



LITTLE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS AGENDA SURVEY

The Little League- Rules Committee reports the following items have been submitted for consideration for inclusion in the Agenda of the 25th International Congress of Little League to be held March 12-15, 2010, in Lexington, Kentucky. After conferring with your leagues, please indicate which items you believe should be included on the agenda.

NAME (please print): _____

STATE or PROVINCE: _____ COUNTRY: _____ DISTRICT NO.: _____

Remember that you are voting on whether or not these items should be included in the agenda, not on the item itself.

Item 1 Affects Regulation I – THE LEAGUE - (Senior League Baseball and Softball)

- (a) Junior League is an extension of the local Little League to accommodate youngsters league ages 13 and 14 with an exception for 12-year-old players as noted in Regulation IV (a); Senior League is an extension of the local Little League to accommodate youngsters league ages 14, 15 and 16 (Softball: 13-16); Big League is an extension of the local Little League to accommodate youngsters league ages 16, 17 and 18 (Softball: 14-18). **NOTE 1:** This allows the Local League Board of Directors to place some or all 14 year olds in the Junior League Division OR Senior League Division. It also allows the Local League board to place some or all 16 year olds in the Senior League Division OR the Big League Division.

NOTE 2: Junior/Senior/Big League players may participate in other baseball/softball programs during the regular season and tournament subject to the provisions of Regulation IV.

Senior/Big League:

Teams from one or more leagues in a district which are currently chartered may join to form a Senior/Big League. Any district which can field four (4) teams, must have its own league. Where one district cannot field four (4) teams, leagues in adjoining districts may combine to form a Senior/Big League not to exceed ten (10) teams, with approval of the Charter Committee.

EXCEPTION: The Senior/Big League may be a district-operated program, supervised by the District Administrator. Such a district-wide program may draw participants from within the boundaries of each chartered league in the district. However, each Local League wishing to do so may retain its own team/league structure. **NOTE:** District Administrators, even if they operate a district-wide Senior/Big League program, are not permitted to vote in the election for District Administrator.

Synopsis: This regulation would allow Senior Baseball and Softball Divisions to be chartered at the District level, as is currently offered in the Big League Division.

- I AGREE–The proposed change should be considered for the Congress Agenda**
- I DISAGREE– The proposed change SHOULD NOT be considered for the Congress Agenda**

Item 2 Affects Regulation II – LEAGUE BOUNDARIES – New Regulation – II (i)

The Board of Directors of the local Little League may enroll a player whose residence is outside the league's boundaries, but only under all three of the following conditions: (1) the player has residence within another chartered Little League's boundaries, and (2) the league where the player resides releases and waives all current and future rights to the player for regular season and tournament, and (3) the District Administrator approves the request. **NOTE:** A player who qualifies for and exercises this waiver, then elects not to participate for a playing season, is not eligible to be retained in future seasons.

Regulations II (i) – Processing Procedure – All Levels of Play

The league president will process a II (i) form. Once the president completes the form, he/she must receive written notification from the league where the player currently resides as outlined above. The league president will present this form and written notification to the District Administrator for review. Once the District Administrator verifies the documentation meets the regulations, the District Administrator will sign the II (i) form granting his or her approval. The league and the district will maintain the form and documenting in their files. This verification process is only required once during a participant's career. The league must maintain this form and documentation for this player for the duration of his/her career until the player graduates from the program or breaks service with the league. Tournament teams with players qualifying under this regulation will be required to carry a copy of this form and documentation with them throughout the tournament. If contested during tournament play, the league will be required to produce the documentation. Additionally, if it is determined at a later date that the player does not meet the conditions of II (i), the player is ineligible for further participation. Situations in which documentation is

not available must be referred to the Charter Committee through the regional office for decision. The decision of the Charter Committee is final and binding.

Synopsis: This regulation would allow leagues to register players who live in another chartered Little League's boundaries, with written consent from both league presidents and the District Administrator.

- I AGREE--The proposed change should be considered for the Congress Agenda
- I DISAGREE-- The proposed change SHOULD NOT be considered for the Congress Agenda

Item 3 Affects Regulation IV – The Players – Tee Ball Baseball and Softball

Tee Ball Division: Any candidate who will attain the age of 4 years before May 1 (Softball: January 1) and who will not attain the age of 9 before May 1 (Softball: January 1) of the year in question shall be eligible to compete in the Tee Ball Division Baseball (subject to the Local League Board of Directors alignment of this division). This means that a child who will be 9 years old on May 1 (Softball: January 1) or later, is eligible to play that year; a child who will be 9 years old on April 30 (Softball: December 31) or earlier will not be eligible for either Local League play or tournament play at any time during the calendar year in question.

Synopsis: This would allow leagues the ability to expand their Tee Ball division to accept 4-year olds.

- I AGREE--The proposed change should be considered for the Congress Agenda
- I DISAGREE-- The proposed change SHOULD NOT be considered for the Congress Agenda

Item 4 Affects Regulation V – SELECTION OF PLAYERS – All Levels of Play

Operating Manual Plan B

The draft is conducted in two separate phases. The first part includes those players who: (A) are returning from a Major team in the same division, AND; B. have registered for the current season.

This first phase of drafting returning players must be completed before the second phase of the draft, and all returning players who qualify under both conditions above must be drafted. Managers are not permitted to waive a draft choice.

The second phase of the draft includes all players who are eligible for selection and have attended the required number of tryout sessions.

The draft rotation follows the reverse order to finish from the previous season, with the last place team's manager receiving the first pick, then the second-to-last place team, and so on. For instance, in a four-team league, the manager of the last place team from the previous season makes the following player selections: 1st choice, 8th, 9th, 16th, 17th, 24th, 25th, etc; The manager of the team that finished in third place makes the 2nd choice, 7th, 10th, 18th, 23rd, etc; The manager of the team that finished in second place makes the 3rd choice, 6th, 11th, 14th, 19th, 22nd; The manager of the team that finished in first place gets 4th choice, 5th, 12th, 13th, 20th, 21st, etc., until selections are completed.

NOTE 1: Because there are no players returning to a particular team, and because coaches cannot be named until the draft is completed, Options 2 and 4 (see "Options On Sons, Daughter and Siblings" in this chapter) do NOT apply when using the draft selection plan.

NOTE 2: When the second phase of this draft method begins, the draft order starts over, regardless of which team drafted last in the first phase.

Synopsis: This regulation would mandate that all divisions of play re-draft each season. (All teams would place all returning players back into the pool for re-draft each year.)

- I AGREE--The proposed change should be considered for the Congress Agenda
- I DISAGREE-- The proposed change SHOULD NOT be considered for the Congress Agenda

Item 5 Affects Regulation VIII (Minor League Baseball and Softball)

Each player on the roster must play a minimum of three (3) defensive innings in an infield position during the game. An infield position, for the purposes of this rule, is defined as one of the six positions not in the outfield.

Synopsis: Per our research, this would give children the opportunity to experience more positions.

- I AGREE--The proposed change should be considered for the Congress Agenda
- I DISAGREE-- The proposed change SHOULD NOT be considered for the Congress Agenda

Item 6 Affects Rule 3.03 (Minor League Baseball and Softball)

A player in the starting line-up who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game once, in any position in the batting order provided:

- 1) His or her substitute has completed one time at bat and;
- 2) His or her substitute has played defensively for a minimum of nine (9) consecutive outs.
- 3) Pitchers once removed...

Synopsis: This would provide additional playing time defensively to players in the Minor League division.

- I AGREE–The proposed change should be considered for the Congress Agenda
- I DISAGREE– The proposed change SHOULD NOT be considered for the Congress Agenda

Item 7 Affects Regulation VI – Baseball (a)

(a) Any player on a regular season team may pitch. Exception: Any player, who has played the position of catcher for three (3) or more innings in a game, is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.

Synopsis: This would prohibit catchers from moving to the pitcher position after catching three (3) innings, in an effort to prevent arm injuries.

- I AGREE–The proposed change should be considered for the Congress Agenda
- I DISAGREE– The proposed change SHOULD NOT be considered for the Congress Agenda

Item 8 Affects Regulation IV – Major League and Junior League Softball

A 12-year-old player who is otherwise eligible under all conditions would be eligible for selection to either the Major League or Junior League Division tournament team. However, a local Little League's board of directors could decide that players league-age 12 in the league will not try out for the Junior League Division, and will be eligible for only the Little League ("Majors") Division/Minor League Division. A player may be selected to participate in one or more regular season games on a Major League team and/or a Junior League team. If a player participates in sixty (60) percent of the Regular Season games in each division as of June 15, he/she will be eligible to participate in either the Major or Junior Division from that point forward in regular season and/or tournament play.

If a player only participates in sixty (60) percent of the Regular Season games in one division (Major or Junior) as of June 15, he/she is only eligible to participate with that particular division from that point forward in regular season and/or tournament play.

Any player who is league age 12 must be permitted to play in the Major Division.

The local league cannot force any player who is league age 12 to play in the Junior League Division.

NOTE: If a player pitches in one or more regular season games on a Junior League team, he/she will be ineligible to pitch in the Major Division from that point forward in regular season and would only be eligible for the Junior League tournament team.

Synopsis: This will allow 12-year-olds additional opportunities and playing time, as well as provide leagues with added flexibility.

- I AGREE–The proposed change should be considered for the Congress Agenda
- I DISAGREE– The proposed change SHOULD NOT be considered for the Congress Agenda

Item 9 Affects Rule 6.09 (b) – Major League Softball

The batter becomes a runner when –

(6) Major/Junior/Senior/Big League: the third strike called by the umpire is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied or (2) first base is occupied with two out. NOTE: A batter forfeits the opportunity to advance to first base when he/she enters the dugout or any other dead ball area.

Synopsis: This would allow Major League Softball players to begin learning batter/runner skills at an earlier division and align Little League's rule with other softball organizations.

- I AGREE–The proposed change should be considered for the Congress Agenda
- I DISAGREE– The proposed change SHOULD NOT be considered for the Congress Agenda

Item 10 Affects Rule 7.08 (a) (5) – Major League Softball

Any runner is out when –

(a) (5) Major Division: the runner fails to keep contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been released by the pitcher on the delivery. **(NOTE: A local league may adopt a rule that requires the runner to keep in contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been batted or reaches the batter, or be called out.)**

(6) Minor League/Tee Ball: the runner fails to keep in contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been batted or reaches the batter.

Synopsis: This would allow Major League Softball players to begin learning the catcher position and skills at an earlier division and align Little League’s stealing rule with other softball organizations.

- I AGREE–The proposed change should be considered for the Congress Agenda
- I DISAGREE– The proposed change SHOULD NOT be considered for the Congress Agenda

Item 11 Affects Rule 8.03 (c) –Junior, Senior and Big League Softball

(1) If the pitcher desires to walk a batter intentionally, all pitches must be legally delivered to the batter.

Synopsis: This would mandate a pitcher throw four balls to walk a batter.

- I AGREE–The proposed change should be considered for the Congress Agenda
- I DISAGREE– The proposed change SHOULD NOT be considered for the Congress Agenda

Suggested Rule and/or Regulation changes

Use the space below for changes you believe should come before the Rules Committee for agenda consideration. Please note that recommended changes will only be considered for regular season rules and regulations. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Rule/Regulation Affected	Suggested Change