

# **Connecticut Little League District 6 2026 Tournament**

**Managers, Coaches,  
Site Directors,  
Umpires**



# Rules Questions?

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# Chain of Command

Managers, coaches, parents, grandparents, etc.



League president (non-game) | Site Director (in-game)



District Administrator



East Region HQ – Bristol



Charter Committee - Williamsport

***Penalties come from Bristol and/or Williamsport.  
Their decision is FINAL.***



# Tournament Format

- ✓ June 11 – July 12
- ✓ Pools and seedings have been determined by random draw (Random.org)

**Higher seed or better record does not guarantee you a home game**

- ✓ District reserves the right to place majority of games at sites with lights\* during weeknights

**You might not play a game at your home field**

\*Thomaston is not a site with lights due to wooden light poles



# Tournament Format

2026  
Update

Divisions with 5-9 teams = Pool Play, 4 games each

- ✓ Record of 3-1 or better advance to double elimination round
- ✓ If less than 4 teams in pool with a record of 3-1 or better, top 4 teams advance

Divisions with 3-4 teams = 1 pool, play every other team once.

- ✓ All teams advance to double elimination

Divisions with 2-3 = double elimination tournament



# Tournament Format

- ✓ Standard Little League tiebreaker policies apply:

International Tournament Pool Play Format:  
Section III – Tiebreaker Procedures  
Section IV – Runs-Allowed Ratio

- ✓ If weather becomes issue, District 6 reserves the right to change double elimination to a single elimination tourney – **not protestable**



# Regulation XIV(a) – Field Decorum

The actions, on or off the field, of players, managers, coaches, umpires, and league officials must be above reproach.

Any player, manager, coach, umpire, or league representative who is involved in a verbal or physical altercation, or an incident of unsportsmanlike conduct, at the game site or any other Little League activity including through online or social media, is subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.



# Equipment Checks

2025  
Update

## All divisions:

- Umpires will no longer check equipment before games
- Each team's manager is solely responsible for ensuring equipment is legal
- Illegal bats carry severe penalty
- Other equipment issues are corrected and the game moves on



# Illegal Bats

2026  
Update

All divisions:

- **Illegal Bats – Severe Penalties**
  - Altered bats (shaved, rolled, etc.)
  - Baseball Bats without USA Bat Marking
  - Softball Bats without BPF 1.20 Marking
  - ~~Bats with Pine Tar applied~~ **No longer “illegal” (2026)**
- Bats that exceed dimensional limits
  - BB & SB Majors and below: 33” maximum
  - BB & SB Intermediate/Junior/Senior: 34” maximum
  - All BB: 2 5/8” max diameter
  - All SB: 2 1/4” max diameter



Yes



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# Illegal Bat Penalty

## Tournament Playing Rule #3b

2026  
Update

**(Before next batter enters batter's box)**

- ✓ Player is out (defense may decline and accept the play)
- ✓ Player is ejected (plus 1-game suspension)
- ✓ Manager is ejected **plus 1-game suspension** & ~~removed for remainder of International Tournament~~ **(2026)**
- ✓ Offense loses one adult base coach for remainder of game



# Improper/Damaged Bats/Equipment

2026  
Update

## All divisions:

- Improper Equipment – Remove from game, unless corrected
  - Catcher's Mask without dangling throat guard
  - Skull Caps
  - Metal Spikes (Majors & below)
  - Choke knobs, choke-up assists, ~~thumb protectors~~ (2026)
    - Attached to Bat – remove; Attached to person – ok
  - Mask with missing screws
    - Pine Tar on taper or barrel, or covering certification mark (2026)
- Damaged Equipment – Remove from game, cannot be fixed
  - Cracked or dented bat
  - Cracked helmet
  - Missing padding in helmet/mask



# More About Bats

## Baseball/Softball – ALL LEVELS Rule 1.10

NOTE 1: The traditional batting donut is not permissible. (USE BATTING SLEEVES)

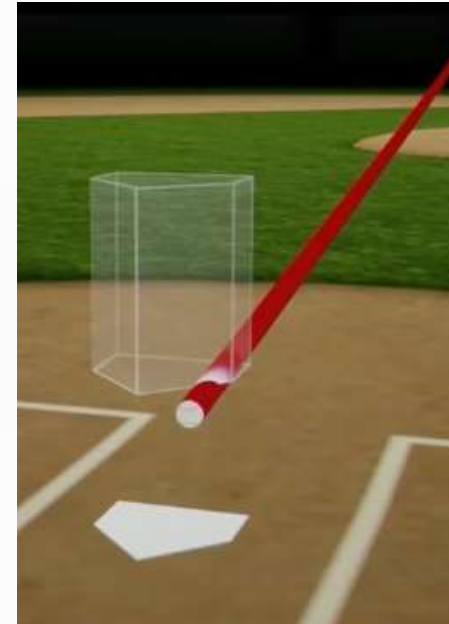
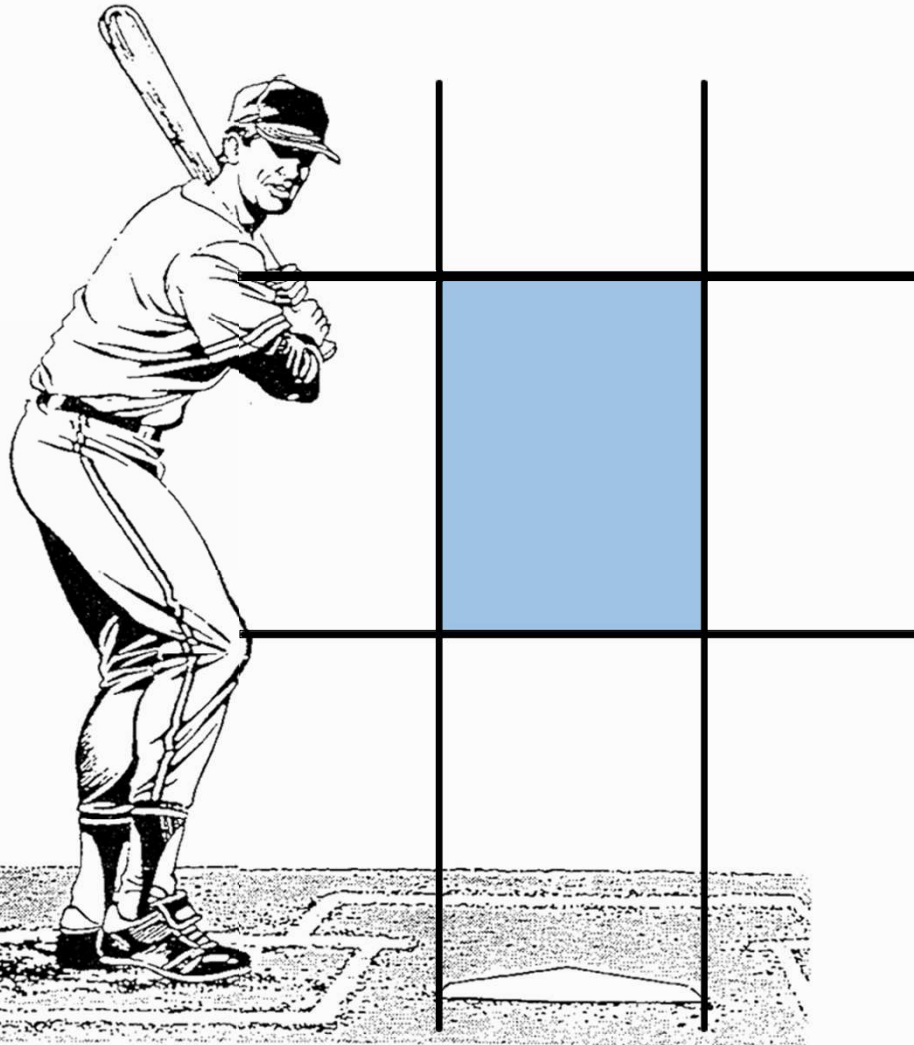


# Reminders...

## 2.00 Strike Zone

The area over the plate from batter's armpits to top of the knees (**natural stance**).

The strike zone remains **stationary** regardless of batter's position in the batter's box.



# Reminders...

ONLY PLAYERS MAY WARM UP PITCHERS –  
NO MANAGERS, NO COACHES...

(you may still observe)

Different than regular season

**Important note:** any player warming up a pitcher or acting as catcher for fielding practice must wear a mask with a dangling throat protector.

Baseball: Must wear catcher's mitt

Softball: May wear catcher's mitt or fielder's glove



# Reminders...

## BASEBALL

### Tournament Rule 4a (ALL except Senior BB):

- ✓ Catches four (4) innings\* or more in a game – not eligible to pitch on that calendar day
- ✓ Catches three (3) innings\* or less, then throws 21 or more pitches – can't catch for the remainder of that calendar day

Clarification: A player who has not yet caught at all may pitch up to 40 pitches and then move to catcher.

## BASEBALL

### Tournament Rule 4

### 8-10, 9-11, 10-12 Little League (Majors):

- ✓ NO player may pitch in more than one game a day



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\* - Catching 1 pitch = 1 inning

# Pitching Limits - Tournament Playing Rule #4

## Baseball -

League Age:	13-16	<i>95 pitches per day</i>
	11-12	<i>85 pitches per day</i>
	9-10	<i>75 pitches per day</i>
	8	<i>50 pitches per day</i>

## Softball -

Little League Majors and below: *Maximum 12 innings/day*



# Pitching Rest – Tournament Playing Rule #4

## Baseball (age 14 and below)

Pitch Threshold:	66+	4 Calendar Days
	51-65	3 Calendar Days
	36-50	2 Calendar Days
	21-35	1 Calendar Day
	1-20	No rest*

\* - Can never pitch 3 consecutive days regardless of pitch count

## Softball –

Little League Majors and below

*7 or more innings/day = one calendar day of rest*  
*1 pitch = 1 inning*



# Reminders...

## Baseball/Softball - ALL LEVELS

### Rule 8.02 (a) (1) - PITCHING HAND TO MOUTH or LIPS

- ✓ **MUST distinctly wipe off pitching hand before touching ball**
- ✓ Baseball - NOT on pitcher's plate
- ✓ Penalty - Ball added to count

Also:

- Rosin bag - YES to bare hand ONLY
- Pitcher cannot rub up ball with hand covered by batting glove



# Reminders...

## Baseball/Softball - ALL LEVELS:

### Intentional Walk/Announcement Rule 6.08 (a) (2)

- ✓ ONCE per batter, per game
- ✓ Can be done prior to or during at-bat; time out/dead ball;
- ✓ Baseball only: add to pitch count as appropriate

### Stay in the Box

#### Rule 6.02 (c)

- ✓ One foot in box between pitches (8 exceptions)
- ✓ One warning per at bat

**UMPIRES WILL CALL STRIKES AS NEEDED**  
(DEAD BALL)



# Reminders...

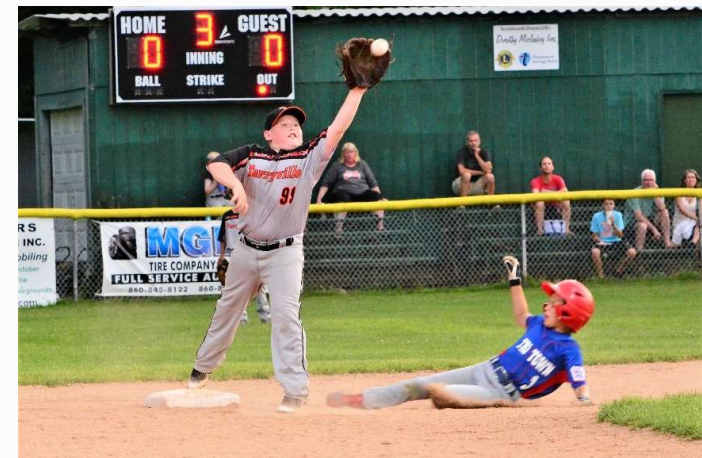
## Baseball/Softball - ALL LEVELS:

### 7.08(a)(3) Slide or ATTEMPT to go around

- ✓ There is NO MUST SLIDE RULE
- ✓ Contact does not mean the runner didn't ATTEMPT to go around fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make a tag

### 7.08(c) Over-running first base

- ✓ Can't be tagged out if immediately returns
- ✓ Can turn in either direction (fair or foul territory)
- ✓ Can overrun first on a walk
- ✓ If umpire judges attempt to go to 2<sup>nd</sup> the runner can be tagged out



# Reminders...

## Baseball/Softball - ALL LEVELS

### Tie Game

### Tournament Rule 14

If the score is tied after the completion of 6 innings (Junior/Senior: 7 innings):

- ✓ Starting in the top of the 7th inning (Junior/Senior: 8th 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



I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	R
0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0		4
0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0		4



# Reminders...

## Baseball/Softball - ALL LEVELS Number of Managers and Coaches

- ✓ Maximum of three (3) adults (or one-time authorized replacements) named on the affidavit
- ✓ All must have completed background checks
- ✓ All must have completed “Diamond Leader” training  
<https://www.littleleague.org/diamondleader/>
- ✓ One adult must keep the scorebook in the dugout



# Reminders...

## Baseball/Softball - ALL LEVELS

### Arm Bands

#### 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



# Reminders...

## Baseball/Softball - ALL LEVELS

### Jewelry

#### Rule 1.11 (j)

- ✓ YES – “hard” items to control the hair (beads)
- ✓ YES – many jewelry items that were previously illegal
- ✓ YES – medical alert



- ✓ NO – “Any jewelry worn by a player that poses harm to injury will be subject to removal.”



# Reminders...

## **Baseball/Softball - ALL LEVELS (except Senior) Mandatory Play - Continuous Batting Order Tournament Rule 9**

- ✓ Players no longer “married” in lineup
- ✓ No Special Pinch Runner (except Senior)
- ✓ 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



# Reminders...

2026  
Update

## Baseball/Softball - ALL LEVELS (except Senior) Courtesy Runner Tournament Rule 3d



- ✓ For catcher or pitcher only
- ✓ Two outs
- ✓ Use last out(s)
- ✓ CAN be used first time through batting order
- ✓ 2026: If running for both pitcher and catcher at the same time:
  - ✓ Out that is due up next replaces lead runner
  - ✓ Out that is due up last replaces trailing runner



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# Reminders...

2026  
Update

## Baseball/Softball - ALL LEVELS Electronic Communications Rule 3.17

- ✓ One way from dugout to catcher only
- ✓ Cannot be used with any other defensive player
- ✓ Never on offense
- ✓ Reasonable amount of time must be given to fix malfunctioning device



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# Rule 8.06 – IS IT A VISIT OR ISN'T IT?

*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.*

**Manager should tell umpire first that he/she is making a pitching change.**

Visits per pitcher:

- ✓ 8-10: 2X/inning or 3X/game then change
- ✓ All others: 1X/inning or 2X/game then change



# Pitchers Returning to Pitch

Post  
Meeting  
Clarification

- ✓ Softball (all ages)
  - ✓ A pitcher removed from the circle or from the game defensively MAY return to pitch
  - ✓ Limit once per inning
  - ✓ Majors/below: Tournament Rule 4(d)
  - ✓ Junior/above: Tournament Rule 4(c)
- ✓ Baseball (Majors/below)
  - ✓ A pitcher removed from the mound may not return as pitcher (Tournament Rule 4(c))
- ✓ Baseball (Intermediate/Junior/Senior)
  - ✓ A pitcher remaining in the game defensively at another position may return to mound (Tournament Rule 4(c))
  - ✓ Limit once per game



# Also...

Per Bristol:

**All players that are eligible and available on the roster must attend and participate in the game.**

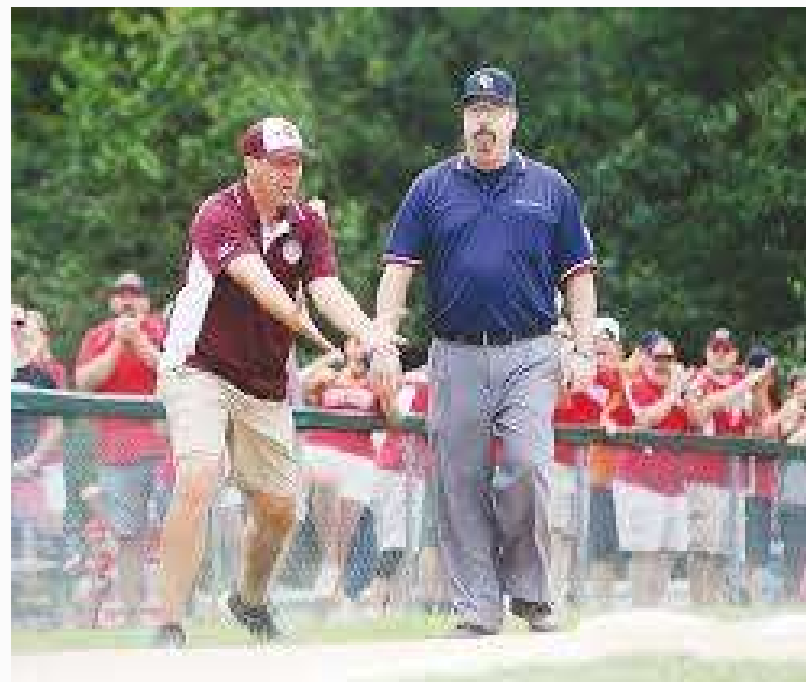
A manager is not permitted to advise otherwise eligible player(s) to sit out or not attend a game in order to have less players. The use of alternates is not permitted.

Know of manager or coach advising players not to suit up or come to a game? Contact District 6 staff immediately.



# What Can NOT Be Protested (“In My Judgment”)

- ✓ Judgment calls:
  - Ball/Strike
  - Safe/Out
  - Fair/Foul
- ✓ Appeal plays
  - ✓ Runner misses base
  - ✓ Failure to tag up
  - ✓ Batting out of turn
- ✓ Quality or accuracy of umpiring
- ✓ Changes in tournament schedule



# What Can Be Protested

- ✓ Ineligible pitcher
- ✓ Ineligible player
- ✓ Possible violation or misinterpretation of playing rule
- ✓ Illegal equipment is a playing rule

As soon as facts become known;  
before either team's next game

Before next pitch, play, or attempted play

***Penalties come from Bristol and/or  
WilliamSPORT. Their decision is FINAL.***

**DON'T CALL THEM!**



# Tournament Protests Procedure

1. Manager makes verbal protest to plate umpire before the next pitch or play; game immediately stops.
2. Plate umpire calls conference with umpiring crew.
3. Unresolved? Plate umpire consults with Site Director or District staff member (if available).
4. Unresolved? Plate umpire or Site Director or District staff member contacts District Administrator. **ONE ONLY!**
5. Unresolved? District Administrator contacts Bristol.
6. Unresolved? Bristol contacts Williamsport.

Game resumes once decision is made.

***Penalties come from Bristol and/or Williamsport.  
Their decision is FINAL. DON'T CALL THEM!***



# Site Directors

- ✓ Field prep – before and between games
- ✓ Coin toss w/Managers
- ✓ Official scorer/pitch counter (Baseball)
- ✓ Games start on time
- ✓ Infrastructure: scoreboard, lights, restrooms, public address system/announcer, etc.
- ✓ Pre-game:
  - Welcome/sportsmanship reminder
  - Player introductions – **first AND last name**
  - National Anthem
  - Little League Pledge
- ✓ Have rulebook available, if needed
- ✓ Pitch count announced - each half inning (Baseball)
- ✓ Food/water for umpires – not required
- ✓ Reporting game scores if district staff is not present



# Dress Code

## Managers/coaches:

- ✓ PREFER you dress alike
  - DO NOT wear same shirts as players
- ✓ NO jeans or sweatpants
- ✓ NO tee-shirts
- ✓ NO sandals or flip-flops

## Players:

- ✓ Conventional uniforms + AFFIXED shoulder patch



# Pre-Game

- ✓ Teams - at game site at least 45 minutes prior to scheduled game time (Managers are encouraged to walk the field upon arrival)
  - ✓ Coin toss – team traveling farthest calls toss;
    - **Winner selects home/visitor OR dugout**
  - ✓ EACH team MUST provide MINIMUM of 3 game balls (4 for Juniors baseball);
    - **BRING EXTRA BALLS WITH YOU - game sites don't have them**
- Baseballs – “RS-T” | Sponsor: AD Star Model AD 100 XL WS  
8-10 Softballs – 11” | Sponsor: AD Star Model OLL 11 PL WS  
All other Softballs – 12” | Sponsor: AD Star Model OLL 12 PL WS
- <https://www.littleleague.org/tournament-resources/approved-balls/>
- ✓ No team may be on the infield 1 hour prior to game time
  - ✓ No batting practice, including soft toss & hit sticks, 45 minutes prior to game time



# Pre-Game

- ✓ **30 minutes prior** to game time - line-ups to scorer's table
- ✓ **30 minutes prior** to game time - visiting team - warmup
- ✓ **20 minutes prior** to game time - home team - warmup
- ✓ **10 minutes prior** to game time: plate conference  
(managers and umpires ONLY)
  - **BRIEF review of ground rules**
  - **"Are all of your players properly equipped to play?"**
  - **"Do you accept this field for play?"**
  - **No on deck batters – keep players in the dugout during play – Majors and below**
- ✓ Player intros – **first AND last name**
- ✓ National Anthem; Little League Pledge



# The Clock is Ticking

SCHEDULED TIME = FIRST PITCH

**Scheduled game start time =  
first pitch**

✓ 60 seconds between innings  
8.03 – Baseball/Softball

✓ 20 seconds between pitches  
8.04 – Baseball, 8.01(v) – Softball;



# Game Time

- ✓ Site officials are responsible for fans
- ✓ Only managers can discuss calls with umpires
- ✓ Two-way communication devices cannot be used
  - ✓ ("Game Changer" is OK)
  - ✓ One-way device from bench to catcher only is OK.
- ✓ Communication with parents, fans, other "coaches" outside the fence is not allowed
- ✓ No firearms, alcohol, tobacco, vaping or controlled substances at game site



# Game Time

- ✓ Team scorebook must be kept in the dugout
  - ✓ If a parent is broadcasting Game Changer from outside the fence, it is unofficial and they cannot communicate with game participants
- ✓ Game site scorebook is the official game record
- ✓ Game site scorekeeper's pitch count is the official pitch count -
  - ✓ Believe you are close to a pitching threshold? ASK before it's too late



# Prevent Protests – Not Appeals

- ✓ **PITCH COUNT:** If scorekeeper or umpire(s) become aware that pitcher has reached his/her pitching limit for the day:

**NOTIFY MANAGER IMMEDIATELY**

- ✓ **ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTIONS:** If scorekeeper or umpire(s) are aware of illegal substitution:

**DO NOT ALLOW IT**

- ✓ **BATTING OUT OF TURN:** Wrong batter comes up - scorekeeper or umpire(s):

**SAY NOTHING**



# Safety – First & Always

- ✓ No on-deck batter (8-10, 9-11, 10-12/Little League (Majors))
- ✓ Lead-off batter - warm-up swings by THEIR DUGOUT
- ✓ **Catcher's masks MUST have dangling throat guard (NO skullcaps)**
- ✓ Players acting in the "capacity of a catcher" must wear mask with dangling throat guard
- ✓ Players ask umpires permission to go to restroom; players must ALWAYS travel in pairs
- ✓ Offensive players MUST keep helmets on while on the field (even during time out); includes retrieving a bat



# Safety – First & Always

- ✓ Players and coaches must remain IN the dugout – not in front of the dugout
- ✓ Dugout gates to remain closed
- ✓ If no dugout gate, players and coaches should not assemble in the opening. No buckets at dugout gates
- ✓ All equipment should remain IN the dugout
- ✓ Players should not handle bats in the dugout



# Safety – First & Always

- ✓ All helmets must have NOCSAE symbol
- ✓ All helmets must have non-glare finish
- ✓ No paint or tape on helmets
- ✓ Stickers/decals not recommended but permitted



# Safety – First & Always

✓ Male catchers must wear a cup

✓ Concussions

Regulation III (d)2 Note 3:

*If a medical professional, umpire, player's manager/coach, or parent determines a player may have sustained a concussion, you **MUST** remove the player from the game for the day.*



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# Safety – First & Always

Thunder & lightning:

- ✓ Thunder heard or lightning seen= minimum 30-minute delay
- ✓ GO TO YOUR CARS (do not stay in dugouts or along fences)
- ✓ New thunder heard or lightning seen resets 30-minute clock (umpires to manage)
- ✓ Majors and below: no new inning after 12 a.m. (midnight)
- ✓ Stay on site until umpires release you



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# Your Binder

MUST be with you EVERY GAME:

✓ Affidavit:

Manager/coach/player replacements

Pitching record

Ejections

✓ Boundary map

✓ Player verification forms

✓ Medical release forms

✓ Any waivers

✓ Manufacturers letter

✓ "Diamond Leader" certificates

✓ Birth certificates – NOT needed



# Baseball/Softball Pitching Record

- ✓ Must be completed by game site scorekeeper
- ✓ Each pitcher who throws one or more pitches must be listed
- ✓ Completed after each game
  - ✓ ALWAYS IN INK (no pencil)
- ✓ Should be reviewed for accuracy by manager
- ✓ Managers – game site scorekeeper or game site director **MUST** initial each entry before you leave

The image shows a blank pitching record form. At the top, there are several boxes for recording game information: "Home Team", "Visitor Team", "Date", "Time", "Location", "Pitcher", "Innings", "Score", "Weather", and "Umpire". Below these are several columns for recording pitcher statistics, including "Pitcher", "Team", "Position", "Innings", "Hits", "Runs", "Earned Runs", "Walks", "Strikeouts", "Errors", and "Pitches". The form is designed to be filled out with ink after each game.

# Ejections

- ✓ Must be recorded by game site scorekeeper - ALWAYS IN INK (no pencil)
- ✓ **Player(s) ejected stay with their team for remainder of game**
- ✓ **Managers/coaches ejected MUST leave the GAME SITE**
- ✓ **Ejections result in 1 game suspension from next physically played game - CANNOT BE AT THE GAME SITE (Rule 4.07)**
- ✓ Individuals suspended may not be replaced
- ✓ Violation may result in further penalties
- ✓ **DON'T CALL BRISTOL OR WILLIAMSPORT**



RECORD OF EJECTIONS

Player / Manager / Coach Name	Opponent	Date	Tournament Director Signature



# More Key Tournament Rules

## Tournament Rule 12: Run Rule

### 8-10, 9-11, 10-12 (Little League/Majors):

- ✓ 15 runs ahead after 3 complete (2½ with home team up)
- ✓ 10 runs ahead after 4 complete (3½ with home team up)

### Intermediate/Juniors/Seniors:

- ✓ 15 runs ahead after 4 complete (3½ with home team up)
- ✓ 10 runs ahead after 5 complete (4½ with home team up)



# More Key Tournament Rules

## **Safety Base** (Double first base)

- ✓ Hits to infield: batter-runner **MUST** use orange base; fielder **MUST** use white base
- ✓ Extra base hit: batter-runner can touch either base
- ✓ Uncaught 3rd strike: batter-runner **AND** fielder can use either base
- ✓ Safe runner must **ALWAYS** return to white base



# More Key Tournament Rules

## Appeal Plays

- ✓ **Ball must be live**
- ✓ Players - verbalize and execute! Tell umpires, then tag the base or runner; unmistakable that the tag is an appeal
- ✓ Runners may advance at their own risk during an appeal play
- ✓ Missed bases and failure to tag up are appeal plays
- ✓ Runner leaving early on the pitch - NOT an appeal play, NOT protestable – it is umpires judgment



# More Key Tournament Rules

## Leaving Early – All Softball

### ✓ This is not an Appeal Play

- ✓ Runner must return or advance as soon as pitcher possesses ball in circle
- ✓ Runner cannot leave before pitch reaches batter
  - ✓ 8-10 Softball
- ✓ Runner cannot leave before pitch is released
  - ✓ 9-11, Majors, Junior, Senior Softball
- ✓ Runner is out (immediate dead ball)
  - ✓ All Softball



# More Key Tournament Rules

## Leaving Early – 8-10, 9-11, Majors Baseball

### ✓ This is not an Appeal Play

✓ Pitcher with ball on the pitcher's plate and catcher in the catcher's box is not a "stop" button

✓ It's a "don't start" button

✓ Runner cannot leave before pitch reaches batter

✓ Flag is thrown and runners return as close as possible to where they started

✓ Free Play for the defense – all outs will count and runners will still return

Example: Bases loaded, any runner leaves early. All 3 runners score, batter thrown out at 3B.

Result: Batter out, all runners return, no runs score

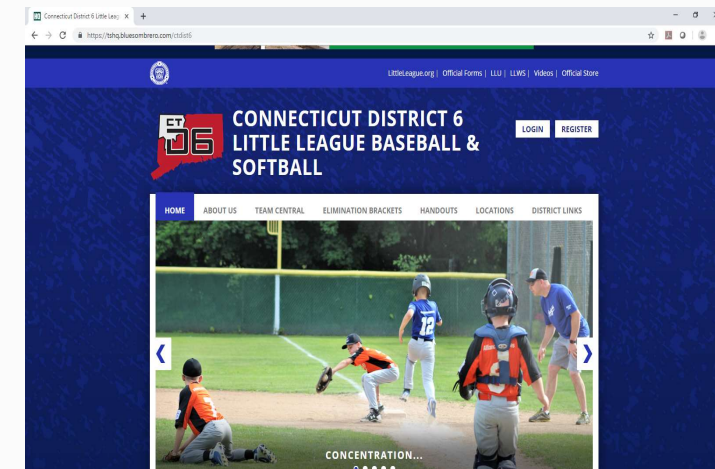


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# Tournament Schedule

- ✓ Schedule will be posted on our website ([www.ctd6.com](http://www.ctd6.com)) and is final
- ✓ District staff can cancel games as little as two (2) hours prior to scheduled game time due to weather and/or field conditions.
- ✓ UNLESS TOLD OTHERWISE, EXPECT TO BE AT THE GAME SITE
- ✓ Games will be rescheduled at the discretion of District staff based on site and umpire availability
- ✓ Continuously bad weather may result in going to a SINGLE ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT. This is NOT PROTESTABLE.

**DON'T CALL BRISTOL OR WILLIAMSPORT**



# Cancellations/Postponements



Subscribe by texting:  
CTDistrict6 to 84483



# Reporting Scores

As soon as possible after your game:

**Text score to:**

**860-805-9518**

**AND**

**860-999-1065**

Need: division, teams, final score.

(i.e., Majors Softball, Team A 6, Team B 4 )

Scores will typically appear on  
[www.ctd6.com](http://www.ctd6.com) later that night.



# Information



District 6 website - [www.ctd6.com](http://www.ctd6.com)

CT State website - <https://tshq.bluesombbrero.com/ctstatell>



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# Rules Questions?

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