

2023 District 8 – Local Rules, Policies and Procedures for Interleague Play *Baseball – Majors Division*

All regular season rules will apply as per the “Little League 2023 Baseball Official Rulebook”, except as amended below. The first two sections below include rules that are consistent with the official rulebook.

COMMON RULES AMONG ALL DIVISIONS OF INTERLEAGUE BASEBALL:

1. **SUPERVISION:** At all times (on offense or on defense), there must be at least one adult present in the dugout. That adult must have cleared a Little League approved background check.
2. **DUGOUT ASSIGNMENTS:** The home team will occupy the third base dugout, and the visiting team will occupy the first base dugout.
3. **UMPIRING:** If District 8 umpires are not available, the home team is responsible for supplying the home plate umpire for the game. The visiting team is responsible for providing the field umpire for the game.
4. **SCOREKEEPING:** Each team must provide a scorekeeper who is not a manager or coach. The home team is considered the official scorekeeper. If the home team is unable to provide a scorekeeper who is not a manager or coach, then the visiting team can provide the official scorekeeper.
5. **BATTING LINEUP:** On offense, teams bat a Continuous Batting Order (CBO), meaning each player on the roster bats before any player bats a second time. Batting nine is not allowed, except in the Seniors Baseball division. Players arriving after the game has started shall be placed at the end of the lineup. “Free” substitution is allowed.
6. **HOME RUN BALLS:** When a batter hits a ball on the fly that passes over the outfield fence or a coned home run line, it is a home run. A batted ball that touches a fielder’s glove, or any other part of said fielder, and passes over the outfield fence or coned home run line on the fly, without ever touching the ground prior to passing the cones, is a home run. A batted ball that passes the coned home run line after first touching the ground is a ground-rule double, regardless of whether a fielder touched it or not.
7. **TIME EFFICIENCY:** Managers and coaches should make every attempt to keep the game moving along at a good pace. Catchers should be identified in advance of their assigned inning, get geared up, and be ready to play when their team takes the field. The umpire will remind managers of this requirement as needed. A courtesy runner (last out) is permitted for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are two outs. When batting nine players (Seniors BB division only), the courtesy runner cannot be in the lineup at the time. Note: Any player wearing a catcher’s mask or a coach may warm-up a pitcher during the regular season. **For tournament play, only a player with a catcher’s mask may serve this role.**
8. **REQUIRED ROSTER:** A team may start and play a game with 8 players. 8 players will bat and the 9th position will be skipped without penalty. The opposing team shall provide a defensive substitute (player who made the last out) when the team with 8 players is in the field. It is recommended that this defensive substitute play the corner outfield position closest to their own dugout.

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OFFICIAL RULES SPECIFIC TO THE MAJORS BASEBALL DIVISION:

1. AGE ELIGIBILITY: All players league age 12, 11, 10 and 9 are eligible for the Majors division.
2. BALL STANDARD: The game will be played using a hardball. The home team will provide a minimum of 2 new game balls to the home plate umpire prior to the start of the game.
3. PITCHING DISTANCE: The entire game will be pitched from a portable mound set at a distance of 46 feet between the front of the pitching rubber and the back corner of home plate.
4. HOME RUN DISTANCE: If playing on a non-fenced field, the home run line will be marked by cones (If available) at a distance of 200 feet from home plate.
5. BAT SAFETY: For safety reasons, players are not allowed to hold a bat in the dugout / bench area or swing a bat outside of the batter's box. Practice swings will be allowed in the batter's box only under the coach's direction.
6. INNINGS FOR COMPLETE GAME: A complete game is defined as 6 innings.
7. DROPPED 3RD STRIKE: If 1st base is not occupied or first base is occupied with two outs, the batter becomes a runner when the third strike is not caught by the catcher.
8. BATTER BOX RULES: After entering the batter's box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat. Exceptions are as follows:
 - a. On a swing, slap, or check swing.
 - b. When forced out of the box by a pitch.
 - c. When the batter attempts a drag bunt.
 - d. When the catcher does not catch the pitched ball.
 - e. When a play has been attempted.
 - f. When time has been called,
 - g. When the pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound, or takes a position more than five feet from the pitching rubber, or the catcher leaves the catcher's box.
 - h. On a three-ball count pitch that is a strike that the batter thinks is a ball.

Penalty: If the batter leaves the batter's box or delays play and none of the exceptions apply, the umpire shall warn the batter. After one warning on a batter, the umpire shall call a strike. Any number of strikes can be called on each batter. No pitch has to be thrown, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

9. MERCY RULE: A game shall terminate and be declared final if one of the following conditions has been met:
 - a. One team is ahead by 15 or more runs after 3+ innings (2.5 if home team is ahead).
 - b. One team is ahead by 10 or more runs after 4+ innings (3.5 if home team is ahead).
 - c. One team is ahead by 8 or more runs after 5+ innings (4.5 if home team is ahead).

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LOCAL DISTRICT 8 RULES THAT MAY DIFFER FROM THE OFFICIAL RULEBOOK:

1. TIME LIMITS FOR GAMES: No new inning can be started after 2 hours and 15 minutes. No new batter after 2 hours and 30 minutes. Games not completed after the 2 hour and 30-minute time limit will revert to the last completed inning. Ties are allowed. A time limit will also apply to doubleheaders. No new batter after 1 hour and 50 minutes in the first game, and no new batter after 2 hours and 15 minutes in the second game. These time limits begin at the scheduled start time for each game.
2. WEEKDAY CURFEW: A curfew shall apply to all games played Sunday through Thursday while school is in session. No new inning may begin after 8:30pm, and no new batter after 8:45 pm. School is not considered to be “in session” during vacations and holidays.
3. MINIMUM PLAY REQUIREMENTS: **Each manager is expected to offer fair playing time for all players on the roster.** For a completed game, **the Washington Little League District 8 modified mandatory play rule is nine defensive outs (does not have to be consecutive), with it being recommended that at least three defensive outs be at an infield position.** Managers are encouraged to give all players their minimum playing time as soon as possible to ensure compliance in the event the game cannot be completed (darkness, weather, time limit, etc). The Little League 2023 Baseball Official Rulebook contains a penalty provision for failure to comply with the mandatory play standards set forth in that rulebook—see Regulation IV(i). The Board of Directors for each District 8 local league may elect to also apply that penalty provision to the teams and coaches in its league in relation to the modified mandatory play requirements contained in this local District 8 rule.
4. PITCHING LIMITS: **A player may not throw more than 50 pitches in a game prior to May 1st. Starting May 1st, the maximum number of pitches varies by league age. See chart below.** If a pitcher reaches their maximum pitch count OR reaches a day(s) of rest threshold while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any of the following conditions occur:
 - Batter reaches base.
 - Batter is retired.
 - Third out is made to complete the half-inning.

The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he/she reached during the first pitch in the at-bat, provided the pitcher is removed before delivering a pitch to another batter. For instance, a league age 12 pitcher that delivers pitch #49 as the first pitch to the final batter he/she faces is only required to observe 2 days of rest. If the game is on a Tuesday, this pitcher would be available to pitch again on Friday.

Additionally, any player that is the defensive catcher for more than three innings is not eligible to pitch that day.

This section is an attempt to summarize the pitch-limit requirements set forth in Regulation VI of the Little League 2023 Baseball Official Rulebook, while also adding in the local pitch limits before May 1st. Coaches must familiarize themselves with Regulation VI and this local rule, and to the extent there is any discrepancy between this local rule and Regulation VI, Regulation VI governs and controls except for the 50-pitch limit prior to May 1st.

5. POST-SEASON: An end-of-the-season Tournament of Champions will be held for North-End teams. Seasons for City Leagues + Shoreline culminate with internal league playoff tournaments.

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PITCH COUNT CHARTS FOR REFERENCE:

Pitches Thrown	Rest Required	Age Group	Division
66 or more	4 calendar days	14 and Under	Juniors and Below
51 to 65	3 calendar days		
36 to 50	2 calendar days		
21 to 35	1 calendar days		
1 to 20	No Rest		

Age	Pitches per Day
7 - 8	50
9 - 10	75
11 - 12	85
13 - 16	95
17 - 18	105

Note: A pitcher that delivers 41 or more pitches cannot catch that day

Note: A catcher that catches 4 innings or more that day cannot pitch that day

CLARIFICATION: A catcher that catches a single pitch in a 4th inning cannot pitch that day. Catchers wishing to pitch may play the catcher position for a maximum of 3 innings.