

# CHANGES/UPDATES TO THE LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL® RULES AND REGULATIONS – 2009

(Last update: October 30, 2008)

## Regulation IV (i) Note 3

*What is changed:* Text added for clarification.

**NOTE 3:** In Minor League, if a half-inning ends because of the imposition of the five-run limit in “Rule 2.00 - Inning,” and a player on the defense has played for the entire half-inning, that player will be considered to have participated for three consecutive outs for the purposes of this rule. However, if the player has not played on defense for the entire inning, that player will be credited only as having played for the number of outs that occurred while the player was used defensively.

## Regulation VI - PITCHERS

*What is changed:* Increases the maximum number of pitches a pitcher could deliver, and then be permitted to become a catcher in that day; Provides a second option for required rest; Deleted ( ) and moved that text up so that it applies only to Option 1.

- (a) Any player on a regular season team may pitch. (**NOTE:** There is no limit to the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.)
- (b) A pitcher once removed from the mound cannot return as a pitcher. **Junior, Senior, and Big League Divisions only:** A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game.
- (c) The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

League Age 17-18	105 pitches per day
13-16	95 pitches per day
11-12	85 pitches per day
9-10	75 pitches per day
7-8	50 pitches per day

**Exception:** Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Regulation VI (c) for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: 1. That batter reaches base; 2. That batter is put out; 3. The third out is made to complete the half-inning. **Note 1: A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.**

Prior to the start of the regular season the local league Board of Directors (or leagues involved in interleague play) must choose one of the following pitching rule options to be used by all teams in the league or a specific division during the regular season. **NOTE:** The local league Board (or leagues involved in interleague play) may select option 1 or option 2 but may not pick parts of option 1 and option 2 to make a local league rule.

### Option 1:

- (d) Pitchers league age 16 and under must adhere to the following rest requirements:
- If a player pitches 61 or more pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest and a game (see note below) must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 41 - 60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest and a game (see note below) must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 21 - 40 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.

Pitchers league age 17-18 must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- If a player pitches 76 or more pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest and a game (see note below) must be observed.
- If a player pitches 51 - 75 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest and a game (see note below) must be observed.
- If a player pitches 26 - 50 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1-25 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.

**NOTE:** A player may not pitch in consecutive games. **Exception** – League Age 16 and under - A player may pitch in consecutive games if 40 or less pitches were delivered in the previous game. League Age 17-18 - A player may pitch in consecutive games if 50 or less pitches were delivered in the previous game.

**Option 2:**

(d) Pitchers league age 16 and under must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- If a player pitches 61 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 41 - 60 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 21 - 40 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.

Pitchers league age 17-18 must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- If a player pitches 76 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 51 - 75 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 26 - 50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1-25 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.

(e) **DELETED for 2009**

(f) Each league must designate the scorekeeper or another game official as the official pitch count recorder.

(g) The pitch count recorder must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager is responsible for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed.

(h) The official pitch count recorder should inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted in Regulation VI (c). The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed in accordance with Regulation VI (c). However, the failure by the pitch count recorder to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in-chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.

(i) Violation of any section of this regulation can result in protest of the game in which it occurs. Protest shall be made in accordance with Playing Rule 4.19.

(j) A player who has attained the league age of twelve (12) is not eligible to pitch in the Minor League. (See Regulation VI - Selection of Players)

(k) A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day. (Exception: In the Big League Division, a player may be used as a pitcher in up to two games in a day.)

**NOTES:**

1. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after that pitcher is announced, or after a warm-up pitch is delivered, but before that player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation. Little League officials are urged to take precautions to prevent protests. When a protest situation is imminent, the potential offender should be notified immediately.
2. Pitches delivered in games declared "Regulation Tie Games" or "Suspended Games" shall be charged against pitcher's eligibility.
3. In suspended games resumed on another day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of their eligibility for that day, provided said pitcher has observed the required days of rest.

**Example 1:** A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on the following Thursday. The pitcher is not eligible to pitch in the resumption of the game because he/she has not observed the required days of rest.

**Example 2:** A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on Saturday. The pitcher is eligible to pitch up to 85 more pitches in the resumption of the game because he/she has observed the required days of rest.

**Example 3:** A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes two weeks later. The pitcher is eligible to pitch up to 85 more pitches in the resumption of the game, provided he/she is eligible based on his/her pitching record during the previous three days (or four days, if the league is using Option 2).

**Note:** The use of this regulation negates the concept of the “calendar week” with regard to pitching eligibility.

## Rule 1.10

**What is changed:** Reduces the maximum diameter for a bat in the Junior League Baseball division from 2 3/4 inches to 2 5/8 inches. (Maximum diameter for bats in Senior League and Big League remains at 2 5/8 inches.)

**1.10 -** The bat must be a baseball bat which meets Little League specifications and standards as noted in this rule. It shall be a smooth, rounded stick and made of wood or of material and color tested and proved acceptable to Little League standards.

**Little League (Majors) and below:** it shall not be more than thirty-three (33) inches in length nor more than two and one-quarter (2¼) inches in diameter. Non-wood bats shall be printed with a BPF (bat performance factor) of 1.15 or less;

**Junior League:** it shall not be more than 34 inches in length, nor more than 2 5/8 inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30”) at its smallest part.

**Senior/Big League:** it shall not be more than 36 inches in length, nor more than 2 5/8 inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30”) at its smallest part. The bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a 33-inch-long bat cannot weigh less than 30 ounces). All non-wood bats shall meet the BESR performance standard, and such bats shall be labeled with a permanent certification number.

In all divisions, wood bats may be taped or fitted with a sleeve for a distance not exceeding sixteen (16) inches (18 inches for Junior/Senior/Big League Baseball) from the small end. A non-wood bat must have a grip of cork, tape or composition material, and must extend a minimum of 10 inches from the small end. Slippery tape or similar material is prohibited. An illegal bat must be removed.

**NOTE 1: Junior/Senior/Big League:** The 2¼ inch in diameter bat is not allowed in any division.

**NOTE 2:** The traditional batting donut is not permissible

**NOTE 3:** The bat may carry the mark “Little League Tee Ball.”

**NOTE 4: Non-wood bats may develop dents from time to time. Bats that cannot pass through the approved Little League bat ring for the appropriate division must be removed from play. The 2¼ inch bat ring must be used for bats in the Tee Ball, Minor League and Little League Baseball divisions. The 2 5/8 inch bat ring must be used for bats in the Junior, Senior and Big League divisions of baseball.**

## Rule 1.11 (k) Note

**What is changed:** Clarified to include managers and coaches.

(k) Casts may not be worn during the game. NOTE: Persons wearing casts, including managers and coaches, must remain in the dugout during the game.

## Rule 3.02 Penalty

**What is changed:** Clarified to make it clear that the pitcher could remain in the game after the infraction, but at a different position.

**PENALTY:** The umpire shall demand the ball and remove the offender from the pitching position. In case the umpire cannot locate the offender, and if the pitcher delivers such discolored or damaged ball to the batter, the pitcher shall be removed from the pitching position at once.

### **Rule 3.03 Note (1)**

*What is changed:* Added for clarification.

**NOTE 1:** A substitute may not be removed from the game prior to completion of his/her mandatory play requirements.

### **Rule 7.10 (d)**

*What is changed:* Added for clarification.

**EXCEPTION:** If an otherwise proper appeal is being made by a player who has to go into foul territory to retrieve the ball in order to make an appeal or if the appeal is being made by the catcher (who may never have been in fair territory at all), the appeal will be adjudged to have been properly executed.

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