

REGULATION AND RULE CHANGES FOR 2007

Changes adopted at the Aug. 25, 2006 meeting of the Little League International Board of Directors are noted in red

Item 1 – All Divisions

REGULATION I (c) – The League

Each league shall:

9. Conduct an annual background check on all personnel that are required to complete a “Little League Volunteer Application” prior to the applicant assuming his/her duties for the current season. No local league shall permit any person to participate in any manner, whose background check reveals a conviction or guilty plea for any crime involving or against a minor. A local league may prohibit any individual from participating as a volunteer or hired worker, if the league deems the individual unfit to work with minors. **A local league must conduct a nationwide search that contains the applicable government sex offender registry data. (Note: The United States Department of Justice National Sex Offender Public Registry is free and available at www.nsopr.gov. Information on conducting a more thorough background check at a nominal cost can be found on the Little League website, or at <http://littleleague.choicepoint.com>.)** **If no sex offender registries exist in a province or country outside the United States the local league must conduct the more extensive of a country, province or city- wide criminal background check through the appropriate governmental agency unless prohibited by law.**

Failure to comply with this regulation may result in the suspension or revocation of tournament privileges and/or the local league’s charter by action of the Charter or Tournament Committee in Williamsport. If a local league becomes aware of information, by any means whatsoever, that an individual, including, but not limited to, volunteers, players and hired workers, has been convicted of or pled guilty to any crime involving or against a minor, the local league must contact the applicable government agency to confirm the accuracy of the information. Upon confirmation of a conviction for, or guilty plea to, a crime against or involving a minor, the local league shall not permit the individual to participate in any manner.

Item 2 – All Divisions

REGULATION II – LEAGUE BOUNDARIES

(a) Each league shall determine actual boundaries of the area from WITHIN which it shall select players. Only those participants whose residence is within the boundaries of the league shall be eligible to participate. Residence, for the purposes of this regulation,

is defined in “Residence Eligibility Requirements” in the first section of this book (Pages 14-16). **NOTE:** Any player who does not reside WITHIN the league’s boundaries must have an approved waiver issued by the Charter Committee at Little League International. All waiver requests to the Charter Committee must be submitted in writing by the league president before the start of the league’s regular season or June 1 whichever occurs first. Requests must be submitted to the regional office through the district administrator. These boundaries MUST be described in detail AND shown on a map when making application for the charter. The local Little League boundaries shall be the boundaries of the Junior/Senior/Big League. Exception noted for Big League district operating in Regulation I.

Item 3 – Baseball Divisions

Regulation VI – Pitchers:

- a. Any player on a regular season team may pitch. (**NOTE:** There is no limit to the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.)
- b. **Junior, Senior, and Big League Divisions only:** 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 per game.
- c. The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

League Age	17-18	105 pitches per day
	13-16	95 pitches per day
	11-12	85 pitches per day
	10 and under	75 pitches per day

Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Regulation VI (c) for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until that batter reaches base or is put out. **Note 1. Intentional Walk:** Before a pitch is delivered to the batter, the catcher must inform the umpire-in-chief that the defensive team wishes to give the batter an intentional base-on-balls. The umpire-in-chief waves the batter to first base. The ball is dead.

- d. Pitchers league age 16 and under must adhere to the following rest requirements:
 - If a player pitches 61 or more pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches 41 - 60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches 21 - 40 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest must be observed.

Pitchers league age 17-18 must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- If a player pitches 76 or more pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches 51 - 75 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches 26 - 50 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches 1-25 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest must be observed.
- e. Each league must designate the scorekeeper or another game official as the official pitch count recorder.
 - f. The pitch count recorder must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager is responsible for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed.
 - g. The official pitch count recorder should inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted in Regulation VI (c). The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed in accordance with Regulation VI (c). However, the failure by the pitch count recorder to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in-chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.
 - h. Violation of any section of this regulation can result in protest of the game in which it occurs. Protest shall be made in accordance with Playing Rule 4.19.
 - i. A player who has attained the league age of twelve (12) is not eligible to pitch in the Minor League.
 - j. A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day. (Exception: In the Big League Division, a player may be used as a pitcher in up to two games in a day.)

NOTES:

1. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after that pitcher is announced, or after a warm-up pitch is delivered, but before that player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation. Little League officials are urged to take precautions to prevent protests. When a protest situation is imminent, the potential offender should be notified immediately.
2. Pitches delivered in games declared "Regulation Tie Games" or "Suspended Games" shall be charged against pitcher's eligibility.
3. In suspended games resumed on another day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of their eligibility for that day, provided said pitcher has observed the required days of rest.

Example 1: A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on the following Thursday. The pitcher is not eligible to pitch in the resumption of the game because he/she has not observed the required three days of rest.

Example 2: A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on Saturday. The pitcher is eligible to pitch up to 85 more pitches in the resumption of the game because he/she has observed the required three days of rest.

Example 3: A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes two weeks later. The pitcher is eligible to pitch up to 85 more pitches in the resumption of the game, provided he/she is eligible based on his/her pitching record during the previous three days.

Note: The use of this regulation negates the concept of the “calendar week” with regard to pitching eligibility.

Item 4 – Softball Divisions

Rule 1.09 – The softball used must meet Little League specifications and standards. The ball shall be not less than 11 – 7/8” nor more than 12-1/8” in circumference and shall weigh not less than 6-1/4 ounces nor more than 7 ounces. **Minor League/Tee Ball** the ball shall be not less than 10-7/8” nor more than 11-1/8” in circumference and shall weigh not less than 5-1/2 ounces nor more than 6 ounces.

Item 5 – Baseball Divisions

Rule 1.10 – The bat must be a baseball bat which meets Little League specifications and standards as noted in this rule. It shall be a smooth, rounded stick and made of wood or of material **and color** tested and proved acceptable to Little League standards. It shall not be more than thirty-three (33) inches (34 inches for **Junior**; **36** inches for **Big and Senior League**) in length, nor more than two and one-quarter (2 ¼) inches for Little League, 2 ¾ inches for **Junior**, **and 2 ¾** for wood-2 5/8 non wood for **Senior and Big League in diameter**, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenth (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30”) at its smallest part. Bats may be taped or fitted with a sleeve for a distance not exceeding sixteen (16) inches (18 inches for **Junior/Senior/Big League Baseball**) from the small end. **Senior/Big League baseball** a bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length (in inches) of the bat (e.g., a 33-inch-long bat cannot be less than 30 ounces).

Note 1:

Note 2:

Note 3: Beginning with the 2009 season, non wood bats used in divisions of Little League (league age 12 years old and younger) shall be printed with a BPF (bat performance factor) of 1.15 or less. **Senior and Big League non wood bats shall meet the BESR (Bat Exit Speed Ratio) performance standard, and such bats shall be printed with a permanent certification mark.**

Item 6 – All Divisions

TOURNAMENT PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – Baseball and Softball

Big League - Any player League Age 16, 17 or 18 (14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 – Softball), with amateur status, **who has been a rostered member** for one-half the regular season

games (**special games may be counted toward this requirement**) by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the high school or college baseball season, on a Big League Baseball Team, **or**, any player League Age 16 (14, 15, and 16 – Softball), with amateur status, **who has participated as an eligible player** in one-half the regular season games as of June 15, with the exception of the middle school, junior high school or high school baseball season, on a Senior League Baseball Team (Junior or Senior Team – Softball).

Item 7 – All Divisions

4.07 – When a manager, coach or player is ejected from a game, they shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in that game. They may not sit in the stands and may not be recalled. **A manager or coach ejected from a game must not be present at the game site for the remainder of that game.** Any manager, coach or player ejected from a game is suspended for his or her team’s next physically played game and may not be in attendance at the game site from which they are suspended.

END

SCOREKEEPING RULES CHANGES FOR 2007

Changes adopted for the 2007 Scorekeeping Rules (located in the publication “What’s the Score?”) are noted in **red**.

The text below in **red** will be added as Rule 10.22 ...

PITCH COUNT (BASEBALL ONLY)

- 10.22** – Each pitch delivered to a batter shall be counted. (Exception: A pitch declared “no pitch” will not be charged to that pitcher.)
- (a) The official scorekeeper’s record of the pitch count shall be the official record. In the absence of an official scorekeeper, the record of the person designated by the local league (or tournament director) to count pitches will be the official record.
 - (b) The pitches may be counted by a person other than the scorekeeper, but the total pitches for each pitcher must be entered in the scorebook, or in a locally-produced register for this purpose. The scorebook or register will be used to determine the pitching eligibility in a subsequent game or games.
 - (c) When requested by the manager, the scorekeeper and any other official(s) involved in tallying the pitch count must provide current information on the pitch count for a pitcher currently in the game.
 - (d) The scorekeeper and any other official(s) involved in tallying the pitch count must inform the umpire-in-chief and manager when the maximum number of pitches has been delivered by a particular pitcher, pursuant to the pitcher’s league age. (See Regulation VI.) However, the failure by such officials to notify the umpire-in-chief and manager does not relieve the manager of the responsibility to remove a pitcher when the limit is reached as required in Regulation VI.

END

Questions on the Pitch Count

1. What is the penalty for violating the pitch count regulation?

Violating the regular season pitch count regulation can be protested in accordance with Rule 4.19. And, as with all regular season games, the local league (by action of the local league Board of Directors through the Protest Committee) resolves all protests. The local league Protest Committee could decree a forfeit, or not, as it sees fit. The Board of Directors also could suspend or remove managers who willfully and persistently violate any rule or regulation.

2. Can the same pitcher throw in consecutive games?

Yes, depending on the number of pitches thrown and the days of rest, the same pitcher could pitch in consecutive games (regular season).

3. Can the same pitcher pitch in both games of a doubleheader played on the same day? What about a partial game (such as a continuation of a suspended game) and a full game later in the day?

No, in both cases. The regulation specifically forbids a player from pitching in two games in one day. It does not matter if one of the two games is only part of a game. (Exception: In Big League Baseball, a player may pitch in up to two games in a day.)

4. Could our local Little League place further restrictions on pitching in the Minor Divisions?

Yes, a local league could further limit the number of pitches that can be thrown by a player in the Minor League.

5. Is there a limit to the number of 12 year olds that can pitch in a week?

No. A manager may use as many 12-year-old pitchers in a week as he/she chooses.

6. Are warm up pitches calculated in the pitch count for a pitcher?

No. As always, however, umpires should be mindful that the rules permit a returning pitcher to have eight preparatory pitches, or one minute, whichever comes first. (See Rule 8.04.)

7. If a Major Division pitcher has completed six innings in a game, and the game is tied, will that pitcher be permitted to pitch in the seventh inning if he/she has not reached the limit?

Yes. There is no limit to the number of innings a pitcher can pitch in a day. A limit is placed on the number of pitches only.

8. Last year, the Pitch Count Pilot Program was optional. Is it optional in 2007?

No. All leagues in Little League must use the new Pitch Count Regulation in all divisions of baseball.

9. Does this mean a pitcher could pitch in two games in a "calendar week."

Yes, but the concept of the calendar week is no longer in use. Here's why...

A pitcher under the previous regulation could have pitched six innings (potentially 150 or more pitches) on a Saturday, and after three days of rest, could have pitched on Wednesday for six more innings (and potentially more than 150 pitches). *That's a potential total of 300 or more pitches in a five-day period.*

Under the new regulation, the same pitcher could pitch on Tuesday (but no more than 85 pitches), and, after three days of rest, could pitch on Saturday (again, no more than 85 pitches). *That's a potential of no more than 170 pitches in a five-day period.*