

2008 Little League Softball Tournament Rule Summary

Updated 21-July-2008

	9/10 year old	10/11 year old	Little League (11/12)	Juniors (12-14)	Seniors (13-16)	Big League (14-18)
Softballs	11-inch softball		12-inch softball			
Mandatory Play	Minimum of 1 at bat AND 3 consecutive defensive outs. Penalty (forfeit) only applies if game is full length, not if game is shortened due to curfew, weather, etc.				Does not apply	
Curfew	No new inning after 11:00 PM			No new inning after 11:30 PM		No new inning after midnight.
Time Limits	If two games are scheduled for the same site, no time limit may be imposed on the first game.					
Pitching Innings	Max 6 per game		Max 9 per game		Max 10 per game Max 10 per day	
Pitching Rest	Only one inning in a game – none required Two or more innings in a game – one calendar day			Less than 5 pitched – none required. Five or more innings – one day.		
Pitching in Consecutive Games	May not pitch in consecutive games if more than one inning pitched in previous game. Exception: allowed between levels (i.e. Districts vs. Sectionals) if rest requirements met.			Allowed, subject to rest requirements.		
Pitching on Consecutive Days	If only one inning pitched previous day, or if pitcher of record in continuation of suspended game.			If less than five innings pitched previous day, or if pitcher of record in continuation of suspended game.		
Pitcher returning to mound	A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once in the same inning as he/she was removed.					
Player Re-entry (Starter or Sub)	Any player who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game in the SAME position in the batting order. A substitute entering the game for the first time may not be removed prior to completion of his/her mandatory play requirements.				Starters may re-enter to their original spot in the batting order <u>once</u>. Substitutes may not re-enter once they have left the game.	
Substitutions	Defensive: Must be made as team takes the field, or while team is in the field. Offensive: Must be made as player comes to bat, or while player is on base.					
Defensive Conferences (visits with pitcher or other player)	Two in an inning, pitcher must be removed from mound on third visit in inning. Three in a game, pitcher must be removed from mound on fourth visit in game. Each pitcher has his/her own "count" of visits, which resumes if pitcher returns to mound.					
10-Run Rule	After 4 innings, 3 ½ if home team is ahead.			After 5 innings, 4 ½ if home team is ahead		
On Deck Batters	Not allowed. Only the leadoff batter is permitted outside the dugout between innings.			Allowed.		
Special Pinch Runner	Allowed at all levels. Once per inning, any player not currently in the batting order may run. A player may only be <u>removed</u> for a special pinch runner once per game.					
Adults	If 13 or more rostered players present for game, 1 manager and 2 coaches allowed. If 12 or fewer rostered players present for game, only 1 manager and 1 coach allowed.					
Base Coaches	Two adult base coaches may be used at all levels, provided there is an adult in the dugout.					
Protests	Playing rule: Must be made before next pitch, play or attempted play. Improper substitution: Must be made before next pitch, play or attempted play. Ineligible pitcher: Must be made before umpires leave the field. Ineligible player: As soon as facts become known, but before either teams' next game.					

The information on this chart 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 tournament rules section of the Official Playing Rules.