



2026

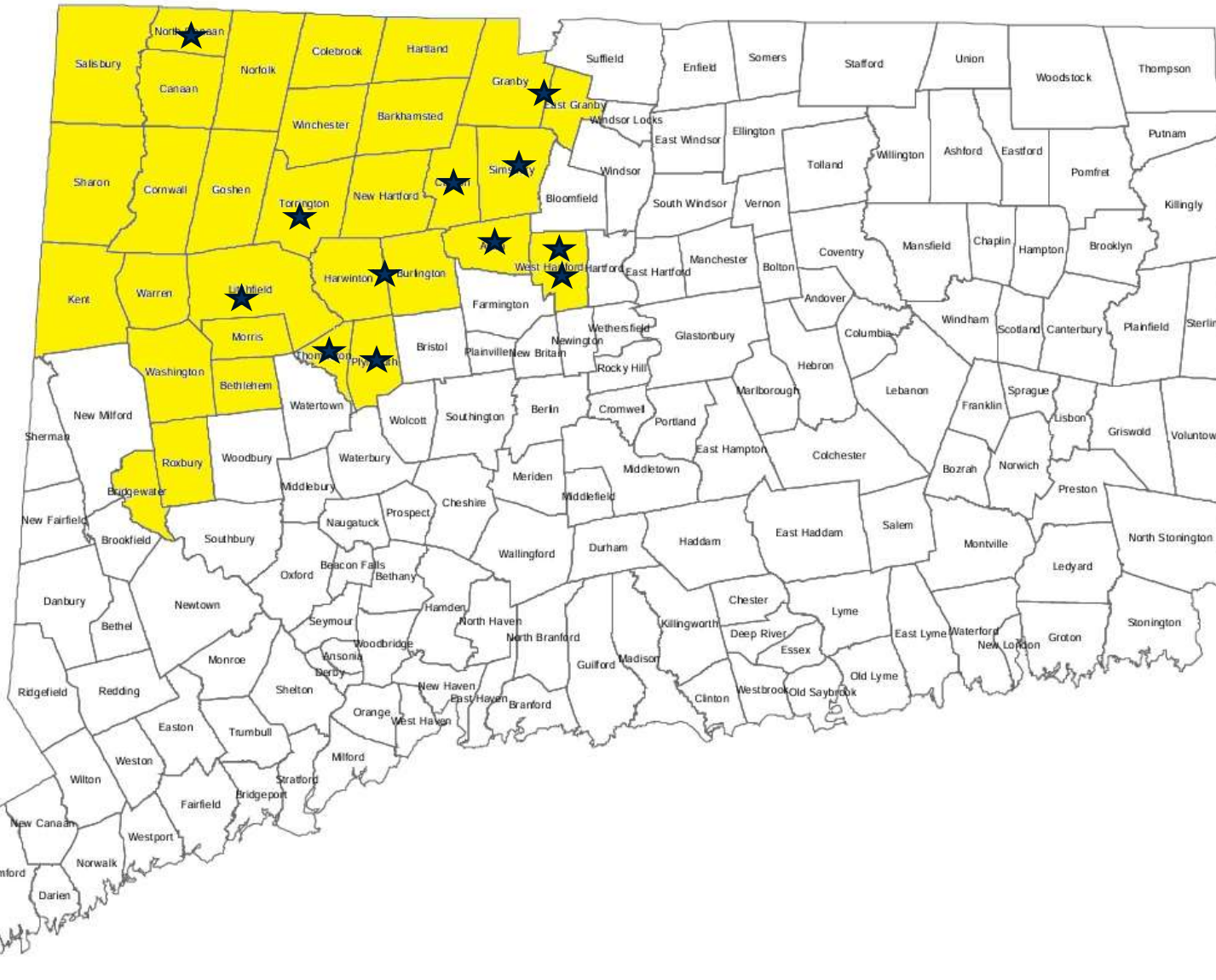
CONNECTICUT LITTLE LEAGUE

DISTRICT 6

UMPIRES CLINIC



- Avon
- Burlington/Harwinton
- Canton
- East Granby/Granby
- Northwest CT/Steve Blass
- Simsbury
- Terryville/Plymouth
- Thomaston
- Torrington
- Tri-Town
- West Hartford Baseball
- West Hartford Softball



## **We've got your back...**

Mike Comeau – Umpire-in-Chief

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(860) 805-9518

Sam Gossett- Asst. Umpire-in-Chief

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**Umpires 16 (or turning 16 during the season) and older:**

Must have background check completed and approved

Complete Abuse Awareness Training

<https://www.littleleague.org/university/training/>

Eligible for District assignments with UIC approval

A screenshot of a 'Little League Volunteer Application - 2023' form. The form is titled 'Little League Volunteer Application - 2023' and includes a header with the Little League logo. The form is divided into two main sections: 'Personal Information' and 'Background Information'. The 'Personal Information' section includes fields for Name, Address, Phone, Email, and Date of Birth. The 'Background Information' section includes fields for Social Security Number, Driver's License Number, and a section for 'References'. There are also checkboxes for 'I have read and understand the Little League Volunteer Handbook' and 'I agree to the Little League Volunteer Handbook'. The form is a PDF document with a white background and black text.



# Commonly Misunderstood Rules that You Need to Know

## **2.00 CATCH**

### **MUST HAVE:**

- \* BATTED BALL IN FLIGHT
- \* SECURE POSSESSION IN HAND OR GLOVE
- \* VOLUNTARY AND INTENTIONAL RELEASE

### **DOESN'T MATTER:**

- \* "HELD IT LONG ENOUGH", "TOOK ENOUGH STEPS"

## **2.00 TAG**

### **MUST HAVE:**

- \* FIRM AND SECURE POSSESSION IN HAND OR GLOVE
- \* FIELDER'S BODY TOUCHES BASE, OR FIELDER'S HAND OR GLOVE WITH THE BALL TOUCHES RUNNER

### **DOESN'T MATTER:**

- \* VOLUNTARY AND INTENTIONAL RELEASE



## 2.00 FAIR BALL & FOUL BALL

\* BEYOND 1<sup>ST</sup> OR 3<sup>RD</sup> BASE IN FLIGHT – WHERE IT'S TOUCHED OR WHERE IT LANDS

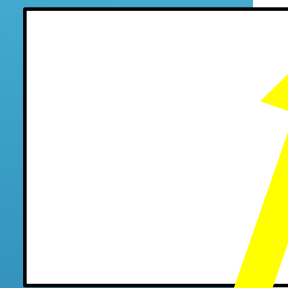
\* NEVER REACHES 1<sup>ST</sup> OR 3<sup>RD</sup> BASE – WHERE IT'S TOUCHED OR WHERE IT STOPS

\* BOUNDS PAST 1<sup>ST</sup> OR 3<sup>RD</sup> BASE – WHERE IT CROSSES THE FRONT EDGE OF THE BASE

\* FOUL LINE, FOUL POLE, AND ALL BASES ARE FAIR TERRITORY



**Bounding Ball**



Fair Foul

## 2.00 INFIELD FLY

### WHEN CAN THERE BE AN INFIELD FLY?

- \* MUST BE LESS THAN 2 OUTS
- \* R1 & R2 OR BASES LOADED (FORCE AT 3B)

### WHAT MUST BE TRUE ABOUT THE BATTED BALL?

- \* CANNOT BE A BUNT
- \* CANNOT BE A LINE DRIVE
- \* FLY BALL THAT CAN BE CAUGHT WITH ORDINARY EFFORT BY AN INFIELDER

### WHAT IS THE RESULT?

- \* BATTER IS OUT WHETHER BALL IS CAUGHT OR NOT
- \* FORCE PLAY IS REMOVED
- \* TREATED LIKE AN ORDINARY FLY BALL



## 2.00 QUICK RETURN

A PITCH MADE WITH THE OBVIOUS INTENT TO CATCH THE BATTER OFF BALANCE – ILLEGAL PITCH (BALL TO THE BATTER)

START BY CALLING TIME IF THE PITCHER TRIES TO PITCH BEFORE THE BATTER IS READY – YOUNG PITCHERS WITH SLOPPY MECHANICS DO NOT RISE TO THE LEVEL OF “OBVIOUS INTENT.”

IF AFTER A FEW CALLS OF “TIME”, THE PITCHER PERSISTS, CALL THE ILLEGAL PITCH AND AWARD A BALL TO THE BATTER.



## **2.00 STRIKE – A PITCH THAT IS...**

- \* STRUCK AT AND MISSED
- \* NOT STRUCK AT BUT PASSES THRU STRIKE ZONE
- \* BATTED FOUL WITH LESS THAN 2 STRIKES
- \* BUNTED FOUL (IF 2 STRIKES, THEN STRIKE 3)
- \* TOUCHES BATTER WHILE SWINGING
- \* TOUCHES BATTER IN FLIGHT IN THE STRIKE ZONE
- \* BECOMES A FOUL TIP

## **2.00 BALL – A PITCH THAT...**

- \* DOES NOT ENTER STRIKE ZONE IN FLIGHT AND IS NOT STRUCK AT



## 2.00 FOUL TIP

**HOW MANY TIMES DOES AN UMPIRE GET HIT BY A FOUL TIP? ZERO!**

- \* BATTED BALL SHARP AND DIRECT TO CATCHER'S HAND OR GLOVE
- \* LEGALLY CAUGHT (BY ANY FIELDER)
- \* CAN TOUCH OTHER PARTS OF CATCHER (OR OTHER DEFENSIVE PLAYERS) BEFORE BEING CAUGHT
- \* BALL IS ALIVE AND IN PLAY



## **6.05 (B): UNCAUGHT 3<sup>RD</sup> STRIKE**

**\* DOES NOT APPLY IN MINORS**

**\* MUST HAVE...**

**\* 1<sup>ST</sup> BASE UNOCCUPIED & LESS THAN 2 OUT  
OR**

**\* 2 OUT (1<sup>ST</sup> BASE OCCUPIED OR NOT)**

**\* IF STRIKE 3 IS NOT CAUGHT IN FLIGHT BY THE  
CATCHER, BATTER BECOMES A RUNNER.**

**\* BATTER MAY ATTEMPT TO RUN TO FIRST BASE  
ANY TIME BEFORE ENTERING DEAD BALL AREA**

**\* ANY TIME STRIKE 3 IS CAUGHT IN FLIGHT, BATTER  
IS OUT.**



## 7.15: DOUBLE FIRST BASE

### \* INITIAL PLAY ON BATTER RUNNER AT 1<sup>ST</sup>:

\* BATTER MUST USE **COLOR**, FIELDER MUST USE WHITE

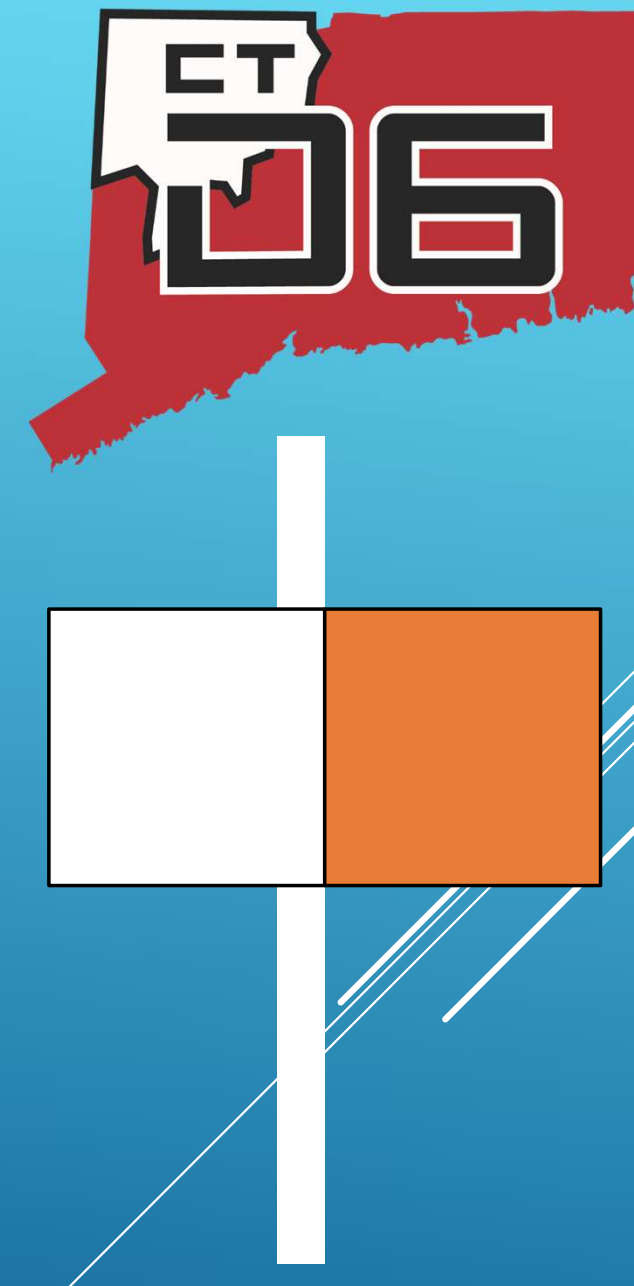
\* IF BATTER USES WHITE, IT IS A MISSED BASE AND SUBJECT TO APPEAL

\* IF FIELDER USES **COLOR**, IT IS "SAFE, OFF THE BAG"

\* **EXCEPTION: ON UNCAUGHT 3<sup>RD</sup> STRIKE, BATTER AND FIELDER CAN USE EITHER BASE**

\* **IF NO PLAY ON BATTER RUNNER AT 1<sup>ST</sup> (HIT, ERROR, ETC.), BATTER CAN USE WHITE OR **COLOR****

\* **AFTER BATTER PASSES 1<sup>ST</sup>, IGNORE THE **COLOR BASE****





# “The Third Team”



## THE UMPIRE

- THE UMPIRE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:
  - STARTING THE GAME
  - STOPPING THE GAME
  - STOPPING PLAY
  - PUTTING THE BALL IN PLAY
- THE UMPIRE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR:
  - BEING PERFECT



## UMPIRE'S JUDGEMENT

- JUDGEMENT CALLS:
  - SAFE & OUT
  - FAIR & FOUL
  - BALL & STRIKE
- NO PLAYER, MANAGER, COACH, OR SUBSTITUTE SHALL OBJECT TO ANY JUDGMENT DECISION (9.02(A))





# Pre-Game Conference/ Plate Meeting – Handout



## PRE-GAME CONFERENCE



- Introductions
- Fair/Foul coverage —  
Who's got what and where
- Tag ups/Touches
- Fly balls to outfield
- Fly balls to infield
- Coverage of third base
- Live ball  
(restart after foul/dead balls)
- Uncaught third strike  
(Little League, Intermediate (50-70), Junior,  
Senior, Big League Baseball and Little League,  
Junior, Senior, Big League Softball)
- Batted ball hits batter while in box
- Half swing (Checked Swing)
- Umpire positioning
- Signals



Available in Handouts web page – Use the QR Code on your card



# PLATE MEETING



- Introductions [self and partner(s)] to each manager/coach

- Collect/review and confirm line-ups
- Playing field ground rules

## Players Ground Rules

- No throwing helmets or bats! (*Automatic game ejection*)
- Helmets must be worn at all times for all offensive players on the field
- A helmeted offensive player not in the lineup will retrieve the bat
- Hustle

## Coaches Ground Rules

- Are all your players properly equipped?
- No arguing judgement call of umpires (*safes, outs, balls, strikes, etc.*)
- Do not leave the dugout until a proper time-out is called
- **Do you accept the field for play?**

## GAME TIME

- PRE-GAME AWAY FROM THE FIELD
- BE EARLY!
- SCHEDULED TIME = FIRST PITCH
- ENTER FIELD TOGETHER –
  - IMAGE/FIRST IMPRESSION IS EVERYTHING
- COMMUNICATION –
  - VERBAL/NON-VERBAL
- HUSTLE!!





## GAME TIME

- CONSISTENCY, CONTROL, CONFIDENCE
- PLAYERS WEARING EQUIPMENT INCORRECTLY – HAVE THEM FIX IT
- NEVER CRITICIZE ANOTHER UMPIRE'S DECISION - "I ALWAYS HAVE YOUR BACK"
- HUSTLE!!



## Keep Your Game Moving...

ONE MINUTE FOR WARM-UP

TIMEOUTS – NO NEED? TELL THEM “NO”

NEXT PLAYER IN LINEUP (WITH HELMET ON) IS ONLY  
PLAYER RETRIEVING A BAT

DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU RUN OUT OF BALLS TO ASK  
FOR MORE

DON'T GET TOGETHER WITH YOUR PARTNER(S) UNLESS  
YOU REALLY MUST

AND AGAIN...HUSTLE!!!



# TOBY COLON

**“Your attitude, presentation and work on the field makes you good or great. So that means from the time you walk on the field to the time you leave you represent the game of baseball. Your actions and demeanor are front and center. Be friendly and approachable. Show them you want to be there, and hustle. Make your movements mean something. Move with a purpose.”**

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## POST GAME

- LEAVE THE FIELD TOGETHER AND QUICKLY
  - YOU ARE NOT PART OF THE HANDSHAKE LINE!
- RESPECT THE EQUIPMENT
- *“WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR ME?...”*
  - TALK WITH YOUR PARTNER(S)
- BE HONEST
  - WE ARE HUMAN; LEARN FROM MISTAKES





**“In my judgment...”**

(JUDGMENT - THE ABILITY TO MAKE CONSIDERED DECISIONS OR COME TO SENSIBLE CONCLUSIONS.)



**THIS IS A JOB –**

YOU'VE BEEN HIRED,

YOU CAN ALSO BE FIRED



# Rules Refresher



## BASEBALL VS. SOFTBALL

BUNT

LEAVING EARLY

PITCH COUNT

ALLOWABLE CATCHER'S MITT

BATTER'S BOX

PITCHING DELIVERY



# SOFTBALL - CIRCLE RULE

## SITUATION:

- LIVE BALL
- PITCHER IN CIRCLE WITH THE BALL
- PITCHER IS NOT **“MAKING A PLAY”** ON A RUNNER

## RUNNER MUST:

- IF ON A BASE, REMAIN ON THAT BASE
- IF NOT ON A BASE, IMMEDIATELY:
  - ATTEMPT TO ADVANCE
- **OR**
- RETURN TO THE PRIOR BASE
- A RUNNER MAY NOT REVERSE DIRECTION ONCE THEY START TO MOVE

**THE ACT OF FAKING A THROW IS CONSIDERED “MAKING A PLAY”**



**PENALTY:**  
RUNNER IS OUT



2026



**Pine Tar & Similar Adhesive Permitted  
All Levels  
RULE 1.10 Note 2**

- Can be used on bat handle, not on taper or barrel
- Must not cover printed certification logo (e.g., USA Bat, BBCOR, BPF)

**Penalty:**

First offense: remove bat and warn batter

Second offense: remove bat and eject batter and manager

Excessive pine tar cannot cause bat to be "illegal"

2026



**Thumb Protectors Permitted  
All Levels  
RULE 1.10 A.R. 2**

- Thumb Protectors Legal (attached to person)
- Choke knobs/assists Illegal (attached to bat)

**Penalty** for Choke knobs/assists:

First offense: remove product and warn batter

Second offense: remove product and eject batter and manager

Use of such product cannot cause bat to be "illegal"

# 2026



## ~~Neoprene~~\* Sleeves & Undershirts All Levels RULE 1.11(a)(3)

- Sleeves may be worn by the pitcher and do not need to be covered by an undershirt, provided the neoprene sleeve is one solid color and is not white or gray (baseball)
- Any part of the pitcher's undershirt or t-shirt exposed to view shall be of a solid color, provided it is not the same color as the ball being used in the game (softball)

\* - "Neoprene" removed from rule in 2026. This rule no longer restricts the material of any sleeve.

2026



**COURTESY RUNNER CLARIFICATION with CBO  
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL – ALL LEVELS  
RULE 3.04, 7.14(b)**

If pitcher and catcher are both eligible for a Courtesy Runner:

- The previous out due up sooner runs for the lead runner
- The previous out due up later runs for the trail runner

2023



**ARM BANDS  
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL – ALL LEVELS  
RULE 1.11 (a) (3)**

YES – play-calling bands worn by defensive players –

- on wrist or forearm

YES – play-calling bands worn by pitchers –

- on glove arm only
- no other items on arms including sweat bands

Solid color – not white, gray or optic yellow for pitcher

2023



**PITCHER WARM-UPS  
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL – ALL LEVELS  
REGULAR SEASON ONLY  
RULE 3.09**

YES – managers and coaches may warm-up pitchers  
NO MASK NEEDED

2023



**8-RUN "MERCY RULE"  
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL – ALL LEVELS  
OPTIONAL – REGULAR SEASON ONLY  
RULE 4.10(e)**

After 5 innings (6), 4 ½ (5 ½) if home team is ahead  
(10-run and 15-run rules are mandatory for the tournament)

Mercy Rule remains a local league option

2023



**INTENTIONAL WALK  
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL – ALL LEVELS  
Rule 6.08 (a) (2)**

Defense may announce intentional walk ONE TIME per player;  
(pitch other times)  
Baseball – add to the pitch count

2023



**CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER  
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL – ALL LEVELS (except Senior)  
MANDATORY - TOURNAMENTS  
TOURNAMENT RULE 9**

- No mandatory play
- Players no longer “married” in lineup
- No Special Pinch Runner
- Unable to bat (ill, injured, leaves) – skip over spot in batting order; re-insert if available later
- Unable to complete at-bat? Next batter assumes count
- Unable to run? Last out/“Courtesy Runner”
- Arrives late? – Manager’s choice – end of lineup

**STAY IN THE BOX**  
**BASEBALL/SOFTBALL – ALL LEVELS**  
**OPTIONAL – REGULAR SEASON**  
**MANDATORY - TOURNAMENTS**  
**RULE 6.02c**

ONE FOOT IN BOX BETWEEN PITCHES  
(8 EXCEPTIONS)

ONE WARNING PER BATTER PER INNING;  
CALL STRIKES AS NEEDED (DEAD BALL)

WILL HELP REDUCE PROBLEMS DURING TOURNEY  
PLAY – FEWER PLAYERS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE  
RULE

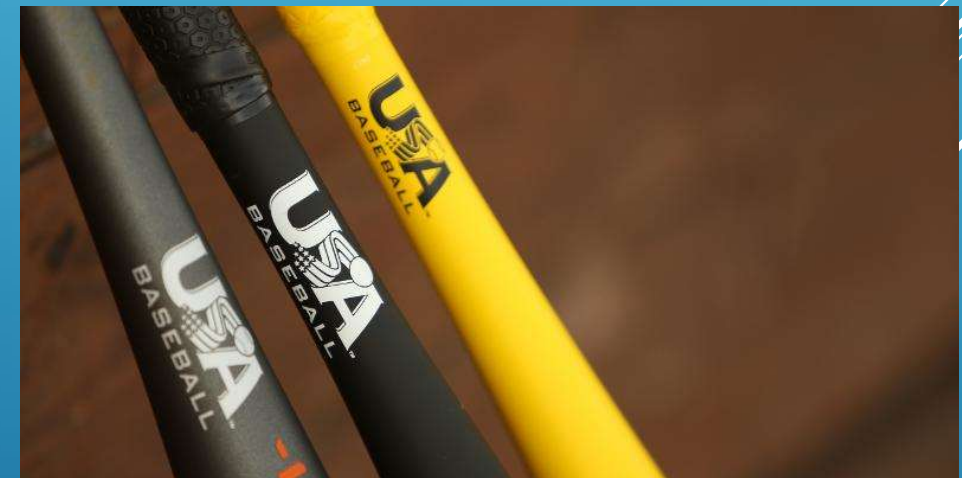


## **THE BAT – NOT WOOD BASEBALL ONLY**

### **RULE 1.10**

LITTLE LEAGUE MAJORS AND BELOW – USABat.  
NO “BPF – 1.15.”

- INTERMEDIATE (50/70) AND JUNIOR LEAGUE  
-USABat OR BBCOR
- SENIOR LEAGUE - BBCOR
- COMPLETE LIST OF APPROVED BATS IS AT  
[USABAT.COM](http://USABAT.COM)
- CANNOT ADD CHOKE KNOBS, CHOKE-UP  
ASSISTS, ETC.
- DINGS, DENTS, CRACKS, CAN'T READ  
CERTIFICATION, CAN'T PASS THROUGH BAT  
RING – REMOVE THEM



# THE BAT – NOT WOOD SOFTBALL ONLY

## RULE 1.10

ALL LEVELS – BPF 1.20

- CANNOT ADD CHOKE KNOBS, CHOKE-UP ASSISTS, ETC.
- DINGS, DENTS, CRACKS, CAN'T READ CERTIFICATION, CAN'T PASS THROUGH BAT RING – REMOVE THEM





**THE BAT  
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL – ALL LEVELS  
RULE 1.10**

THE TRADITIONAL BATTING DONUT IS NOT PERMISSIBLE. (USE BATTING SLEEVES)



## Is it INTERFERENCE? - Rule 6.05(j)

- Lane must be drawn
- Must be a CATCHABLE throw
- Your judgment





# Myths

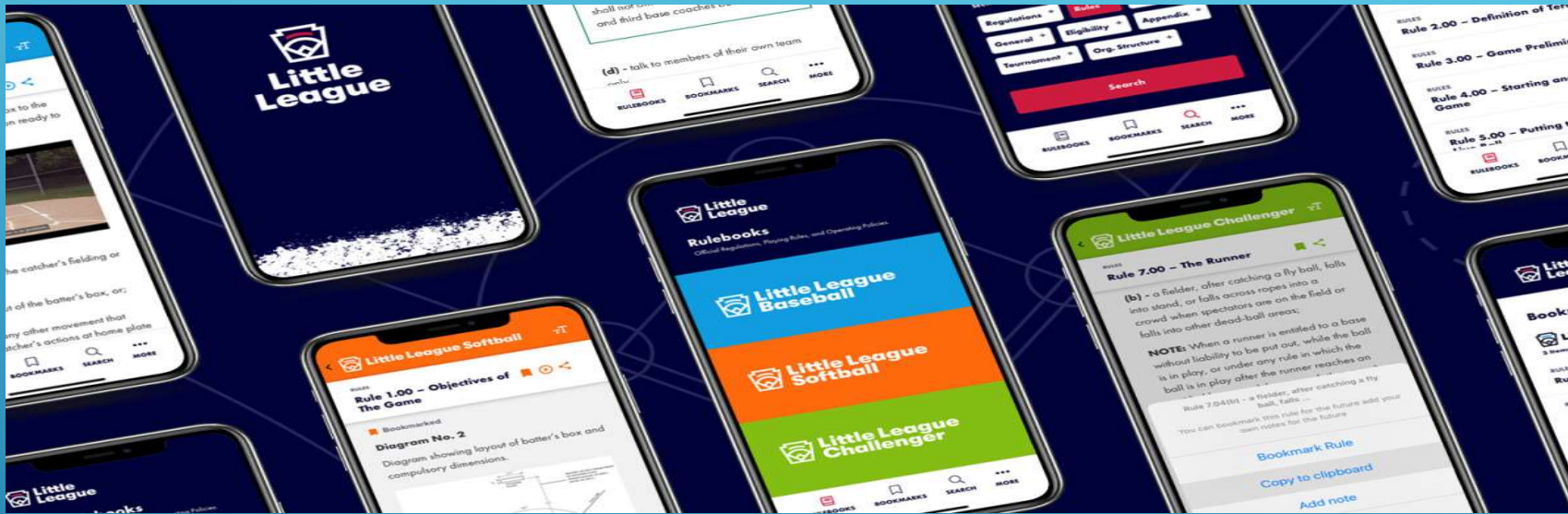
(10 commonly misinterpreted Little League rules)

-Available as Handout (use QR Code)

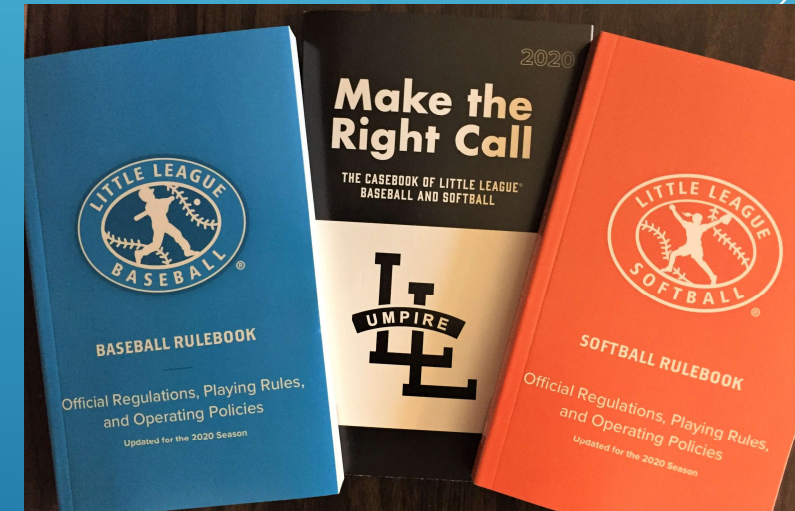


Additional info...





FREE download...  
but NO phones on the field.





## Little League® Umpire Registry

- **FREE**
- **Access to rules, mechanics, etc.**
- **Tournament applications**
- **[www.littleleague.org/university](http://www.littleleague.org/university)**
- **[www.littleleague.org/university/umpires](http://www.littleleague.org/university/umpires)**

Our website is CTD6.COM



# CONNECTICUT DISTRICT 6 LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

[LOGIN](#) [REGISTER](#)

HOME ABOUT US TEAM CENTRAL ELIMINATION BRACKETS HANDOUTS LOCATIONS DISTRICT LINKS

A photograph of a baseball game in progress. A pitcher in a grey uniform with 'Terryville' and the number '91' is in the middle of a throwing motion. A batter in a blue uniform is sliding into the base. In the background, a scoreboard shows 'HOME 3' and 'GUEST 0' in the 3rd inning. The scoreboard also displays 'BALL', 'STRIKE', and 'OUT' counts. A yellow foul line is visible in the foreground. The photo is framed by a white border with blue navigation arrows on the left and right sides.

TERRYVILLE VS. TRI-TOWN

● ● ● ● ●



“Common sense is a flower that  
doesn’t grow in everyone’s garden.”

- Julian Tackett  
Kentucky High School Athletic Association Commissioner

(Former MLB pitcher Mitch Williams) →





There are no stupid questions, just an intelligent person seeking information.

Now is the perfect time to ask...

# ADVICE

## A Good Umpire Will:

- Avoid having “rabbit ears”
- Leave the last play behind
- Walk away / Avoid conflict
- Display good body language
- Stay focused between pitches, plays AND innings
- Hustle!



More Rules Discussion, if time permits

The image features a solid blue background with a gradient from light blue at the top to a darker blue at the bottom. The text "More Rules Discussion, if time permits" is centered horizontally and rendered in a white, sans-serif font. In the bottom right corner, there are several thin, white, parallel diagonal lines that create a sense of motion or a graphic element.

## Batter's INTERFERENCE? - Rule 6.06(c)

### If catcher cleanly catches pitch:

- Batter that stands like a statue cannot interfere (catcher must throw around batter)
- Batter who steps out of box or does anything else to interfere with catcher is out
- Batter that makes extraneous movements but does not interfere is not out (e.g., catcher throws to 3B and lefty steps backwards out of box)



## OBSTRUCTION – 7.06 (a) & (b)

### (a): play being made on obstructed runner:

- Immediate Dead Ball
- Obstructed runner awarded minimum of one base (could be more)
- Other runners awarded bases to nullify the act of obstruction

### (b): no play being made on obstructed runner:

- Delayed Dead Ball
- No minimum base award
- All runners awarded bases to nullify the act of obstruction



(a)



(b)



## INTERFERENCE – 2.0(a), 7.10

(a) Offensive Interference is an act by a member of the team at bat which interferes with, obstructs, impedes, hinders, or confuses a fielder attempting to make a play.

- Interference does not need to be intentional
- Immediate dead ball
- Batter, Batter-Runner, or Runner who caused the interference is called out
- All other runners return to last legally obtained base at time of interference
- Coaches can be called for interference



# APPEAL PLAYS

## Appeals such as:

- Leaving base early on a caught fly ball
- Missing a base

## Appeal Play

- The ball must be live to make an appeal
- A fielder can make an appeal if ball is still live
- If ball is dead, pitcher must be on pitching plate and umpire place ball in play before an appeal can be made
  - A play by the defense on a runner or throwing a pitch, eliminates opportunity to make an appeal (an appeal is not considered a “play”)
- Other runners may attempt to advance during an appeal
- Unless clear and obvious, fielder must declare on which runner the appeal is being made and for what infraction



# COACHES' VISITS / TIME OUTS

## Offensive Time Outs

- One (1) allowed per inning

## Official Visits to Pitcher

- See Rulebook for number of allowable visits per inning / game
- A coach calling time to confer strategy with a defensive player other than the pitcher is a charged visit

NOTE: A coach coming out to check on an injured player is not a charged visit. Umpire should accompany coach to ensure no strategy is discussed



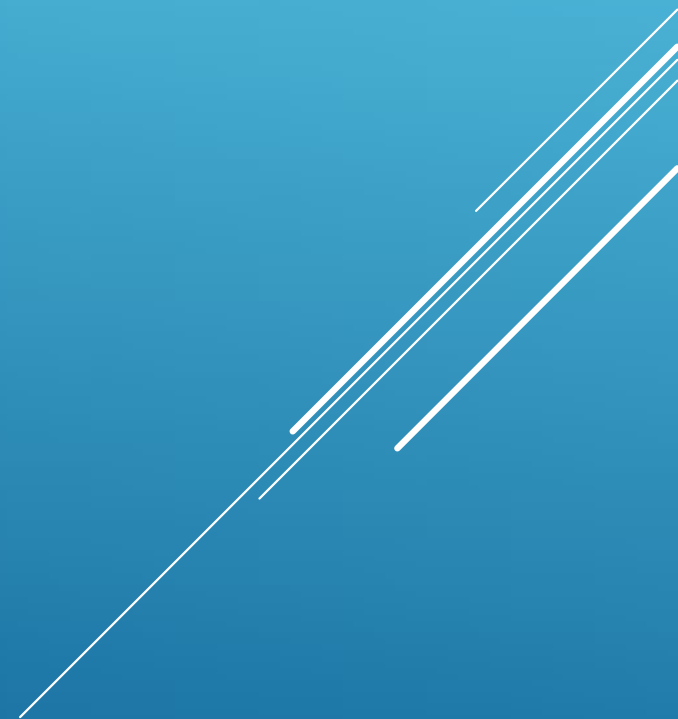
## BATTING OUT OF TURN

When a batter, who is not the properly scheduled batter in the lineup, enters the batter's box – three situations

- a) Improper batter's at-bat has not concluded (too early)
- b) Improper batter's at-bat is complete and no pitch has been thrown to next batter (on time)
- c) Improper batter's at-bat is complete, and a pitch has been thrown to the next batter (too late)

It is the Defensive Team's responsibility to appeal "batting out of order"

Umpire is not to bring the infraction to anyone's attention



# BATTING OUT OF TURN (Continued)



## (a) Improper Batter still at bat

- Proper batter takes place of improper batter and assumes any count – **no penalty – Offense may correct this themselves**

## (b) Improper batter complete, no subsequent pitch

- Proper Batter is Out & Play is nullified
- Defense may elect to accept play vs proper batter out
- Next batter is the batter who follows the proper batter in the current line-up
- Yes, the same batter can bat twice in a row

## (c) Improper batter complete, next pitch already thrown

- Improper batter has been legalized – too late to appeal
- Current batter is next in lineup after now-legalized batter

# ESTABLISHING A BASEPATH

## What is NOT a BasePath

- The invisible line directly between bases
- The edge of dirt or grass
- With the exception of Batter-Runner to first base, any markings on the field (except markings for out of bounds)

## What is a BasePath

- When a fielder is in possession of the Ball AND making a play on a runner
  - The direct line from the runner's current position to the base they are attempting to reach
- The runner's BasePath will change with subsequent plays by the defense



# SPORTSMANSHIP

## Player, Coach, Spectator – Unacceptable:

- Violent Disapproval of Umpire's Call
- Abusive Language

## Warnings – What to do:

- Take Manager aside
- Explain the infraction and consequences
- Manager responsible for policing the situation

## What not to do:

- Yell across the field *"That's a warning – another one like that and you will be ejected"*

