

2021 Little League Baseball Tournament Rule Summary

Updated 22-May-2021

| | 8/9/10 year old | 9/10/11 year old | Little League (10/11/12) | Intermediate (11/12/13) | Juniors (12/13/14) | Seniors (13-16) | |
|---|---|--|--------------------------|--|---|---|-----|
| Non-wood Bats | USABat Certification Required | | | USABat or BBCOR | | BBCOR | |
| Mandatory Play | 13+ players: Minimum of 1 at bat 12 or fewer players: Minimum of 1 at bat and 6 consecutive defensive outs. At-bat is not complete until player is retired, scores, or the inning ends. Substitute entering game for first time may not be removed until this is met. | | | | | Does not apply | |
| No new inning after | Midnight | | | 12:30 AM | | 1:00AM | |
| Pitchers | Pitches/Day | 8-year-old: 50 | 9- or 10-year-old: 75 | 11- or 12-year-old: 85 | 13- to 16-year old: 95 | | |
| | Rest | 1 – 20 pitches: no rest 21 – 35 pitches: 1 calendar day 36 – 50 pitches, 2 calendar days rest. 51 – 65 pitches, 3 calendar days 66+: 4 calendar days. | | | | 1 – 30: no rest; 31 – 45: 1 day; 46 – 60: 2 days; 61 – 75: 3 days; 76+: 4 days. | |
| | Multiple Games | May only pitch in one game per day | | | If < 31 pitches thrown in first game. | | |
| | Consecutive Games | Pitching in consecutive games is allowed, subject to rest requirements. May not pitch on 3 consecutive days regardless of circumstances. | | | | | |
| | Suspended Game Resumed Next Day | If pitched 20 or fewer pitches, may continue – pitch count starts at zero. If 21-40 pitches, may continue – pitch count picks up from previous game. If 41 or more pitches, not eligible. If another game intervenes, see Rule 4(h) | | | | Same, except 30/60 pitches instead of 20/40 | |
| | Returning to Mound | Pitchers once removed from the mound may not return as pitchers. | | | A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher, but only once per game. | | |
| | | Special case: See Rule 10.c Note 2 | | | | | N/A |
| | Catching | A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play catcher for the remainder of that day. A player who has played catcher in four or more innings in a game may not then pitch on that calendar day. Play catcher for < 4 innings then throw 21 or more pitches cannot catch again that day. (31 pitches for 15/16 year-olds) | | | | | |
| Intentional Walk | At any time , team may request an “unpitched” intentional walk. Remaining pitches are added to pitch count. | | | Pitches must be thrown. | | | |
| Player Re-entry | Any player who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game in the SAME position in the batting order. A substitute entering the game for the first time may not be removed prior to completion of his/her mandatory play requirements. | | | | | Starters may re-enter to their original spot <u>once</u> . Subs may not re-enter. | |
| Substitutions | Defensive: Must be made as team takes the field, or while team is in the field. Offensive: Must be made as player comes to bat, or while player is on base. | | | | | | |
| Defensive Conferences | Pitcher must be removed on 3rd visit in inning or 4th visit in game. | Pitcher must be removed from mound on second visit in inning or third visit in game. | | Same. Each pitcher has his/her own “count” of visits, which resumes if pitcher returns to mound later in the game. | | | |
| Mercy Rule | 15 runs after 3 innings, 2 ½ if home team is ahead. 10 runs after 4 innings, 3 ½ if home team is ahead. | | | 15 runs after 4 innings, 3 ½ if home team is ahead 10 runs after 5 innings, 4 ½ if home team is ahead | | | |
| 3rd Strike not caught | Batter is out | Batter is out if first is occupied with less than two outs. If first is unoccupied or there are two outs, batter becomes runner and defense must put him/her out. | | | | | |
| On-Deck Batters | Not allowed. | | | Allowed. | | | |
| Illegal Bat | Batter is out (unless defense opts for result of play). Batter and manager both ejected. | | | | | | |
| Batter’s Box | Batters must keep one foot in the batter’s box except for certain specified conditions. Penalty: Warning, then strike. | | | | | | |
| Special Pinch Runner | Once per inning, no more than twice per game, any player not currently in the batting order may run. A player may only be removed for a special pinch runner once per game. | | | | | | |
| Adults | 11 or fewer players: 1 manager and 1 coach. Player must coach one of the bases. 12 or more players: 1 manager and 2 coaches. May use 2 adult base coaches. | | | | | | |
| Protests | Playing rule or improper substitution: Must be made before next pitch, play or attempted play. Mandatory play: As soon as the facts become known. Ineligible pitcher or player: As soon as facts become known, but before either teams’ next game. | | | | | | |
| Unsportsmanlike Conduct | 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, both the player and the manager shall be ejected from the game. | | | | | | |
| Tiebreaker Rule | Starts in 8 th inning | | | Starts in 9 th inning | | | |

This chart is intended as a reference summary of the various tournament rules. It does not cover every possible circumstance, and is not a substitute for reading and fully understanding the regular season and tournament rules sections of the Official Playing Rules.