

2018 Rule Changes and Clarifications

During the Little League International Congress in New Orleans on January 19-22, 2018, Little League leadership voted to adopt several rules changes for the 2018 season. These changes will not be reflected in the 2018 printed version of the rule book, but are reflected in the eBook versions. A subset of significant rule changes can be found below. A full list of the adopted changes can be found at the following link: <https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/rule-changes/>

Regulation VI(d) & Tournament Rule 4

Restricts a player from pitching in three (3) consecutive days. Previously, there was no consecutive day restriction other than the 0-day rest pitch threshold. This consecutive day restriction supersedes the 0-day rest threshold for the third day.

Regulation VI Note 3, Rule 4.10(d), & Tournament Rule 11

Mandates that all suspended games resume from where they stopped regardless of the number of innings completed. Previously, suspended games that had not completed 1 full inning would be restarted from the beginning.

Rule 4.10(e) & Tournament Rule 12

Implements a 15-run rule after three innings for Machine Pitch, Minors AA, Minors AAA, and Majors divisions. Implements a 15-run rule after four innings for Intermediate and Senior divisions.

Rule 8.06(a) and (b) & Tournament Rule 7

Reduces the number of visits per pitcher to twice in one inning and three times in a game for the Major Division and above. This also applies to the 11-Year Old National Tournament Division during National Tournament play. Note that any non-injury related time out to speak with any defensive player is charged as a mound visit to the pitcher as is any visit to the mound between innings during the warm up of an existing pitcher.

New visit rules:

Majors, Intermediate & Seniors (Also for 11-Yr Old National Tournament)

A manager or coach may come out once in one inning to visit with the pitcher, but the second time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. A manager or coach may come out twice in one game to visit with the pitcher, but the third time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher.

Minors AA, Minors AAA (Also for 10-Yr Old National Tournament)

A manager or coach may come out twice in one inning to visit with the pitcher, but the third time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. A manager or coach may come out three times in one game to visit with the pitcher, but the fourth time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher.

Rule 9.01(d) Note

Clarifies that any parties caught stealing and relaying pitch selection will be ejected. The stealing and relaying of signs to alert the batter of pitch selection and/or location is unsportsmanlike behavior. If, in the judgment of the umpire this behavior is occurring, those responsible including any player(s), coach(es), and/or manager shall be ejected from the game.