

2024 Little League Softball Tournament Rule Summary

Updated 24-May-2024

	8/9/10 year old	9/10/11 year old	Little League (10/11/12)	Juniors (12/13/14)	Seniors (13-16)
Pitching Distance	35 feet	40 feet		43 feet	
Softballs	11-inch softball	12-inch softball			
Mandatory Play	<i>Replaced by mandatory use of continuous batting order.</i>				Does not apply
No New Inning After	Midnight			12:30am	1:00am
Time Limits	If two games are scheduled for the same site, no time limit may be imposed on the first game.				
Pitchers	Innings	Max 12 per day Max 12 per game		No restrictions	
	Rest	Six or fewer innings in a day – none required Seven or more innings in a day – one calendar day		No rest required	
	Consecutive Games	Allowed, subject to rest requirements.		No restrictions	
	Consecutive Days	If six or fewer innings pitched previous day, or if pitcher of record in continuation of suspended game.		No restrictions	
	Returning to Mound	May move to a different position and return once per inning. If withdrawn from the game offensively or defensively for a substitute, may not return as pitcher later in the game.		May move to a different position and return once per inning. May be removed from game and return once per inning if return does not violate substitution, charged conference, or mandatory play rule(s).	
	Intentional Walk	<i>Once per batter</i> , team may request an "unpitched" intentional walk.			
Re-Entry	Continuous batting order is required. Players may be entered or re-entered defensively at any time.				Any player who has been removed for a sub may re-enter in the same position in the batting order.
Defensive Conferences	Pitcher must be removed on 3rd visit in inning or 4th visit in game.	Pitcher must be removed on 2nd visit in inning or 3rd visit in 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.			
Leaving Early	Pitch reaches batter	Pitch leaves the pitcher's hand			
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.				
Illegal Pitch Penalty	<i>Ball awarded to batter</i>				
Multiple Games/Day	Up to two (2) doubleheaders in a seven-day period			Maximum of three games in a day	
Special Runner	<i>With two outs, a courtesy runner may be used for pitcher or catcher of record. Runner must be the player in the batting order who made the last out.</i>				Special pinch runner twice per game
Adults	<i>One manager and two coaches permitted regardless of number of players</i>				
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, the team manager and those responsible including any player(s) and/or coach(es) shall be warned after the first offense. Those responsible including any player(s), coach(es), and/or manager shall be ejected from the game for a team's subsequent offense.				
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.



2024 California District 47 All Stars

Rule Points of Emphasis

Both Baseball and Softball

- Batters keep one foot in the batter's box (unless, for example, there is a potential play at home plate)
- Coaches may not warm up pitchers.
- Coaches must stay in dead ball territory unless they are base coaches or communicating with game officials or a player with permission of the umpires.
- Two coaches and one manager (3 adults) maximum for each game.
- One coach must remain in the dugout at all times. This is a safety rule.
- Avoid obstruction by 1st baseman when the ball goes to the outfield.
- A team cannot start a game with less than 9 players. Any player arriving late to a game may be inserted at the end of the lineup.
- Any spot in the batting order that becomes empty after the game starts (for example due to illness, injury or ejection) will be skipped with no penalty.
- Courtesy runner for the pitcher and catcher: Only when 2 outs. The courtesy runner is the last out.
- Mound visits Majors and above: 1 per inning, 2nd time the pitcher is removed. 2 per game per pitcher, 3rd time the pitcher is removed.
- Mound visits Minors: 2 per inning, 3rd time the pitcher is removed. 3 per game per pitcher, 4th time the pitcher is removed.

Baseball

- Junior division only: Pitcher removed from the pitcher position and moved to another defensive position can return as pitcher once per game. Mound visit count is retained.
- Majors and below: Pitcher removed from the pitcher position cannot return to the pitcher position for that game.
- Change in pitchers and catchers on defense must be reported to the plate umpire/scorebook.
- Pitchers may continue pitching to a batter before being removed for pitch count. Pitch count reverts to the pitch limit reached during that batter's at bat.

Softball

- Junior division only: Pitcher removed from the pitcher position and moved to another defensive position can return as pitcher once per inning. Mound visit count is retained.
- Majors and below: Pitcher removed from the pitcher position and moved to another defensive position can return as pitcher once per game. Mound visit count is retained.
- Circle violation – one chance to stop when ball is in the circle then immediately advance or return. Only when the pitcher is in the circle (as opposed to another defensive player). Attempted play (e.g. fake throw) resets the chance to immediately go advance or return.
- Pitcher must present the ball, bring hands together and pause 1 – 10 seconds.
- Music/chanting stops when the pitcher toes the plate.
- Minors: Runners leave when the ball reaches the batter; Majors/Juniors: when ball leaves pitcher hand
- Rule 8.01(s): The act of leaping while delivering a pitch in softball is a legal delivery. The pitcher may have both feet off the ground at the same time as long as both feet remain in the 24-inch width of the pitching plate and the pitcher does not replant the pivot foot. The replant of a pivot foot occurs when the pitcher pushes off the playing surface from anywhere other than the pitcher's plate in the act of delivering a pitch.

District UICs

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D47 2024 Allstars
D47 Points of Emphasis and Significant Rule Adjustments

Tournament rules supersede regular season rules. Regular season rules apply except when superseded by tournament rules. No league or inter-league rules can be applied.

No Pool Players and 8 players

Pool players are not allowed.

A team cannot start or continue play with less than 9 players.

Continuous Batting Order

All levels. Free substitution on defense. Managers only need to report pitcher (BB, SB) and catcher (BB) changes to the umpire/scorekeeper.

Team Size

Minimum 12, maximum 14. Less than 12 requires approval by the District Administrator.

Managers and Coaches

Each team is allowed up to 3 adults in the dugout (regardless of roster size.) Important: one adult must remain in the dugout at all times.

Courtesy Runner/Special Pinch Runner

No Special Pinch Runner. Courtesy runner allowed for pitcher and catcher when there are 2 outs. The last offensive out is the courtesy runner.

No Mandatory Defensive Play

There is no longer a minimum defensive play requirement.

Warming Up Pitchers

Managers or coaches are not permitted to warm up a pitcher.

Communications from the stands

No communication should occur between players/coaches in the dugout and the stands. The team scorebook/Gamechanger should be kept in the dugout.

Guidelines for “water timeouts”

Safety is of primary importance in Little League. For District 47, during inordinately hot weather, we facilitate a player needing water while on defense. Ideally, players hydrate between innings. However, a player may request water from their manager if needed. This is most appropriate but not limited to the pitcher and catcher during excessively long defensive innings.

With permission from the umpire, a coach may bring water to a defensive player. As long as, in the umpire’s judgement, the coach is not instructing (strategy, technique) and is only providing water and evaluating the ability of the player to continue play, this will not count as a visit to the mound. This must not be abused and should only be needed a few times during the game.

The game may be paused under the oversight of the umpire without penalty to address any heat-related issues.