



# **NYS Little League Umpires**

**2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation**



# 2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation

- Agenda for this evening:
  - Introductions
  - How we can help
  - State website
  - 2026 rules changes
  - Reminders
  - Q & A



# 2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation

Josh Einhorn

West Nyack LL & District 18 Co-UIC  
LL Tournaments

2013 - Little League Baseball

2014 - Intermediate (50/70) WS

2015 - Senior League Baseball

2019 - Junior League Baseball





# 2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation

Jeff Powell

West Nyack LL & District 18 Co-UIC/Player Agent

Regionals Umpired:

2014 - Big League Baseball

2017 - Intermediate 50/70 Baseball

2019 - Senior League Baseball

2024 - Junior League Baseball

2025 - Little League Baseball





# 2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation

- How we can help you:
  - Rules clarifications
  - Recruiting and retention
  - Training assistance
  - Mechanics Standardization when possible



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## NYS Little League Website

- <https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1047133>
- Latest Umpire Information, Under DA Resources...Umpires

**2026 NEW YORK STATE  
LITTLE LEAGUE**

 

**LOGIN** **REGISTER**

<b>HOME</b>	<b>ABOUT US</b>	<b>DA RESOURCES</b>	<b>NYS TOURNAMENT</b>	<b>DISTRICT INFO</b>
<b>BASEBALL</b> <b>UMPIRES</b>		<b>SAFETY</b> <b>CHALLENGER</b>	<b>SOFTBALL</b>	



# 2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation

- Baseball State Championships:
  - Senior League
    - Binghamton LL – District 5 – Section 1
  - Junior League
    - Half Hollow Hills LL – Dist. 34 – Section 4
  - Intermediate League 50/70
    - Half Hollow Hills LL – Dist. 34 – Section 4



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- Baseball State Championships:



- 10-12 Little League

- West Nyack LL - District 18 - Section 3

- 9-11 Little League

- Baldwinsville LL - Dist. 8 - Section 1

- 8-10 Little League

- Great Kills LL - Dist. 24 - Section 2



# 2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation

- Softball State Championships:
  - Senior League
    - Warwick LL – District 19 – Section 3
  - Junior League
    - West Nyack LL – District 18 – Section 3
  - 10-12, 9-11, 8-10 Little Leagues
    - St. James Smithtown LL – District 35 – Section 4



**2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation**

# Rule Changes

for 2026





# 2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation

## 2026 Rules Changes

**Rule 1.10 Note 2 (Baseball/Softball)** – The use of Pine tar or any other similar adhesive substance may be applied to the handle or grip of the bat at all levels of Little League. Pine tar or any other foreign substance shall not be added to the surface of the barrel or taper of the bat and shall not cover the USA Baseball Logo, BBCOR for the teenage divisions or any other identifying marks or logos on the bat.



# 2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation

## 2026 Rules Changes

**Penalty:** If the bat has pine tar or a foreign substance on the barrel or taper of the bat or covers the identifying marks, the bat MUST be removed from the game and the **player** issued a warning. If that player repeats that infraction, the offending player and manager shall be ejected from the game. In such cases, all results from the use of the bat will stand, and this infraction is not cause for calling the batter out, nor should the bat be declared illegal.



# 2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation

## 2026 Rules Changes

**Rule 1.10 – A.R.2 (Baseball/Softball)** – No bat, in any level is permitted to be altered. Products such as choke-knobs and choke-up assists are **NOT** permitted.





# 2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation

## 2026 Rules Changes

**Penalty:** If a bat has such a product, that product must be removed from the bat, and the bat shall **not** be declared illegal. The player shall be warned and any subsequent infraction would result in the offending player and manager being ejected from the game. In such cases, all results from the use of the bat will stand, and this infraction is not cause for calling the batter out, nor should the bat be declared illegal.



# 2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation

## 2026 Rules Changes

**Rule 1.11 (a) (3) (Baseball Only)** – Sleeves Worn by the Pitcher: Removed the “neoprene” sleeve distinction in the rule to now include all sleeves. Sleeves worn past the elbow by the pitcher must be a **SOLID** Color that is not **WHITE** or **GREY**.





# 2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation

## 2026 Rules Changes

**Rule 3.17 (Baseball/Softball)** – Malfunctioning One-Way Communication Device – One-Way Communication devices are permitted on **DEFENSE** between the dugout and catcher only. They are prohibited from using it to communicate with any other player on defense and **MUST** be used from the dugout/bench area.

- o **Penalty:** If, in the umpire's judgment, any player, manager, or coach uses a communications device in any way other than it's approved use, the penalty is ejection from the game.
- o **Note 2:** A reasonable amount of time must be provided to a team to correct a malfunctioning one-way communication device.



# 2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation

## 2026 Rules Changes

**Rule 4.04 Note 2 (Baseball/Softball)** – If a player is unable to complete a plate appearance due to injury, illness, or ejection, the next batter in the lineup shall take his/her place and assume the count of the original batter. If a batter becomes a runner by reaching base safely and is unable to run the bases due to injury, illness, or ejection, he/she shall be replaced by the player who recorded the last out or with a Courtesy Runner, if applicable.



# 2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation

## 2026 Rules Changes

**Rule 4.18 (Baseball/Softball)** – Forfeited Games: Removes the requirement for the scorebook to be signed by the Umpire-in-Chief for forfeited games.

**RULE REMOVED!!**



# 2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation

## 2026 Rules Changes

**Rule 7.14(b) A.R. 2 (Baseball/Softball)** – If the pitcher and catcher of record are on base with 2 outs, the offense may use a courtesy runner for both pitcher and catcher at the same time. When assigning courtesy runners in such situations, the player who is scheduled to bat soonest shall be placed on the base closest to scoring.

- o Example: With two outs, the pitcher is on second base and the catcher on third base. The offense elects to use courtesy runners for both pitcher and catcher. The player who made the second out of the inning becomes the courtesy runner for the pitcher at 2<sup>nd</sup> base. The player who made the first out of the inning (due up soonest) becomes the courtesy runner for the catcher at 3<sup>rd</sup> base.



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## 2026 Rules Changes

**Rule 7.15 (g) (Baseball/Softball)** – In Majors and Teenage divisions, when the batter becomes a runner on an uncaught third strike, the batter–runner and the defensive player may use either the colored or white base.

- o **NOTE:** When the batter becomes a runner on an uncaught third strike, the batter–runner may run in fair territory when the throw is coming from the foul side of the base and if hit by the thrown ball, it is NOT interference. However, if the interference is deemed intentional, that runner will still be out.



# 2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation

## 2026 Rules Changes

**Rule 8.06(b) Note (Baseball)** – Visits to the Pitcher and Returning as Pitcher (**INT/JR/SR**) – 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 pitcher's plate as pitcher from returning as pitcher. However, that pitcher removed from the mound, **MUST** remain on the field in a defensive position and may only return to the mound **ONCE** per game. Majors and below, a pitcher may not return to the mound once removed.



# 2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation

## 2026 Rules Changes

**Rule 8.06(b) Note (Softball)** – 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. However, that pitcher removed from the mound, **MUST** remain on the field in a defensive position and may only return to the mound **ONCE** per game.



# 2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation

## 2026 Rules Changes

**Tournament Rule 3(b) (Baseball/Softball)** – Illegal Bats – Reworded to provide consistency with Rule 6.06(d). If the batter enters the batter's box with one or both feet on the ground with an illegal bat or is discovered having used an illegal bat prior to the next batter entering the batter's box.

- o **Penalty:** The ball is dead and all runners must return if they advanced on the play. The bat is removed from the game upon discovery. The manager is ejected. The player is out **AND** ejected. The offensive team will lose one base coach. However, both 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base coach's boxes **MUST** be occupied. One adult will occupy one base coach box and a player with a helmet will occupy the other. An adult coach **MUST** remain in the dugout at all times.



**2026 Welcome and Rules Interpretation**

# Mechanics Changes for 2026





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## 2026 Mechanics Changes

### Plate Work:

### Plate Stance Adjustment:

- Aggressive Slot Foot Forward (Heel/Toe – Heel/Instep) – to improve accuracy and consistency on the outside part of the strike zone.
- The feet are **NEVER** to be parallel.
- The shoulders and torso must be square to the release point of the pitcher.
- Umpires must avoid looking down at the feet.





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## 2026 Mechanics Changes

### Check-Swing Mechanic:

- Asking for help with the **left hand (pointing) OR two hands with open palms** to help mitigate any confusion as to if the plate umpire is asking for help
- Now mandatory to check immediately anytime with two strikes so that neither the offense or the defense is at an advantage on a check-swing or a check-swing on an uncaught third strike.
- Also mandatory to check immediately on a hit-by-pitch and a half-swing by the batter.



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## 2026 Mechanics Changes





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[Umpireclassroom.com](https://www.umpireclassroom.com)

<https://www.umpireclassroom.com/offers/6FBobikW/checkout>

Use Coupon Code: RCUA





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## Contact Us

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# **NYS Little League Umpires**

## **Questions and Answers**



**NYS Little League Umpires**

**Thank You For Attending!**