

NM District 5 - 2026 Interleague Rules

The 2026 Little League Baseball, Inc. regular-season rules apply in all interleague baseball and softball games. These interleague rules do not replace Little League regular-season rules, but are meant to enhance them. Refer to the 2026 rule book for clarification on rules or regulations not mentioned in this handout. Local league rules do not apply to interleague games.

Exception: Local league minimum play rules, if stricter than the official playing rules, will apply to its own teams and be monitored by each local league.

1. **Line of Communication:**
 - a. Manager to league president or other designated local board member
 - b. League president to another league president
 - c. League president to District Staff or District Administrator

2. **Game Monitor:** The host site will have an adult (18 years of age or older) monitor on duty. This person will identify themselves to the managers before game time. The monitor will not be an adult participating in the game, i.e. manager, coach, or umpire

3. **Coach ID Badges:** Prior to the start of the game, all on-field personnel (manager, coaches) will present id badges to the host league's designated official or the chief umpire for verification. If a manager, coach, or umpire does not have a valid 2026 badge, that individual will not be allowed on the field

4. **Game Cancellation:** If a manager is unable to field a team, the manager must provide a minimum of 24-hour notice, but preferably a 48-hour notice to the opposing manager. Each team will have a 15-minute grace period from the scheduled start time to field a team. In the event a team does not have 8 players present at the scheduled game time, or if the game is cancelled, the home team manager will work with the opposing manager to find an available date to reschedule the game. If a team fails to give proper notice of cancellations, the offending team's manager, may be subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension of the manager

5. **Field Preparation:** Both teams should help with field and game preparations, including lining and raking the fields. Each team is responsible for cleaning all trash in the dugout and around the bleacher area before leaving the little league complex. If a game is being played at a neutral field these same responsibilities apply. Home team is ultimately responsible to ensure field is ready for play and will also ensure field is secured after play if there are no other scheduled games on that field

6. **Scorekeeper:** Both teams will provide a scorekeeper, but the official scorekeeper is the home team scorekeeper. The pitching affidavit and pitch count record must be shown to the opposing team's scorekeeper prior to the start of the game and be kept by the scorekeeper. Both managers and the scorekeepers must sign the pitching affidavits. Managers are responsible for giving changes to both scorekeepers
Note: Pitching affidavits must be filled out in pen. The official scorekeeper will keep the pitch count record.
 - It is highly encouraged that each coach keep score via their personal electronic device via GameChanger as opposed to having extra volunteer score keepers present at the fields
7. **Sunset Time:** Sunset time shall end all games when no lights are available. Home Scorekeeper will verify sunset time and inform both managers prior to the start of the game. Ultimately, it is each manager's responsibility to keep track of the sunset time
8. **Umpires:** The home team will provide the plate umpire. The visiting team will provide the field umpire
9. **Game Balls:** Each team will provide game balls, 2 for Rookie/Minor/Major divisions, 3 for Intermediate/Junior/Senior divisions
- 10. Baseball/Softball Time Limits:**
 - a. There is a 2-hour, drop dead, time limit for major divisions and below, or 20 minutes prior to the next scheduled game, or regulation game, whichever comes first. No new inning shall start after 1 hour and 45 minutes
 - b. Intermediate BB and above, and Junior softball and above, shall have no new inning start after the 2-hour time limit, but shall finish 20 minutes prior to the next scheduled game, or regulation game, whichever comes first. There is also a 2.25 hour (135 minutes), drop dead time limit for these games. If the time limit is reached during a batter's at bat, the game shall continue until the batter is put out, or the third out is made to complete the half inning or the game. No new batter shall begin after the time limit has been reached
 - c. Double headers will have a 1 hour and 45-minute time limit with 15 minutes between games. No new inning shall start after 1 hour and 30 minutes
 - d. Late games under the lights will end at 9:50 pm
11. **Batting Order:** A continuous batting order will be used for all divisions
12. **Rule 4.16(a)** This rule will be adopted for regular season play. Allows a game to start with only 8 players
13. **Rule 4.17** This rule will be adopted for regular season play. Allows a game to continue with only 8 players

14. **Rule 6.02 (c)** This rule will be adopted for regular season play. (Mandates batters keep one foot in the batter's box during their at-bat)
15. **Rule 9.04 (a)** This rule will be adopted for regular season play if only 1 umpire is available. Allows umpire to stand behind the pitcher. (Every effort should be made to field a minimum of 2 umpires)
16. **Baseball Runs:**
- There will be a **5** run limit per inning for Minors, a **7** run per inning limit for Majors, and an **8** run limit for Intermediate, Junior, and Senior divisions
 - Runs are unlimited in the last regulation inning
 - All runs will count for an over-the-fence home run regardless of inning.
 - Rule 4.10 (e) applies to all games
17. **Softball Runs:**
- There will be a **5** run limit per inning for Minors, a **7** run per inning limit for Majors, and an **8** run limit for Junior and Senior divisions.
 - Runs are unlimited in the last regulation inning.
 - All runs will count for an over-the-fence home run regardless of inning.
 - Rule 4.10 (e) applies to all games
18. **Protests:** In accordance with 2026 Regulations and Playing Rules. The President from both leagues, the umpire at the time of the protest, and the District Administrator or Assistant District Administrator will review the protest.
19. **Code of Conduct:** Any violation of the code of conduct will not be tolerated. All violations will be documented by each league and reported to both league's Board of Directors for review and appropriate action. Repeat offenses by a manager or coach may be grounds for suspension from interleague play
- 20. Courtesy Runners:** Rules 3.04 and 7.14 will be implemented for interleague play
- 21. Unsportsmanlike Conduct – Relaying of Signs:** Rule 9.01(d) shall not apply to the relaying or stealing of signs

Additional Rookie Softball Rules:

- There will be no restrictions on substitutions
- Rookie Softball will use an 11-inch ball
- See NM D5 Rookie Interleague Rules

Championships:

There is no interleague championship game. Each league will determine its own championship teams.