

# Idaho District 2 Little League Umpire Rules Clinic

Spring 2026

March 14, 2026  
Host: South Boise LL  
River Valley Church



Sign-in Here:



# Introduction and Agenda



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[www.idaho2littleleague.org](http://www.idaho2littleleague.org)

- District and UIC Contacts
- Training Schedules
- Training Aids
- Inter-League Rules



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# Introduction and Agenda

[www.idaho2littleleague.org](http://www.idaho2littleleague.org)

**Intended Audience: Umpires with 0-3 years experience and coaches**

**Also Required: Field Clinic**

**Included in this clinic:**

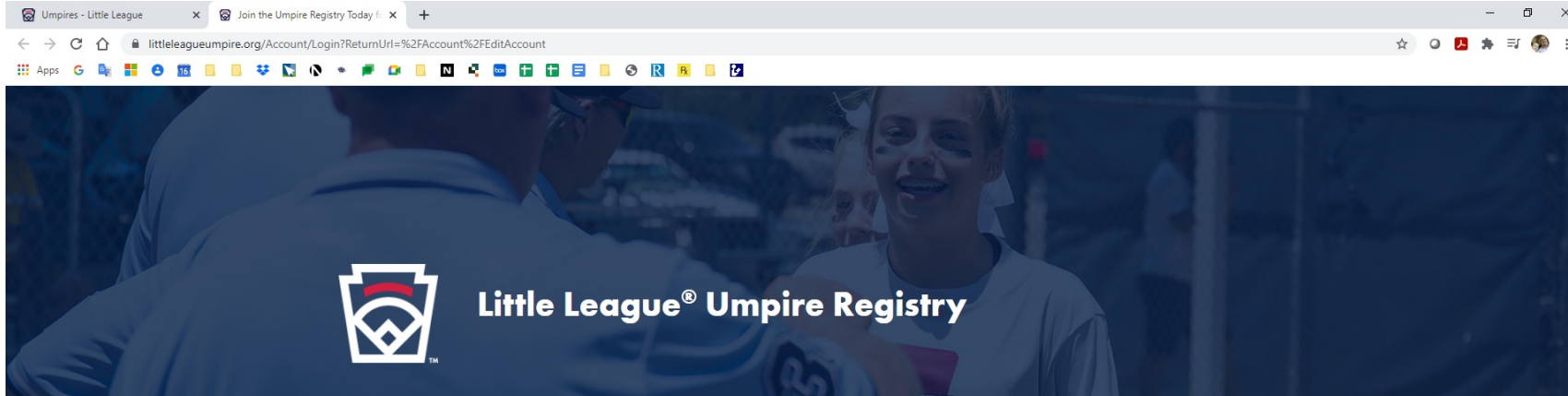
- **Game Management 1 hour**
- **Rules 2 hours**
- **Questions as time allows**



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# Little League Umpire Registry



## Join the Umpire Registry Today for Free!

Being a member of the Little League Umpire Registry provides Little League umpires with access to:

- the latest information on rule updates/interpretations.
- umpire mechanics training videos & manuals.
- information and registration for available training programs, and
- volunteering for Regional and/or World Series tournaments\*

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Questions? Email [support@littleleague.org](mailto:support@littleleague.org).

<https://www.littleleagueumpire.org>



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# Rule Changes for 2026

## Regulations...

- **Regulation IV(i) – Note 5 – Mandatory Play:** Clarifies that during tournament play and anytime the continuous batting order is used, a courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher and/or catcher of record before that pitcher and/or catcher of record completes the requirements of mandatory play.
- In addition to the above clarification, the following regulations also have minor edits and clarifications as noted in Little League's *Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Operating Policies*:
  - Regulation I – The League (c)(5)
  - Regulation V – Selection of Players (b)
  - Regulation IX – Special Games (4)
  - Regulation XIII – Commercialization (b)



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# Rule Changes for 2026

## Rules...

- **Baseball and Softball – Rule 1.10 – Note 2 – Use of Pine Tar:** Permits the use of pine tar or any other similar adhesive substance at all levels of Little League Baseball and Softball.
- **Baseball and Softball – Rule 1.10 – A.R. 2 – Products to Assist the Batter:** Updates wording to permit the use of thumb protectors and clarifies that products such as, but not limited to, choke-knobs and choke-up assists are not permitted.
- **Baseball – Rule 1.11(a)(3) – Sleeves Worn by the Pitcher:** Removed the “neoprene” sleeve distinction in the rule to now include all sleeves.
- **Baseball and Softball – Rule 3.04, 7.14(b), T-3(d) – Courtesy Runner:** Clarifies the placement of runners when a team courtesy runs for the pitcher and/or catcher of record with 2 outs at the same time.



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# Rule Changes for 2026

## Rules...continued...

- **Baseball and Softball – Rule 3.17 – Malfunctioning One-Way Communication Device:** Clarifies that a reasonable amount of time must be provided to a team to correct a malfunctioning one-way communication device.
- **Baseball and Softball – Rule 4.04 – Note 2 – When a Player is Injured, Becomes Ill, or Must Leave the Game Site:** Provides guidance for situations when a player is unable to complete a plate appearance or run after reaching base safely due to injury, illness, or ejection while using the continuous batting order during the regular season.
- **Baseball and Softball – Rule 4.18 – Forfeited Games:** Removed the requirement for the scorebook to be signed by the Umpire-in-Chief for forfeited games.



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# Rule Changes for 2026

## Rules...continued...

- **Baseball and Softball – Rule 6.06(d) – Illegal Bats:** Reworded to provide consistency with Tournament Rule 3(b).
- **Baseball and Softball – Rule 7.15(g) – Procedures for Use of a Double First Base:** Clarifies that on an uncaught third strike, the fielder and the runner can use either part of the base.
- **Baseball – Rule 8.06(b) Note – Visits to the Pitcher and Returning as Pitcher (INT/JL/SL):** Clarifies that in the Intermediate (50/70), Junior League, and Senior League Divisions, the number of visits remaining does not prevent a pitcher once removed from the mound as pitcher from returning as pitcher.
- **Softball – Rule 8.06(b) Note – Visits to the Pitcher and Returning as Pitcher:** Clarifies that the number of visits remaining does not prevent a pitcher once removed from the pitcher's plate as pitcher from returning as pitcher.



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# Rule Changes for 2026

## Tournament Rules...

### Baseball and Softball – Tournament Rule 3(b) – Illegal Bats:

Reworded to provide consistency with Rule 6.06(d). In addition to the above clarification, the following Tournament Rules also have minor edits and clarifications as noted in Little League's *Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Operating Policies*:

- Tournament Organization – Tournament Eligibility Affidavit
- Tournament Organization – Player Eligibility
- Guidelines for Conduct of Tournament: Expenses



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# Game Management

## You the Umpire

- Safety and Participation
- Confidence and Dress
- Game Control
  - Speed
  - Coaches
- Consistency
- Hustle
- Mistakes-
  - They will happen
  - Get through them!!!



# Game Management

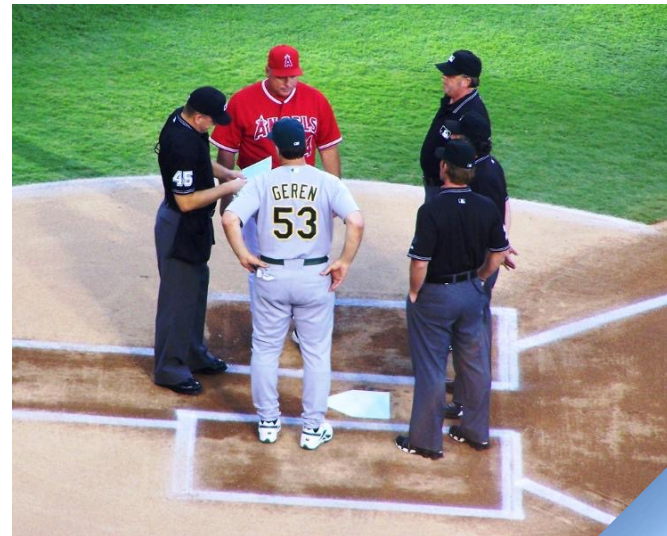
- Arrive 30 minutes prior to game time
- Pregame duties:
  - Check field(playable conditions)
  - Dress and meet crew
  - Watch warm-ups
  - Start infield on time
  - Get game balls
  - Check pitching affidavits
  - Identify scorekeeper and pitch counter
  - Start game on time!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



# Game Management

## Plate Meeting

- Five minutes before gametime
- Exchange Lineups
- Captains are Optional
- Introductions
- Speed, Safety, Sportsmanship
- Proper Attire, Legal Equipment
- Ground rules, Hazards
- **Start on Time!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



# Game Management

## Start the Game

- Warm up Pitches
  - 8 pitches or 1 minute
  - Common sense and consistency
  - New pitcher: Full warm ups,
    - Returning pitcher,
      - Maybe!!!!
  - Warm up batter at their dugout
  - Must have two base coaches
- Gates closed
- Play!!!!!!!



# Game Management

## During the Game:

- Home plate umpire(UIC)
  - Every dead ball back in play
  - Record all changes
- 1<sup>st</sup> base helps with warmups
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>...Stay awake...check swings
- Coaches request time
- Weather: Appendix A
- Help your partners
  - Never overrule fellow umpire(9.02c)
  - Confer if necessary



**If You See It, Flee It;  
If You Hear It, Clear It**



**REMEMBER:**

- Track approaching storms the best way possible: Internet radar websites, dedicated storm warning system at field, or other storm warnings
- Evacuate fields when storms are about 10 miles away: Have players and spectators go to enclosed building or to cars with windows rolled up
- Clear fields immediately after thunder has been heard or lightning seen!

**PLEASE WAIT!**

- Wait 30 minutes before returning to play after last sign of lightning activity in your area
- Cars shouldn't leave until the game is called, so all players can be accounted for

Guidelines from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service

# Game Management

## End the Game:

- Meet near pitcher's mound
- Leave immediately: Avoid a protest
- Leave through winning dugout
- Home plate umpire signs pitch affidavits



# Regulations

## Regulation IV

- Mandatory Play IV(i)

## Regulation VI

- Catch/Pitch rule VI(a)
  - Baseball only
- Days rest
  - Baseball VI(d)
  - Softball VI(b)

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**Download the FREE Rulebook App Today!**



# Rules

**THE RULE BOOK- Know it, but don't be intimidated**

## Regulations

**Rule One – Objectives of the Game**

**Rule Two – Definitions**

**Rule Three – Game Preliminaries**

**Rule Four – Starting and Ending**

**Rule Five – Putting the Ball in Play**

**Rule Six – The Batter**

**Rule Seven – The Runner**

**Rule Eight – The Pitcher**

**Rule Nine – The Umpire**



# Rules

## **RULE FOUR – STARTING and ENDING** **Time limits (For Inter-League Play)**

- **Baseball**
  - **Single A: 2hr No new inning, 2hr15min DD**
  - **Minors: 1hr45min No new inning**
  - **Majors: 2hr No new inning**
  - **Intermediate and Above: No time limit, unless playing a double header, then 2hr30min Drop Dead**



# Rules

## **RULE FOUR – STARTING and ENDING** **Time limits (For Inter-League Play)**

- **Softball**
  - **Rookies: 1hr30min No new, 2hr DD**
  - **AA: 1hr30min No new, 2hr DD**
  - **AAA: 1hr45min No new, 2hr15min DD**
  - **Majors: 1hr45min No new, 2hr30min DD**
  - **Seniors: 2hr No new, 2hr30min DD**



# Rules

## **RULE FOUR – STARTING and ENDING...cont...**

- 15,10,8 run rule after 3,4,5,innings(4,5,6 for Seniors 4.10(e))
- Five runs/inning(Minors)5.07
- Ejections 4.07
- Shortened game for weather 4.10(c)
- Incomplete inning 4.11(d)
- 8 players required to start or continue a game 4.16 & 4.17
- Protesting a game 4.19



# Rules

## RULE SIX - THE BATTER

- Running lane to first 6.05(j)
- Foot outside batter's box 6.06(a)
- Interference with catcher – right to the box 6.06(c)
- Not caught 3<sup>rd</sup> strike 6.05(b)
- Hit batter – ball/strike/swing 6.08(b)
- Infield fly 6.05(d)&(k)
- Batting out of order 6.07
  - Proper
  - Improper
  - Legalized



# Rules

## BATTING OUT OF ORDER 6.07

AT BAT	ON BASE and BEFORE NEXT PITCH	AFTER PITCH
If appeal is made before improper batter completes time at bat	If appeal is made after improper batter completes time at bat, but before next pitch or play	If appeal is made after next pitch or play
Proper batter can take place in batter's box and assume count	Proper batter is called out	Improper batter and his/her actions are legal
All base runners advances are legal	Base runners advances due to actions of improper batter are nullified – other advances are legal	All base runners advances are legal
	Next batter is the one who's name follows that of the proper batter who was called out	Batting order continues with batter following legalized improper batter
Easy	Almost Easy	Easy



# Rules

## COMMON BATTING QUESTIONS

- Are the hands part of the bat? NO
- Does the batter have to avoid being hit by a pitch?

YES 6.08b

- How many times per game can a player be intentionally walked without throwing pitches?

ONE What happens to the pitch count?

NUMBER OF PITCHES TO GET TO THE WALK ADDED TO THE PITCH COUNT 6.08a(2)

- Is the ball dead on a foul tip? NO 2.00 (foul tip)
- Is the batter entitled to the batter's box?

NO, 6.06c



# Rules

## COMMON BATTING QUESTIONS...Continued...

- What happens if a player uses an illegal bat?  
**BATTER IS OUT, ALL RUNNERS RETURN, AND BATTER AND MANAGER EJECTED 6.06d**
- What happens when a player cannot bat or run with continuous batting order(CBO)?  
**BATTER/RUNNER IS REPLACED BY THE PLAYER THAT RECORDED THE LAST OUT 4.04(2)**



# Rules

## **RULE SEVEN – THE RUNNER**

- Touch bases in order 7.02
- Two runners on the same base 7.03
- Hit ball goes out of play – two bases 7.05f
- Ball thrown out of play 7.05g
  - Infielder/Outfielder
  - Pitcher
- Obstruction 7.06
  - Rule A – Play being made – Dead ball
  - Rule B – Play not being made – Delayed dead ball
- Running out of baseline 7.08a



# Rules

## **RULE SEVEN – THE RUNNER...Continued...**

- **Dislodged base 7.08c**
- **Runner touched by a batted ball 7.08f**
- **Passing a preceding runner 7.08h**
- **Appeal play 7.10**
- **Special pinch runner 7.14a**
  - **Does not apply in continuous batting order**
- **Courtesy runner 7.14b**
  - **Pitcher/Catcher with 2 outs**



# Rules

## RUNNER LEAVES EARLY 7.13

### BASEBALL

No Hit	There is a Hit	Bunt, Hit, Error within the infield
Send him back	Batter only gets single, double etc. per umpire judgment unless put out. All runners backed up as far as possible	No run may score If bases loaded, disappearing runner

### SOFTBALL

Dead ball, No pitch, Runner is out



# Rules

## **INTERFERENCE 7.09**

- **Offensive interference – interferes with, impedes, hinders or confuses any fielder**
  - **Catcher's interference 6.08c**
  - **Umpire's interference 5.09 b,f**
  - **Spectator interference 3.16**
- 
- **Always dead ball, sometimes delayed**



# Rules

## COMMON RUNNER QUESTIONS

- **When can runners leave the base?**  
7.13 Baseball –When the ball reaches the batter.  
Softball, Minors, when ball reaches batter, Majors and above, when the pitcher releases ball.
- **Can a runner slide headfirst while advancing?**  
NO 7.08a(4) Majors and below
- **Does Little League have a “must slide” rule?**  
NO 7.08a(3) must slide OR attempt to get around fielder
- **Does a runner always have the right to the basepath?**  
NO 7.09j Must avoid fielder attempting to field a batted ball



# Rules

## COMMON RUNNER QUESTIONS...Continued...

- **When is a runner out of the basepath?**  
7.08a Running more than 3 ft away from his/her basepath to avoid being tagged, unless avoiding interference
- **When and how can a team make an appeal?**  
7.10 Ball has to be live
- **When can the offense use a Courtesy Runner?**  
7.14b only for pitcher/catcher with 2 outs



# Rules

## **RULE EIGHT – THE PITCHER**

- **Two positions – windup and set 8.01(Baseball)**
- **60sec. or 8 pitches between innings 8.03**
- **Illegal pitch, ball to batter unless hit, then coaches choice**
  - **Baseball – 60ft bases, no balk; 70ft-90ft, balk, with runners on base**
- **Call illegal pitch when you see it, do not stop play. Quick pitch 8.05e/8.05c, Hidden ball 8.05i/8.05d, Dropped ball 8.05j**
- **Intentional walk 8.05k/6.08a(2)**



# Rules

## **RULE EIGHT – THE PITCHER...Continued...**

- **Coach gets 1 trips to the mound in one inning, 2<sup>nd</sup> he changes pitchers or 3<sup>rd</sup> trip in a game 8.06 (Majors and Above. Minors and below remains 2 per inning and 3 per game)**



# Rules

## COMMON PITCHING QUESTIONS

- What are the pitch restrictions for baseball and softball?

### Regulation VI

- Does a pitcher have to be removed for hitting too many batters?

**NO, Coaches should use good judgement to remove**

- How many visits can a coach make to the mound before having to remove the pitcher?

**8.06a,b**



# Rules

## COMMON PITCHING QUESTIONS...Continued...

- **Are their balks in Little League?**  
Baseball – yes, Intermediate and above  
Softball - No
- **Can pitchers wear...**
  - **Sleeves? Yes, 1.11a(3)**
  - **Batting glove? Yes, non pitching hand 1.15b**
  - **Play-call band? Yes, worn properly 1.11a(3)**
  - **Sunglasses? Yes, 1.00 worn properly**



# Rules

## **RULE NINE - THE UMPIRE**

- **9.01c Authority to rule on any point not specifically covered**
- **9.02a No one may object to any judgement decisions**
- **9.04a Permits the plate umpire to stand behind the catcher or pitcher if adopted by the Local League(Intraleague) or Interleague rules**



