

CHANGES/UPDATES TO THE LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL® TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES – 2009

(Last update: October 30, 2008)

Participation in Other Programs

What is changed: Removes the prohibition on participation in non-Little League programs for all divisions, but still provides the local league with the ability to remove a player who repeatedly misses games or practices.

Participation in other programs during the International Tournament is permitted, subject to the provisions of Regulation IV (a) Note 2.

League Eligibility

What is changed: Clarified to establish that the league must schedule at least one-half of the regular season games to be played not later than June 15; Establishes the last date by which certain forms and/or requests must be submitted.

In order for a Little League program to be eligible to enter a team or teams into the International Tournament (including 9-10 Year Old Division and 10-11 Year Old Division) the following must be accomplished as indicated:

- 1) The league must be chartered in the division(s) for which it wishes to enter a tournament team(s), no later than June 9, 2009. Examples: Chartered in Little League Majors to enter a Major Division team (11-12 year olds); chartered in Senior League to enter a Senior Division team, etc.
- 2) The league must have scheduled and played, at a minimum, a 12-game (per team) regular season exclusive of playoffs and tournament games for each division entering tournament. See Reg. VII. The schedule shall be arranged so that at least one-half of the games are scheduled prior to June 15.
- 3) All waivers requests (for the league, team, player, manager, and/or coach) of any kind must be submitted and approved not later than June 9, 2009.
- 4) All regular season team rosters must be submitted to Little League International in accordance with the requirements outlined in Regulation IV (g), not later than June 9, 2009;
- 5) Team number revisions and fees incurred by the league must be paid in full by June 9, 2009.
- 6) All combined team and interleague play requests that may involve tournament play must be submitted and approved not later than June 9, 2009.

Failure to meet any of the listed requirements could result in a team or teams being declared ineligible by the Tournament Committee at Little League International.

Tournament Playing Rules

What is changed: Increases the circumference of the softball to be used in the 10-11 Year Old Division from 11 inches to 12 inches.

1. **SOFTBALLS:** Softballs meeting Little League specifications for a 12-inch softball shall be used in 10-11 Little League, Junior League, Senior League, and Big League play. The 11-inch softball shall be used in the 9-10 division.

4. PITCHING RULES - LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL, 9-10 YEAR OLD SOFTBALL, AND 10-11 YEAR OLD DIVISION

What is changed: Establishes the maximum number of innings a player could pitch in a day; Allows for consecutive days of pitching if two or less innings are pitched in a day; .

- f. A player may not pitch in more than nine (9) innings in a day. 9-10 & 10-11 Year Old Division players may not pitch in more than seven (7) innings in a day.
- g. If a player pitches in less than three (3) innings in a calendar day, no rest is required.
- h. If a player pitches in three (3) or more innings in a calendar day, one day's rest is required. This also applies between regular season games following Tournament elimination or Special Games following the Tournament.
EXAMPLE (1): A player may pitch on Saturday in regular season play then, after one (1) calendar day's rest, pitch again in the next level of tournament play on Monday.

EXAMPLE (2): A player may pitch on Saturday in the final district game then, after one (1) calendar day's rest, pitch again in the next level of tournament play on Monday.

EXCEPTIONS:

- (1) A player may pitch on consecutive calendar days if less than three (3) innings were pitched in the previous calendar day.
- (2) In a game suspended by darkness, weather or other causes and resumed the following calendar day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of the remaining eligibility that pitcher would have had during the previous day. However, in no event shall any pitcher pitch more than nine (9) innings (seven [7] innings - 9/10 and 10/11) in any game.