

# 2019 Rule Changes and Clarifications

Below is a summary of important rule changes for the 2019 Little League Season. A full list of the adopted changes can be found at the following link: <https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/rule-changes/>

## Regulation VI(a), (c) Note, (k), Rule 4.12 & Tournament Rule 4

The “Finish the Batter Threshold now applies to the following scenarios that used to be “Hard Limit” count:

- All Divisions: Pitchers that pitch 40 or less pitches may now finish their last batter and still be eligible to play the position of Catcher if they start their last batter at 40 or less pitches.
- Junior/Senior Divisions: Pitchers that pitch 30 or less pitches may now finish their last batter and still be eligible to pitch in Game 2 of a Double-header if they start their last batter in Game 1 at 30 or less pitches.

The following new rule was added regarding a player moving from Catcher to Pitcher and back to Pitcher. This closed a previous loop hole that existed in the rules.

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. The “Finish the Batter” Threshold Regulation applies to this rule if they start their last batter at 20 or less pitches (30 or less for 15- and 16-year-olds).

## Rule 1.10

Clarifies that Approved Tee Ball bats can be used in Coach Pitch/Machine Pitch Divisions **only** if playing the game with approved Tee Balls.

BBCOR Bat Standard Reinstated into the Rule Book for Intermediate and Junior Division. It was erroneously removed from the 2018 Printed Version of the Rule Book.

## Rule 8.02(a)(1)

Clarifies when a pitcher hand may come in contact with the pitcher’s mouth or lips. A pitcher may not bring their pitching hand in contact with their mouth or lips while in contact with the pitching plate. A pitcher may bring their pitching hand in contact with their mouth or lips while in the pitching circle as long as they distinctly wipe off their hand prior to coming in contact with the pitching plate.

## Rule 8.06 AR

Clarifies what is considered a visit to the pitcher. 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.

## Tournament Rule 14

Changes the rules for extra inning games. The 1<sup>st</sup> extra inning will be played normally. Beginning with the 2<sup>nd</sup> extra inning (9<sup>th</sup> inning for Intermediate/Junior/Senior) (8<sup>th</sup> inning for all others), the batting team will begin each inning with the last ordered slot in that inning on 2<sup>nd</sup> base. For example, if the 5<sup>th</sup> spot in the batting order is due up to start the inning, then the 4<sup>th</sup> spot in the batting lineup will begin the inning on 2<sup>nd</sup> base.