

# 2019 Little League Rule Change Summary



Situation: Jimmy Jones is catcher and catches the first 3 innings of the game. Jimmy comes in to pitch to start the 4<sup>th</sup> inning. After throwing 40 pitches, the coach makes a pitching change and wants to put Jimmy back in to catch.



# 2018 Rule

- Regulation VI (a) – Any player who has played the position of catcher in four or more innings is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.
- Regulation VI (c) – A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of the day.
- So..... based on the original situation, Jimmy didn't catch 4 innings yet, so he was eligible to pitch. Also, Jimmy didn't throw 41 pitches, so technically, he was ok to go in and catch again.
- This was a 'loophole' in the original rule that coaches took advantage of..... So.....

# 2019 Rule

- Regulation VI (a) - A player who played the position of catcher for 3 innings or less, moves to the pitcher position, and delivers 21 pitches or more (31 pitches for 15/16 YO's) in the same day, may not return to the catcher position on that calendar day. If the pitcher reaches the 20-pitch limit (30 for 15/16 YO's) the pitcher may finish the batter and maintain their eligibility to return to the catcher position.
- Regulation VI (c) - If a player delivers 41 or more pitches, and is not covered under the threshold exception, the player may not play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.

Situation: Junior (or Senior) 1<sup>st</sup> game of a scheduled doubleheader. Jimmy Jones pitches 28 pitches, starts a batter and retires him on 4 pitches. Jimmy is replaced with a relief pitcher. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> game of the doubleheader, Jimmy goes out to the mound to be the starting pitcher. Is this allowed?



# 2018 Rule

- Regulation VI (k) – If a (Junior or Senior) player pitched 31 or more pitches in the first game, that player may not pitch in the second game that day.
- Since Jimmy threw 32 pitches in the first game, he cannot pitch in the second game.

# 2019 Rule

- Regulation VI (k) – If a (Junior or Senior) player delivers 31 or more pitches in the first game, **and is not covered under the threshold exception**, the player may not pitch in the second game that day.
- Since Jimmy started his last batter at 28 pitches, he is allowed to pitch the remainder of his allowed pitches in the 2<sup>nd</sup> game.

Situation: Junior or Senior Softball. The pitcher is on the pitching plate and receives her sign with her hands apart. The pitcher then brings her hands together for 2 seconds and steps off the back of the pitching plate with her pivot foot. Is this allowed?



# 2018 Rule

- SB Rule 8.01(g) – A backward step may be taken before or simultaneous with the hands being brought together. If the hands are together, the pitcher may not step back.
- This would be considered an illegal pitch.

# 2019 Rule

- SB Rule 8.01(g) AR2 - For the pitcher to remove himself/herself from the pitching position after the hands have been brought together but prior to the start of the pitch as noted in 8.01(k), the pitcher must legally step back from the pitcher's plate with the pivot foot first.
- Since the pitch has not started, this is legal. ®



Situation: Any level baseball/softball. The pitcher is standing about a foot behind the pitching plate and clearly brings their hand to their mouth, wipes their hand on their pants, then gets on the pitching plate to pitch. Is this allowed?



# 2018 Rule

- 8.02 (a)(1) – The pitcher shall not bring the pitching hand in contact with the mouth or lips while in the 10 (18) foot circle.
- Penalty – Ball. Warning to pitcher. If pitch is (somehow) made then it is a delayed dead ball depending on outcome of play.

## 2019 Rule

- 8.02 (a)(1) - The pitcher may bring the hand in contact with the mouth or lips while in the 10 (18) foot circle provided he/she distinctly wipes off the pitching hand before contacting the ball.
- As long as they distinctly wipe off the hand, this is legal.



Licking bats remains legal.

Situation: Junior or Senior Baseball or Softball game. Coach visited starting pitcher in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning. In the second inning, coach comes out to visit pitcher again. Coach goes directly to the pitcher and swaps pitcher with shortstop. If the original pitcher goes back to pitch later in the game, how many visits to that pitcher has the manager already used?



# 2018 Rule

- 8.06 (b) – To calculate the number of visits for a pitcher, all visits, regardless of the pitcher being removed or returned to the pitchers position shall be considered.
- Result – The original pitcher would have had 2 visits already charged when reentering.

# 2019 Rule

- 8.06 (b) - When a manager requests timeout to make a pitching change, it shall not be considered a visit to the pitcher provided the manager makes the pitching substitution prior to speaking to any defensive player.
- Result – As long as the manager went to the pitcher first when he/she changed pitchers, the original pitcher would return with just 1 visit against them.

# 2019 Tournament Rule Changes

If a tournament team has eleven (11) or fewer eligible players in uniform at the game site at the start of a game, then a maximum of (2) adults must be named at the start of the game as manager and coach. If there is a third adult, that adult is not permitted to be in the dugout or on the field during that game. Base coaches may be adults and/or players provided at least one adult manager or coach remains in the dugout.



# 2019 Tournament Rule Changes

Starting in the SECOND extra inning of a tournament game, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base.

**EXAMPLE:** If the number five batter is the lead-off batter, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base. An eligible substitute or special pinch runner may be inserted for the runner.

