) or less 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.



Tournament Rules and Guidelines

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Summary

Rule 13 – Regulation Game: Removed wording requiring games to “revert” to the previous full inning’s score when – after the game reaches the point of a regulation game – the visiting team ties the game or takes the lead, and the game is suspended before the home team completes its at-bat and does not take the lead, and the game cannot be resumed on that same day. Page T-20 (Baseball), T-18 (Softball).

Full Text of Change, with Surrounding Wording

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