

CALIFORNIA DISTRICT 24 INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS: GUIDELINES

1. The team shall arrive at the playing field at least sixty (60) minutes prior to game time, being warmed up and ready to take the infield thirty (30) minutes prior to game time.
2. RULES: Regular Season Rules will be followed. Exception: See PLAYING RULES below.
3. UMPIRES: Each participating team shall provide **two (2)** umpires for the game in which they are involved. **One (1) umpire must be an adult. EXCEPTION:** Each participating Minor/AAA/AA/A team (baseball and softball) shall provide **one (1)** umpire in which they are involved.
 - All umpires shall be instructed to report to the Site Director for the designated game sixty (60) minutes prior to game time.
 - The designated home team umpires shall occupy first and third base umpiring assignments. **EXCEPTION:** For the Minor/AAA/AA/A division, the designated home team umpire shall occupy the field position.
 - The designated visitor's team umpires shall occupy the plate and second base umpiring assignments. **EXCEPTION:** For the Minor/AAA/AA/A division, the designated visitor's team umpire shall occupy the plate.
 - The Tournament Director must approve any deviation from these assignments.
 - In the event that the league does not provide umpires for the designated game, the Site Director shall appoint available persons to fill necessary assignments.
 - **The league that does not provide umpires will automatically be designated as the Visiting team.**
 - **The number of Umpires may vary depending on Umpire Availability**
 - **The District 24 staff shall assign umpires for the Championship game for each division.**
4. PITCHING RECORDS: Each team **must** use the Tournament Pitching Record, provided by the district. The Tournament Pitching Record **must** be turned in to the Site Director thirty (30) minutes prior to game time. **NOTE:** If this is the team's first game of this Invitational Tournament, the manager must provide the regular season pitching log/record that shows the last three (3) regular season games that the team has played. If no regular season pitching record is made available to the Site Director, the game will start as scheduled and the Tournament Director will be notified. **PENALTY:** The manager will be **EJECTED** for that game and if the up-to-date, regular season pitching record is not presented to the Site Director by the end of that game, The game maybe deemed a Forfeit by the Tournament Director. **The ruling of the Tournament Director is final and binding.**
5. Home team designation shall be determined by a coin toss conducted by tournament site staff with both team managers or designated substitute(s) present, sixty (60) minutes prior to the scheduled game time. Home team shall occupy the third base dugout. **EXCEPTION:** The league that does not provide umpires will automatically be designated as the Visiting team.
6. Three (3) copies of the line-up must be given to the Site Director thirty (30) minutes prior to the game time. Leagues will supply their own line-up sheets. The information required on the line-up sheet is the first name, last name, uniform number, position number and the names of the managers and coaches.
7. Rule 1.17: The catcher must wear a hard cup, along with headgear that covers their ears with full mask and a **dangling** throat protector. All catchers must wear a mask, "**dangling**" type throat protector, and a catcher's helmet during infield/outfield practice, pitcher warm-up, and games. Each team is responsible to warm up their own pitcher. This is the responsibility of the manager

8. Game Preliminaries - Rules 3.01(a) 3.01(a) Note , 6.06(d) Note 1 and 2
Require strict observance of all rules governing the team personnel, implements of play, and confirm with the managers of both teams at the plate conference that all equipment is proper and legal for play according to Little League rules.
Note: Umpires are not required to inspect equipment prior to the start of the game. The manager of each team is responsible for ensuring that all equipment is legal and proper for play according to little League Rules.
PENALTY - If illegal equipment is used during the game, the manager of the team will be ejected from the game and the player who used the illegal equipment will also be ejected from the game. Both the manager and player who used the illegal equipment will be suspended for their team's next physically played game and may not be in attendance at the game site. This includes pregame and post-game activities
9. Rule 1.11(j) – Any jewelry worn by a player that poses harm or injury will be subject to removal. This rule applies regardless of the composition of such jewelry, hard cosmetic item, or hard decorative item. Hard items to control the hair, such as beads, are permitted.
Exception: Jewelry that alert medical personnel to a specific condition is permissible.
10. Electronic devices will be restricted per Rule 3.17. Use of Game Changer will be permitted.
Exception: A manager or coach is permitted to use one-way electronic devices from the dugout to the catcher while the team is on defense for the purpose of calling pitches. A manager or coach is prohibited from using the device to communicate with any other team member while on defense or any team member(including a manager or a coach) while on offense, and a manager or coach shall not use the device outside the dugout/bench area.
From Western Region.
No headphones, no meta glasses, no mic'd up players, no Apple watches or anything with 2-way communications. There are specific devices made for one-way communication to the catcher, those are the only permissible units.
If there is a dispute, the ruling of the Tournament Director is final and binding.
11. Electronic Recording devices can be used on the outside of the fence in the spectators area, but cannot be attached to the ball field fence.
EX: GO PROS or CELL PHONES.
12. **BASEBALL:** Each team will provide three (3) new regulation Little League approved baseballs per each tournament game played.
SOFTBALL: Each team will provide two (2) new regulation Little League approved softballs per each tournament game played. *(11-inch for Minor SB and 12- inch for all other divisions of softball)*
13. Only the rostered team manager, two (2) coaches and a maximum of fifteen (15) rostered players shall be permitted in the dugout. All other persons shall occupy the identified spectator area. Managers and coaches **must** be rostered, during regular season play, in their **respective** division. **EXCEPTION:** More than fifteen (15) players will be allowed in the dugout if a team has obtained a charter waiver for regular season.
If the manager/coach participant is NOT rostered in their respective division, during regular season play, he/she must be approved to participate by the Tournament Director prior to the start of the tournament.
If a manager/coach is unable to be at the game, a substitute will be allowed, provided that they have passed a background check with your league. Cannot be the same substitute for a second game.
14. The game strategy shall be conducted from the dugout. Conversation from the dugout with the spectators may result in the offending player, coach, and manager being removed from the game.

15. There will not be any special seating provided for the team scorekeeper. All changes will be reported from the dugout through the home plate umpire directly to the official scorekeeper. Changes will then be announced. **PITCH COUNT REGULATIONS WILL BE ENFORCED AND KEPT BY THE OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER.**
16. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, only approved officials and approved newspaper photographers may be on the playing field during the game.
17. Managers, coaches, and players are to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. If you disagree with the umpire's decision, it is expected that the correct and appropriate procedure will be used in discussing the matter.
18. THE USE OF FOUL LANGUAGE, GESTURES OR MAKING DEROGATORY REMARKS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. This may be cause for immediate removal of the offender from the game and/or the tournament.
19. Disruptive behavior by the spectators will NOT be tolerated and will be cause for removal of the offender(s) from the ballpark.
20. NO artificial noisemakers will be allowed. The use of "Walk -Up" music is not permitted. Please be sure spectators are advised prior to the start of the game.
21. Teams are expected to hustle on and off the field. There will be one (1) minute between innings.
22. Additional ground rules pertaining to specific playing field adjustments or expected conduct of team members will be discussed at the opening plate conference with the game umpires.
23. Managers or coaches cannot wear cutoff shorts, tank tops or open-toed shoes. The dress code shall be neat and appropriate for a Little League representative.
24. Once the game begins, NO PLAYER, MANAGER OR COACH may leave the dugout without permission of the game umpires. Stepping outside of the dugout for a smoke will constitute leaving the dugout without permission and that person will be prevented from re-entering the dugout for the remainder of the game. There will be no smoking or tobacco of any kind allowed in/or near the dugout.
25. Restroom privileges will be permitted providing:
 - a. Permission is first obtained from a game umpire.
 - b. The individual goes directly to and from the restroom without engaging in conversation with spectators. Up to two (2) designated parents from each team (*FOR ALL DIVISION OF BASEBALL/SOFTBALL*), determined prior to start of the game, will be allowed to accompany the team's players to the restroom.
PENALTY: *Offender may be removed from the game.*

PLAYING RULES

1. **RULE 4.10(a)**

Majors and below for both Baseball and Softball– six(6) innings or one(1) hour forty five (45) minutes. If an inning begins prior to the time limit, that inning will be played to completion.

All Upper division for Baseball– seven(7) innings or two(2) hour fifteen (15) minutes.

JR Softball seven(7) innings or two(2) hours. If an inning begins prior to the time limit, that inning will be played to completion.

2. **TIED GAMES**

If the score is tied after six (6) completed innings (BASEBALL: [50-70], BASEBALL/SOFTBALL:

Junior/Senior divisions: seven (7) innings) or time limit has expired,

the tiebreaker will begin immediately in the seventh (7) inning, (BASEBALL: [50-70] division,

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL: Junior/Senior division eighth (8) inning by placing the player who is schedule to bat last in that respective half inning on second base, to begin each extra inning.

EXAMPLE: If the number five(5) batter is the lead-off batter, the number four(4) batter in the batting order will be placed on second base.

3. **RUN RULE:** Rule 4.10 (e) will be in effect for the duration of this tournament.

If after three (3) innings, [Intermediate/JR/SR: four (4) innings] two and one-half innings

[Intermediate/JR/SR: three and one half innings] if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs **shall** concede the victory to the opponent.

If after four (4) innings,[Intermediate/JR/SR: five (5) innings] three and one-half innings

[Intermediate/JR/SR: four and one half innings] if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs **shall** concede the victory to the opponent.

If after five (5) innings, [Intermediate/JR/SR: six (6) innings] four and one-half innings

[Intermediate/JR/SR: five and one half innings] if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of eight (8) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs **shall** concede the victory to the opponent.

NOTE: (1) If the visiting team has a lead of fifteen (15), ten (10) or eight (8) runs or more respectively, the home team must bat in its half of the inning.

4. **FORFEITURE OF A GAME:**

If a team is unable to place nine [9] players on the field, they may start/play/or end the game with eight [8] players. If a team is still unable to start the game with 8 players, after 10-minutes from the scheduled game start time. The game will be referred to the Tournament Director.

Exception: If a player is ejected and this causes the team to drop to (8)players. The game will be referred to the Tournament Director.

All forfeits can only be approved by the Tournament Director, whose decision will be deemed final and binding.

5. **CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER-Rule 4.04 Except Seniors**

Continuous batting order will be in effect

Note 2 – When a player is injured, becomes ill, or must leave the game site after the start of the game, the team will skip over him/her when his/her time at bat comes up without penalty.

Note 3 - If a team starts the game with 8 players, the Tournament Director has approved that an out will be called for the (9th) position in the batting line-up each turn at bat.

6. **Special Pinch Runner/Courtesy Runner - Baseball and Softball (All Divisions)**
COURTESY RUNNER: A tournament team may permit a “courtesy runner” for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are two (2) outs. Utilizing continuous batting order, the courtesy runner may be in the team’s batting order and must be the player in the batting order who made the last out.
SPECIAL PINCH RUNNER-Senior Division: Twice a game but not more than one time per inning, a team may utilize a player who is not in the batting order as a special pinch-runner for any offensive player. A player may only be removed for a special pinch-runner one time during a game. The player for whom the pinch-runner runs is not subject to removal from the lineup. If the pinch-runner remains in the game as a substitute defensive or offensive player, the player may not be used again as a pinch-runner while in the batting order. However, if removed for another substitute that player or any player not in the line-up, is again eligible to be used as a pinch-runner.
7. **MANDATORY PLAY (Regulation IV (i)):**
Note 5: Does not apply in Tournament Play or anytime the continuous batting order is used.
Note 6: Mandatory Play Requirements do not apply for Senior League Division
8. **Minor/AAA/AA/A division and All divisions of Softball ball,**
RUN LIMIT:
For the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th innings, an inning will be determined by three (3) outs or five (5) runs, whichever comes first. At the start of the 6th inning, an inning will be determined by three (3) outs.
JR Softball For the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th innings, an inning will be determined by three (3) outs or five (5) runs, whichever comes first. At the start of the 7th inning, an inning will be determined by three (3) outs.
EXCEPTION: For the first five (5) innings, if the 5th run is a home run that is batted out of the park and over the fence, all runs will count.
9. On fields using **temporary/portable pitching mounds**, use of metal cleats by pitchers shall be prohibited. 50/70, Juniors and Senior Baseball
10. Rule 3.09
Managers or coaches are permitted to warm up a pitcher at home plate or in the bullpen or elsewhere at any time, including in-game warm-up, pre-game warm-up and in other instances. They may also stand by to observe a pitcher during warm-up in the bullpen.
11. Regulation VI d BASEBALL only
NOTE 1: Under no circumstance shall a player pitch in three(3) Consecutive days.
12. **EJECTIONS:** The ejection of a player, manager or coach will result in a mandatory minimum one (1) game suspension. The suspended manager, coach or player may not be present at the next physically played game. This includes all pre-game and post-game activities. All ejections will be reviewed by the Tournament Director. If it is a repeated offense, a more severe penalty may be applied.
- a) All suspensions resulting from ejections will not wait for District action but will take place immediately on the next physically played game.
 - b) Any physical or verbal altercation between player, manager, coach, umpire, or spectator will require disciplinary action, not to exclude expulsion from the tournament.
 - c) Any manger/coach that is ejected from a game, NO substitute individual will be allowed. Only 2 adults will be allowed for the next physically played game.