

# CHANGES/UPDATES TO THE LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL® TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES – 2009

(Last update: October 30, 2008)

## Teams

**What is changed:** *Increases the maximum number of players on a Senior League or Big League affidavit.*

**Senior League:** Teams and Eligibility Affidavit shall consist of, and must be limited to, a maximum of sixteen (16) players, one (1) manager and a maximum of two (2) coaches.

**Big League:** Tournament teams may be selected from all league teams in a district or may be a regular season unit team. Teams and Eligibility Affidavit shall consist of, and must be limited to, a maximum of seventeen (17) players, one (1) manager and a maximum of two (2) coaches.

## Participation In Other Programs

**What is changed:** *Removes the prohibition on participation in non-Little League programs for all divisions, but still provides the local league with the ability to remove a player who repeatedly misses games or practices.*

Participation in other programs during the International Tournament is permitted, subject to the provisions of Regulation IV (a) Note 2.

## League Eligibility

**What is changed:** *Clarified to establish that the league must schedule at least one-half of the regular season games to be played not later than June 15; Establishes the last date by which certain forms and/or requests must be submitted.*

In order for a Little League program to be eligible to enter a team or teams into the International Tournament (including 9-10 Year Old Division and 10-11 Year Old Division) the following must be accomplished as indicated:

- 1) The league must be chartered in the division(s) for which it wishes to enter a tournament team(s), no later than June 9, 2009. Examples: Chartered in Little League Majors to enter a Major Division team (11-12 year olds); chartered in Senior League to enter a Senior Division team, etc.
- 2) The league must have scheduled and played, at a minimum, a 12-game (per team) regular season exclusive of playoffs and tournament games for each division entering tournament. See Reg. VII. The schedule shall be arranged so that at least one-half of the games are scheduled prior to June 15.
- 3) All waivers requests (for the league, team, player, manager, and/or coach) of any kind must be submitted and approved not later than June 9, 2009.
- 4) All regular season team rosters must be submitted to Little League International in accordance with the requirements outlined in Regulation IV (g), not later than June 9, 2009;
- 5) Team number revisions and fees incurred by the league must be paid in full by June 9, 2009.
- 6) All combined team and interleague play requests that may involve tournament play must be submitted and approved not later than June 9, 2009.

Failure to meet any of the listed requirements could result in a team or teams being declared ineligible by the Tournament Committee at Little League International.

## 4. PITCHING RULES – LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL, 9-10 YEAR OLD, 10-11 YEAR OLD DIVISION, AND JUNIOR LEAGUE

**What is changed:** *Increases the maximum number of pitches a pitcher could deliver, and then be allowed to become a catcher in that day; Removes the Senior League pitching rules from this section and places them with the Big League rule.*

**Exception:** If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed above for his/her league age 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 put out; 3. The third out is made to complete the half-inning. **Note: A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.**

## 4. PITCHING RULES – SENIOR LEAGUE AND BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL

**What is changed:** Increased the maximum number of pitches a pitcher could deliver, and then become a catcher in that day; Added the Senior League pitching rules to this section.

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 before the umpire(s) leave the playing field.**

- a. Any player on a tournament team may pitch. (**NOTE:** There is no limit to the number of pitchers a tournament team may use in a game.)
- b. A tournament pitcher may not pitch in regular season or Special Games while the team is still participating in the tournament.
- c. 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 per game.
- d. The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

|             |                         |                     |
|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| League Age: | 16 – 18 (Big League)    | 105 pitches per day |
|             | 14 – 16 (Senior League) | 95 pitches per day  |

**Exception:** If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed above for his/her league age 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 put out; 3. The third out is made to complete the half-inning. **Note: A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.**

- e. Pitchers league age 14 and above must adhere to the following requirements:
  - If a player pitches 61 or more pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest, and a game (see f. below), must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 36 to 60 pitches in a day, one calendar day of rest, and a game (see f. below), must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 1 to 35 pitches in a day, no rest is required.
- f. A player may not pitch in consecutive games. **Exceptions** – A player may pitch in consecutive games if:
  1. less than 36 pitches were pitched in the previous game, or,
  2. the previous game was at another level, and the pitcher has received the required number of days of rest as noted in (e.) above. (Levels are District, Section, State, Division, Region, and World Series.)**Note:** A contest decided by forfeit does not constitute a “game” for the purpose of this rule unless one complete inning was physically played before the game was forfeited. (Forfeits are only by decree of the Tournament Committee in Williamsport.)
- g. A player may not pitch in more than two games in a day.
- h. In a game suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed the following calendar day, the pitcher of record at the time the game was halted may continue to the extent of his/her eligibility, provided he/she delivered 60 or less pitches, and subject to each of these conditions:
  1. If the pitcher delivered 35 or less pitches before the game was suspended, that pitcher’s pitch count will begin at zero for the continuation portion of the game;
  2. If the pitcher delivered between 36 and 60 pitches before the game was suspended, that pitcher’s pitch count will begin with the number of pitches delivered in that game;