



# 2026 Rules for Interleague Baseball Play

Intermediate, Juniors, and Seniors Divisions



**All play will be in accordance with the Official Little League Baseball Rule Book with the following adoptions/revisions**

## **Playing Rules**

1. Pregame routine for all fields will be followed (subject to field availability)
  - a. Visitors will have 10 minutes of Infield/Outfield warm-up 30 minutes prior to game start.
  - b. Home Team will have 10 minutes of Infield/Outfield warm-up 20 minutes prior to game start.
  - c. Managers and Umpires meet 10 minutes prior to game start to exchange line-ups and go over ground rules. Lineups shall include first and last name and uniform number of all players and the starting pitcher and catcher shall be noted by position.
2. The home team shall occupy the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout for all games.
2. All divisions will adopt the continuous batting order option as specified in Official Playing Rule 4.04.
3. Seniors Division: Rule 3.03 (Designated Hitter) will **not be utilized**.
4. Every Player must fulfill the mandatory play requirements of Regulation IV(i) even when we are batting the entire roster. The penalty will be as stated in the Official Rule Book.  
All divisions will adopt Regulation IV(i) Note 4: ...[if] 15 or more eligible players are at a game, the league may reduce the Mandatory Play Rule to three (3) defensive outs and one (1) at bat per game.
5. If field availability dictates a time limit on a game, the Home Team Manager **MUST** discuss this at the plate meeting with the Plate Umpire AND the Opposing Manager BEFORE lineups are exchanged. The time limit will be administered by the Plate Umpire.

Any game with a time limit will follow this procedure:

- a. No New Inning may begin at or after 30 minutes prior to the time limit stated at the Plate Meeting. A new inning begins the moment the 3<sup>rd</sup> out is made in the previous inning.

**Example:** if a game has a stated time limit of 2:30, no new inning will begin at or after 2 hours – the Plate Umpire will Call the Game at such time.)

No New at-bat may start at or after 15 minutes prior to the time limit stated at the Plate Meeting

**Example 1:** if a game has a stated time limit of 2:30, and batter 'Abel' has a 1 strike count when the clock changes to 2:15, Abel will complete his at-bat and when play ends, the Plate Umpire will Call the Game.

**Example 2:** 2:30 time limit, Abel hits a double at 2:14. Before Baker enters the batter's box, the clock changes to 2:15. Plate umpire will Call the Game)

6. When the Plate Umpire Calls a Game due to a time limit, weather, or field conditions:
  - b. If the game is a Regulation Game according to Official Playing Rule 4.10, then 4.10 will determine the result of the game. A game that has been played for at least 1 hour and 45 minutes will be considered a regulation game (4.10 (c) 2).
  - c. If the game is not a Regulation Game, then the game is Suspended. All Suspended Games will be resumed the next time the same two teams meet on the schedule, and Rule 4.10(d) and 4.12 will be followed (play will be resumed at the point of suspension).



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If the game is resumed prior to another scheduled game, and field conditions or availability require a time limit, the resumed game will proceed until a winner can be determined by Rule 4.10(c) and Rule 4.10(e). Once a winner can be determined, the Plate Umpire will call the game.

In a suspended game, the pitchers of record for the game may continue to pitch as determined by Regulation IV, Note 3. (Intermediate division pitchers may not pitch in more than 1 game per day; Juniors/Seniors division pitchers **may** pitch in more than 1 game per day per Regulation IV.)

- d. If the two teams of a suspended game are **not** scheduled to meet again, then the managers will agree on a date and time, notify the scheduler, and resume play at that date. The game will continue until it ends per Regulation 4.10(a) (a full game).
7. All divisions (Intermediate, Juniors, and Seniors) will follow the 15-10-8-run rule as specified in Official Playing Rule 4.10(e).
8. All divisions: A game may start and continue with only 8 players. When the 9th position in the batting order is reached, the empty position will be skipped without an out being recorded.
9. All divisions: Rule 3.04 Courtesy Runner option will be adopted. When continuous batting order is used, the courtesy runner must be the player that was last put out.
10. All divisions: Rule 6.03(c) will be adopted – after entering the batter’s box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat (with specific exceptions noted in the Official Playing Rules).
11. All divisions: The stealing of signs shall be considered unsportsmanlike conduct, adopting rule 9.01(d).
12. Juniors have adopted the 80/54 option for the regular season.
13. Any District 9 Covid policies outlined for interlock play are adopted in their entirety. The plate umpire is permitted to be positioned behind the pitcher, adopting local league option 9.04(a).

### Administrative Policies

1. All teams will limit each of their pitchers to a maximum of 65 pitches per game in the early season. (Intermediate/Juniors/Seniors: First Sunday in May). On the following Monday, the pitchers will be allowed to pitch a maximum of pitches as allowed in Regulation VI. Rest requirements as stated in Regulation VI are in effect for the entire season.
2. The Protest Committee will consist of the ADA for Intermediate/Junior/Senior Baseball from District 9, at least two neutral VPs of Intermediate/Junior/Senior Baseball from non-involved Leagues, the Umpire-In-Chief from District 9, and the Umpire-In-Chief from any other district involved in the protest. The Protest Committee shall hear the protest and rule on it within one week of the protest being properly filed (See Rule 4.19 for protests). All Managers and Umpires are to make every effort to avoid protest situations.
3. The League Scheduler ([scheduler@washdist9.org](mailto:scheduler@washdist9.org)) will record and publish the makeup of games due to rainouts. All rainouts will be made up as soon as possible as agreed upon by both team managers. Managers must notify the scheduler immediately upon rainouts, and rainout reschedule dates.
4. We will not have a regular season team “End of Season Tournament.”
5. The Home team manager is responsible for notifying the Visitor manager of game cancellations, **at least** 2 hours before game time.
6. The Home team is responsible for all game umpires, regardless of where the game is played. **Exception:** for double headers, where each team is home and away, the Hosting Team is responsible for game umpires.



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7. Regulation V (c) will be followed for use of Pool Players. Pool Player must be from the same League as the team using said pool player. The pool player must be in the same division or 1 division lower than the team using said pool player.

**Example 1:** The Intermediate Bellevue West Red Sox are short a player and want to use Pool Player Johnny who is rostered with the Majors Bellevue West Yankees. This is fine.

**Example 2:** The Seniors Redmond Red Sox are short a player and want to use Pool Player Jimmy who is only rostered with the Intermediate Redmond Yankees. This is not allowed.

8. If a team is unable to field 8 players at the start of a scheduled game, the League Administration (District 9 ADAs) will consider it a forfeiture. If said team notifies the opposing manager and the league scheduler at least 24 hours prior to the schedule start, it will not be considered a forfeiture. Both managers must agree and reschedule the game and notify the League Scheduler of the reschedule.
9. Scores and Pitching records shall be recorded by each team (home and visitor) for every game within 24 hours. Report scores by visiting <https://bit.ly/d9bbreport>. If you have problems with the form, report them to [scheduler@washdist9.org](mailto:scheduler@washdist9.org).
  - a. Scores and pitching must be reported within 48 hours.
    - i. The first failure is a warning
    - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> failure, the offending team loses BOTH adult base coaches at their next scheduled game
    - iii. 3<sup>rd</sup> and subsequent failures, the manager is suspended for their next scheduled game