

2026 Rule Changes

Regulation IV(i) Note 5 – When the continuous batting order is used, a courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher and/or catcher of record before they complete the requirements of mandatory play.

Rule 1.10 Note 2 – Permits the application of pine tar or any other similar adhesive substance to the handle or grip of the bat. This substance shall not be applied to the surface of the barrel or the taper of the bat and shall not cover the USA or BBCOR logos. If the bat has such substance on the barrel or taper of the bat or covers the USA or BBCOR logos, the bat must be removed from the game, and the player shall be warned. If the player repeats the infraction, the player and manager shall be ejected. In that case, all results from the use of the bat will stand.

Rule 1.10 – The use of thumb protectors **IS** allowed.

Rule 1.11(3) – Sleeve(s) may be worn by the pitcher and do not need to be covered by an undershirt, provided the sleeve is one solid color and is not white or grey. We have confirmed with the Little League Director of Umpire Development that one sleeve is ok.

Rule 3.04, 7.14(b) – If the pitcher and catcher of record are on base with two outs, courtesy runners may be used for both at the same time. The player who is scheduled to bat soonest shall be placed on the base closest to scoring. **Example:** With two outs, the pitcher is on second, and the catcher is on third. The player who made the second out runs for the pitcher at second, and the player who made the first out runs for the catcher at third.

Rule 3.17 – A reasonable amount of time must be provided to a team to correct a malfunctioning one-way communication device.

Rule 4.04 Note 2 – When using the continuous batting order, if a player is unable to complete a plate appearance due to injury, illness, or ejection, the next batter in the lineup shall take their place at the plate and assume the count of the original batter. If a batter becomes a runner by reaching base safely and is unable to run due to injury, illness, or ejection, they shall be replaced by the player who recorded the last out, or with a courtesy runner if applicable.

Rule 4.18 – The umpires should never sign the scorebooks.

Rule 6.06(d) – This rule has been aligned with tournament rule 3(b).

If the batter enters the batter's box with one or both feet entirely on the ground with an illegal bat or is discovered to have used an illegal bat prior to the next player entering the batter's box:

- The ball is dead
- The batter is out
- Runners must return if they advanced on the play (the manager of the defensive team may decline this part of the penalty and accept the result of the play – such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play).
- The manager of the team will be ejected
- The batter will be ejected
- The offensive team will lose one adult base coach

Rule 8.06(b) – For the intermediate division, a player who has been moved to another defensive position may return to the mound once in a game, even if the pitcher has no visits remaining.