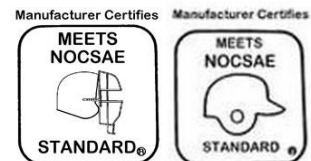


Common Equipment Issues in Little League

1. Sharpie on helmets
 - Do not write on the helmets with a permanent marker. Permanent markers are solvents and will degrade the plastic. Write on the foam inside the helmet instead.
2. Stickers on helmets (rule 1.16, 1.17)
 - Only the manufacturer's approved stickers are allowed on helmets. Helmet warranties will be voided otherwise. Stickers can hide cracks and defects.
3. Foam inside helmets
 - Make sure the foam inside the helmet is not worn, especially around the ear flaps. We toss helmets every year due to worn foam on the helmets.
4. C-flaps on helmets
 - C-flaps are the very popular extensions to the helmet to protect the batter from baseballs to the face. The c-flap must be from the same manufacturer as the helmet and must be attached using existing holes in the helmet. Helmets modified (i.e. drilled) to attach a c-flap will be rejected. All screws must be in place and tight.
5. Cages on helmets
 - Helmet cages are allowed but must have ALL screws firmly attaching the cage to the helmet. Loose or missing screws will be cause for removing the helmet from play. The cage must attach to pre-existing mount points on the helmet; helmets modified (i.e. drilled) will be rejected.
6. Catcher's masks
 - All screws holding the cage in place on the catcher's mask must be present and tight. We see lots of missing or loose screws which will be cause to remove the mask from play. Check these periodically.
7. Dangling throat protectors (rule 1.17)
 - Dangling throat protectors are required on all catcher's masks, even hockey style masks with the wire extension. The throat protector must dangle freely, such that if a catcher tilts his/her head back, the protector will protect the throat. A ball should not be able to pass between the bottom of the mask and the top of the throat guard.
8. Mask certification (rule 1.16, 1.17)
 - All batting and catcher's masks must bear the NOCSAE stamp.



9. Bats (rule 1.10)

- Baseball (AA - Major)
 - Wood or Metal bats are allowed, both 2 ¼ and 2 ⅝ inch barrels. Metal bats must bear a USA Baseball Stamp
- Baseball (Intermediate, Junior, Senior)
 - Wood or Metal bats are allowed, both 2 ¼ and 2 ⅝ inch barrels. Metal bats must bear a USA Baseball or BBCOR stamp. Senior bats cannot exceed a drop 3.
- Softball
 - Wood or Metal bats are allowed not to exceed 2 ¼ inch barrels. Metal bats must bear a BPF 1.20 stamp



10. Pine tar on bats (rule 1.10)

- No pine tar is allowed in Little League

11. Bat handle (rule 1.10)

- Metal bats must have a grip of cork, tape, or composition material, and must extend a minimum of 10 inches from the bat. Ensure the tape is secured and not loose. We see a lot of peeling tape.

12. 1st baseman's mitt (rule 1.14)

- A first baseman's mitt can only be worn at first base. A first baseman can also wear a traditional glove (rule 1.13)



13. Catcher's mitt (rule 1.12)

- Baseball
 - The catcher must wear a catcher's mitt. A traditional glove or first baseman's mitt is not allowed.
 - A player warming up a pitcher while the catcher is getting geared-up must also wear a catcher's mitt and catcher's helmet.
- Softball
 - The catcher, or warm up catcher, may wear any style baseball glove or mitt (catcher's mitt, first baseman's mitt, or traditional glove)



14. Baseball Catcher protection (rule 1.17)

- Male players must wear a cup.
- Male warm up catchers must also wear a cup.

Common Field Issues in Little League

1. Coaches warming up pitchers (Regulation XIV(f), Rule 3.09)
 - Managers and Coaches are not allowed to warm up pitchers on the field or in the bullpen. Let the kids play.
2. Fielders near coaches swinging bats
 - During infield and outfield practices, it is common to have a player receiving baseballs near the coach hitting balls to the players. The player **MUST** wear a full catcher's mask. Kids are unpredictable and may walk into a swinging bat.
 - Use a player for this ball receiving position. Do not use a coach or other adult member
3. Bats in hands (Rule 1.08 Note 2 (AR))
 - During game play, only one player should ever have a bat in hand (except for the on-deck batter retrieving the previous player's bat). We often hear bats rattling around in the dugouts. Bats are weapons in small enclosed spaces.
4. On-deck batters
 - There is no on-deck batter position in Little League baseball (Majors and below) (Regulation XIV (b))
 - The on-deck batter often retrieves the bat from the previous batter if the ball is put in play. The on-deck batter must wear a helmet when retrieving the bat.
5. Fingers in fences
 - Players often grab the field side fence in the dugout. A sharply hit foul ball can easily remove those fingers from the hand. Gross.
6. At least one adult in dugout at all times (Rule 4.05(b), 4.16(b))
 - There must **ALWAYS** be an adult in the dugout when players are present.
7. One manager, two coaches (3 in t-ball) (Rule 1.01)
 - Little League allows for 1 manager and 2 coaches on the field of play. If you have more than 2 coaches, only 2 may be on the field at any one time, unless one is acting as manager for the game.
8. Players stay on the field or in the dugout (Regulation XIV(b))
 - Players are to remain in the dugout or on the field of play at all times, except for biological breaks. COVID-19 protocols may expand the definition of 'dugout'.
9. Fraternizing with fans (Rule 3.09)
 - Players, Coaches, and Managers are not to engage persons off the field of play.
10. Managers & Players request time out (Regulation XIV(d))
 - Manager and Players request time out, the umpires grant it. Managers must stay in the dugout (or base coach position) until time has been granted.
11. Removing batting helmets on the field of play
 - Offensive team members must have their batting helmet on at all times on the field of play. Players shall not remove their helmet until inside the dugout. Failures to comply will result in warnings and/or ejections.
12. Batting donuts are not allowed (Rule 1.10 Note 1)
 - The traditional batting donut is not allowed in little league