

1. **COIN FLIP:** winner will have the choice of home or visitor.
2. **ADULTS:** One manager and two coaches permitted. *No exchanging of coaches mid-game.*
    a. Adults may NOT warm up pitchers at any time on or off the field.
3. **DRESS CODE:** Coaches must be matching. Dress slacks, Khaki pants & khaki shorts permitted. Shirts tucked in. Tennis shoes only. No jeans or cargo shorts. No baseball pants. No cleats. No sandals or open-toed shoes/crocs. Turf shoes are OK.
    a. Patches are **REQUIRED** on all Little League jerseys.
4. **EQUIPMENT:** umpires are not responsible for checking equipment. Managers are to check equipment and ensure proper and legal.
    a. Catcher's masks MUST have dangling throat guard.
    b. Illegal equipment: manager will be removed for remainder of tournament; player will be ejected from game.
5. **BASEBALLS:** District will provide baseballs & softballs for tournament play. Minimum of 2 game balls per game.
6. **PORTABLE MOUNDS:** players must not use metal cleats on portable mound. Molded, Rubber cleats are ok.
7. **UMPIRES:** District shall provide a minimum of one (1) adult umpire behind the plate.
8. **LINEUP CARDS:** Bring all 4 intact copies to plate meeting. Use First initial and LAST NAME. Mark defensive positions 1-9.
9. **SCOREBOOTH:** ONLY the pitch counter, scorekeeper and tournament director are allowed in the booth. *Exceptions: D5 personnel.*
    a. Scores MUST be recorded in the official SCOREBOOK. *GameChanger is not a substitute for the official pitch log or scorebook.*
10. All pitching and catcher changes **MUST** be reported to the plate umpire.
11. **RECORDING DEVICES:** No recording devices are to be attached to the fences within roped off areas.
12. **NO "WALK UP" MUSIC IS PERMITTED.**
13. **PLAYERS:** If a player is injured, ill or needs to leave the game, the team will skip over their at bat without penalty. If player returns, they are inserted into their original spot in the lineup and game continues.
    a. If injury happens at bat and player is unable to run the bases, he shall be replaced by the player who recorded the last out or with a Courtesy Runner.
    b. A team MUST have nine **(9) players** present and accounted for to begin a game. **NOTE:** A team will be allowed a 10-minute grace period after the original "Game Time" to field 9 players before a forfeit is announced.
14. **MANDATORY PLAY:** replaced with CBO (continuous batting order) for minors and up.
    a. SENIORS: Does not apply
15. **TIME LIMITS:** No time limit for international tournament:
    a. Championship games continue to completion. *Regulation games are 4 innings or more. [50/70 and up: 5 innings)*
    b. No new inning after midnight. (50/70 & Juniors: 12:30am) (Seniors: 1am)

c. **MERCY RULE**: The game will end as follows: 15+ runs after 3 innings (4 innings in Upper Division) or 10+ runs after 4 innings (5 innings in Upper Division). *No 8-run rule for All Stars.*
d. **TIE GAMES:** If a game reaches the time limit, play will continue until a winner is determined, or the game is called due to darkness.
    i. SUSPENDED GAMES: resume from exact point of suspension.
e. **GHOST RUNNER:** During extra innings, the offensive team will utilize a "ghost runner" and place the last batter in the lineup for that inning on 2nd base.
    i. **Minors/Majors:** Starts in the 7th inning | **Upper Divisions:** Starts in the 8th inning

16. **FORFEITS:** No game shall be forfeited/disqualified without authorization from the Tournament Committee.
    a. District Administrator → Western Region → Tournament Committee.
17. **PITCHERS:**
    a. Any player on a tournament team may pitch. *Exception: Any player that has played the position of catcher in 4 or more innings may not pitch on that calendar day. See tournament rule 4.0 or further clarification on pitchers.*
    b. **PITCH COUNT:** days of rest **MUST** be followed. Must be documented (GameChanger not sufficient) *See tournament rule 4.0(d) for days rest/requirements.*
    c. **INTENTIONAL WALK:** Once per batter, per game. *Non-thrown pitches are added to pitch count.*
    d. **PITCHER VISITS:** Same as regular season (MINORS: 3rd visit in inning or 4th in game- remove pitcher; ALL OTHER DIVISIONS: 2nd visit in inning or 3rd visit in game - remove pitcher)
        i. MINORS/11U/MAJORS: Once removed from mound may not return.
        ii. ALL OTHER DIVISIONS: If remaining in game, but moving defensive positions - may return once.
18. **ON DECK BATTERS:** Not allowed in Minors, 11U, Majors. *All other divisions OK*
19. **BATTER'S BOX:** The batter must remain in batter's box, unless one of exceptions. *See Exceptions Rule 6.02(c).*
20. **UNCAUGHT THIRD:** In play for all divisions except 8/9/10. *Rule 3 (c)*
21. **SLIDING:** No "MUST SLIDE" rule.
    a. MINORS/MAJORS: No sliding head first into a base unless returning to a base.
    b. ALL OTHER DIVISIONS: May slide head first into 2nd, 3rd or home. Or returning to a base.
22. **COURTESY RUNNER:** Junior & below: may use a "courtesy runner" for the pitcher and/or catcher with 2 outs. *Must always be the last recorded out.*
    a. **SENIOR:** SPR twice a game, only once per inning. *Any player on the bench*
23. **UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:** First: warning Second: Ejection
    a. **Absolutely NO talking** to people on the other side of the fence (including any additional coaches). No messaging/phone calls/texting. *If on call or an emergency, tell umpire at plate meeting.*
    b. One way communication: allowed to catcher only.
24. **PROTESTS:**
    a. **Playing rules:** MUST be before next pitch or play or attempted play. *Must be done by manager.*
    b. **Ineligible pitcher/player:** as soon as known, before either teams' next game.
    c. **Protest process:** first umpire, then tournament director, then DA.
        i. DA will call Western Region, then International.
    d. Batting out of turn MUST be caught by defense.

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS SHOULD REFER TO THE 2026 RULEBOOK & UMPIRE SUMMARY SHEET.

This 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.

California District 5 Little League
District Administrator: Sam Pittman
Phone: (916) 596-5491
Email: cadistrict5LL@gmail.com

Little League
Official Program