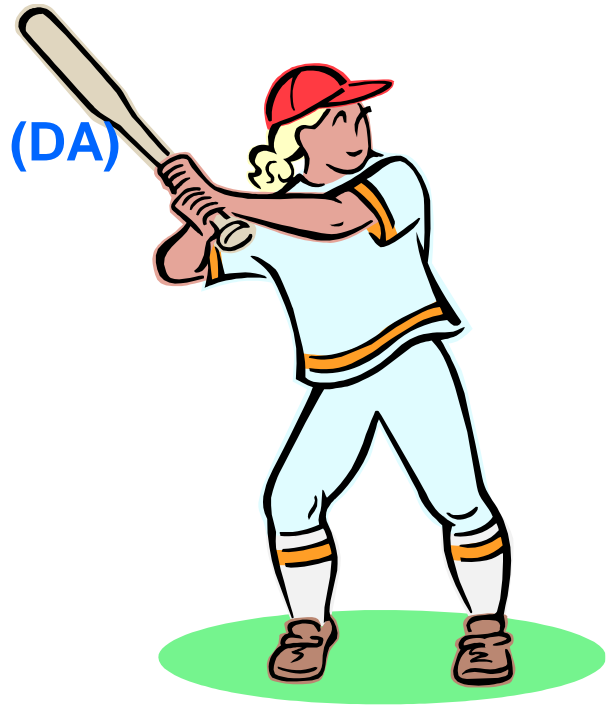


2021 TOURNAMENT RULES PRESENTATION



Bob Sherrill
D7 District Administrator (DA)

Ray Churchill
D7 Assistant DA
D7 Umpire in Chief



TOURNAMENT NOTES

- **Double elimination tournament format**
- **All Fields are considered neutral**
 - Arrive at the field 1 hour before stated game time
 - Coin toss used to determine home and visitor
 - Infield practice will start 30 minutes prior to start time
 - All Ground Rules should be discussed at each plate meeting
- **Weather affecting the game schedule**
- **Information for your parents and fans**
 - NO Air Horns, bells, bottles with items inside them, etc.
 - NO smoking, tobacco use and VAPES are not allowed
 - Pets are not allowed
 - Support your host leagues – buy concessions and 50/50
- **All visiting teams bring water & RS-T balls to their first game**

RULE CHANGES - 2021

- **For Baseball and Softball, Tournament Rule 9**
 - **Mandatory Play – Player must run bases after one at bat if they reach base, until retired, score or the inning/game ends.**
 - **If removed prior, player is treated as an improper substitute and manager is not penalized.**
- **Tournament Player Eligibility**
 - **Allows players to be eligible based on age not division of play during the Regular Season**
 - **Permits 12 year olds to be selected to a Senior Division**
- **NOTE - No time limits for Tournament Games**

PLAYER CONCUSSIONS

- **Virginia State Little League now requires training for all managers and coaches at state tournaments**
 - Training certifications are only good for one year
- **VA District 7 recommends that all district tournament managers, coaches and umpires take the training**
- **Get free training online at the website:**
<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61151/concussion-in-sports>

Player Safety is EVERYONE'S Responsibility!

15 & 10 RUN RULE

ALL LEVELS BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

- **Team is 15 runs ahead after 3 innings**
 - **4 innings for Intermediate and above**
- **Team is 10 runs ahead after 4 innings**
 - **5 innings for intermediate and above**
- **Manager of the team behind must concede**

CURFEW

BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

- ***9/10/11 YEAR OLD & MAJOR LEAGUES:***
 - No inning shall start after Midnight
- ***JUNIOR LEAGUE:***
 - No inning shall start after 12:30 AM
- ***SENIOR LEAGUE:***
 - No inning shall start after 1 AM

NOTE – An inning starts the moment the 3rd out is made completing the previous inning

BENCH/DUGOUT

ALL LEVELS BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

- **No one except players, managers and coaches shall occupy the bench or dugout during a game**
- **A manager or coach may not leave a dugout for any reason during a game without receiving permission from the umpire**
 - **Violation of this rule may result in removal of the manager or coach**
- ***The use of electronic equipment during the game is restricted***

MANDATORY PLAY

ALL LEVELS BASEBALL & SOFTBALL EXCEPT SENIOR DIVISIONS:

- Based on the number of players on a team
- Team has 13 or more players in uniform at a game, every player on a team roster shall participate in each game for **a minimum of one at bat**
- Team has 12 or fewer players in uniform at a game, every player on a team roster shall participate in each game for **a minimum of 6 consecutive defensive outs AND bat at least one time**

MANDATORY PLAY

ALL LEVELS BASEBALL & SOFTBALL EXCEPT SENIOR DIVISIONS:

- **Managers are responsible for fulfilling mandatory play**
- **No exceptions unless the game is shortened**
 - **The game is not considered shortened if the home team does not complete its offensive half of the 6th or 7th inning**
- **Managers will be informed to insert players in the 4th inning (Majors and below) or 5th inning (Int & above)**
 - **Failure to meet is immediate ejection and removal from the remainder of the tournament**
- **Failure to meet mandatory play is a basis for protest**

SUBSTITUTIONS/RE-ENTRY

ALL LEVELS BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

- **If illness, injury or the ejection of a player prevents a team from fielding 9 players**
 - **A player previously used in the line-up may be inserted**
 - **But only if there are no other eligible substitutes available**
 - **The opposing team manager shall select the player to be re-entered**
 - **Ejected players are not eligible**
- **A starter and his/her substitute may not be in the lineup at the same time**
 - **Except for illness or injury as stated above**
- **Improper substitution is a basis for protest**
 - **Protests not resolved before the next pitch shall not be considered**

PLAYER INJURY

ALL LEVELS BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

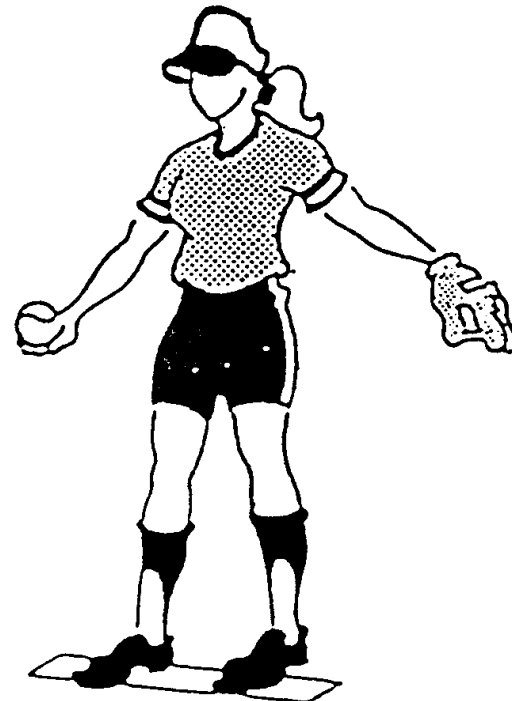
- **If a player is injured or becomes ill during a game (and is removed from the game by the Manager/Coach)**
 - **The decision of doctor (if present) or medical personnel will be final as to whether or not the player may continue in the game**
- **Any player that is injured or becomes ill during a game and seeks medical attention or is transported to a medical facility**
 - **The player must have a medical release from a doctor before being allowed to participate in the next game**

EQUIPMENT – BATS - BASEBALL

- **Major and below – USABat standard bats must be used and be no more than 33 inches in length and 2 5/8 inches in diameter**
- **Intermediate & Junior – Either USABat or BBCOR bats must be used and no more than 34 inches / 2 5/8 diameter**
- **Senior – Must meet the BBCOR standard and no more than 36 inches / 2 5/8 diameter**
- **No donuts allowed**

EQUIPMENT – BATS - SOFTBALL

- Major and below – No more than 33 inches in length and 2 1/4 inches in diameter
- Junior and Senior – No more than 34 inches in length and 2 1/4 inches in diameter
- Non-wood bats shall be printed with a BPF of 1.20
- No donuts allowed



EQUIPMENT

PENALTY FOR USE OF ILLEGAL BAT ALL LEVELS OF BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

- **The batter is out (Manager on defense may decline this portion of the penalty and accept the result of the play. Decision must come immediately after the play)**
- **The Manager is ejected.**
- **The Player is ejected.**
- **The offensive team loses one base coach**

EQUIPMENT - BATTING HELMETS

ALL LEVELS BASEBALL & SOFTBALL (EXCEPT AS NOTED)

- **A Minimum of 6 (7 in Junior/Senior League) NOCSAE approved safety helmets with warning labels is required**

NOTE: Helmets may not be altered in any way (painted, taped or decals) unless approved in writing by the helmet manufacturer or authorized dealer

- **Includes C-Flaps; approved manufactured letters are online at Little League Website**

EQUIPMENT

ALL LEVELS BASEBALL & SOFTBALL (EXCEPT AS NOTED)

- **Catchers must wear a mask with NOCSAE approved catcher's helmet and dangling type throat guard during practice, infield/outfield, pitcher warm-up and games**
- **All catchers must wear approved chest protectors and shin guards**
- **Skull caps are not acceptable**
- **Throat guards are required even with the extended type mask & hockey style masks**

PITCHING - BASEBALL

9/10/11 YEAR OLD & MAJORS:

- **Pitchers once removed from the mound may not return as pitchers**

JUNIORS & SENIORS:

- **A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position can return as a pitcher**
 - **Any time in the remainder of the game**
 - **But only once per game**
- **Exception – If mandatory play has been met, a player may bat for a pitcher and the pitcher can continue to pitch the next inning (applies to all levels)**

PITCHING – BASEBALL

- Pitcher must be removed from the mound when he reaches the following pitch limits (pitcher may remain in the game at another position):

- Ages 13 – 16 (SR BB) have 95 pitches limit per day
- Ages 11 – 12 have 85 pitches limit per day
- Ages 10 and under have 75 pitches per day

**EXCEPTION - Can continue to face current batter until retired
(applies to threshold pitch limit also)**

NOTE – Pitcher delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot catch the remainder of that day

SCORE KEEPER DUTIES

Baseball Only

- The TD will designate the official scorer and he/she will be responsible for each Team's pitch count
- The official scorer will provide the current pitch count when requested by a manager or umpire
 - However, the manager is responsible for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed
- The official scorer should notify the UIC if a pitcher has delivered the maximum pitches allowed
 - The UIC will then inform the manager

NOTE – Failure of the official score keeper to notify the UIC or UIC to notify the manager does not relieve the manager of his responsibility to remove a pitcher

PITCHING - SOFTBALL

ALL LEVELS

- **Any player on a tournament team may pitch**
- **There is no limit to the number of eligible pitchers that can be used in a game**
- **Delivery of a single pitch constitutes having pitched an inning**
- **A pitcher remaining in the game but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher any time in the remainder of the game, but only once in the same inning as she was removed**

PITCHING - SOFTBALL

9/10/11 Year Old and MAJORS:

- A player may not pitch in more than 12 INNINGS in a day

JUNIOR & SENIOR:

- No pitching restrictions apply

PITCHING – 9/10/11 & MAJORS SOFTBALL

- If a player pitches LESS THAN seven (7) innings in a calendar day, no rest is required.
- If a player pitches in seven (7) OR MORE innings in a calendar day, one day's rest is required.
- There is no game stipulation; only a day's rest.

PROTESTS

ALL LEVELS BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

- Protest will not be considered on Umpire judgment calls
- Equipment that does not meet specifications must be removed from the game
- Protests shall be considered only when based on:
 - The violation or interpretation of a playing rule
 - The use of an ineligible pitcher
 - The use of an ineligible player

NOTE: A team's failure to meet mandatory play requirements is also a basis for protest

EJECTIONS

ALL LEVELS BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

- Any Manager, Coach or Player ejected from a game will be suspended for the next physically played game
- Ejections will be noted in the tournament team's affidavit on the team note page
- Entry should include member's name, date ejected and will be signed by the Tournament Director or District Administrator



WEATHER

- **Check your local weather or go to the district website before going to your game
(<http://VADistrict7.org>)**
- **The District Staff will notify all Tournament Directors of any severe weather or weather alerts during tournament play**
- **Do not assume a game is cancelled unless you have been contacted by the tournament director or District 7 Staff**

WEATHER

- If lightning is observed **or thunder is heard**, the game will be immediately suspended and the field cleared
- All players, managers and coaches will be sent to a safe area or their vehicles as directed by the TD
- Dugouts are not considered “safe areas” during lightning
- The game will remain suspended for 30 minutes
 - Each subsequent lightning flash or thunder resets the clock
- If directed to your vehicles, do not leave the tournament site without approval from the TD
- The TD will consult with the Tournament Officials to determine when the game can be resumed

QUESTIONS

