

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL, INC.
WASHINGTON DISTRICT 6
2024 INTERLEAGUE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL RULES

Approved February 13th, 2024

The following rules will be enforced in addition to the Official Regulations and Playing Rules of Little League Baseball & Softball. Adopted by D-6 presidents on (Date).

***All leagues that have divisions participating in Interleague play shall follow interleague rules even if two same league teams are playing.

All managers must have a current copy of the Interleague rules with them. Should a question come up concerning an Interleague rule, game play will be suspended until a copy can be consulted, and the question answered. If any of these rules contradict the LL Rule book the LL Rule book shall be the prevailing source.

I. District 6 Interleague Board

- A. The District Administrator is the chairman of the Interleague Board.
- B. Membership includes all league presidents of D6, or their assigned representative. If the league president assigns a representative to the interleague board, they will have all rights and responsibilities as the president they represent.
- C. When an interleague meeting is held, each member who is present will have one vote.
- D. Interleague board duties will include approving interleague rules and game scheduling.
- E. Quorum shall be more than 50% of league presidents in attendance.
- F. Shall meet when convened by the District Administrator to review incidents of concern and may apply additional penalties as allowed by rule 4.07.

II. Interleague Game schedules

- A. Rainout notification- The home team manager is responsible for rainout notification if the game is rained out 1 and ½ hours prior to game time. This manager is responsible for contacting the other team's manager, the umpires and the interleague scheduler for that division.
- B. Cancellations. If the game has been canceled prior to game day, it is the responsibility of the home team manager to contact the other team manager, the umpires and the interleague scheduler for that division.
- C. Reschedules-Rescheduling rainout or canceled games are the responsibility of the managers. Managers need to contact the interleague scheduler for that division.

III. Game Day

- A. Field suitability is determined by the home leagues field policies. If the field is one that is not the home field for either team the host league may decide to not allow play on the field. The host league decision is final. .
- B. The home team is responsible for field preparation regardless of where he game is played. **To avoid potential issues, managers should be reporting & documenting injuries and potential injuries to their league presidents and or player agents within 24 hours of the incident.**

IV. Game Time

A. This rule applies to the Tee Ball Division. No new inning will be **started** after 1 hour from the **scheduled start time** of the game, or after **3 complete innings**. The game will terminate at 1 hour and 30 minutes after **scheduled start time** of the game.

B. This rule applies to the Pee Wee (coach pitch and player pitch divisions). No new inning will be **started** after 1 hour and 15 minutes from the **scheduled start time** of the game, or after **4 complete innings**. The game will terminate at 1 hour and 30 minutes after **scheduled start time** of the game.

C. This rule applies to the Minor division. No new inning will be **started** after 2 hours from the **scheduled start time** of the game. There is a hard stop at 9:00 pm.

D. This rule applies to the Major division. No new inning will be started after 2 hours from the scheduled start time of the game. There is a hard stop time at 9:00 pm Sunday thru Thursday and 10:00 pm Friday and Saturday.

E. This rule applies to the Intermediate, Junior, Senior divisions. No new inning will be **started** after 2 hours 30 minutes from the **scheduled start time** of the game. If there is no game following this rule that does not apply, there is a hard stop at 9:00PM Su. - Thur.

NOTE: If the game does not start within 15 minutes of the scheduled game time, either manager may ask for a reschedule.

F. This applies to all divisions of all levels of SB &BB. Some leagues (usually the home team) have hard stop times applied (either daylight or park closing times) to all games regardless of whether the game is legal or not. Interleague time limits apply to all games and only stop when that game bumps up to the local stopping point.

V. Player Pools

A. Rules governing player pools can be found in Regulation V. Selection of Player (c)

B. Borrowing of players at game time is not allowed. Per Regulation V(c)

C. The player agents of the participating leagues must keep a log of player pool, this log must be available upon request.

VI. Score Keeping & Pitching Record

A. Each manager is required to carry a copy of their team scorebook (**hard copy or electronic**), which includes a pitch count and record for all players. The player agent is responsible to see that players do not violate the pitch count rule, Regulation VI (c) for baseball and Regulation VI (b) for Softball.

VII. Protests and ejections

Game protest policy (see playing Rule 4.19). Any protest must be submitted by the manager first to the umpire on the field of play, if not resolved, noted in the official scorebook and play on. Then after the game, the protesting manager shall report in writing to the local league president within 24 hours. The umpire in chief of the game shall also submit a report with 24 hours to the local league president, District Administrator, and the District UIC. The league president shall then notify the interleague board for resolution.

Ejections shall be reported within 24 hours by the umpire who executed the ejection or the umpire in chief of the game to the local league president of the offending player, coach, or manager. Copies will be sent to the district administrator and district UIC as well. This is mandatory so that the penalty of an additional game suspension will be enforced on the offending person.

VIII. Special Rules by Division

T-Ball

PURPOSE: Tee ball programs are for players 4-7 years old who want to learn the fundamentals of hitting and fielding. In Tee Ball, players hit a ball off a batting tee. The primary goals of Tee Ball are to have fun, to instruct children in the fundamentals of baseball & softball and to allow them to experience the value of teamwork.

- A. No umpires will be used in Tee Ball
- B. Extra players are to be placed in the outfield.
- C. Coaches/Managers are permitted on the field for the purpose of instruction only. No more than three coaches or managers are allowed on the field at one time (one at the plate and two in the field).
- D. No manager or coach shall hand a ball to a player while it is in play.
- E. All runners can only advance a maximum of 1 base on an overthrow or passed ball F. Both teams will bat through the line up each inning. Batting order is to remain the same through the duration of the game.
- G. No 5-run rule
- H. No 10-run rule
- I. Play only 3 innings
- J. After 3 outs clear the bases continue batting until the side has batted. Clearing the bases after every 3 outs.

Peewee (aka Coach Pitch/Player Pitch)

PURPOSE: Peewee is the next step up from the Tee ball division however are not quite ready for the Minor division. This is the division where they begin to work on their skills as infielders, pitchers, catchers and outfielders. Remember, each position plays a key role in the game, and it is important that each child has the opportunity to play each position during the regular season of play.

- A. Ball used will be a level 5 safety ball.
- B. Umpires are not allowed for Peewee games. The Honor System will be used to call balls/strikes, safes/outs & fair/fouls by coaches.

- C. Games may be started and continued with 7 players but not less than 7. D. No more than 10 players on defense allowed, if the 10th player is used, they will play in the outfield only and the team is required to maintain 4 outfielders.
- E. Only one coach/manager is allowed in the outfield. This will be for instructional purposes only. At no time should a coach/manager touch a ball that is in play.
- F. Maximum of 5 runs per inning, per team, including the last inning. 15/10 run rule in effect additionally. No unlimited innings will be allowed. Game time limit is still in effect.
- G. Season will start with 2 divisions, 1) coach/machine pitch & 2) player pitch. On the 2nd Monday in May the coach/machine division may switch to player pitch from the remainder of the season.
- H. Coach/Machine pitch division will not merge with the player pitch division after the 2nd Monday in May or at any time.
- I. Base runners cannot run unless the ball is put in play by the batter (NO STEALING ALLOWED). J. Base runners are not allowed to run on an overthrow or passed ball.
- For clarification, A passed ball is defined as a ball that gets past/behind the catcher and not past a fielder stationed in the field of play (fair territory) that is an overthrow.**
- K. No more than 7 pitches or 3 strikes per batter. The pitcher will throw a maximum of 4 pitches per batter with the coach pitcher to throw the remaining 3 pitches. The batter keeps the count as pitched by the player when the adult assumes the pitching role. At any time during the at-bat, if the batter reaches 3 strikes the batter is out and receives no more pitches. **Batter is out after seven pitches, UNLESS the seventh pitch is a foul ball. Batter may continue the at bat until he or she puts the ball in play or strikes out. A NO swing is a strike.**
- L. Batters will be awarded first base if hit by pitch. If a pitcher hits 3 batters during the course of the game, they will be replaced as a pitcher on the third infraction.
- M. Both SB and BB – When the pitcher is in possession of the ball and is either in the pitching circle (SB) or on the pitching mound (BB), all play will end.
- N. All inning count (SB) or pitch count (BB) applies, and rest periods must be observed as listed in the rule book.

Minor Softball & Baseball

- A. Continuous batting per Rule 4.04 will be used.
- B. There is a maximum of 5 runs per inning, per team. 15/10/8 run rule applies additionally. If a game reaches the 6th inning, then the 6th inning may be played as an unlimited runs inning. Game time limit(s) are still in effect.
- C. Any batter not able to complete their turn at bat is removed from the batter's box and the next batter is allowed to enter the batter's box with a 0 ball & 0 strike count.
- D. Any player unable to take a turn at bat due to injury is just skipped. No out is applied.
- E. Pitching records must be recorded and available for review by managers of future games.
- F. Pitchers must observe all appropriate rest periods per the rule book/regulations.

Major Softball & Baseball

- A. Batting order will be continuous as described in the rule book.
- B. 15/10/8-run rule applies in both SB & BB. 5 run rule not allowed by rule.
- C. Any batter not able to complete their turn at bat is removed from the batter's box and the next batter is allowed to enter the batter's box with a 0 ball & 0 strike count.
- D. Any player unable to take a turn at bat due to injury is just skipped. No out is applied.
- E. Pitching records must be recorded and available for review by managers of future games.
- F. Pitchers must observe all appropriate rest periods per the rule book/regulations.

Intermediate, Junior, Senior Leagues Softball & Baseball

- A. Intermediate BB plays per Junior League rules
- B. 15/10/8 run rule applies to all divisions
- C. Pitching records must be recorded and be available for review by managers of future games.
- D. Pitchers must observe all appropriate rest periods per the rule book/regulations

Clarification or Minors, Majors, Intermediate and Juniors

- A. Divisions listed above shall use continuous batting. Teams may start and end with 8 players. When the 9th spot in the lineup comes up in the batting order, that spot will be skipped and no out applied.
- B. Teams may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and or catcher only when there are two outs. Courtesy runner will be last out.

Significant rule changes that took place in 2023

Rule 1.11(j) Clarifies that hard items to control hair are permitted on the field of play.

Rule 3.09 (Regular season only) Allows manager or coach to warm up a pitcher in effort to speed up games.

Rule 4.10(e) Changes the mercy rule(run rule) Intermediate, Junior and Senior BB and SB. New rule reads as follows, 15 runs after 4 innings, 10 runs after 5 innings and 8 runs after 6 innings. Majors and below Run rule is 15 after 3, 10 after 4 and 8 after 5 innings.

Rule 6.08(a)(2) Managers can now intentionally walk a batter by announcing to the umpire they wish to walk the batter in all divisions of baseball (except PeeWee). This can only be done once per player, per game for that player. It does not stop a pitcher from walking the batter by throwing 4 balls.

Significant rule changes 2024

Softball – Rules 2.00, 8.01(s), 8.05(a) – Leaping: The act of leaping while delivering a pitch in softball is a legal delivery. The pitcher may have both feet off the ground at the same time as long as both feet remain in the 24-inch width of the pitching plate and the pitcher does not replant the pivot foot. The replant of a pivot foot occurs when the pitcher pushes off the playing surface from anywhere other than the pitcher's plate in the act of delivering a pitch.

Softball (Senior Division) – Rules 2.00, 3.03, 7.14(a) – Designated Player (DP)/Flex: This change replaces the Designated Hitter with the Designated Player (DP)/Flex to provide more opportunity for players in Senior League Softball.

- Designated Player (DP): The player who is initially on the line-up card in the team's batting order but not in the defensive line-up.
- Flex: The player who is initially listed in the tenth spot, and may play any defensive position, may enter the game on offense only in the Designated Player's (DP) batting position.

Rainout Contact Information for 2024

Battle Ground - www.bgll.org & Facebook

Glenwood www.glenwoodlittleleague.com & Facebook

Hazel Dell - Facebook

Highlands www.highlandsl.org & Facebook

Kalama - Facebook or 360-910-2050

La Center 503-714-5162 or www.lacenterlittleleague.com

Lewis River - Facebook

North Clark - Facebook

Ridgefield - www.ridgefieldlittleleague.com

Salmon Creek - Facebook (@SalmonCreekLL)