



TOURNAMENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2009

The following is a list of questions a typical league might ask while preparing for the 2009 International Tournament. Following every answer is the topic and page number in the Official Rules and Tournament Guidelines to which officials can turn for more information. If you have additional questions regarding tournament play, please do not hesitate to contact your district administrator.

1. In Little League Baseball and Softball, how many double headers can a District Administrator schedule for my teams during any level of tournament play?

A: The District Administrator must get permission from the appropriate Regional office to schedule any double headers in the Little League Major Division. The Region should limit SCHEDULED doubleheaders to not more than two per team, per tournament level. This means that no team should be SCHEDULED to possibly play more than two doubleheaders in a given tournament level. Doubleheaders may not be scheduled for 9-10 and 10-11 Baseball and 9-10 and 10-11 Softball unless forced by weather or some other unavoidable occurrence. Doubleheaders for 9-10 Baseball and 9-10 Softball must be approved by the Regional Director. (Schedules, page T-8)

2. It is the bottom of the fifth inning and the home team is ahead 5-4, when the skies open up and a torrential downpour washes out the rest of the fifth inning and the entire sixth inning. What do we do now?

A: If a natural occurrence (rain, darkness if no lights are available, etc.) halts a game, and it cannot be restarted that day, and it has reached the point of a regulation game when a winner can be determined, the game is over. However, if the game is halted by light failure, a locally imposed curfew on the lights, sprinkler malfunction or some other human-error condition, it must be suspended and resumed the next available day. Tournament Directors should be advised to allow enough time to complete all games by the curfew imposed locally, if earlier than Little League's curfew, but that such local curfew will not end the game. (Regulation Game, Baseball, page T-18. Softball, page T-16)

Example 1: Team A is winning 9-0 after five full innings on a lighted field at night, and because of a locally imposed curfew, the lights must be turned out. In this case, the teams must return the next available day to complete the game.

Example 2: Team A is winning at dusk 9-0 after five full innings on a field that has lights, which were presumed to be working and available for the game. However, the lights cannot be turned on because lightning hit them earlier in the day (a malfunction). In this case, the teams must return the next available day to complete the game.

3. In the Major Division, at the end of the fourth inning, the home team is leading 5-4. The visiting team scores three runs to take the lead, 7-5 in the top of the fifth. The umpire calls the game because of darkness before the home team completes its turn at bat in the bottom of the fifth. What is the outcome of the game?

A: The home team wins 5-4 because the score reverts back to the last completed inning. (Rule 4.10 (c); for Junior Division and above, 4 1/2 or 5 innings.)

4. Our District Administrator has scheduled one of our major teams for a doubleheader district championship game in baseball. If we win the first game we will be required to play a second game. Can my pitcher deliver five pitches in the first game and then come back to pitch in the second game?

A: No. A player may not pitch in more than one game a day (Baseball Only). (T-13)

5. The manager of the offensive team has requested a "time out" to discuss strategy with the batter. A hitter or two later he again wants "time out" to discuss strategy with a base runner.

A: Only ONE offensive time out is permitted each inning. However, a manager could have more than one time out in an inning for offensive substitutions. The intent of this rule is to limit the time spent in offensive conferences. (Visits, Baseball page T-15. Softball, page T-14.)

6. The defensive manager requests and is granted a time out to talk to his pitcher. Can I, as the offensive manager, talk to my batter or runner during this time out?

A: If one team calls for and receives a time out to confer with a player, it will be charged with a time out or visit. At this time, the opposing team may also confer without being charged with a time out or visit, provided the team is ready when the opponent concludes the time out or visit. (Visits, Baseball page T-15. Softball, page T-14))

7. In the third inning the defensive manager enters #35 into the game for #10. In the fifth inning the same manager re-enters #10 back into the game for #35. Then in the sixth inning the manager now wants to enter #35 into the game for #55 at second base. Can he legally do this?

A: This would be considered an improper substitution and cannot be allowed to happen. The umpires, scorekeepers, game officials all should not allow this to happen. Player #35 can re-enter for #10 again, but not in another batting spot in the lineup. Remember that an improper substitution is basis for protest, but will not result in a forfeit. The solution is to correct the situation, and play on. All actions by the substitute up to that point are legal. This is different from an ineligible pitcher, which can result in forfeiture. However, in these two cases above, ALL Little League personnel, including all managers and coaches, the Tournament Director, scorekeeper and umpires, should PREVENT such a situation before it happens. NOTE 1: Batting out of order, which can result in an “out” being declared on the proper batter, the batter-runner being removed from the base, and the next batter in order coming up to bat, should NOT be reported by any Little League official to either team’s managers or coaches. NOTE 2: It is possible to have an improper substitution AND batting out of order, if a batter is sent to the plate AND is not eligible to enter the game. In this event, the batting out of order penalty is applied, but the protest should be avoided, if possible, before the batter takes a pitch. (Substitutions, Baseball page T-16. Softball, page T-15)

8. Is each child on a tournament team affidavit required to participate in each and every game during tournament play? What about a player who is not at the game? (Junior, Little League, 10-11, 9-10)

A: Every player on a team roster and present for the game shall participate in each game for a minimum of three (3) consecutive defensive outs AND bat at least one (1) time.

Definition: Three (3) consecutive defensive outs is when a player enters the field in one of nine defensive positions when his/her team is on defense and occupies such position while three consecutive outs are made; bat at least one (1) time is when a player enters the batters box with no count and completes that time at bat by being put out or by reaching base safely. (Mandatory Play, Baseball, T-16. Softball, T-15)

9. The manager of the tournament team files a protest with the tournament director that the other team has a player that is ineligible. The manager provides some documentation that a player is ineligible. What do we do at this point?

A: The Tournament Director, after reviewing the documentation, contacts the Regional Office, which then contacts the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee would rule the game is forfeited in the event of an ineligible player and the game is over immediately. If it is not determined by the Tournament Committee DURING a game that a player is not eligible and the facts establishing eligibility are not clear, the game will continue. After the game, the protest may or may not be continued. (Protests, pages T-9, -10, and -11)

10. (Junior/Senior/Big League Baseball and all divisions of Softball) In the second inning the manager of the defensive team moves the pitcher into left field and brings the left fielder in to pitch. Then in the fifth inning the manager wants to reverse the procedure and bring back the original pitcher. Can this be done?

A: A pitcher could pitch to the first batter in the third inning, then be moved to left field for the rest of that inning and two more innings, then return to the mound to pitch the sixth inning. It is not necessary that the pitcher be returned to the mound in the same inning in which he/she was removed. Provided he/she is not removed from the game for a substitute, he/she could return to the mound any time, but not more than once per game for baseball and once per inning for softball. (Substitutions, page T-16 and T-17 or pitching, Baseball T-12 and T-14, Softball T-12 and T-13)

11. One team is at the tournament site with 14 players and the other team does not show up for game time. What do we do now since we only have one team present for the scheduled game?

A: If a team does not show up for a game (or not enough players are present), it will NOT be an automatic forfeit. Only the Tournament Committee can decree a forfeit, and ONLY AFTER the circumstances of the situation are known. The District Administrator or Tournament Director should determine why the team cannot field nine players, and report this to the Regional Director. The objective should be to attempt to get all games in, without seriously delaying the tournament. (Forfeits, Baseball page T-15. Softball T-14)

12. The manager of a tournament team is ejected from the first game of the tournament. Again, in the third game of the tournament, the same manager is ejected. This second ejection, however, is for making contact with an umpire during a verbal altercation. Can the tournament director remove the manager from the team for the rest of the tournament?

A: Rule 4.07 disqualifies any manager, coach or player from the next physically played game if he/she is ejected

from a game. Rule 16 allows the District Administrator or Tournament Director to refer physical or verbal altercations at the game site to the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee may remove or suspend any individual from tournament play. (Altercations, Baseball page T-18. Softball T-17)

13. What type of map (required to be carried by the tournament team manager) is acceptable? Can it be hand-drawn? Does it have to show streets, highways, etc.?

A: The tournament team manager should have received the league boundary map signed by the District Administrator and the league president before the tournament started. The map may be hand drawn and must use physical structures (such as a road), or a geographic feature (such as a river) to determine boundaries. Any league team that arrives at a game site without a map will have 24 hours or until the next game, whichever is earlier, to provide a copy of the map or risk forfeiture of the last game played, if that game was protested. (Tournament Eligibility Affidavit, Page T-4)

14. My team is losing a player right after the third game of the tournament. This player will not be back for any more tournament games. Who can authorize the replacement player and what documentation do we have to produce to get the replacement player on the team's affidavit?

A: The District Administrator or Tournament Director can authorize the addition of the replacement player to the team's affidavit. The league would be required to produce (1) a birth certificate that meets the current criteria, (2) three (3) forms of proof that meet residency requirements, (3) the league's map, annotated with residence of the new player, and (4) verification by the league president that the player participated in at least 60% the regular season games by June 15. (Replacement of Player, Manager or Coach, page T-7)

15. What forms or documents is the tournament manager required to carry with the team while playing in tournament games?

A: Birth documents for all players, completed affidavits with all required signatures, eligibility waivers for participants otherwise ineligible, three forms of residency documentation and the league's boundary map are all required. Original birth certificates should be copied and the tournament manager should carry those copies during tournament play. The originals should be returned to the parents/guardians. (Tournament Eligibility Affidavit, page T-4)

16. What is the minimum number of players on the affidavit necessary to qualify for a game?

A: Nine players is the minimum number of players required for a game to be played. (Rule 1.01, page 45 Baseball; page 43 Softball)

17. Under the heading of Residence Eligibility Requirements there is a sentence that says, "...Residency documents must illustrate that the residence (as defined above) was inside the league's boundaries for at least one-half of the regular season (as of June 15 of the year in question)." Does this also apply to players that are claimed under Regulation II (d) and Regulation IV (h)?

A: No. These waivers allow the players to participate while residing outside the league's boundaries. However, documentation that supports the previous residence of parents or guardian must be presented and accompany the player. (Residence Eligibility Requirements, pages 14 and 15 Baseball; pages 14 and 15 Softball)

18. May an opposing team request to see documentation for another team?

A: No. Each team must carry proper documentation such as copies of birth certificates and league boundary maps, but this information should only be made available to the Tournament Director in the case of a protest. (Tournament Eligibility Affidavit, page T-4)

19. What exactly is meant by "NOTE: An individual that manage or coaches in another youth baseball program is not eligible to be appointed to manage or coach a tournament team in the Little League program at the same age division as defined in Regulation I(a)?"

A: Though this wording remains on several documents created prior to April 2007, this rule was eliminated by action of the Tournament Committee in late April 2007 and should be disregarded in all instances.

20. In a tournament game (Junior League and below), can a starter be removed from a game before he/she completes his/her mandatory play requirements.

A: A starter may be removed before he/she meets the mandatory play requirements. However, that player still must meet the minimum requirement to play three consecutive defensive outs and one at bat prior to the completion of the game. This is the responsibility of the manager. However, a substitute may not be removed prior to completion of his/her mandatory play requirements. (Tournament Rule 10)

21. There were new procedures instituted in 2004 in processing Regulation II (d) and Regulation IV (h) waivers, and the regulations mention verification of addresses. What addresses are we required to verify or certify?

A: The league President must verify and document the eligibility of a child who is claimed under Regulation II (d) or Regulation IV (h) by producing documentation proving that the child's parent(s) or legal guardian previously lived in the league's boundaries. With Regulation IV (h), the league president will be required to document that

the parent(s) or legal guardian lived in the boundaries and was a board member, manager or coach for the two years or more when they lived in the boundaries, and is currently a board member, manager or coach without breaking service since that time. (Regulation II(d) and Regulation IV(h))

22. Rule 1.10 was rewritten for both baseball and softball to include the wording “The bat must be a baseball bat....” or “The bat must be a softball bat....” What should the umpires be looking for when they check equipment prior to the start of the game?

A: The umpire should be looking for the words “baseball” on a bat being used in a baseball game and “softball” on a bat being used in a softball game. The umpires will have to use their judgment on bats with no markings on them. Bats that say “baseball” must not be used in a softball game, and bats marked “softball” must not be used in a baseball game. See rule 4.19 concerning the use of illegal equipment in games.

23. Can a District Administrator or Tournament Director forfeit a tournament game?

A: No. Only the Tournament Committee can decree a forfeit.

24. If I charter a regular season Senior League softball program of 13-16 year olds, can our league offer a Junior League softball tournament team?

A: Yes. The players’ participation in the Senior League qualifies them for the Junior League tournament provided they meet the age and residency requirements.

25. Dometown Little League has 13 players on its affidavit, and all are present and in uniform for a game against Neartown Little League. Dometown Little League is thus permitted to have one manager and two coaches. The manager for Dometown Little League gets ejected during a game against Hometown Little League, leaving the two coaches to supervise the team for the balance of that game (with one acting as manager for that game). Because of the ejection, the manager is suspended from the team’s next game against Neartown Little League. Can Dometown Little League name another person as a temporary replacement for the manager in the game against Neartown Little League?

A: No. Even though the Dometown Little League meets the requirement for having 13 or more players, part of the penalty for ejection is to reduce by one the number of adults leading the team. In this case, Dometown Little League’s team must play the game against Neartown with only two adults, with one acting as manager.

26. Is there any instance in which a manager or coach could be ejected from a game, and could be temporarily replaced for the next game?

A: No. If a manager or coach is ejected, the team must “do without” for the next game.

27. In Junior League and below, if my starting pitcher (“Player A”) is due to bat, can I replace him/her with another player (“Player B”), only for the purpose of batting, then bring “Player A” back in to pitch in the next half-inning?

A: No. In those divisions, “Player B” is a substitute and must complete one at bat and must play defensively for three consecutive outs before being removed. After that, “Player A” could re-enter the game, in the same position in the batting order.

28. In Junior League and below, “Player A” was in the starting lineup (not a pitcher) and completed the mandatory play requirement before being removed for “Player B” in the third inning. “Player B” is moved to the mound and pitches the third and fourth innings, and bats in the fourth as well. In the fifth inning, it is “Player B’s” turn at bat. Could “Player A” be inserted as a batter, and could “Player B” then return to the mound as pitcher in the next half-inning?

A: Yes. Because “Player B” was not physically replaced on the mound, and because both “Player A” and “Player B” had previously met the requirements of mandatory play during the game, “Player A” could re-enter as a batter (or pinch-runner) for Player B.

29. In Junior League and below, “Player A” is the starting shortstop and completes the mandatory play requirement before being removed for “Player B” in the third inning. “Player B” completes his mandatory play. In the fourth inning, the manager uses Rule 7.14 (Special Pinch Runner) to replace “Player B” on the basepaths with “Player C,” which can only happen once for “Player B” in the game. Now, in the sixth inning, could “Player A” again run for “Player B” without having to remain in the game defensively?

A: Yes, although it is very limiting because it allows only “Player A” to run for “Player B.”

30. What is the pitching distance for the 10-11-Year-Old Softball Division?

A: Forty feet.

31. Pitcher A delivers 22 pitches in the top of the first inning. Pitcher B delivers two pitches in the bottom of the first and the home team protests the eligibility of Pitcher B. The game is declared a forfeit because of the ineligibility of Pitcher B. When can Pitcher A pitch again?

A: Pitcher A is not required to have any rest before pitching again. (Tournament Rule 11.)

32. Pitcher A delivers 26 or more pitches in the first game of the tournament. According to Tournament Rule 4. e. and f., Pitcher A cannot pitch the second game of the tournament, regardless of how many days of rest are observed. The second game of the tournament for Pitcher A’s team is forfeited, A: Immediately after the first inning is played, or, B: Before the

game begins. Will either of these situations count as the required game off for Pitcher A?

Situation A: The forfeited game would count because one inning is completed.

Situation B: The forfeited game would NOT count because the game did not begin.