California District 47 Little League
2024 TOC Waiving the 5-Run Rule

The following refers to the 5-run rule required by LLI rules for Minor divisions in the regular season.
There is often confusion as to the rules that are followed for TOC (Tournament of Champions) play. The name suggests that LL Tournament rules should be followed. However, the only games to which the LLI Tournament rules are applied is the LLI Tournament also known as “All Stars.” Our TOC “tournaments” are not recognized as such by LLI and, therefore, operate under regular season rules. That includes the rule that requires that a 5-run rule be in effect in the Minor divisions.

The regular season rule does allow a local league (or in our case, games played within D47 such as interleague games and TOCs) to allow the 5-run rule to be suspended in the last half inning for either team.

We clarify this option as follows:
The “last half inning” is one where, at the beginning of the half inning for the team on offense, it is clear that invoking the 5-run rule will guarantee that the game will be over even if the offensive team scores all 5-runs. In such a case, the 5-run rule is suspended. (The result of invoking the 5-run rule in this case would make any effort by the offensive team futile. Therefore, it is suspended.)

Examples:
Visiting team is behind 15-0 at the top of the 4th. Even if they scored 5 runs, the game would still be over due to the 10-run rule. So, the 5-run rule is suspended so that the offensive (Visiting) team has a chance to continue playing if they can score more than 5 runs.

Home team is behind 20-0 at the bottom of the 3rd. Even if they scored 5 runs, the game would still be over due to the 15-run rule. So, the 5-run rule is suspended so that the offensive (Home) team has a chance to continue playing if they can score more than 5 runs.

Home team is behind 7-1 at the bottom of the 6th. Even if they scored 5 runs, the game would be over due to this being the last inning of the game. So, the 5-run rule is suspended so that the offensive (Home) team has a chance to continue playing if they can score more than 5 runs.

Visiting team is behind 15-5 at any point in the bottom of the 4th. The offensive (Home) team is at bat (not the Visiting team) so the game is over due to the 10-run rule.