

2025 District 8 Tournament Rules Welcome!









YOU ARE THE VISIBLE STANDARD OF ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR FOR THE LITTLE LEAGUE PROGRAM!





WHY the international tournament is part of the Little League Program:

Little league is a program of service to youth. It is geared to provide an outlet of healthful activity and training under good leadership in the atmosphere of wholesome community participation. The movement is dedicated to helping children become good and decent citizens. It inspires them with a goal and enriches their lives towards the day when they must take their places in the world. It establishes the values of teamwork, sportsmanship, and fair play.





- The tournament season is the most visible part of the Little League Program. When we all understand WHY the Little League Program exists and demonstrate that purpose through our actions, we have the potential to affect how a new generation sees Little League Baseball and Softball.
- Every tournament game is an opportunity for us to demonstrate *WHY* the Little League Program exists. The more of us that strive to change the culture of youth baseball/softball to focus on teamwork, sportsmanship, and fair play, the greater the impact we will have.



2025 District 8 Tournament Rules Diamond Leader Training



- Baseball and Softball (Tournament Play) Managers and Coaches: Requires all tournament managers and coaches to complete the Little League Diamond Leader Training Program (LittleLeague.org/DiamondLeader)
- Certificate must be in your Tournament Affidavit Book.
 - Last year's is still valid.



2025 District 8 Tournament Rules Abuse Awareness Training



- All volunteers must complete the Abuse Awareness Training mandated by Little League. (Please use the updated link for Little League Training)
 - https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/abuse-awarenesstraining-course/
- Certificate must be in your Tournament Affidavit Book.
 - Use the Little League Website to complete.
 - Updated for 2025 Season



2025 District 8 Tournament Rules Significant Updates



- Baseball and Softball Tournament Rule 3 Playing Rules (Pregame Equipment Inspection):
 Removes the requirement for umpires to check equipment prior to the start of the game by placing
 responsibility for legal and proper equipment on the manager.
- Baseball and Softball Tournament Rule 14 Tie Game: This change eliminates playing the seventh inning (Intermediate/Junior/Senior League: eighth inning) as normal. Now, the tiebreaker will begin immediately in the seventh inning (Intermediate/Junior/Senior League: eighth inning) by placing the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning on second base to begin each extra inning.
- Baseball, and Softball Rule 1.10 Alterations or Modifications made to the Bat: Clarifies that products, such as, but not limited to, choke-knobs, choke-up assists, or thumb protectors are considered alterations to the bat and are not permitted.



Mandatory Play



- Replaced with mandatory use of continuous batting order.
- Continuous batting order is required. Players may be entered or re-entered defensively at any time
- If a player is injured, becomes ill, or must leave the game site after the start of the game, the team will skip over him/her when his/her time at bat comes up without penalty. If the injured, ill, or absent player returns, he/she is merely inserted into their original spot in the batting order and the game continues.
- If a player is unable to complete a plate appearance due to injury, illness or ejection, the next batter in the lineup shall take his/her place at the plate and assume the count of the original batter.
- Mandatory play does not apply to Senior League.
- Any player who has been removed for a sub may re-enter in the same position in the batting order. Substitute may not re-enter.



2025 District 8 Tournament Rules – Number of Players



Teams MUST have 12 Players or DA approval to carry less!

First Game -

12 players should be in attendance (when the affidavit becomes official). If a player is missing for illness or other justifiable reason, play on.

If any players have been removed from the roster (crossed out) – DA or TD must call the protest line.

Teams must have at least 9 players to start the game

The game is considered started at the plate meeting

Teams must have at least 9 players to continue the game

If, at any time, a team has less than 9 players, the game will cease and be referred to the tournament committee.

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Uniforms

- Regular Season Uniforms may be worn as Tournament Uniforms.
- The Little League Official Shoulder Patch must be affixed to the upper left sleeve or centered on left chest on sleeveless uniform shirt in all division of play and may not be sublimated or screen-printed.
- No part of the uniform shall include a pattern that imitates or suggests the shape of a softball/baseball.
- Neoprene sleeves, on pitchers, do not need to be covered if one solid color and not white or gray.
- Pitcher cannot wear wrist bands (a wrist band play calling card is permitted on the non-pitching arm so long as it is of a solid, single color: black, white, gray, or uniform color. Play calling cards cannot be affixed to the belt).



Other Rules

- All fields are considered neutral. The home team shall be determined by the toss of a
- Rule 1 Baseballs licensed by Little League with the "RS-T" designation must be used.
- Rule 3 Players and coaches shall not address or mingle with spectators during a game.
- Rule 6 Third Strike not caught applies to the 9/10/11, 10/11/12, Intermediate, Junior, and Senior Divisions (Baseball and Softball).
 - ⁻ 1st base not occupied, 1st base occupied w/ 2 outs
 - May attempt to advance until they enter the dugout or dead ball area
- Rule 6 Batter is out when the batter enters the batter's box with one or both feet entirely on the ground with an illegal bat or is discovered having used an illegal bat prior to the next player entering the batter's box. Both the batter and the manager of the team will be ejected from the game. The offending manager is removed from the International Tournament.
- Managers or coaches are NOT permitted to warm up a pitcher at home plate or in the bullpen or elsewhere at any time, including in-game warm-up, pre-game warm-up, and in other instances, durning tournament play!



2025 District 8 Tournament Rules – Run Rules



- Majors and below:
 - 15 after 3, 2.5 if home is ahead
 - 10 after 4, 3.5 if home is ahead
- Intermediate ->Sr.
 - 15 after 4, 3.5 if home is ahead
 - 10 after 5, 4.5 if home is ahead
- No 8 run after x during Tournament



2025 District 8 Tournament Rules – Tie Games

- **Tie Game** When the completion of six innings (**INT, JL, SL**: seven innings), and the score is tied, the following tie-breaker will be played to determine a winning team:
- *Starting in the top of the 7th (8th) inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base.
 - Example Batter 5 on the lineup card is up to bat. Batter 4 on the lineup card will be placed on 2nd.



2025 District 8 Tournament Rules – Between Innings



- Pitcher has up to one (1) minute or up to eight (8) warm-up pitches
- Managers/coaches are not allowed in fair ball territory –
- Base coaches must stay in their dugouts until catcher throws to 2nd base
 Rule 4.05 Please do not say they did not make me do that during the regular season.
- · Defensive substitutions must be made when the players go into the field
- Offensive substitutions must be made immediately prior to the at bat (Seniors)
- Offensive substitutions below Seniors removal of sick or injured player, Courtesy runner, etc.



2025 District 8 Tournament Rules – Clarifying The Penalty



- Illegal Equipment by rule illegal equipment is limited to the use of an illegal bat, which is a bat that:
 - Does not meet the specification and/or requirements in 1.10
 - Includes Pine Tar.
 - Does not include the use of products such as choke-knobs, thumb-protectors.
 - PENALTY: the offending player and the offending manager are ejected, and the offending team will lose one eligible adult base coach for the duration of the game. Rule 3.01 The offending manager is removed from the International Tournament.
- Improper Equipment is not illegal equipment.
 - Examples include a catcher's mask without a dangling throat protector, skull caps, metal spikes in LL division and below, or choke-knobs and thumb protectors.
 - Clarification:
 - Improper equipment must be removed from the game once discovered and is **not** subject to immediate ejection as outline in Rule 3.01.
 - Continued use of improper equipment after removal from the game is subject to ejection under Rule 9.01(b).
- Defective / Damaged Equipment: is not illegal equipment.
 - Example included a cracked batting helmet or one that is missing an earpad.
 - Clarification:
 - Defective or damaged equipment must be removed from the game once discovered and is **not** subject to immediate ejection as outline in Rule 3.01.
 - Continued use of improper equipment after removal from the game is subject to ejection under Rule 9.01(b).



2025 District 8 Tournament Rules – Equipment Checks



- Managers are now responsible for all equipment checks!
- Managers will be asked at the plate meeting before each game if their equipment is proper and legal in accordance with Little League Internation rules / guidelines .
 - You must provide a verbal Yes
- Use of illegal equipment (Bats) will result in an ejections of the manager and player using the illegal equipment. No Pine Tar or like products
- Items the Managers should be checking
 - Helmets
 - Bats
 - Catcher's gear
 - No old-style metal batting donuts!



2025 District 8 Tournament Rules – Helmets



- Altering helmets in any way can void manufacturer's warranty
- Anything attached at time of purchase is approved
- Stickers Limited to small number and size, less than 20% coverage of helmet. Not excessive, is not offensive, and no references to such things are drugs or alcohol!

Helmets may not

- Be cracked
- · be repainted
- contain tape or reapplied decals
- have a mirror-like finish







Dangling Throat Guards are required at all levels of play whenever a catcher's mask is required

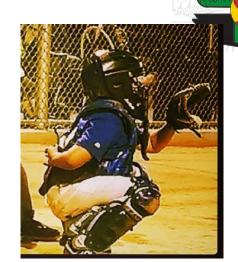
There are NO exceptions

This includes

- Hockey mask style helmets
- Masks with wire extensions

Catcher's masks are required:

- Any form of infield/outfield practice
- Pitcher warm up
- Games





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Baseball Bat Rules

- Bat Restrictions –USA Baseball Standard!
- LL Majors and Below
 - Not more than 33 inches
 - Not more than **2-5/8 inches** in diameter
 - No more BPF 1.15 bats
- INT/JRs/SRs
 - Not more than 34 inches for INT & JR
 - INT/JR must meet USA Baseball standard or BBCOR standard
 - Not more than 36 inches for SR
 - Not more than 2-5/8 inches in diameter (no 2-3/4 bats)
 - SRs, the bat must not weigh numerically more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (-3).
 - SRs must meet BBCOR performance standard
- Non-wood bats must have a grip of cork, tape, or composition material for a minimum of 10 inches.
- Choke-knobs, choke-up assists, or thumb protectors are considered alterations to the bat and are not permitted.
- If the certification mark on a bat is not legible, that bat cannot be used and shall be removed from the game.









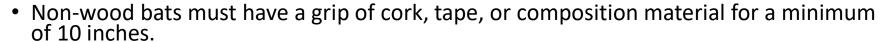
Softball Bat Rules



- Not more than 33 inches
- Not more than 2-1/4 inches in diameter
- BPF of 1.20 or less



- Not more than 34 inches
- Not more than 2-1/4 inches in diameter
- BPF of 1.20 or less



- Choke-knobs, choke-up assists, or thumb protectors are considered alterations to the bat and are not permitted.
- If the specification marks on a bat are not legible, that bat cannot be used and shall be removed from the game.







2025 District 8 Tournament Rules – Runners Explained



- Below Seniors
- With two outs, a "Courtesy Runner" may be used for pitcher or catcher of record.
 Runner must be the player in the batting order who made the last out.
- Every player must run the bases for their first time at bat.
- Seniors
- Pinch Runner is a substitute.
- Special Pinch Runner (not a substitute) Twice in a game but not more than one time per inning, a team may utilize a player who is not in the batting order as a special pinch runner for any offensive player. A player may only be removed for a special pinch-runner one time during the game. The player for whom the pinch-runner runs is not subject to removal from the lineup. If the pinch-runner remains in the game as a substitute defensive or offensive player, the player may not be used again as a pinch-runner while in the batting order.



Rule 6.02 (Foot-in-Box Rule)



 After entering the Batter's Box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat.

• EXCEPTIONS:

- On a swing, slap, or check swing
- When forced out of the box by a pitch
- When the batter attempts a "drag bunt"
- When the catcher does not catch the pitched ball
- When a play has been attempted
- When time has been called
- When the pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher's plate after receiving the ball or the catcher leaves the catcher's box
- On a three ball count pitch that is a strike that the batter thinks is a ball
- **Penalty**: The umpire shall warn the batter. After one warning, the umpire shall call a strike. Any number of strikes can be called on a batter.
- <u>AR</u>: Only one warning needs to be issued per team before the umpire can start calling strikes for violation of this rule.

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Rule 6.08 Intentional Walk Rule



- Rule 6.08 (Intentional Walk Rule All Divisions of Baseball and Softball.
- At any time during an at bat, the defense elects to "Intentionally Walk" the batter by announcing such decision to the plate umpire.
- Such notification must be made by the defensive manager. The manager must request and be granted "time" by the umpire and then inform the umpire of the defense's intent to walk the batter.
- The ball is dead and no other runners may advance unless forced by the batter's award. The appropriate number of pitches will be added to the pitch count.
- A player may only be intentionally walked by announcing such decision to the home plate umpire one time during the course of the game.



Rule 7 - Base Awards



- Base Awards (each runner including the batter/runner)
 - 3 bases if a fair ball is touched by detached equipment
 - 2 bases if a thrown ball is touched by detached equipment
 - 2 bases when a thrown ball goes out of play
 - Time of pitch if throw is first play by an infielder
 - Time of throw in all other cases
 - 1 base when a pitched ball goes out of play
 - 1 base if a fielder touches a pitched ball with detached equipment
 - Batter is entitled to one base if hit by a pitched ball (not in the strike zone)



Rule 8 Pitching (Baseball)



- Under no circumstances shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days
- The windup or set position may be used at any time
- Illegal pitch with bases unoccupied shall be called a ball
- There is no balk in LLB (Balk rules apply to Int/Jr/Sr)
- A ball which slips out of the pitcher's hands and crosses the foul line shall be called a ball, otherwise "no pitch" (Balk if runners are on base in Int/Jr/Sr)
- Pitcher shall not bring his hand to his mouth while on the pitcher's rubber Penalty for this is a ball
- Pitcher shall not deface the ball in any manner (penalty ball + warning)
- Pitcher shall not intentionally pitch at the batter
- 8 warm up pitches or 1 minute between innings
- Pitcher shall deliver the ball within 20 seconds (P: Ball)
- Pitcher must be replaced on the <u>2nd visit</u> in one inning, (8 to 10s 3Rd visit in one inning)
- Pitcher must be replaced on the <u>3rd visit</u> in one game, (8 to 10s 4th visit in one game)



Rule 8 Pitching (Softball)



- Both feet must be on the ground within or partially within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate
- The shoulders shall be in line with first and third base
- Pivot foot shall be in contact with the pitcher's plate, foot must be on or partially on the top of the surface of the pitcher's plate. The non-pivot foot must be on or behind the pitcher's plate.
- The pitcher shall take the signal with the hands separated
 - Pitcher must come to the pitcher's plate with the hands separated
- The pitcher shall hold the ball in one or both hands in front of the body for not less than 1 second and not more than 10 seconds before starting the delivery.
- A backward step may be taken before or simultaneous with the hands being brought together. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitching plate at all times prior to the forward step.
- The step must be forward and toward the batter within or partially within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate.
- The pitcher may not take the pitching position on the pitcher's plate without having the ball in her possession.



Rule 8 Pitching (Softball)



- The pitcher must not make two revolutions of the arms in the windmill motion. A pitcher may drop the arm to the side and to the rear before starting the windmill motion.
- The delivery must be an underhanded motion with the hand below the hip and the wrist not farther from the body than the elbow.
- 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.
- Pushing off with the pivot foot from a place other than the pitcher's plate is illegal. This includes a crow hop as defined under rule 2.00.
- Pitcher must not make another revolution after releasing the ball.
- Pitcher shall not deliberately drop, roll, or bounce the ball in order to prevent the batter from hitting it.
- PENALTY: ILLEGAL PITCH
 - All Division : Ball
- Pitcher must be replaced on the <u>2nd visit</u> in one inning, (8 to 10s 3Rd visit in one inning)
- Pitcher must be replaced on the <u>3rd visit</u> in one game, (8 to 10s 4th visit in one game)



2025 District 8 Tournament Rules – Appeal



- Live Ball (Rule 7.10)
- Re-touch
- Missed base
- Return to first base
- Touch home base



- Dead Ball (Rule 6.06/7)
- Batting out of Turn
- Illegal Bat

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2025 District 8 Tournament Rules – Proper procedure for Protest



- Authority for Tournament play is vested solely in the Tournament Committee at Williamsport.
- Protest or disputes which occur that cannot be settled by the Umpires or Tournament Director through immediate and concise application of the rules can be appealed through the chain of responsibility to the Tournament Committee
- No protest shall be considered on decision involving an umpire's judgement
- Equipment which does not meet specifications must be removed from the game! Do not wait to bring it up until after the game has started! Asked the Tournament Director before the start of the game to check on it for you.



2025 District 8 Tournament Rules – Proper procedure for Protest



- A formal (verbal) protest to the Umpire-in-Chief at once by the manager.
 Before the next pitch or play.
- Umpire-in-Chief will conference with all umpires working the game.
- If unresolved to the satisfaction of the manager, the Umpire-in-Chief shall consult with the Tournament Director and/or District Administrator.
- If the managers do not accept the decision of TD/DA either manager may elect (<u>without penalty</u>) to discontinue play until the matter is referred to the Regional Headquarters.
- If the managers do not accept the decision of Regional Director either manager may insist that the matter be referred to the Tournament Committee.
- The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final and binding.



2025 District 8 Tournament Rules – Curfew



- No new inning after prevailing time.
- 8, 9, 10's = Midnight 12:00AM
- 9, 10, 11's = Midnight 12:00AM
- 10, 11, 12's = Midnight 12:00AM
- Intermediate = 12:30AM
- Juniors = 12:30AM
- Seniors = 1:00AM
- A game shall not be started unless the Tournament Director or assistant judges there is adequate time to complete the game before darkness or curfew.



2025 District 8 Tournament Rules – Lightning Safety



- Estimated 25 Million Cloud to Ground flashes each year.
- Every lighting strike is a potential killer.
- If lighting is within 10 miles play will be postponed for a minimum of 30 minutes, a new lighting strike within the 10 miles resets the clock.
- Deaths from lighting Strikes (* National Lighting Safety Council)
 - 2020 = 17 deaths, 0 in AZ
 - 2021 = 11 deaths, 0 in AZ
 - 2022 = 19 deaths, 0 in AZ
 - 2023 = 14 deaths, 0 in AZ
 - 2024 = 12 deaths, 0 in AZ
 - Local Deaths 1 in Benson(2015), 1 in Sonoita (2014).
- No place outside is safe
 - Not dugouts, not rain shelters, not sheds.
 - Move the players into cars or permanent buildings



2025 District 8 Tournament Rules – Contact Information



- John Hildreth Umpire in Chief
- john hildrethii@msn.com
- 520-227-9257 (C)
- Jorge Maldonado Tournament Director
- jorge.maldonado1@hotmail.com
- 520-313-8496
- Robin Murray District Administrator
- rmurray23@cox.net
- 520-234-7160 (C) 520-538-5139 (W)









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Stickers on Helmets

- Limited to a small number of decals, no larger than the size of a silver dollar
- Decals may cover less than 20% of the helmet surface area
- Decals may not cover NOCSAE label, any other warning labels, manufacturer labels or cracks
- Neither heat, additional adhesives nor other coatings should be used to secure the decals



FAQs



Baseball

• 1.17 All male players must wear a athletic supporter. Male catchers must wear metal, fiber, or plastic type cup.

Softball

• In 7.08 (a) (5) Note 2 n 7.08 (a) (5) Note 2, when the pitcher is in possession of the ball in the circle and is not making a play (for purpose of the rule, feinting a throw is considered a play), all runners off their bases must immediately attempt to advance or retreat. --- Not just the ball and any other player.



Files



2025 Little League Softball Tournament Rule Summary



• 2025 Little League Baseball Tournament Rule Summary

Baseball Differences

2025 Little League Rulebook Significant Updates



2025 Tournament Protest Form (Tournament Staff use)

