

2020 Little League® International Regional Roundtable Agenda Voting Results

Below are the voting results, synopsis, and year of implementation as voted on by the delegates and approved by the Little League International Board of Directors. More information, guidance, and implementation strategies, as well as potential additional rule and regulation updates, will be available in the months leading into the start of the 2021 season. Visit LittleLeague.org/Rules and LittleLeague.org/SeasonResources for the most up-to-date information.

ITEM 1: Regulation I(g) – The League – All Divisions of Baseball, Softball, and Challenger

Synopsis: This amended regulation provides Little League participants, administrators, and volunteers guidelines for participation in non-Little League programs specifically surrounding the use of Little League funds, Little League group insurance, and their interactions with non-Little League programs.

Full text of the approved Regulation I(g):

(g) Participants, administrators, and volunteers are permitted to participate in other baseball and softball programs while participating in Little League as long as the following policies are followed:

1. Any funds raised using the name or trademarks of Little League must only be used for Little League activity.
2. Any purchases for non-Little League programming or for individuals participating in a non-Little League program shall not use League funds.
3. Such participation may not represent the local Little League in any way, including the wearing of team Little League uniforms, use of equipment purchased by the league or use of local Little League program's name or official marks. Any expenses for a team(s) and/or individual(s) to participate in non-Little League programs is the responsibility of that team and/or individual(s).
4. Participation in non-Little League programming is not insured or covered under the Little League group insurance program, underwritten by an AIG member company. and the administrators organizing such activities should obtain separate insurance coverage for any non-Little League participation.

Any violation of this regulation by the local Little League may result in revocation of the league's charter and/or suspension of tournament privileges for the league or individuals associated with such team. An individual, or a group of such individuals, that participates in a non-Little League program, club, tournament, event, or game, are subject to the provisions of this Regulation, Regulation IV(a) Note 2, and the provisions of the Tournament Rules and Guidelines regarding "player participation in other programs;" pertaining to player eligibility requirements for Little League International Tournament play.

ITEM 2: Regulation III(a) – The Teams – Major, Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, and Senior Divisions of Baseball and Softball

Synopsis: Reduces the minimum number of players mandated on a regular season roster to 10.

Full text of the approved Regulation III(a):

(a) The league shall, at least 10 days prior to the first regular game, establish the number of players on each team. Little League (Majors)/Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior: No team may have more than 15 players nor less than 10. NOTE: Rules 1.01, 3.03 Note 3, 4.16 and 4.17 apply regardless of roster size. Minor League and Tee Ball: There will be no minimum or maximum established at the Minor League and Tee Ball levels. Roster size of 8-10 players is recommended.

NOTE: If a local league elects to roster less than nine (9) players at the Tee Ball and/or Minor League levels, rules 3.03 Note 3, 4 .16, and 4 .17 do not apply.

ITEM 3: Regulation IV(i); Tournament Rule 9 – Mandatory Play – All Divisions of Baseball and Softball (Tournament: excludes Senior League Baseball and Senior League Softball)

Synopsis: Revises mandatory play to require a player to run the bases after their at-bat, if they reach base, until they are retired, score, or the inning or game ends. In the spirit of providing more players a complete, enjoyable Little League experience, and provide more activity for all players, this will apply to the Regular and Tournament Season.

Full text of the approved Regulation IV(i):

(i) Mandatory Play: Every rostered player present at the start of a game will participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time. For the purposes of this rule, “six (6) defensive outs” is defined as: A player enters the field in one of the nine defensive positions when his/her team is on defense and occupies a defensive position while six outs are made; “bat at least one (1) time” is defined as: A player enters the batter’s box with no count and completes that time at bat by being retired, retired as a batter-runner or runner, scores, or the inning or game ends. or by reaching base safely .

PENALTY: The player(s) involved shall start the next scheduled game, play any previous requirement not completed for Section (i), and the requirement for this game before being removed.

ITEM 4: Regulation V – Selection of Players – Minor and Major Divisions of Baseball and Softball

Synopsis: Permits local leagues to utilize age appropriate Minor League players for a Player Pool that could supplement the Major Division. All Minor League players would need to be assessed capable to participate at the Major Division level before being placed in the pool and being called to participate within the Major Division by the Player Agent.

Item 4 Full text of the approved Regulation V:

(c) Alternate method of operation

To aid leagues that are having a difficult time getting enough players for their regular season teams the following option is available: A pool of players from existing regular season teams can be created with players that are willing to participate in extra games during the regular season when teams face a shortage of rostered players for a regular season game within their respective division. **EXCEPTION: A local league Board of Directors may allow age appropriate Minor League players, who have been assessed capable, to be eligible for a Major Division Player Pool, participate, and return to their respective Minor Division team. All other guidelines must be followed as outlined.**

NOTE: Players may not be “borrowed” from an opponent. They must be assigned by the player agent.

Guidelines:

1. The league’s player agent will create and run the pool. The league’s player agent will use the pool to assign players within their respective division to teams that are short of players on a rotating basis. **Exception as noted above permitting Minor League players assessed capable to supplement the Major Division.**
2. Managers and/or coaches will not have the right to randomly pick and choose players from the pool within their respective division.
3. Under this option, when a player participates in a game on a team other than his/her own team, such player will not be permitted to pitch in that game.
4. Pool players that are called and show up at the game site must play at least nine (9) consecutive defensive outs and bat once.

ITEM 5: Regulation VII(h), X(c) and 4.10 – The Schedule – All Divisions of Baseball and Softball

Synopsis: Allows a local league to establish a 1 hour and 45-minute time limit for Regular Season games (time limits longer than 1 hour and 45 minutes may be established). Regardless of number innings played, the games will still qualify towards Regular Season games played and a player’s Tournament eligibility.

Full text of the approved Regulation VII(h), X(c) and 4.10: Regulation VII:(c)

Minor (Player Pitch) Little League (Major) Division and above: A local league may establish that games will consist of six (6) innings [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior: seven (7) innings], or meet regulation as outlined in 4.10 and 4.11, or meet a minimum 1 hour and 45-minute time limit. Any inning which has been started prior to the time limit expiring will be completed. No new inning will begin once the time limit has expired. Coach Pitch/Machine Pitch Minors and Tee Ball: A local league may impose a time limit on games regardless of the number of innings played. It is recommended that no league standings be kept, and no championship games be played.

A.R. - District Administrators overseeing interleague play activities and local Little League programs may establish a minimum 2-hour time limit for games in Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/ Senior League.

Regulation X:

(c) When league size and limited field availability require leagues to schedule more than one game on the same day or night and on the same field, The league may be permitted to impose time limits on the games. A local league may establish that games will consist of six (6) innings [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior: seven (7) innings], or meet regulation as outlined in 4.10 and 4.11, or meet a minimum 1 hour and 45-minute time limit. Any inning which has been started prior to the time limit expiring will be completed. No new inning will begin once the time limit has expired. However, the game must meet requirements of Rule 4 .10 or 4 .11 to be official.

A.R. - District Administrators overseeing interleague play activities and local Little League programs may establish a minimum 2-hour time limit for games in Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/ Senior League.

4.10:

(c) If a game is called, it is a regulation game:

(1) If four innings [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: five innings] have been completed;

(2) Local League Option: If the game has been played for 1 hour and 45 minutes. Any inning which has been started prior to the time limit expiring will be completed. No new inning will begin once the time limit has expired.

A.R. - District Administrators overseeing interleague play activities and local Little League programs may establish a minimum 2-hour time limit for games in Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League.

(3) If the home team has scored more runs in three and one-half innings [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: four and one-half innings] than the visiting team has scored in four completed half-innings;

(4) if the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the fourth inning [Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League: fifth inning] to tie the score.

ITEM 6: Regulation IX(a) – Special Games – All Divisions of Baseball and Softball

Synopsis: Permits all Special Games against Little League teams to count towards teams' and players Regular Season schedule and Tournament participation.

Full text of the approved Regulation IX(a):

(a) Special Games are defined as games that:

1. may be counted as non-regular season games, and,
- 2 . are not Little League International Tournament games, and,
- 3 involve only teams from chartered Little League programs, and, 4 . have been approved in writing by the Regional Office.

Exception: Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior League: Up to six (6) games played under Special Games against Little League teams may count towards players' Regular Season schedule. Senior League: Up to ten (10) games played under Special Games against Little League teams may count towards players' Regular Season schedule. Games played under Special Games against Little League teams may count towards teams' and players' Regular Season schedule. Teams must schedule and play a minimum 12-game [Senior League: 10-game] season.

ITEM 7: Regulation XIV(b) A.R. – Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, and Senior Divisions of Baseball and Softball

Synopsis: Requires the on-deck batter to be positioned in the on-deck circle closest their dugout in the Intermediate, Junior, and Senior divisions of baseball and softball.

Full text of the approved Regulation XIV(b) A.R.:

(b) Uniformed players, news photographers, managers, coaches, and umpires only shall be permitted within the confines of the playing field just prior to and during games. Batboys and/or batgirls are not permitted at any level of play. Except for the batter, base-runners, and base coaches at first and third bases, all players shall be on their benches in their dugouts or in the bullpen when the team is at bat. When the team is on defense, all reserve players shall be on their benches or in the bullpen. EXCEPTION: The on-deck position is permitted in Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, and Senior League.

A.R. - Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, and Senior League: The on-deck batter shall be positioned in the on-deck circle closest to their dugout.

ITEM 8: Rules 3.04 and 7.14 – All Divisions of Baseball and Softball

Synopsis: Allows a local league to implement a courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or catcher of record when there are two

(2) outs during the Regular Season. This does not apply for Tournament Play. Full text of the approved Rules 3.04 and 7.14:

3.04 - A player whose name is on the team's batting order may not become a substitute runner for another member of the team. A local league may permit a "courtesy runner" not permitted for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are two (2) outs. Exception: If the continuous batting order is used, the "courtesy runner" may be in the team's batting order and must be the player in the batting order who made the last out. See 7.14(b).

7.14 –

(a) Special Pinch Runner: Once each inning a team may utilize a player who is not in the batting order as a special pinch-runner for any offensive player. A player may only be removed for a special pinch runner one time during a game. The player for whom the pinch runner runs is not subject to removal from the lineup. If the pinch runner remains in the game as a substitute defensive or offensive player, the player may not be used again as a pinch-runner while in the batting order. However, if removed for another substitute that player or any player not in the lineup, is again eligible to be used as a pinch runner. A local league may adopt Tournament Rule 3(e) for 7.14.

NOTE: Does not apply if the local league adopts the continuous batting order. See Rule 4.04.

(b) Courtesy Runner: A local league may permit a "courtesy runner" for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are two (2) outs. A player whose name is on the team's batting order may not become a substitute runner for another member of the team. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher is subject to removal from the lineup. The same courtesy runner may not run for both the pitcher and the catcher at any time during the game. A courtesy runner must be reported to the plate umpire. Exception: If the continuous batting order is used, the "courtesy runner" may be in the team's batting order and must be the player in the batting order who made the last out.

ITEM 9: 6.08(a) – Intentional Walk – Minor/Major Divisions of Baseball

Synopsis: For this purpose, allows a defensive team to “intentionally walk” a batter during an at-bat in the Minor and Major Divisions of Baseball.

Full text of the approved Rule 6.08(a):

6.08 - The batter becomes a runner and is entitled to first base without liability to be put out (provided said runner advances to and touches first base) when -

(a) (1) four “balls” have been called by the umpire; ball is live and base runners may advance; or,

(2) Minor/Major Division: **Prior to a pitch being thrown, The defense elects to “Intentionally Walk” the batter by announcing such decision to the plate umpire. The request may be made prior to or during the at-bat.**

NOTE 1: 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.

NOTE 2: The ball is dead and no other runners may advance unless forced by the batter’s award. **Four (4) The appropriate number of “balls” needed based on the count on the batter at the time of the manager’s request to complete the Intentional Walk pitches** will be added to the pitch count.

ITEM 10: 6.08(a) – Intentional Walk - All Divisions of Softball

Synopsis: Permits a defensive team to “intentionally walk” a batter in all divisions of softball.

Full text of the approved Rule 6.08(a):

6.08 - The batter becomes a runner and is entitled to first base without liability to be put out (provided said runner advances to and touches first base) when -

(a) (1) four “balls” have been called by the umpire; the ball is live and in play. Base runners may advance;

(2) **The defense elects to “Intentionally Walk” the batter by announcing such decision to the plate umpire. The request may be made prior to or during the at-bat.**

NOTE 1: 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.

NOTE 2: The ball is dead and no other runners may advance unless forced by the batter’s award.

ITEM 11: Rule 8.01 Penalty – Illegal Pitch Penalty - Junior and Senior Divisions of Softball

Synopsis: Revises the penalty for an illegal pitch within the Junior and Senior Softball Divisions to be a ball on the batter and no effect on any base runners.

Full text of the approved Rule 8.01 Penalty:

PENALTY: The penalty imposed for violation of all subsections of rule 8.01, with the exception of subsection (i), is an illegal pitch. Violation of (i) is ruled as a No Pitch. **Minor/Major Divisions:** The pitch shall be called a ball. If a play follows the illegal pitch, the manager of the offense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline the illegal pitch penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play. However, if the batter hits the ball and reaches first base safely, and if all base runners advance at least one base on the action resulting from the batted ball, the play proceeds without reference to the illegal pitch. **Junior/Senior League: The pitch shall be called a ball and all base runners advance one base without liability to be put out. If a play follows the illegal pitch, the manager of the offense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline the illegal pitch penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play. However, if the batter hits the ball and reaches first base safely, and if all base runners advance at least one base on the action resulting from the batted ball, the play proceeds without reference to the illegal pitch.**

ITEMS 12 and 13: Tournament Player Eligibility – All Divisions of Baseball and Softball

Item 12 Synopsis: Allows players to be eligible for selection to a Tournament team based on age, not division of play during the Regular Season.

Item 13 Synopsis: Revises the participation to be a set number of games [8- to 10-, 9- to 11-, 10- to 12-, Intermediate (50-70) Division, and Junior Baseball and Softball: 8; Senior Baseball and Softball: 6) a player must participate within to be eligible for selection to a Tournament team. Appropriate revisions will be made to the Tournament Injury Exception and Middle School/High School Condition 2.

Full text of the approved Tournament Player Eligibility:

Players are eligible for Tournament Play, provided they meet the criteria established by the Little League “Residency and School Attendance Player Eligibility Requirement,” “Player Participation In Other Programs,” and the following:

8-to 10-Year-Old Division - Any player League Age 8, 9 or 10, with amateur status, who has participated as required by Mandatory Play as an eligible player in **8 60 percent (60%) of the** regular season games by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the school baseball/softball season., **on a:**

- 1 . Little League Baseball/Softball (Major Division) team, or;**
- 2 . Minor League Baseball/Softball team.**

9-to 11-Year-Old Division - Any player League Age 9, 10, or 11, with amateur status, who

has participated as required by Mandatory Play as an eligible player in **8 60 percent (60%) of the** regular season games by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the school baseball/softball season., **on a:**

- 1 . Little League Baseball/Softball (Major Division) team, or;**
- 2 . Minor League Baseball/Softball team.**

Little League (Major Division) - Any player League Age 10, 11, or 12, with amateur status, who has participated as required by Mandatory Play as an eligible player in **8 60 percent (60%) of the** regular season games (Special Games may NOT be counted toward this requirement) by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the school baseball/softball season., **on a:**

- 1 . Little League Baseball/Softball (Major Division) team, or;**
- 2 . Intermediate Baseball/Junior Softball team.**

Intermediate (50-70) Division - Any player League Age 11, 12, or 13, with amateur status, who has participated as required by Mandatory Play as an eligible player in **8 60 percent (60%) of the** regular season games (Special Games may be counted toward this requirement - See Regulation IX) **in the Intermediate (50-70) Division** by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the school baseball season.

Junior League - Any player League Age 12, 13, or 14, with amateur status, who has participated as required by Mandatory Play as an eligible player in **8 60 percent (60%) of the** regular season games (Special Games may be counted toward this requirement - See Regulation IX) by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the middle school, junior high school, or high school baseball/softball season., **on a:**

- 1 . Junior League Baseball/Softball team, or;**
- 2 . Senior League Baseball/Softball team. [For Junior Tournament eligibility, Senior League players must have played in a minimum of eight (8) regular season games or 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games, whichever is greater.]**

Senior League - Any player League Age 13, 14, 15, or 16, with amateur status, who has participated as required by Mandatory Play as an eligible player in **6 60 percent (60%) of the** regular season games (Special Games may be counted toward this requirement - See Regulation IX) by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the middle school, junior high school, or high school baseball/softball season., **on a:**

- 1 . Junior League Baseball/Softball team, or;**
- 2 . Senior League Baseball/Softball team.**

ITEM 15: Tournament Schedules – 8- to 10-Year-Old, 9- to 11-Year-Old, and Little League Baseball Divisions

Synopsis: Sanctions one (1) doubleheader per Tournament level for 8- to 10-Year-Old, 9- to 11-Year-Old, and Little League Baseball Divisions.

Full text of the approved Tournament Player Eligibility:

8- to 10-Year-Old, 9- to 11-Year-Old, and Little League Divisions: A team may play **one (1) doubleheader two games in one day during each level of Tournament (District, Section, Division, State, Regional) without a waiver. with the approval of the Regional Director.**