

Virginia District 4 Little League Baseball & Softball

Tournament Policies & Procedures

These policies and procedures are a guideline for District Level Tournament play. All Regular and Tournament Season Rules for Little League International will be followed. The District Administrator(DA) (and all ADAs appointed by the DA) is the direct authority for the overall organization and, administration of the Tournament. All local league regular season playing rules do not apply.

I. PRE-GAME:

Until play begins, the game belongs to the Tournament Director (TD). The TD is a direct representative of the District Administrator (DA). The TD and both managers (a coach listed on the Affidavit may represent the manager at this meeting) shall meet at the game site 45 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. At this time, each manager will provide the TD with the following:

- A complete properly approved Tournament Team Eligibility Affidavit
- A list of players by ASCENDING PLAYER UNIFORM NUMBER (NOT batting order) which includes the phonetic pronunciation of names, as necessary. This list will also include the names of the manager, coaches, and League President.
- Three copies of a complete team lineup (which includes the starting players, their uniform numbers and starting field positions and also the remaining players available for substitution and their uniform numbers. The lineup may use players' first and last names or only last names, but may not use only first names.

After the above information is provided to the TD, a coin will be flipped and the winner may choose to be either the home or visiting team. The home team SHALL take the first base dugout and the visiting team SHALL take the third base dugout. If only one manager (or approved coach) is present at the coin toss 45 minutes prior to game time or only one manager has ALL the required information listed above, no coin toss is necessary. The team that is present and/or provides all the required information may choose to be the home or visiting team.

TD check list at coin toss

1. Introduce managers/representative
2. Collect Affidavits (Meeting cannot continue without them)
3. Share verbally who is ineligible to pitch for each team.
4. State that all rules will be followed to the letter!! Give any clarifications necessary (i.e. – substitution rules, mandatory playing time, lights out procedure, pitcher eligibility)
5. Discuss bench control and spectator control.
6. Discuss safety (on deck batters, catcher's equipment, etc.), Base coaches (staying in boxes), Notification of Line ups/substitutions. Please keep your players well hydrated.
7. Ten Run Rule (4:10e)
8. Game halted by weather (will normally wait 30 minutes to call the game)
9. Remind Managers that **ONLY** the Manager & Two Coaches listed on the affidavit are

allowed in the dugout or on the field from the time of taking possession of the dugouts til the end of the game.

10. Protests will be resolved at Field!!!!

11. Night Games (Curfew) field times may vary! Remind managers of lights out time.

12. Good luck to both teams toss of the coin (Winner chooses Dugout – 1st base home / 3rd base visitor)

13. The TD shall see that both teams are in their respective dugouts 30 minutes prior to scheduled game time.

PLAY SAFE AT ALL TIMES!!

II. PRIOR TO START OF THE GAME:

The visiting team (3rd base dugout) begins 10 minutes of infield practice 30 minutes prior to game time. The home team begins 10 minutes of infield practice 20 minutes prior to game time.

Ten (10) minutes before game time start announcing teams.

1. Visiting team by ASCENDING PLAYER NUMBER (NOT Batting Order), Coaches, Manager, League President or League Representative.
2. Home Team by ASCENDING PLAYER NUMBER, Coaches, Manager, League President or League Representative.

NOTE: Players will line up on their respective base lines (Home 1st base side, Visitor 3rd base side).

3. Umpires announced (3rd, 2nd, 1st base and Home Plate/Umpire-in-Chief Umpire) and Tournament Director.

At the end of the introductions, the National Anthem is played with everyone standing. This shall be followed by the Little League and then the Parents Pledge.

At the end of the National Anthem/Pledges, the Team Managers, Coaches and Team Captains shall meet at home plate with the TD and Umpires.

At the Home Plate meeting, the TD will make all introductions, make any appropriate comments and then turn the proceedings over to the Chief Umpire. After any comments made by the Chief Umpire the game should begin.

III. INCLEMENT WEATHER:

In the event of rain or otherwise improper conditions, before play begins, the TD makes the decision whether a game can be played, postponed, or delayed. The TD may solicit advice from DA, Umpires, Managers and Coaches. Safety and field condition will be the deciding factor. Once play has begun, this decision belongs to the Umpire-in-Chief. The UIC may defer this decision to the TD.

IV. MANAGERS:

The actions of Managers, Coaches, and League Officials must be **EXEMPLARY** at all times. No profanity or unsportsmanlike conduct will be tolerated. Please advise all of your parents and volunteers that alcohol, tobacco (all types), and vaping, are not allowed during any tournament game. Any such party will be removed from the grounds and all incidents will be reported to the District Administrator.

You as either a Manager or Coach sets the example for the rest of the team and spectators.

Managers must have available a copy of the Tournament Rules (located in the back of the Little League Rulebook or on the Little League Rulebook App) and must be acquainted with these rules.

Managers shall meet with the TD 45 minutes prior to game time. (See instructions above for pre-game meeting).

All Manager and Coaches must remain in the dugout once the game begins and must request and receive time before leaving the dugout.

Managers, Coaches, and Players **WILL NOT** be permitted to question judgment calls either on the field or from the dugout. The questioning of judgment calls will be grounds for removal from the game.

V. PLAYERS

All players must conduct themselves in an **EXEMPLARY** manner at all times. They may not throw equipment, including helmets and bats. At the end of each inning, the players shall hustle on and off the field.

All players must remain in their dugouts and may not leave the field or dugout without permission of an umpire once play has started.

Players may not question judgment calls either verbally or through any exhibition or demonstration. NOTE: a violation may result in removal from the game.

VI. UMPIRES

Umpires shall inspect all equipment and fields prior to game time to insure compliance with Little League regulations. Any equipment found not to be official shall be removed before play begins and taken to the TD. The TD will hold the equipment until the end of the game.

Umpires will meet with the TD, Managers, Coaches, and Captains at home plate following the playing of the National Anthem/Pledges. At this meeting the Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) will receive line-up cards. Umpires will review ground rules with both team representatives. Umpires will also discuss and insure both teams understand procedures for a protest situation as stated in the Tournament Rules. Umpires should also, at this time, review and clarify any special curfews and, lights out situations at the respective playing field.

Umpires **SHALL** not mingle with spectators, managers, or players before, during, or after a game. Umpires should leave the field immediately after a game.

In the event of inclement weather after the game has begun and is called by the UIC, the UIC and rest of the crew shall speak with the TD before leaving the field.

VII. HOST LEAGUE

The League hosting the game should ensure the following and provide the following:

- Ensure that fields are in proper playing conditions
- Provide a Scorekeeper, Pitch Counter and an Announcer (**all volunteers must arrive 45-minutes prior to game time**)
- Provide adequate ground crew to make repairs as needed
- Ensure that a copy of the Tournament Rules and these procedures are on the premises for each game
- Provide written ground rules prior to the tournament to the DA.
- Supply a public address system.
- Recording of the National Anthem/Little League Pledge
- Sufficient baseballs (recommend one dozen)
- Appropriate First-Aid equipment and/or a local volunteer aid unit.

OFFICIAL DISTRICT 4 Tournament Announcement Procedures

- 30 minutes before game, announce Visitor's 10-minute infield practice starting.
- 23 minutes before game give Visitor's three (3) minute warning.
- 20 minutes before game, announce Home team's 10-minute infield practice.
- 13 minutes before game give Home team three-minute warning.
- 10 Minutes before game time start pre-game announcements:

➤ Good (evening/morning/afternoon) and welcome to _____
home of the _____ Little League. We are proud to host
today's (tonight's) game of the District 4 _____ tournament between
_____ (visitor) and _____ (home)

➤ Introduce visiting team first in ascending Player number order, Coaches, Manager and then League President or League Representative.

➤ Introduce home team in ascending Player number order, Coaches, Manager, League President or League Representative.

➤ Introduce Umpires & TD.

3rd base _____

2nd base _____

1st base _____

Home Plate _____

Tournament Director _____

➤ Please ask everyone to rise for the National Anthem and to remain standing for reciting the Little League Pledge & Parents Pledge.

➤ At the conclusion of National Anthem/Pledges request Managers, Coaches and Captains to meet at home plate with the Umpires and TD.

While the Home plate meeting is proceeding start announcing the starting line ups by batting order.

Announce each batter and substitution individually.

Announce at each half inning the pitch count for each current pitcher of record and score. (Note: DO NOT announce total if game is a complete crushing by one or the other teams).

Music is not only allowed but highly encouraged between innings. Please make sure music is appropriate for all ages.

Announcer please also be aware of the neighborhood surrounding the fields. At 9:30pm please turn volume down.

At the end of the game, give complete totals.

Thank everyone for attending; advise them to drive safely and remind players, coaches, managers, and umpires of the refreshments.

These are the only announcements that are authorized. Please do not freelance and announce such things as good and bad plays. Keep announcing to a minimum. The Umpire-in-Chief or the TD must direct any other announcements.

SAFETY NOTE: District 4 strongly discourages Leagues from rewarding children for returning foul balls to the press box. Chasing after foul balls for a reward creates a safety hazard to the kids and is not authorized during a District 4 Tournament.

Little League Pledge (Visiting Team)

I trust in God.

I love my country and will respect its laws.

I will play fair and strive to win.

But win or lose I will always do my best.

The Little League Parent/Volunteer Pledge (Home Team)

I will teach all children to play fair and do their best.

I will positively support all Managers, Coaches, and Players.

I will respect the decisions of the umpires.

I will praise a good effort despite the outcome of the game.