



DISTRICT 12 MINOR DIVISION BASEBALL & SOFTBALL INTERLEAGUE RULES – 2026

The following rules were agreed upon by District Administrator and representatives from each league within District 12, for interleague play in the Baseball and Softball divisions.

These rules take precedence over Local League Rules.
OFFICIAL LITTLE LEAGUE RULES APPLY EXCEPT AS NOTED BELOW

GAME PRELIMINARIES

- The Minor Division is intended to provide training and instruction. Managers and coaches in the Minor Division must place emphasis on training young players and providing them with the experience necessary to enable them to advance to the major division.
- The Minor Division is for players league age **8 to 10 years old**. League age 11 years old are NOT permitted without consultation with the District Administrator.
- The Minor Division is player pitch from the beginning through the end of the season.
- **There is a 1 hour 45 minute time limit from the SCHEDULED start time for all Minor division games.** The batter will finish the at bat before the game is called.
- Home team:
 - Is the official scorekeeper
 - Is listed second on schedule and has third base dugout
 - Will provide umpires and game balls. **(3-4 new unused regulation ball for the division)**
 - **Softball – 11" ball will be used. Pitching distance 35 ft.**
- The official scorebook **MUST** be located behind home plate or adjacent to the home team's dugout. (If in the home team's dugout it must be a roster coach or manager from that team). The pitch count book must be located with the official scorebook.
 - Team scorebooks must be in the dugout with the roster coach or manager
- If a team has less than 9 players, **borrowing of players from the other team is allowed**. Pool Play is allowed from a league's other minor division team(s) following Little League guidelines and the Player Agent for that respective league. **Coaches do not select pool players.**
- BATS – Bats must be approved with the USA Baseball screen on the bat. Not applicable for softball. Softball BPF 1.20.
- All catchers gear must meet Little League Rule 1.17.
- **Pitch Count is Mandatory.**
 - **Each team must keep a "Pitching Record" or Pitch Log for the season.**
 - Pitch Log must be provided to the official scorekeeper prior to the start of the game.
 - Failure to provide a pitch log means that there are no eligible pitchers for that game and **THE GAME WILL BE CANCELLED**. The Manager of the violating team will be suspended for the next physically played (not scheduled) game; a second offense will result in a minimum of a two- (2) game suspension for the manger or possible team removal from Inter-league play.
 - At the conclusion of game play, each manager must verify (sign or initial) the other team's pitch log. **This MUST be done prior to any team huddles.**
- Softball Pitching – Max 12 innings per day, 1 day rest if 7 innings pitched.
- **Continuous Batting order will be used.**
- Use of helmet by the batter, all base runner(s) and base coaches is mandatory. (use of helmet by adult base coach is optional) Helmets must comply with Rule 1.16 **including use of decals/stickers.**



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GAME PLAY

- The side is out when 3 outs or 5 runs score in that half-inning. There is no 10-run rule. Players will stay on the field until the play has stopped. Extra runs will not count in the scorebook.
- Teams may only steal home **one time per inning**.
 - This rule includes throwbacks from the catcher to the pitcher after a pitched ball. Teams are not allowed to steal home on a throwback from the catcher after already stealing home once in an inning. Other players may advance at their own risk during throwbacks from the catcher.
 - If a catcher throws to another base, the runner on third may advance at their own risk and it does not count as part of the stealing home once per inning.
 - Players attempting a steal of home after the once per inning will return to third base unless an out is made during the steal attempt. If an out is made on the steal attempt, the out will stand.

END OF GAME

- Each team **MUST** clean their dugout before leaving. This is the manager's responsibility; repeated violations may result in disciplinary action for the manager.

NO TOLERANCE POLICY

- Poor sportsmanship by players, managers, coaches, or parents will not be tolerated. We wish to emphasize the positive aspects of the game. Failure to comply with this rule may result in the disqualification of the player, coach, manager, and/or forfeiture of the game and spectators could be asked to leave the field area.
- Alcohol or any illegal substances are not permitted at any Little League sponsored event, which includes games and practices. Law enforcement will be called if necessary.
- WALK-UP SONGS ARE PERMITTED as long as both teams agree prior to any use at the game. Should one team request "no walk-up" songs, then this will be the policy for that game; whether in your home park or not.

Injury Incident Reports must be filled out for any incident that stops play or practice.

FIGHTING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED:

- "Fighting" includes physical OR verbal assaults, including name-calling, persistent harassment and ALL language construed to be obscene.
- Managers, coaches, and/or players ejected from the game is automatically suspended for their next physically played game and may not be in attendance at the game site. Any person ejected during a game **MUST** be noted in the official scorebook. Reasons for ejection's and suspensions will be reviewed as needed. All ejections shall be reported at azdistrict12@gmail.com.
- Second Offenses will be suspension until the Inter-league Board can convene to render a decision regarding the second offense.



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Game Cancellations or Reschedules:

- All teams that need to cancel or reschedule a game must notify (email) the district at azdistrict12@gmail.com indicating a reason for the cancellation.
- Ensure that the opposing team is contacted prior to game time. A game will NOT be considered cancelled until a reply from the opposing team is received verifying the cancellation. Leaving “Messages” does not constitute a reply.
- Ensure that all scheduled umpires are contacted prior to game time.

Remember: The above needs to occur enough in advance so that all parties (including parents) are informed. You would not like it if the other team failed to notify you, so please make sure that you are not the team which causes others to travel across-District to a game site with a no-show. This effort will also eliminate hosting leagues from having to pay unnecessary field rental and light fees.

- There is no such thing as a **Forfiet**. Quit using this term and educate your parents/players as well. Un-played games are just that: a game that is not played. We do not maintain any win-loss records, in most cases games are not rescheduled, and we are not playing for a championship. So quit emphasizing these as forfeits.