

NM District 5 - 2021 Interleague Rules

The 2021 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 2021 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 2021 badge, that individual will not be allowed on the field.
4. **Pool Players:** In accordance with 2021 Regulations and playing rules. For this season, please try to reduce or eliminate pool players to minimize the number of players someone may come in contact with.
5. **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.
6. **Field Preparation:** Both teams are responsible for the 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.

7. **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
8. **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.
9. **Umpires:** The home team will provide the plate umpire. The visiting team will provide the field umpire.
10. **Game Balls:** Each team will provide game balls, 2 for Rookie/Minor/Major divisions, 3 for Intermediate/Junior/Senior divisions. Only the defensive team should be handling baseballs. Suggest each team apply a unique marking to their team balls to try and control use by opposing team.
11. **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.
 - 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 2.5 hour, drop dead, time limit for these games.
 - c. No double headers in Rookies/Minors.
 - d. Double headers will have a 1 hour and 45-minute time limit with 15 minutes between games.
 - e. Late games under the lights will end at 9:50 pm.
12. **Batting Order:** A continuous batting order will be used for all divisions.
13. **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.
14. **Baseball Runs:**
 - a. 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.
 - b. Runs are unlimited in the last regulation inning.

- c. All runs will count for an over-the-fence home run regardless of inning.
- d. Rule 4.10 (e) applies to all games

15. **Softball Runs:**

- a. 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.
- b. Runs are unlimited in the last regulation inning.
- c. All runs will count for an over-the-fence home run regardless of inning.
- d. Rule 4.10 (e) applies to all games

16. **Protests:** In accordance with 2021 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.

17. **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.

18. **Courtesy Runners:** Rules 3.04 and 7.14 will be implemented for interleague play.

19. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct – Relaying of Signs:** Rule 9.01(d) shall not apply to the relaying or stealing of signs.

20. **Number of Players:**

- a. Rules 1.01, 4.04, and 4.16 shall allow for teams to start with 8 players and continue without penalty during the game.
- b. Rule 4.17 – games can continue if a team drops below 9 players, but an out will be recorded for the 9th position.

Additional Rookie Softball Rules:

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

Championships:

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

Additional Health Order Requirements and Recommendations

Each league should adhere to the guidelines set forth by the state of New Mexico as outlined in the [All Together New Mexico: COVID-Safe Practices for Individuals and Employers](#), dated April 09th, 2021. These guidelines are frequently updated. Guidance in this document should be considered updated as changes are implemented. Local league volunteers should thoroughly review the Season Resumption Guide (LittleLeague.org/SeasonResumption) and the Little League Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions for General Information, Insurance, and Tournament as you plan your league activities, while stressing the importance of mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

These best practices have been compiled from resources and direct guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and The Aspen Institute, among others.

Leagues are encouraged to, first and foremost, follow all directives and guidance from their state and local government. All Little League managers, coaches, umpires, league officials, and families are strongly encouraged to review these guidelines.

General Guidance

Wash Your Hands Often:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or about the time it takes to recite the Little League Pledge twice, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Leagues are encouraged to provide handwashing stations and/or hand sanitizer, if possible
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Players are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer for personal use. Hand sanitizer should be placed in all common areas off-field for easy use



Cover Coughs and Sneezes:

- If you are in a private setting and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or use the inside of your elbow
- Throw used tissues in the trash immediately
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol

Self-monitoring and Quarantine:

- All individuals should measure their body temperature to ensure that no fever is present prior to participating or attending each Little League activity. Anyone with symptoms of fever, cough, or worsening respiratory symptoms, or any known exposure to a person with COVID-19 should not attend any Little League activity until cleared by a medical professional
- Any individual, including players, at risk for severe illness or with serious underlying medical or respiratory condition, should only attend Little League activities with permission from a medical professional

On-Field Guidance

Healthy Practices:

- All players and coaches should practice good general health habits, including maintenance of adequate hydration, consumption of a varied, vitamin-rich diet with sufficient vegetables and fruits, and getting adequate sleep

No Handshakes/Personal Contact Celebrations:

- Players and coaches should take measures to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This should include refraining from handshakes, high fives, chest bumps, and group celebrations, etc. Little League International suggests lining up outside the dugout and tipping caps to the opposing team as a sign of good sportsmanship after a game

- Players and families should vacate the field/facility as soon as is reasonably possible after the conclusion of their game to minimize unnecessary contact with players, coaches, and spectators from the next game, ideally within 20 minutes

Drinks and Snacks:

- Athletes, managers/coaches, and umpires should bring their own personal drinks to all team activities. Drinks should be labeled with the person's name
- Individuals should take their own drink containers home each night for cleaning and sanitation or use single-use bottles
- There should be no use of shared or team beverages
- Teams should not share any snacks or food. Players should bring individual, pre-packaged food, if needed

Spitting, Sunflower Seeds, etc.:

- Sunflower seeds, or other similar products, should not be allowed in dugouts or on the playing field
- All players and coaches are to refrain from spitting at all times, including in dugout areas and on the playing field

Pre-Game Plate Meetings:

- If possible, plate meetings should be eliminated
- Plate meetings should only consist of one manager or coach from each team, and game umpires
- All participants shall wear a face covering
- No players should be a part of plate meetings

Pre-/Post-Practice and Game Free Play

- ***Unofficial*** pre- and post-practice or game activities should be discouraged

Game Compliance

- It is not the responsibility of the umpires, nor should they be involved with, enforcement of these guidelines
- If a situation arises, league officials should be contacted. If the situation involves a team (player or coach), the appointed league monitor will contact the team manager. If the situation cannot be rectified, follow the **Line of Communication** guideline as previously outlined in this document

Pre-Activity Action Items

- Individual leagues should have already distributed the **COVID-19 Code of Conduct for Athletes and Families** as outlined in the **All Together New Mexico: COVID-Safe Practices for Individuals and Employers**. It is the parent's and player's responsibility to have read and agreed to the guidelines
- Leagues should ensure an adequate supply of hygiene items, including soap, hand sanitizer (at least 60 percent alcohol), and waste disposal receptacles are available at the league facility. Individual teams should also have their own supply of wipes and hand sanitizer at a minimum
- Signage with information on how to reduce the spread of COVID-19 must be posted around the facility, and at each field
- Access to the dugouts should be restricted to players, managers, and coaches
- Each **team** will be responsible to ensure their coaches have been screened for signs/symptoms of COVID-19, to include temperature check, prior to the start of activities.
 - An adult with a temperature of 100.4 or greater and/or other signs of illness will be asked to leave the facility
- Leagues should ensure league officials, umpires, and other volunteers are being appropriately screened
- Any coach, volunteer, or player who tests positive for COVID-19:
 - Should contact the coach, president, and and safety officer of their league who will then notify the district safety officer. The league shall also notify the NM Department of Health (NMDOH.)
- **Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms** and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:

- At least 10 days* have passed since symptom onset **and**
 - At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
 - Other symptoms have improved
- Players will not share personal equipment. League equipment will be disinfected between use by different players
 - If players develop symptoms during practice, they must be immediately picked up. While waiting to be picked up, they must be taken to an outdoor location well away from other individuals

References

- [All Together New Mexico 3/19/2021](#)
- [NMAA Guidelines](#)