



DISTRICT 51

2021 T.O.C. GUIDELINES

(Farm, Minor, Major, Junior, Senior)

(BASEBALL & SOFTBALL)



1. All games will be played under **REGULAR SEASON LITTLE LEAGUE RULES** except as modified in these guidelines. No local rules, interleague rules or All-Star Tournament Rules will be used.
2. T.O.C. championship (overall championship) game **WILL NOT** be relocated regardless of final two teams.
3. All Leagues entered into the T.O.C. will provide the roster of players for each team in each division of play at least 72 hours prior to the first scheduled game of the tournament. These rosters will be compared to the registration roster uploaded prior to the start of the season to that League's Data Center (so ensure that data is proper, correct and up to date). Any out of boundary/illegal players will result in that team being disqualified from participation in the TOC, and the League will possibly be referred to Western Regional HQ for determination of All-Star privileges. A different regular season team may be submitted in the event of removal (prior to START of T.O.C.), however; TOC entry fees will not be refunded. If it is found that an out of bounds/illegal player was used during any game in the TOC, that team will be removed from the tournament whether a protest is lodged or not and the last team defeated by the disqualified team will replace that team in the T.O.C.
4. Mandatory play rules are in effect (except for a game shortened for any reason). Managers failing to meet the required minimum play time for their players **WILL** be suspended for the teams next physically played game. In **ALL** cases the player(s) failing to meet minimum play time **WILL START** the next physically played game and play minimum time for **BOTH** games. ***NO EXCEPTIONS.***
5. Home plate is “HOT” for all levels and all divisions of play.
6. The ten run “mercy” rule is in effect for all levels and all divisions of play.
7. If at the end of three (3) innings [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: four innings], two and one-half innings [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: three and one-half innings] if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of **fifteen (15) runs** or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent
8. The infield fly rule is in effect for all levels and all divisions of play
9. Playing rule 6.02(c) **WILL** be enforced for all Divisions of baseball and softball.
10. Playing rule 9.01(d) will be enforced for all Divisions of baseball and softball.
11. ALL players will be allowed to play on and/or participate on **ONE T.O.C.** team.
12. Dropped third strike rule is in effect for Major, Junior, and Senior levels of Baseball and Softball.
13. Each team **MUST** have nine (9) players to start, play, and finish the game. If a team drops below nine (9) eligible players the game **WILL** be forfeited to the opposing team.
14. Pitching distance for Major Baseball and below **WILL** be 46 feet in accordance with Little League Rules and Regulations.

15. There will be **NO POOL PLAY**. Replacement players ***will not*** be allowed. The children playing the season and the team(s) designated by the League are it. The schedules are announced far enough in advance that the parents should be able to plan/schedule around the possibility of their child's team participating in the TOC.
16. A manager, coach, or player ejected from a game ***will*** be suspended for the remainder of that game and the next physically played game. An ejected manager or coach **MUST** leave the game site immediately upon ejection. An ejected manager or coach **MAY NOT** be replaced. An ejected player, whose parents are not present, may remain in the dugout. An ejected player, whose parents are present, must leave the dugout immediately upon ejection.
17. TEAMS WILL ARRIVE AT GAME SITE AT LEAST ONE (1) HOUR PRIOR TO ***SCHEDULED*** START TIME OF THEIR GAME. At that time a coin toss will take place to determine the home and visiting team. Team traveling the farthest will make the call. Winner of coin toss has choice of home or visitor. Home team ***WILL*** be in third base dugout. Visiting team ***WILL*** be in first base dugout. Loser of coin toss does ***NOT*** get the choice of dugouts. Only the manager and/or coach may represent the team during the coin toss. If manager and/or coach are not present for coin toss (without justifiable reason), the team that is present will have choice of home or visitor. If neither team is present (without justifiable reason), the Tournament Director will determine which team will be designated as home team.
18. **FAILURE TO APPEAR**: Umpires will declare forfeiture if a team fails to appear (without justifiable reason) or does not have enough players physically present at the game site, without justifiable reasons, thirty (30) minutes after the **SCHEDULED** start time of the game. The umpires watch will be official.
19. Each manager in the TOC will bring a copy of the score sheet from **FINAL** game the team played. This sheet will be made available if the eligibility of a player is in question.
20. Each baseball manager will bring a copy of the official pitch count document, from final game played in their League, that his/her League uses to track number of pitches thrown in each game. This document will be used to determine who may/may not pitch in the **FIRST GAME OF THE TOC**. Following the first game played by that team, the official scorebook at the TOC location will be used to determine pitch count and pitcher eligibility. The official scorebook ***WILL BE*** the controlling document, ***NOT*** individual scorebooks, team scorebooks, manager's scorebooks, etc.
21. All protests must be resolved prior to the game continuing. Games will not be replayed because of protests. If the protest is not made prior to the next pitch, the protest will not be allowed. ***EXCEPTION***: use of an illegal player or ineligible pitcher protested before the umpire(s) leave the field. Use of an illegal player or ineligible pitcher **WILL** result in forfeiture of the game. Use of an ineligible pitcher will result in the suspension of the manager for the next physically played game.
NOTE 1: Suspended manager **MAY NOT** be replaced and team is **NOT** disqualified (for use of ineligible pitcher) in a double elimination tournament (if forfeit is that team's 1st loss).
NOTE 2: Use of an illegal player **WILL** result in elimination/disqualification of team from tournament. If team is eliminated/disqualified, due to use of an illegal player, the last team defeated by that team will be allowed to advance in the disqualified/eliminated team's place.
22. **PROTEST PROCEDURES**:
 - Protest committee formed at tournament (1 adult from each League and the Tournament Director).
 - Proper protest procedures (per the rulebook) will be followed.
 - If umpire cannot resolve protest, the protest goes to the committee.
 - If committee cannot resolve protest, the protest goes to the District Administrator.
 - ***The decision of the District Administrator is the final resolution of the protest.***
 - The protest ***MUST*** be resolved before the game is allowed to continue.

NOTE 1: DO NOT call Western Regional HQ in San Bernardino for the protest. They will not be in the office. These games are LOCAL SPECIAL GAMES.

NOTE 2: Game clock will stop during protest for Divisions with an imposed time limit. Length of protest will be added to time limit (example: time limit no new inning after 1 hour & 50 minutes, protest lasted 7 minutes, time limit is now no new inning after 1 hour and 57 minutes (per umpires watch)).

23. The following time limits are in effect for all T.O.C. games:

- A. Farm Baseball, Minor Baseball & Minor Softball Divisions = no new inning after 1-hour and 45 minutes. No new batter after 2 hours (player at bat will complete his/her at bat).
- B. Major Baseball & Softball Divisions = no new inning after 2 hours. No new batter after 2 hours and 15 minutes (player at bat will complete his/her at bat).
- C. Intermediate/Junior/Senior Baseball & Junior/Senior Softball Divisions = no new inning after 2 hours and 15 minutes. No new batter after 2 hours and 30 minutes (player at bat will complete his/her at bat).
- D. If inning is incomplete (if visiting team has not completed their time at bat; or home team has not completed their time at bat - if required to do so) the final score of the game will revert to the score at the end of the LAST COMPLETED INNING (in accordance with rule 4.11(d)).

NOTE: THIS RULE DOES NOT APPLY TO THE NORTHERN, SOUTHERN, OR OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES. THESE GAMES WILL BE PLAYED WITHOUT A TIME LIMIT AND CONTINUE UNTIL A WINNER IS DETERMINED.

24. FARM BASEBALL, MINOR BASEBALL & MINOR SOFTBALL: Each team will use a Continuous Batting Order (CBO) for the entire game. If a player is hurt/injured or becomes ill during the game, the player will be removed from the current game and no out will be recorded during his/her time at bat.

NOTE: If a player arrives late, it is at the managers' discretion to insert the player in the lineup. If added, the player will be placed after the last batter in the batting order.

25. Any half inning in FARM BASEBALL, MINOR BASEBALL, or MINOR SOFTBALL ends when:

- 1. Three outs are recorded, or
- 2. All players on the roster have batted once in that half-inning, or
- 3. Five runs have scored.

Number 3 above will not apply to the sixth inning of the game for either team, nor will it apply to any half-inning in an "extra inning" game (Numbers 1 and 2 **WILL** apply to all half-innings.)

26. ALL LEVELS OF BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL. If game start time is delayed for any reason by either manager or umpire, the game clock (for time limit restraints) will start when the game actually starts.

EXAMPLE: Game scheduled to start at 5:30PM. Managers disagree with pitch count in official scorebook. Game actually starts at 5:40PM after resolution of dispute. Game clock (for time limit purposes) would start at 5:40PM - per the umpire's watch.

27. If a manager, player, coach or parent is ejected from the final game of the season (T.O.C. or All-Star) the suspension from the next physically played game will carry over to the following regular season game(s). A list will be maintained by the District Administrator and provided to each League President prior to the start of that League's regular season. This rule will also apply to post game ejections due to unsportsmanship like conduct at any game site. Post game ejections will be reported to the District Administrator, District UIC and President of the appropriate League.

28. NO ARTIFICIAL NOISE MAKERS are allowed.

29. NO PETS (except for CERTIFIED service animals) are allowed at game sites.

30. Intermediate, Major, Junior and Senior levels of play in Baseball and Junior and Senior levels of play in Softball will not use a continuous batting order (CBO).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffrey L. Ahrens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeffrey L. Ahrens
California District 51 Administrator