



2019 District 8 Rules Briefing



2019 District 8 Rules

- **Purpose of Little League:** Little league is a program of service to youth. It is geared to provide an outlet of healthful activity and training under good leadership in the atmosphere of wholesome community participation. The movement is dedicated to helping children become good and decent citizens. It inspires them with a goal and enriches their lives towards the day when they must take their places in the world. It establishes the values of teamwork, sportsmanship, and fair play.
- ***YOU ARE THE VISIBLE STANDARD OF ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR FOR THE LITTLE LEAGUE PROGRAM!***

2019 District 8 Rules

Significant Changes 2019

- **Regulation I (c)(9)** – The League (**ALL Division**)
Requires leagues to contact the Security Manager at Little League International if a potential volunteer appears on the National Sex Offender Registry prior to the volunteer being appointed.
- **Regulation VI(a) [Regulation VI(b)]** – All Divisions of Baseball
(a) Any player on a regular season team may pitch. *Exception:* Any player who has played the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day. A player who played the position of catcher for three (3) innings or less, moves to the pitcher position, and **delivers 21 pitches or more** (15- and 16 –year -olds: 31 pitches or more) in the same day, **may not return to the catcher** position on that calendar day. **Threshold rules apply.**

2019 District 8 Rules

Significant Changes 2019

Regulation VI(a) [Regulation VI(b)] – Jr & Sr Baseball

- (k) Pitching in more than one game in a day: Note Also Rule 4.12

A player may be used as a pitcher in up to two games in a day.

NOTE: If a pitcher reaches 30 pitches while facing a batter in the first game, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to pitch in the second game on that day, until any one of the following conditions occurs: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made to complete the half -inning or the game.

The pitcher would be allowed to pitch in a second game provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter. If a 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)

2019 District 8 Rules

Significant Changes 2019

Rule 2.00 – Dead Ball Territory [Baseball, Softball, Challenger]

Divisions: All divisions of Baseball, Softball, and Challenger

Rule 2.00 **DEAD BALL AREA** is the area beyond any intended physical boundary, such as a fence, rope, chalk line, any stands, bleachers, dugouts, player's benches, or designated media areas, or any other boundary line as determined in the pregame conference. If a ball becomes lodged in a fence, backstop, umpire's equipment, or catcher's equipment, it is considered to be in a dead ball area

Rule 3.11 – Double Headers – **Removed** see Rule 4.12

Rule 8.01 (g) AR – The Pitcher [Softball] All divisions of Softball

Rule 8.01 (g) A.R. 2 – 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.

2019 District 8 Rules

Significant Changes 2019

Rule 8.02(a)(1) The Pitcher [Baseball, Softball]

Baseball:

(1) bring the pitching hand in contact with the mouth or lips while in contact with the pitcher's plate. EXCEPTION: The pitcher may bring the hand in contact with the mouth or lips while in the 10-foot circle (Intermediate (50 -70) Division/Junior/Senior: 18-foot circle) surrounding the pitcher's plate provided he/she distinctly wipes off the pitching hand before contacting the ball.

Softball:

(1) apply a foreign substance of any kind to the ball, pitching hand, or fingers. The pitcher may bring the hand in contact with the mouth or lips provided he/she distinctly wipes off the pitching hand before contacting the ball.

2019 District 8 Rules

Significant Changes 2019

Rule 8.06 [Baseball, Softball]

Baseball:

A.R. 1 - 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.

Intermediate (50 -70) Division/Junior/Senior: This applies when a pitcher moves to another position and returns as a pitcher later in the same game.

Softball:

A.R 1 - 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.

This applies when a pitcher moves to another position, Junior/Senior: or removed from the game, and returns as a pitcher later in the same game.

2019 District 8 Rules

Significant Changes 2019

Tournament Rules and Guidelines

Managers and Coaches [Baseball, Softball] All divisions

Synopsis: Restricts the number of adults in the dugout or on the field to one manager and one coach when a tournament team has eleven (11) or fewer eligible players are at the game site at the start of a game.

Managers/Coaches in the Dugout If a tournament team has twelve (12) or more eligible players in uniform at the game site at the start of a game, then the maximum of three (3) adults who are named on the affidavit (or authorized replacements as noted on the affidavit) will be permitted to act as manager/coaches for that game. However, 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 two (2) adults must be named at the start of the game as manager and coach. The two named adults must be listed on the affidavit, or must be authorized temporary replacements as noted on the affidavit. If there is a third adult listed on the affidavit, that adult is not permitted to be in the dugout or on the field during that game.

2019 District 8 Rules

Significant Changes 2019

Tournament Rule 14 [Baseball and Softball]

TIE GAME: When the completion of six innings [Intermediate (50-70) Division/ Junior/Senior League: seven innings] and the score is tied, the following tie-breaker will be played to determine a winning team:

- a. The **seventh inning** [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: eighth inning] will be **played as normal**.
- b. **Starting in the top of the eighth inning** [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/ Senior League: ninth inning], 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.

2019 District 8 Rules

- **Significant Changes 2018 Review (Baseball):**
- **Rule 1.10** – Non-wood and laminated bats used in the Majors and below, Intermediate Division, and Junior Division shall bear the USA Baseball logo. All BPF 1.15 bats are prohibited. The bat diameter shall not exceed 2-5/8 inches. Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo.
 - Certified tee ball bats, 26” and shorter, will bear the USA Baseball mark and text which reads ONLY FOR USE WITH APPROVED TEE BALLS.
- **Rule 1.10** – The use of pine tar or any other similar adhesive substance is prohibited. (Bat is illegal) (BB/SB)
- **Regulation XIV** – Unsportsmanlike conduct on or off the field, including through online or social media is subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors. (BB/SB)

2019 District 8 Rules

- **Significant Changes 2018 Review (Softball):**
- **Rule 1.15(a)** – Pitcher's glove shall not be nor have the **color of the ball** being used in the game.
- **Rule 1.15(c) & 8.02(a)(2)** – Allows items to be worn on the pitcher's glove arm (non-pitching arm) so long as they are of a solid, single color: black, white, gray, or uniform color.
- **Rule 8.01(q)** – Pitcher's release and follow through must be past the vertical line of the body.
- **8.01 Note/8.05 Note 1** – Penalty for a batter hit by a pitch during an illegal pitch in Junior/Senior Divisions; Batter shall be awarded first base and all base runners advance one base without reference to the illegal pitch.

2019 District 8 Rules

- **Significant Changes approved during 2018 Congress:**
- **Regulation III(c)** – Eliminated the maximum of eight 12-year-olds on a Major Division team.
- **Regulation VI(d)** – Under no circumstances shall a player pitch on **three consecutive days**.
- **Regulation VI** – All suspended games will be **resumed exactly where they were left off**. Regular season pitching will be governed by Regulation VI.
- **Regulation VII(a)** – Allows a **10-game regular season schedule for Senior Baseball and Senior Softball** teams. For Senior Division Tournament eligibility, a team must play a 10-game Regular Season schedule.

2019 District 8 Rules

- **Significant Changes approved during 2018 Congress:**
- **Rule 3.03** – A player in the starting line-up who has been removed for a substitute may **re-enter the game in the SAME position in the batting order**...A starter and his sub must not be in the line-up at the same time. **Once mandatory play is met, starter and sub can enter/re-enter for each other as desired.**
- **Rule 4.10(e)** – Allows a local league to implement a **15-run rule after three innings** (four innings for Intermediate/Junior/Senior divisions).
- **Rule 8.06(a)(b)** – Reduces the number of **visits to a pitcher to twice in one inning or three times in a game** for the **Major Division and above** for **Baseball and Softball**.

2019 District 8 Rules – Reg V

- **Player Pools**

- Used when a team is short of players
- Come from existing regular season teams
- Players **may not be “borrowed”** from the other team
- **Player Agent** creates and runs the pool
- Players are assigned on a rotating basis
- Managers **may not pick or choose players from the pool**
- Pool players **may not pitch in the game**
- Must **play at least nine consecutive outs** and bat once

2019 District 8 Rules – Reg VI

(Pitchers-Baseball)

- There is no limit on the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.
- A pitcher once removed from the mound may not return as a pitcher (Minors/Majors).
- INT/JR/SR- A pitcher remaining on defense in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the game, but only once per game.
- A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day (*Minors/Majors/Intermediate*).
 - JR/SR: May pitch in more than one game in a day if they did not exceed 30 pitches in the first game.

2019 District 8 Rules – Reg VI (*Pitchers-Baseball*)

- PITCH COUNT LIMITS

- 13-16 95 Pitches Per Day
- 11-12 85 Pitches Per Day
- 9-10 75 Pitches Per Day
- 7-8 50 Pitches Per Day

- A pitcher who delivers **41 or more pitches** in a game **cannot play the position of catcher** for the remainder of the day.
- Any player who has played the position of catcher in **four or more innings** in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.

2019 District 8 Rules – Reg VI (*Pitchers-Baseball*)

- A player who played the position of catcher for three (3) innings or less, moves to the pitcher position, and **delivers 21 pitches or more** (15- and 16 –year -olds: 31 pitches or more) in the same day, **may not return to the catcher** position on that calendar day.
- **Regulation VI(d)** – Under no circumstances shall a player pitch on **three consecutive days**.

2019 District 8 Rules – Reg VI (*Pitchers-Baseball*)

- Rest Requirements (**Age 14 and under**)
- 1-20 pitches in a day
 - No (0) calendar days of rest is required
- 21-35 pitches in a day
 - One calendar day of rest must be observed
- 36-50 pitches in a day
 - Two calendar days of rest must be observed
- 51-65 pitches in a day
 - Three calendar days of rest must be observed
- 66 or more pitches in a day
 - Four calendar days of rest must be observed

2018 District 8 Rules – Reg VI (*Pitchers-Baseball*)

- Rest Requirements (**15 – 16 years old**)
- 1-30 pitches in a day
 - No (0) calendar days of rest is required
- 31-45 pitches in a day
 - One calendar day of rest must be observed
- 46-60 pitches in a day
 - Two calendar days of rest must be observed
- 61-75 pitches in a day
 - Three calendar days of rest must be observed
- 76 or more pitches in a day
 - Four calendar days of rest must be observed

2019 District 8 Rules – Reg VI

(Pitchers-Baseball)

- If a pitcher reaches a **day(s) of rest threshold** while facing a batter the pitcher **may continue to pitch until**:
 - The batter reaches base
 - The batter is retired
 - The third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game
- The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold reached during that at bat, provided the pitcher is removed before delivering a pitch to another batter
- If a pitcher reaches their **pitch count limit** for the day while facing a batter the pitcher **may continue to pitch until**:
 - The batter reaches base
 - The batter is put out
 - The third out is made to complete the half-inning

2019 District 8 Rules – Reg VI (*Pitchers-Softball*)

- Any player on the team may pitch.
- **Minors/Majors:**
 - *A player may pitch a maximum of 12 innings in a game.*
 - *If a player pitches 7 or more innings in a day, one calendar day of rest is mandatory.*
 - Delivery of a single pitch constitutes having pitched in an inning.
- **Junior/Senior:**
 - *No pitching restrictions apply.*
- A pitcher may be withdrawn from the game, offensively or defensively, and return as a pitcher once per inning provided the return does not violate the substitution, visits per pitcher, or mandatory play rules.
- ***No more than five pitchers per team shall be used in one game in Majors/Juniors/Seniors.***
- ***Pitching restrictions for 12 year olds participating in majors and juniors;*** the pitching rules and regulations regarding days of rest that are pertinent to the division in which the pitcher is used will apply to that game. Innings pitched in both divisions are taken into account when determining eligibility of the pitcher for a particular game, with respect to days of rest and numbers of innings available.

2019 District 8 Rules – Reg VII (Schedules)

- Baseball:
 - Int/Jr/Sr: Doubleheaders are permitted.
 - Majors: A team may play in one doubleheader per week.
 - Minors and below: No team shall be scheduled to play two games in one day.

- Softball:
 - Jr/Sr: A team may play three games in a day.
 - Minors/Majors: A team may play two doubleheaders in a seven day period.
 - Tee Ball: No team shall be scheduled to play two games in one day.

- Regulation VII(a) – Allows a 10-game regular season schedule for Senior Baseball and Senior Softball teams. For Senior Division Tournament eligibility, a team must play a 10-game Regular Season schedule.

2019 District 8 Rules – Reg XIV

(Field Decorum)

- Possession of firearms and/or use of tobacco/ alcohol/controlled substances in any form is prohibited on the field/benches/dugouts (*e-cigarettes and vapors*).
- Managers and coaches shall not warm up pitchers.
- Two adult base coaches are permitted.
- Batboys are not permitted (at any level).
- Uniformed players, managers, coaches and umpires only shall be permitted within the confines of the playing field just prior to and during the game (Maximum of 3 adults in the dugout, no kids not on team)

2019 District 8 Rules – Reg XIV

(Field Decorum)

- No on deck position allowed in Minors or Majors (or below), permitted in Int/Jr/Sr.
- A manager or coach shall not leave the dugout except to confer with a player or umpire and only after receiving permission from an umpire.
- At least one adult manager or coach must be in the dugout at all times.
- Actions of players, coaches, umpires, and league officials must be above reproach (**On or Off field**).

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 1

- Batters Box
 - Baseball: 6'x3'; 6'x4' for Int/Jr/Sr
 - 3' forward & 3' backward from the center of home plate
 - Inside line: 4"; 6" for Int/Jr/Sr
 - Softball: 7'x3'
 - 4' forward & 3' backward from the center of home plate
 - Inside line: 4"; 6" for Jr/Sr
- Pitching Distances
 - Baseball: 46' Minors/Majors; 50' Int; 60'6" Jr/Sr
 - Softball: 35' Minors; 40' Majors; 43' Jr/Sr

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 1

- Baseballs licensed by Little League will be printed with : RS or RS-T
- Softballs:
 - Majors and above: 12 inches
 - Minors and below: 11 inches
 - Optic yellow or white
- The pitcher's glove may not be white or gray.
 - Softball: may not be optic yellow
 - Softball: the pitcher may not wear a catcher's mitt or first baseman's mitt.
- Pitcher may wear a batting glove that is not white, gray, or optic yellow.

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 1

(Bat Rules Baseball)

- Bat Restrictions – USA Baseball Standard!
- LL Majors and Below
 - Not more than 33 inches
 - Not more than **2-5/8 inches** in diameter
 - **No more BPF 1.15 bats**
- INT/JRs/SRs
 - Not more than 34 inches for INT & JR
 - **INT/JR must meet USA Baseball /BBCOR standard**
 - Not more than 36 inches for SR
 - Not more than 2-5/8 inches in diameter (no 2-3/4 bats)
 - SRs, the bat must not weigh numerically more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (-3).
 - **SRs must meet BBCOR performance standard**
- Non-wood bats must have a grip of cork, tape, or composition material for a minimum of 10 inches.
- ***If the certification mark on a bat is not legible, that bat cannot be used and shall be removed from the game.***



2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 1

(Bat Rules Softball)

- LL Majors and Below
 - Not more than 33 inches
 - Not more than 2-1/4 inches in diameter
 - **BPF of 1.20 or less**
- JR/SR
 - Not more than 34 inches
 - Not more than 2-1/4 inches in diameter
 - **BPF of 1.20 or less**
- Non-wood bats must have a grip of cork, tape, or composition material for a minimum of 10 inches.
- *If the specification marks on a bat are not legible, that bat cannot be used and shall be removed from the game.*



2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 1

- Team must have six (7 for Int/Jr/Sr) helmets
 - All padding must be present, - No cracks
 - **No paint/tape/decals added** except by the manufacturer
 - Helmets must have the NOCSAE logo
 - *Must have a non-glare surface (can't be mirror-like)*
- All males must wear athletic supporters
- Male catchers must wear cups, chest protector (*long or short model*), shin guards, catcher's mitt (baseball only), and catcher's helmet/mask (NOCSAE) with dangling throat guard
- Catcher must wear helmet/mask with **dangling throat protector** during **infield/outfield practice, pitcher warm-up, and games** (including practice)

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 1

- The pitcher's undershirt sleeves, if exposed, shall not be white or gray and **shall be a solid color**.
- *Neoprene sleeves, if worn by a pitcher, must be covered by an undershirt.*
- A pitcher shall not wear any items on his/her hands, wrists or arms which may be distracting to the batter, e.g. sweat bands.
- Shoes with **metal spikes/cleats are not permitted**. Shoes with molded cleats are permissible (Int/Jr/Sr: shoes with metal spikes or cleats are permitted).
- Managers/Coaches must not wear conventional uniforms or shoes with metal spikes but may wear caps, slacks, and shirt (**Majors and below**).

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 1

- The on-deck position is not permitted (**INT/JR/SR allowed**).
- Only the first batter of each half-inning will be allowed outside the dugout (**Coaches will remain in the dugout between innings**).
- The batting donut is not permitted.
- Casts may not be worn during the game.
- Jewelry of any composition may not be worn during the game.
 - ***Jewelry that alerts medical personnel to a specific condition is permissible.***

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 2

- Minor league uses the continuous batting order (everyone present bats)
- Minor league 5 run limit per half-inning (may be waived in last inning by local rule)
- Minor league 1hour-45 minute limit (SVLL)
- Minor league 1hour-30 minute limit (PLLS/BLL/Wilcox)
- Major league 2 hour time limit (SVLL/PLLS/BLL)
- Major/Minor 2 hour time limit no new after 1:45 (Nogales)
- Major no time limit – no new after 10PM (Wilcox)
- Minor league no new after 1hour-45 minute (SPLL)
- Major league no new after 1hour-50 minute (SPLL)

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 2

- Fair/Foul is determined by the position of the ball, not the position of the fielder
- A ***FOUL TIP*** is a batted ball that goes **sharp and direct** from the bat to the catcher's hands and is **legally caught**. It is not a foul tip unless caught and any foul tip that is caught is a strike, and ***the ball is in play***. It is not a catch if it is a rebound, unless the ball has first touched the catcher's glove or hand. A foul tip can only be caught by the catcher.

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 2

- A batter-runner cannot be tagged out after overrunning or over sliding first base if said batter-runner returns immediately to the base (this includes following a base on balls).
- **Bunt**:
 - Baseball: **If no attempt is made** to make contact with the ball outside the strike zone while in the bunting stance, it shall be called a ball. The **batter must offer at the pitch** for it to be a strike.
 - Softball: **Holding the bat in the strike zone is considered an attempt at a bunt**. In order to take a pitch the **batter must withdraw the bat** away backwards from the ball.

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 2

Appeal

- Live Ball (Rule 7.10)
- Re-touch
- Missed base
- Return to first base
- Touch home base
- Dead Ball (Rule 6.06/7)
- Batting out of Turn
- Illegal Bat



2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 3

- A starter may reenter the game in *the same position* in the batting order *provided their substitute has met the mandatory play rule*
- Once mandatory play is met, starter and sub can enter/re-enter for each other as desired.
- You can remove a starter before he meets the mandatory play requirement (6 outs/1 at bat) *but not a substitute*
- Pitchers must complete one batter (starter or sub)
- Managers determine if the field is fit to start play, once the game starts only the umpire can suspend play
- Umpires will not call the game for at least 30 minutes after play has been suspended
- Games will be suspended if thunder is heard, no exceptions (30 min count re-starts every time more thunder is heard)

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 3

- No person is allowed on the field during games except uniformed players, coaches & umpires
- Players and coaches shall not address or mingle with spectators during a game
- No team shall use electronic equipment for communication with on-field personnel
- One adult must remain in the dugout at all times
- **SR** may use a ***designated hitter***
- Managers must notify the UIC of all substitutions

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 4

- Players who arrive after the game has started may be inserted into the lineup (Manager decision)
- When using CBO, if a player has to leave, **his spot in the lineup is skipped w/o penalty**
- **No player or coach shall** at any time incite or try to incite a demonstration by spectators or **use language which will in any manner refer to or reflect upon opposing players, coaches, umpires** or spectators
- A **coach ejected** from a game **must not be present at the game site for the rest of the game**
- A coach or player ejected from a game is suspended from his **team's next physically played game** and may not be in attendance at the game site from which they were suspended

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 4

- A **regulation game** consists of **six innings** (7 Int/Jr/Sr)
- If a game is called, it is a regulation game if:
 - 4 innings are completed (5 Int/Jr/Sr)
 - **10 run rule** is in effect after 4 innings (5 Int/Jr/Sr)
 - **15 run rule** may be used after 3 innings (4 Int/Jr/Sr)
- If a game is called during an incomplete inning, the game ends at the end of the last completed inning
- A game may be **forfeited** by the Umpire-in-Chief if:
 - A team fails to start play w/in 10 minutes of the apptd. time
 - A team refuses to continue play
 - A team fails to resume play w/in 1 min. after the umpire calls play
 - Fails to obey the umpires order to remove a player (reason. time)
 - Willfully and persistently violates any rules of the game
 - Employs tactics designed to delay or shorten the game
- A game **may not be started or continued** w/ **less than 9 players or 1 adult manger** present (**competitive divs**)

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 4

Protesting the Game:

- No protest shall be considered on a decision involving an **umpire's judgment**
- Only the **manager** has the right to protest a game
- Protests must be made before **any succeeding play**
- Protests must be submitted in writing to the league president **within 24 hours**
- A committee reviews all protests (Pres, PA, UIC, +1 officer who is not a manager)

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 5

- Only **one offensive timeout** is permitted per inning
- Base runner hit by a fair batted ball (before it touches an infielder) is out (even if they are standing on a base)
 - Ball is dead and batter is awarded first base
 - If batted ball hits an umpire before it passes a defensive player the batter is awarded first base (runners advance if forced)
 - Runner hit by a fair batted ball that has passed an infielder (other than the pitcher) is not out and the ball remains in play
- Thrown ball accidentally touching a base coach is live;
Pitched or thrown ball touching an umpire is live
- The ball becomes dead when an umpire calls/signals time
 - Play resumes when the pitcher takes position on the pitchers plate with the ball in his possession and the plate umpire calls **“Play”**

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 6

- After entering the Batter's Box, the **batter must remain in the box with at least one foot** throughout the at bat.
- **EXCEPTIONS:**
 - On a swing, slap, or check swing
 - When forced out of the box by a pitch
 - When the batter attempts a “drag bunt”
 - When the catcher does not catch the pitched ball
 - When a play has been attempted
 - When time has been called
 - When the pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher's plate after receiving the ball or the catcher leaves the catcher's box
 - On a three ball count pitch that is a strike that the batter thinks is a ball
- **Penalty:** The umpire shall **warn** the batter. After one warning, the umpire shall call a **strike**. Any number of strikes can be called on a batter.
- **AR:** Only one warning needs to be issued **per team** before the umpire can start calling strikes for violation of this rule.

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 6

- If the third out of an inning is made before a batter completes his turn at bat, that batter will leadoff the next inning with a new strike count
- If a batter refuses to take his position in the box, the umpire shall call a strike on the batter without the need for a pitch
- The batter must have both feet in the batter's box
 - Batter is out for hitting the ball with one or both feet **on the ground entirely outside the batter's box** (there is no "foot on home plate rule in LL)
- **Dropped third strike rule in LL/INT/JR/SR BB/Softball**
 - 1st base not occupied, 1st base occupied w/ 2 outs
 - May attempt to advance until they enter the dugout or dead ball area
 - 6.05(b)(2), 6.05(i), 6.09(b)
- Batter is out if an infielder intentionally drops a fair line drive or fly if there are runners on base before 2 outs (this is not the same as the infield fly rule)

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 6

- Batter is out for illegal action when:
 - Hitting the ball with one or both feet on the ground entirely outside the batter's box
 - Stepping from one batter's box to the other while the pitcher is in position ready to pitch
 - Interfering with the catcher's fielding or throwing by stepping out of the batter's box or making any other movement that hinders the catcher's play at home base
 - The batter enters the batter's box with one or both feet entirely on the ground with an illegal bat or is discovered having used an illegal bat prior to the next player entering the batter's box
 - 1st violation, the offensive team will lose one eligible adult base coach for the duration of the game
 - 2nd violation, the manager of the team will be ejected from the game
 - Any subsequent violation, the newly designated manager is ejected
 - The manager of the defense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline the penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play.

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 6

- Rule 6.07 covers batting out of turn
 - A batter shall be called out on appeal when failing to bat in his/her proper turn and another batter completes a turn at bat
 - Appeal must come before the next pitch
 - The proper batter may take his/her place in the batter's box at any time before another batter completes a turn at bat
 - Fundamental 1: The proper batter is the player called out
 - Fundamental 2: If no appeal is made before a pitch to the next batter, the improper batter is considered to have batted in the proper turn and establishes the order that is to follow
- Infield Fly Rule:
 - Runners on 1st & 2nd or 1st/2nd/3rd with less than two outs
 - Must be ruled that ball can be caught with **routine effort** (umpire judgment)
 - Batter is out **if the ball is fair** (even if not caught)
 - **Runners may advance** at their own risk

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 6

- Rule 6.08 (**Intentional Walk Rule for Minors/Majors**)
 - **Prior to a pitch being thrown**, the defense elects to “Intentionally Walk” the batter by announcing such decision to the plate umpire.
 - Such notification must be made by the defensive manager. The **manager must request and be granted “time”** by the umpire and then inform the umpire of the defense’s intent to walk the batter.
 - The ball is dead and no other runners may advance unless forced by the batter’s award. **Four pitches will be added to the pitch count.**

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 7

- Base Awards (each runner including the batter/runner)
 - 3 bases if a fair ball is touched by detached equipment
 - 2 bases if a thrown ball is touched by detached equipment
 - 2 bases when a thrown ball goes out of play
 - *Time of pitch* if throw is first play by an infielder
 - *Time of throw* in all other cases
 - 1 base when a pitched ball goes out of play
 - 1 base if a fielder touches a pitched ball with detached equipment
 - Batter is entitled to one base if hit by a pitched ball (not in the strike zone)

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 7

- **Obstruction:**

- **Type A:** A play is being made on the runner or the batter/runner is obstructed before he reaches first base
- The ball is dead
- Runners are awarded bases per umpire judgment
- The obstructed runner shall be awarded at least one base beyond the last base legally touched before the obstruction

- **Type B:** No play is being made on the obstructed runner
- Delayed dead ball is signaled
- The umpire will impose such penalties (if any) to nullify the act of obstruction
- If a defensive player ***blocks the baseline or base without the ball*** obstruction shall be called
- A fake tag is considered obstruction

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 7

- Runner is out for sliding head first ***while advancing*** (Int/JR/SR head first slide is permitted)
- If two runners occupy the same base, the **following runner is out** when tagged
- If a runner passes another runner (that isn't already out or has not been obstructed), the **following runner is out**
- Runner is out for running more than 3 feet outside the baseline to avoid a tag (**baseline is set by the runner**)
- Runner is out for failing to slide or attempting to get around a tag (runner may be ejected for malicious contact); ***there is no must slide rule.***

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 7

- Runner is out for intentionally interfering with a thrown ball
- Runner is out for interfering with a fielder making a play
- Runner is out if the batter interferes with a play at home before two are out, if two are out the batter is out
- If a base comes loose, no play can be made on that runner at that base if the runner has reached base safely

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 7

- Interference
 - The batter hinders the catcher while attempting to field the ball
 - The batter intentionally deflects the course of a foul ball in any manner
 - A runner intentionally interferes with the intent to break up a double play
 - Batter/Runner is called out and the runner who advanced closest to home plate is out regardless of where the double play might have been
 - A base coach physically assists a runner
 - Runner fails to avoid a fielder attempting to field a batted ball
 - A fair ball touches the batter or runner before touching a fielder
 - Runner intentionally kicks a batted ball
- **Penalty for interference:** The runner is out and the ball is dead
- Please also consider the following rule that applies to interference: Rule 6.06(c): A ***batter is out for illegal action*** when: interfering with the catcher's fielding or throwing by stepping out of the batter's box **or** making any other movement that hinders the catcher's actions at home base or the catcher's attempt to play on a runner **or failing to make a reasonable effort to vacate a congested area when there is a throw to home plate** and there is time for the batter to move away.

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 7

- Appeals
 - No appeal can be made if the ball is dead
 - Any appeal must be made before the next pitch, or any play or attempted play
 - Appeal can be a verbal request or non-verbal (unmistakable act)
 - Successive appeals may not be made on a runner at the same base
 - Appeal plays may require an umpire to recognize an apparent fourth out

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 7

- Leaving a base early
 - Base runners shall not leave their bases until the **ball reaches the batter** (**Minors BB, Majors BB, Minors SB**)
 - Base runner shall not leave their bases until the **ball is released** by the pitcher (**Majors softball and above**)
 - **Runners are not out** for leaving base early in **LLB**
 - **Runners are out** for leaving early in **softball**
 - A violation by one base runner shall affect all other base runners (*baseball*)
 - If a play follows the violation and the runner is out, the play stands (*baseball*)
 - If a play follows and the batter reaches base, all runners are returned to the closest open base to which they were at the start of the play (*baseball*)
 - This rule can cause a run to be taken off the board

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 7

- Softball Rule 7.08:
 - When a runner is off base after a pitch or as result of a batter completing a turn at bat, and while the **pitcher has the ball within the eight foot radius circle**, the **runner must immediately attempt to advance to the next base or return to the base** the runner is entitled.
 - If the **pitcher has possession of the ball within the pitcher's circle**, and is not making a play (a fake throw is considered a play), **runners not in contact with their bases must immediately attempt to advance or return to base**.
- PENALTY:
 - The ball is dead. “No Pitch” is declared and the runner is out.
 - Eight foot radius circle must be properly marked.

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 7

- Special Pinch Runner (7.14)
 - May be used **once each inning** for any offensive player (must be a player not in the batting order)
 - A player may only be removed for a special pinch runner **one time during a game**
 - The player for whom the special pinch runner runs is not subject to removal from the lineup
 - Does not apply if the continuous batting order is being used
 - **Courtesy runners are not permitted**

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 7

- Double First Base (7.15)
 - Fair must be white/foul **green** or **orange**
 - **Defense** must use **white section** of the base
 - **Batter/runner** must use the **colored section** on his/her **first attempt** to tag first base if a play is being made on him/her
 - Batter may only **return to the white section** of the base once they have passed first base
Must use the **white section** of the base **when tagging up** on a fly ball
 - **Prior to the pitch** the runner must maintain contact with the **white section** of the base

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 8 (Baseball)

- The windup or set position may be used at any time
- Illegal pitch with bases unoccupied shall be called a ball
- There is **no balk in LLB** (**Balk rules apply to Int/Jr/Sr**)
- A ball which slips out of the pitcher's hands and crosses the foul line shall be called a ball, otherwise "no pitch" (Balk if runners are on base in Int/Jr/Sr)
- Pitcher shall not bring his hand to his mouth ***while on the pitcher's plate*** – Penalty for this is a ball
- Pitcher shall not deface the ball in any manner (penalty ball + warning)
- Pitcher shall not intentionally pitch at the batter
- 8 warm up pitches or ***1 minute between innings***
- Pitcher shall deliver the ball within 20 seconds (**P: Ball**)
- Pitcher must be replaced on the **2nd visit** in one inning
- Pitcher must be replaced on the **3rd visit** in one game

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 8.01 (Softball)

- Both feet must be on the ground **within or partially within** the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate
- The **shoulders shall be in line** with first and third base
- **Pivot foot shall be in contact with the pitcher's plate**, foot must be on or partially on the top of the surface of the pitcher's plate. The **non-pivot foot must be on or behind** the pitcher's plate.
- The **pitcher shall take the signal with the hands separated**
 - *Pitcher must come to the pitcher's plate with the hands separated*
- The **pitcher shall hold the ball in one or both hands in front of the body** for **not less than 1 second and not more than 10 seconds** before starting the delivery.
- A backward step may be taken before or simultaneous with the hands being brought together. The **pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitching plate** at all times prior to the forward step.
- The step must be forward and toward the batter within or partially within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate.
- The pitcher may not take the pitching position on the pitcher's plate without having the ball in her possession.

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 8.01 (Softball)

- The pitcher **must not make two revolutions of the arms** in the windmill motion. A pitcher may drop the arm to the side and to the rear before starting the windmill motion.
- The delivery must be an underhanded motion with the hand below the hip and the wrist not farther from the body than the elbow.
- **Pushing off with the pivot foot from a place other than the pitcher's plate is illegal.** This includes a **crow hop** as defined under rule 2.00.
- The pivot foot must remain in contact with or push off and drag away from the pitching plate prior to the front foot touching the ground, as long as the pivot foot remains in contact with the ground. **When the pivot foot leaves the ground it is considered a leap** and is considered an illegal pitch as defined under rule 2.00.
- The pitcher must not make another revolution after releasing the ball.
- The pitcher shall not deliberately drop, roll, or bounce the ball in order to prevent the batter from hitting it.
- **PENALTY: ILLEGAL PITCH**
 - Minors/Majors: Ball
 - ***JR/SR: The pitch shall be called a ball and all base runners advance one base without liability to be put out.***

2018 District 8 Rules – Rule 8 (Softball)

- If a ball slips from the pitcher's hand before, during or up to the delivery of a pitch, a ball is declared on the batter.
- Pitcher shall not deface the ball in any manner or intentionally delay the game by throwing the ball to players other than the catcher (penalty: Warning, Removal from the game)
- Pitcher shall deliver the ball within 20 seconds (**penalty:** ball in Minors/Majors; Illegal Pitch in Jr/Sr)
- 8 warm up pitches or **1 minute between innings**
- Pitcher must be replaced on the **2nd visit in one inning**
- Pitcher must be replaced on the **3rd visit in one game**
- **“No Pitch”** shall be called when a runner is called out for leaving the base too soon
- It is an **illegal pitch** if the pitcher throws to a base while the pivot foot is in contact with the pitcher's plate

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 9

- 9.01(c) – *The umpire has the authority to rule on any point not specifically covered in the rules*
- No player or coach shall object to **judgment decisions** (really!)
 - Did you know that the term “judgment” appears in all sections (1-9) of the Little League Baseball and Softball rule books.
- Umpires may order both teams into their dugouts and suspend play until **league officials** deal with unruly fans
- Managers may appeal decisions which appear to be in conflict with the rules (to the umpire who made the ruling)
- Umpires shall report ejections and any other noteworthy incidents to the UIC and President within 24 hours

2019 District 8 Rules – Rule 9

- Rule 9.01(d): Unsportsmanlike behavior; the local league may determine if **stealing and relaying of pitch selection** and location is unsportsmanlike* (**Mandatory for tournament**)
- Rule 9.01(e): Provides umpires guidance regarding **fights and physical altercations**.
 - A manager, coach, or player shall not leave their position in the field or bench area during a fight or physical confrontation
 - A manager or coach who attempts to prevent a fight or restore order, in the umpire's judgement, is not in violation of this rule.

PENALTY for (d) and (e): The umpire shall eject the offender(s) from the game immediately.

YOU ARE THE VISIBLE STANDARD OF ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR FOR THE LITTLE LEAGUE PROGRAM!

2019 District 8 Rules – Umpires

- Arrive early enough to **check equipment**
- A good **pregame meeting** sets a positive tone
- Steps for dealing with coaches:
 - **Ignore**
 - **Acknowledge** (hold up hand & say “Coach, that’s enough”)
 - **Warn** (“Coach, this is your warning, return to the dugout”)
 - **Restriction** (restrict coach to the dugout for the rest of the game)
 - **Eject** (if coach still fails to comply, remove him from the field)
- Be a good listener, let the manager have his say
- Ask the coach what rule he thinks applies
- If your partner ends the discussion, step in and direct the coach away from your partner

2019 District 8 Rules – Umpires

- Steps for creating a good image of a play:
 - On the rubber
 - Get Set
 - Track
 - Read
 - Hold
 - Call
- On the bases:
 - Focus **eyes** on the front side of the base
 - Listen for the snap of the ball in the glove
 - Listen for the thud of the runners foot on the bag
 - Find the ball/determine the **status of the ball**
 - Call
- Concentration is the key!

2019 District 8 Rules – Umpires

- Don't miss an opportunity to call a strike or an out
- If the catcher doesn't catch it, it's an easy ball call
- If the runner is stealing, call it a strike unless it is clearly way out of the zone
- You can't be wrong on a judgment call, if it's close, sell it (step towards a close call)
- 95% of the calls make themselves, you earn your hotdog and coke on the other 5%
- **Always Enjoy the game!**

2019 District 8 Rules – Basic Six

- Ball
- Strike
- Safe
- Out
- Time
- Foul (don't vocalize "Fair")

2019 District 8 Rules – Plate

- Use the slot position
- Slow down, call balls down/strikes up
- Call every pitch (ball, strike called (swinging strike only give a visual indication))
- “Illegal Pitch”
- “Balk”
- Clear to the left
- Point of plate, 1B line/3B line extended
 - Use the “Wedge”

2019 District 8 Rules – Field

- A/B/C & 1/2/3
- Angle/Distance
- Pivot
- Fly Balls/Trouble Balls
- First to Third
- Working Area/Library
- Communication
 - Infield Fly Rule
 - Timing Play
 - First to Third

2019 District 8 Rules – Contact

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