

Changes to the 2008 Tournament Rules For Softball Divisions of Little League®

Teams

Each chartered league ...

Tournament teams and Eligibility Affidavit shall consist of, and must be limited to, a maximum of fourteen (14) players, one (1) manager and a maximum of two (2) coaches.

If there are thirteen (13) or more eligible players listed on the team's affidavit, the maximum of three (3) adults shall be listed on the affidavit; if a tournament team has twelve (12) or fewer eligible players listed on the team affidavit, the maximum of two (2) adults shall be listed on the affidavit.

Managers and Coaches

Removed the NOTE that did not allow a person to coach a team in another program.

League Eligibility

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 7, 2008. 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 (a).
- 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 7, 2008.
- 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 7, 2008;
- 5) Team number revisions and fees incurred by the league must be paid in full by June 7, 2008.
- 6) All combined team and interleague play requests that may involve tournament play must be submitted and approved not later than June 7, 2008.

Player Eligibility

Little League (Majors Division) – Any player League Age 11 or 12, who has participated as an eligible player in **sixty percent (60 %) of...**

9-10 Year Old Division – Any play League Age 9 or 10, who has participated as an eligible player in **sixty percent (60 %) of...**

10-11 Year Old Division – Any player League Age 10 or 11, who has participated as an eligible player in **sixty percent (60 %) of...**

Big League – Any player League Age 14, 15, 16, 17 or 18, with amateur status, who has been a rostered member for **sixty percent (60 %) of the regular season games (special**

games may be counted toward this requirement) by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the high school or college softball season, on a:

1. Junior League Softball Team, or;
2. Senior League Softball Team.

Senior League – Any player League 14, 15 or 16, with amateur status, who has participated as an eligible player in **sixty percent (60 %) of...**

Junior League – Any player League Age 12, 13, or 14 who has participated as an eligible player in **sixty percent (60 %)**...

Condition 2: A player...

Example: If, for any given division, Team A played 20 regular season games before June 15, and a player missed 10 games because of participation in a school softball program, that player is required to have participated in only **six (6)** regular season games to be eligible for the Tournament Team.

SCHEDULES

Each District Administrator must finalize tournament schedules prior to the start of the tournament or June 15 (whichever is earliest). Schedules for each level (District, Section, Division, State, Regional) must utilize Little League Baseball approved single elimination brackets, double elimination brackets, or pool play format **with pool play tie breaker format, as noted at www.LittleLeague.org/tournaments/2008data/poolplayformat.pdf**. All other tournament formats must be approved by the Tournament Committee.

TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES

1. **SOFTBALLS:** Softballs meeting Little League specifications for a 12-inch softball shall be used in **Little League**, Junior League, Senior League, and Big League play. The 11-inch softball **shall** be used in the 9-10 and 10-11 divisions.

6. **BENCH/DUGOUT:** No one except the players, manager and coach(es) shall occupy the bench or dugout during a game. Base coaches may be players, or adults. Two (2) adult base coaches are permitted at all levels **subject to playing rule 4.05 (2)**.

10. SUBSTITUTIONS/RE-ENTRY:

(c) **A substitute entering the game for the first time...**

NOTE 2: A player who has met the mandatory play requirements, and is a pitcher at the time she/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 mound.

EXCEPTION: Does not apply to Senior and Big League Softball. EXAMPLE:

Player A is a starter and not a pitcher, Player B substitutes into the game for player A. Both players have met mandatory play by completing one time at bat and 3 consecutive outs and both occupy the same spot in the batting order. In the fifth inning player A becomes a pitcher and is scheduled to bat in the sixth inning, but player B bats for player A. Both players have met mandatory play requirements and player A was not physically replaced on the mound as a pitcher, therefore, player A can return to pitch the sixth inning.

(d) Defensive substitutions must be made while the team is on defense. Offensive substitutions must be made at the time the offensive player has her/his turn at bat or is on base.

h. **Big League only:** Rule 3.03, Designated Hitter, **WILL** apply during the tournament.

(i) **SENIOR LEAGUE/BIG LEAGUE SOFTBALL:** 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.

11. SUSPENDED GAMES: Any game in which a winner cannot be determined in accordance with the playing rules shall be resumed from the exact point at which it was suspended regardless of the number of innings played.

EXCEPTION: In the event that the first inning is not completed, the game shall be replayed from the beginning and all records, including pitching, disregarded. Incomplete (not regulation) or tie games are considered suspended games. **NOTE:** A contest decided by forfeit does not constitute a “game” for the purposes 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.)

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Unless officially notified to the contrary by Williamsport, each league shall assume full responsibility for expenses ... **NOTE:** A maximum of one round trip will be compensated per tournament site at each level of play. Mileage forms must be completed and submitted to Little League International by **September 15, 2008**.