

2026 Little League Baseball Tournament Rule Summary

Updated 25-May-2026

| | 8/9/10 year old | 9/10/11 year old | Little League (10/11/12) | Intermediate (11/12/13) | Juniors (12/13/14) | Seniors (13-16) | |
|---|--|--|--------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Non-wood Bats | USABat Certification Required | | | USABat or BBCOR | | BBCOR | |
| Mandatory Play | Replaced with mandatory use of continuous batting order. | | | | | Does not apply | |
| No new inning after | Midnight | | | 12:30 AM | | 1:00AM | |
| Pitchers | Pitches/Day | 8-year-old: 50 | 9- or 10-year-old: 75 | 11- or 12-year-old: 85 | 13- to 16-year old: 95 | | |
| | Rest | 1 – 20 pitches: no rest 21 – 35 pitches: 1 calendar day 36 – 50 pitches, 2 calendar days rest. 51 – 65 pitches, 3 calendar days 66+: 4 calendar days. | | | | 1 – 30: no rest; 31 – 45: 1 day; 46 – 60: 2 days; 61 – 75: 3 days; 76+: 4 days. | |
| | Multiple Games | May only pitch in one game per day | | | If < 31 pitches thrown in first game. | | |
| | Consecutive Games | Pitching in consecutive games is allowed, subject to rest requirements. May not pitch on 3 consecutive days regardless of circumstances. | | | | | |
| | Suspended Game Resumed Next Day | If pitched 20 or fewer pitches, may continue – pitch count starts at zero. If 21-40 pitches, may continue – pitch count picks up from previous game. If 41 or more pitches, not eligible. If another game intervenes, see Rule 4(h) | | | | Same, except 30/60 pitches instead of 20/40 | |
| | Returning to Mound | Pitchers once removed from the mound may not return as pitchers. | | | A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher, but only once per game. | | |
| | Catching | A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play catcher for the remainder of that day. A player who has played catcher in four or more innings in a game may not then pitch on that calendar day. Play catcher for < 4 innings then throw 21 or more pitches cannot catch again that day. (31 pitches for 15/16 year-olds) | | | | | |
| | Intentional Walk | Once per batter, team may request an “unpitched” intentional walk. Remaining pitches are added to pitch count. | | | | | |
| Player Re-entry | Continuous batting order is required. Players may be entered or re-entered defensively at any time. | | | | | Any player who has been removed for a sub may re-enter in the same position in the batting order. | |
| Defensive Conferences | Pitcher must be removed on 3rd visit in inning or 4th visit in game. | Pitcher must be removed from mound on second visit in inning or third visit in game. | | Same. Each pitcher has his/her own “count” of visits, which resumes if pitcher returns to mound later in the game. | | | |
| Mercy Rule | 15 runs after 3 innings, 2 ½ if home team is ahead. 10 runs after 4 innings, 3 ½ if home team is ahead. | | | 15 runs after 4 innings, 3 ½ if home team is ahead 10 runs after 5 innings, 4 ½ if home team is ahead | | | |
| 3rd Strike not caught | Batter is out | Batter is out if first is occupied with less than two outs. If first is unoccupied or there are two outs, batter becomes runner and defense must put him/her out. | | | | | |
| On-Deck Batters | Not allowed. | | | Allowed. | | | |
| Illegal Bat | Batter is out (unless defense opts for result of play). Batter and manager both ejected. | | | | | | |
| Batter’s Box | Batters must keep one foot in the batter’s box except for certain specified conditions. Penalty: Warning, then strike. | | | | | | |
| Special Runners | With two outs, a courtesy runner may be used for pitcher or catcher of record. Runner must be the player in the batting order who made the last out. If both pitcher and catcher are run for, the players making the last two outs are used, in order, starting from closest to home. | | | | Special pinch runner twice per game | | |
| Adults | One manager and two coaches permitted regardless of number of players | | | | | | |
| Protests | Playing rule or improper substitution: Must be made before next pitch, play or attempted play. Mandatory play: As soon as the facts become known. Ineligible pitcher or player: As soon as facts become known, but before either teams’ next game. | | | | | | |
| Unsportsmanlike Conduct | The stealing and relaying of signs to alert the batter of pitch selection and/or location is unsportsmanlike behavior. If, in the judgment of the umpire this behavior is occurring, the team manager and those responsible including any player(s) and/or coach(es) shall be warned after the first offense. Those responsible including any player(s), coach(es), and/or manager shall be ejected from the game for a team’s subsequent offense. | | | | | | |
| Tiebreaker Rule | Starts in 7 th inning | | | Starts in 8 th inning | | | |

This chart is intended as a reference summary of the various tournament rules. It does not cover every possible circumstance, and is not a substitute for reading and fully understanding the regular season and tournament rules sections of the Official Playing Rules.