

2016 Little League Softball Tournament Rule Summary

Updated 03-Jun-2016

	8/9/10 year old	9/10/11 year old	Little League (10/11/12)	Juniors (12-14)	Seniors (13-16)	Big League (14-18)
Max Roster Size	14	14	14	14	16	17
Pitching Distance	35 feet	40 feet		43 feet		
Softballs	11-inch softball	12-inch softball				
Mandatory Play	13+ players: Minimum of 1 at bat 12 or fewer: Minimum of 1 at bat and 6 consecutive defensive outs. Substitute entering game for first time may not be removed until this is met.				Does not apply	
Curfew	No new inning after midnight			No new inning after 12:30 AM	No new inning after 1:00 AM.	
Time Limits	If two games are scheduled for the same site, no time limit may be imposed on the first game.					
Pitching Innings	Max 12 per day Max 12 per game			No restrictions		
Pitching Rest	Six or fewer innings in a day – none required Seven or more innings in a day – one calendar day			No rest required		
Pitching in Consecutive Games	Allowed, subject to rest requirements.			No restrictions		
Pitching on Consecutive Days	If six or fewer innings pitched previous day, or if pitcher of record in continuation of suspended game.			No restrictions		
Pitcher returning to mound	A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher any time in the remainder of the game, but only once in the same inning as he/she was removed. A pitcher, withdrawn from the game offensively or defensively for a substitute, may not re-enter the game as a pitcher.			<i>A player may be removed as a pitcher, offensively or defensively, and return as pitcher only once per inning provided the return does not violate either the substitution, charged conference, or mandatory play rule(s).</i>		
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	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		
3rd Strike Not Caught	Batter is out	Batter is out if first is occupied with less than two outs. If first is unoccupied or there are two outs, batter becomes runner and defense must put him/her out.				
Leaving Early	Pitch reaches batter	Pitch leaves the pitcher's hand				
On Deck Batters	Not allowed. Only the leadoff batter is permitted outside the dugout between innings.			Allowed.		
Illegal Pitch Penalty	Ball awarded to batter			Ball awarded to batter and base runners advance one base		
Multiple Games/Day	Up to two (2) doubleheaders in a seven-day period			Maximum of three games in a day		
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 removed for a special pinch runner once per game.					
Adults	1 manager and 2 coaches allowed regardless of number of players.					
Base Coaches	Two adult base coaches may be used at all levels, provided there is an adult in the dugout.					
Protests	Playing rule or improper substitution:		Must be made before next pitch, play or attempted play.			
	Mandatory play:		As soon as the facts become known.			
	Ineligible pitcher or 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.