

2026 Little League Baseball Tournament Rule Summary

| | | 8-9-10 | 9-10-11 | Little League 10-11-12 | Intermediate 50/70 | Juniors | Seniors | |
|---|--|--|---|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Non-wood Bats | | USABat Certification Required | | | USABat or BBCOR | | BBCOR | |
| Bat "Alterations" | | Products such as, but not limited to, choke-knobs and choke-up assists are considered alterations or modifications to the bat and are not permitted. | | | | | | |
| Mandatory Play | | Continuous Batting Order (CBO) must be used. No defensive requirement. | | | | | Does not apply | |
| No new inning after | | Midnight | | | 12:30 am | | 1:00 am | |
| Pitching | Pitches per day | 8 year old – 50 | 9 and 10 year old – 75 | 11 and 12 year old – 85 | 13 to 16 year old - 95 | | | |
| | Rest | 1-20 pitches = No rest 21-35 = 1 day rest 36-50 pitches = 2 days rest 51-65 pitches = 3 days rest 66+ = 4 days rest | | | | | 1-30 = no rest 31-45 = 1 day 46 – 60 = 2 days 61-75 = 3 days 76+ = 4 days | |
| | Multiple Games | May only pitch in one game per day | | | | If < 31 pitches in first game | | |
| | Consecutive Games/Days | Pitching in consecutive games is allowed, subject to rest requirements. May not pitch on three consecutive days regardless of rest circumstances | | | | | | |
| | Suspended Game Resumed Next Day | If 20 or fewer pitches, may continue – pitch count resets to zero If 21 to 40, may continue – pitch resumes from previous game If 41 or more pitches, not eligible If not next day, pitchers are eligible based on rest and suspended game situation | | | | | Same, except 31-60 pitches instead of 21-40 | |
| | Returning to Mound | Pitchers once removed from mound may not return as pitcher | | | A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to another defensive position, can return as pitcher, but only once per game | | | |
| | Catching | A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play catcher for the remainder of that day. A player who has played catcher in four or more innings in a game may not then pitch on that calendar day. Play catcher for < 4 innings then throw 21 or more pitches cannot catch again that day. (31 pitches for 15/16 year-olds) | | | | | | |
| | Intentional Walks | Once per batter per game, team may request an "unpitched" intentional walk. Remaining pitches are added to pitch count. | | | | | | |
| Player 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 from mound on second visit in inning or third visit in game. | | Same. Each pitcher has his/her own "count" of visits, which resumes if pitcher returns to mound later in the game. | | | |
| Offensive Conferences | | One per inning | | | | | | |
| 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 < two outs. If first is unoccupied or there are two outs, batter becomes runner and defense must put him/her out. | | | | | |
| On-Deck Batters | | Not allowed. Only the 1 st batter of inning is allowed to swing. | | | 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 | | | | | | |
| Courtesy Runners | | 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. | | | | | Special pinch runner twice per game | |
| Adults | | One manager and two coaches permitted | | | | | | |
| 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 | | Starting in the top of the 7 th 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. | | | Starting in the top of the 8 th 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. | | | |