



DISTRICT 51 T.O.C. GUIDELINES (Farm, Minor, Major, Junior, Senior) (BASEBALL & SOFTBALL)



1. All games will be played under **REGULAR SEASON LITTLE LEAGUE RULES** **except** as modified in these guidelines. No local rules, interleague rules or All-Star Tournament Rules will be used.
2. T.O.C. championship (overall championship) game **WILL NOT** be relocated regardless of the final two teams.
3. All Leagues entered in the T.O.C. will provide the **TOC ENTRY FORM** for each team in each division of play at least **96 hours prior to the start of the tournament**. These forms will be compared to the registration roster uploaded prior to the start of the season to that League's Data Center (so ensure that data is proper, correct and up to date). Any illegal players will result in that team being disqualified from participation in the TOC, and the League will possibly be referred to Western Regional HQ for determination of All-Star privileges.
4. A different regular season team may be submitted in the event of removal (prior to START of T.O.C.), however; TOC entry fees will not be refunded. If it is found that an illegal player was used during any game in the TOC, that team will be removed from the tournament whether a protest is lodged or not and the last team defeated by the disqualified team will replace that team in the T.O.C. *Disqualified team (after start of T.O.C.) **MAY NOT** be replaced.*
5. Mandatory play rules (one at bat and 6 defensive outs) are in effect (except for a game shortened for any reason). Managers failing to meet the required minimum play time for their players **WILL** be suspended for the team's next physically played game. In **ALL** cases the player(s) failing to meet minimum play time **WILL START** the next physically played game and complete minimum play requirements for **BOTH** games. ***NO EXCEPTIONS.***
6. Home plate is "HOT" for all levels and all divisions of play.
7. The infield fly rule is in effect for all levels and all divisions of play
8. Playing rule 6.02(c) WILL be enforced for all Divisions of baseball and softball.
9. Playing rule 9.01(d) will be enforced for all Divisions of baseball and softball.
10. **ALL DIVISIONS OF BASEBALL and SOFTBALL will use a CBO. No batting substitutions are allowed/required (Rule 4.04). Minimum play (Regulation IV) WILL apply. EXCEPTION: Senior Softball can utilize the DP/FLEX batting order (rule 3.03) (if ten (10) or more players are present) OR a conventional batting order. CBO will NOT be used for Senior Softball.**
11. **When using CBO, if a batter leaves or is unable to complete their turn at bat due to injury, illness or ejection, the next batter in the batting order WILL complete the turn at bat (WITHOUT PENALTY) assuming the previous batters count (See Note 2, Rule 4.04).**
12. **When using CBO, if a player becomes injured, ill or ejected while a base runner (this includes a batter who was awarded first base on a HBP), that player will be replaced, while the ball is dead, with the player who made the last out. In case of a situation before an out is made, the replacement shall be the closest player in the batting order that the injured player bats AFTER (that is not on base). (EXAMPLE: 3 in the batting order gets hurt, the replacement would be the #2 batter in the batting order unless on base, then it would be the #1 batter in the batting order, if both are on base, it would be the last person listed in the batting order)**

13. In accordance with Rule 4.04 Note 3, open spots in the batting order will be skipped over with AN OUT RECORDED (this is different than regular season rule when using CBO).
14. 15/10/8 Mercy Run Rule is in effect for ALL divisions in accordance with Little League Rule 4.10 (e).
15. In accordance with Little League Rules and Regulations, a player may play on a maximum of two TOC teams, if player was rostered on BOTH teams for the entire regular season and has played in 51% of those games. ALL pitching rules and regulations will be followed regarding any such player.
PENALTY: for any pitching violation, that team will be disqualified from the TOC (**details on tracking pitching to be worked out still**).
16. Dropped third strike rule is in effect for Major, Intermediate, Junior, and Senior levels of Baseball and Softball.
17. Each **team** MUST have at least eight (8) players to start, play, and finish the game. **If a team is playing with eight (8) players, then the ninth (9th) spot in the CBO will be recorded as an out for that team. Players can be added to the lineup if they arrive late.**
18. Pitching distance for Major Baseball and below WILL be 46 feet in accordance with Little League Rules and Regulations.
19. There will be **NO POOL PLAY**. Replacement players will not be allowed. The children playing the season and the team(s) designated by the League are it. The schedules are announced far enough in advance that the parents should be able to plan/schedule around the possibility of their child's team participating in the TOC.
20. A manager, coach, or player ejected from a game will be suspended for the remainder of that game and the next physically played game. An ejected manager or coach **MUST** leave the game site immediately upon ejection. An ejected manager or coach **MAY NOT** be replaced. An ejected player, whose parents are not present, may remain in the dugout. An ejected player, whose parents are present, must leave the dugout immediately upon ejection.
21. **TEAMS WILL ARRIVE AT THE GAME SITE AT LEAST ONE (1) HOUR PRIOR TO SCHEDULED THE START TIME OF THEIR GAME.** At that time a coin toss will take place to determine the home and visiting team. Team traveling the farthest will make the call. Winner of coin toss has choice of home or visitor. The home team **WILL** be in the third base dugout. Visiting team **WILL** be in first base dugout. Loser of coin toss does **NOT** get the choice of dugouts. Only the manager and/or coach may represent the team during the coin toss. If manager and/or coach are not present for coin toss (without justifiable reason), the team that is present will have choice of home or visitor. If neither team is present (without justifiable reason), the Tournament Director will determine which team will be designated as the home team.
22. **FAILURE TO APPEAR:** Umpires will declare forfeiture if a team fails to appear (without justifiable reason) or does not have enough players physically present at the game site, without justifiable reasons, thirty (30) minutes after the **SCHEDULED** start time of the game. The umpires watch will be official.
23. Each manager in the TOC will bring a copy of the score sheet from the **first, mid-season and final games** the team played. **These sheets** will be made available if the eligibility of a player is in question.
24. Each baseball manager will bring a copy of the official pitch count document, from the final game played in their League, that his/her League uses to track the number of pitches thrown in each game. This document will be used to determine who may/may not pitch in the **FIRST GAME OF THE TOC**. Following the first game played by that team, the official scorebook at the TOC location will be used to determine pitch count and pitcher eligibility. The official scorebook **WILL BE** the controlling document, **NOT** individual scorebooks, team scorebooks, manager's scorebooks, etc.

25. **All protests must be resolved prior to the game continuing. Games will not be replayed because of protests. If the protest is not made prior to the next pitch, the protest will not be allowed.**
EXCEPTION: use of an illegal player or ineligible pitcher protested before the umpire(s) leaves the field. Use of an illegal player or ineligible pitcher **WILL** result in forfeiture of the game.

NOTE 1: Use of an illegal player **WILL** result in elimination/disqualification of team from tournament. If a team is eliminated/disqualified, due to use of an illegal player, the last team defeated by that team will be allowed to advance in the disqualified/eliminated team's place.

26. **PROTEST PROCEDURES:**

- The Protest committee formed at tournament (1 adult from each League and the Tournament Director).
- Proper protest procedures (per the rulebook) will be followed.
- If umpire cannot resolve protest, the protest goes to the committee.
- If the committee cannot resolve the protest, the protest goes to the District Administrator.
- ***The decision of the District Administrator is the final resolution of the protest.***
- The protest **MUST** be resolved before the game is allowed to continue.

NOTE 1: DO NOT call Western Regional HQ in San Bernardino for the protest. They will not be in the office. These games are LOCAL SPECIAL GAMES.

NOTE 2: Game clock will stop during protest for Divisions with an imposed time limit. The length of protest will be added to the time limit (example: time limit no new inning after 1 hour & 50 minutes, protest lasted 7 minutes, time limit is now no new inning after 1 hour and 57 minutes (per umpire's watch)).

27. **The following time limits are in effect for ALL T.O.C. games and ALL divisions:**

No new inning after 2 hours (inning in progress will be completed).

Non-championship tied games: If a game is still tied at the end of the time limit, starting with the next inning, and every inning after, the tie breaker rule will be in effect (with the last player to complete their at-bat in the inning prior on 2nd base). The game will be considered completed once the time limit is reached and the visiting team is ahead at the end of a completed inning or once the home team takes the lead regardless of number of innings.

NOTE: THIS RULE DOES NOT APPLY TO THE NORTHERN, SOUTHERN, OR OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES. THESE GAMES WILL BE PLAYED WITHOUT A TIME LIMIT AND CONTINUE UNTIL A WINNER IS DETERMINED.

Tied Championship Game - with the completion of six innings (INT, JL, SL: seven innings), and the score is tied, the following tiebreaker will be used to determine a winning team:

- Starting in the top of the 7th (8th for juniors and seniors) inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base

28. MAJOR BASEBALL/SOFTBALL AND ABOVE: Each half inning (except 6th inning and any additional innings - Majors; 7th inning and any additional innings - Intermediate and above) is complete when:
1. Three outs are recorded.
 2. EIGHT runs have scored.

- FARM/MINOR BASEBALL & MINOR SOFTBALL: Each half inning (except 6th inning and any additional innings is complete when:
1. Three outs are recorded.
 2. Five (5) runs have scored.
 3. All players in the lineup have batted one time.

29. **ALL LEVELS OF BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL.** If the game start time is delayed because of the previous game running long the next games starting time will be no more than 30 minutes after the last out of the previous game (if there isn't enough time to reset the field, play without doing it. Getting the game in is more important, esp. with Little League curfews).
30. **If a manager, player, coach or parent is ejected from the final game of the season (T.O.C. or All-Star) the suspension from the next physically played game will carry over to the following regular season game(s).** A list will be maintained by the District Administrator and provided to each League President prior to the start of that League's regular season. This rule will also apply to post game ejections due to unsportsmanship like conduct at any game site. Post-game ejections will be reported to the District Administrator, District UIC and President of the appropriate League.
31. **NO ARTIFICIAL NOISE MAKERS** are allowed, but Little League appropriate walk-up music will be allowed until the batter steps into the batter's box.
32. **NO PETS** (except for CERTIFIED service animals) are allowed at game sites.

Rich Odermatt
California District 51 Administrator