



Rules and Regulations Changes for 2014 as Enacted at the 26th Little League® International Congress

The following changes to the Little League® Rules and Regulations went into effect on April 9, 2014. These items were voted upon by the Congress Delegates (District Administrators or their appointees) at the 26th Little League International Congress, and approved by the Little League International Board of Directors for immediate implementation.

Text in *red* indicates a change in the rule or regulation. The text in each “Summary and Implementation,” a short explanation of the new rule or regulation, will not appear in the Rule Books.

Regulation II – Boundaries in the **Challenger Rule Book** has been amended to read, in part:

(a) The Little League Challenger Division shall draw its participants from within the established boundaries of the local league *or from any area, chartered or unchartered, within a league’s district or a contiguous district where a Challenger Division is not offered.* Only those participants whose primary residence or the physical location of the school where they attend classes is within the boundaries of the league, *or within an area in the league’s district or contiguous district that does not offer a Challenger Division,* 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 16-17).

NOTE: Any player who does not reside in or the school where they attend classes is not **WITHIN** the league’s boundaries, *or within an area in the league’s district or a contiguous district that does not offer a Challenger Division* must have an approved waiver issued by the Charter Committee at Little League International. All waiver requests to the Charter Committee must be submitted and approved in writing by the league president before the start of the league’s regular season or June 4 whichever occurs first. Requests must be submitted to the regional office through the district administrator. Failure to properly document compliance with the “Residence and/or School Attendance Player Eligibility Requirement” or obtain a waiver through the Charter Committee may result in the **disqualification of a player, team or entire league from regular season and special games play.** These boundaries **MUST** be described in detail **AND** shown on a map when making application for the charter.

EXCEPTION: The Challenger Division may be a district-operated program, supervised by the District Administrator or the Challenger Division Assistant District Administrator. Such a district-wide program may draw participants from any area in the district; however, each local league wishing to do so may retain its own team/league structure.

Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately, leagues chartering the Little League Challenger Division® may register players from any area within their district or adjacent districts not offering a Challenger program.

Regulation VI(b) – Pitchers in the **Softball Rule Book** has been amended to read, in part:

(b) Minor/Little League (Majors) Division: A player may pitch in a maximum of **twelve (12)** innings in a **day**. If a player pitches in more than **six (6)** innings **in a day**, one calendar day of rest is mandatory. Delivery of a single pitch constitutes having pitched in an inning.

Junior/Senior/Big League: **No pitching restrictions apply.**

NOTE: The local league Board of Directors or District may impose additional pitching limitations during the Regular Season and interleague.

Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately, this change revises the softball pitching regulations in all divisions for Regular Season and Tournament, eliminating the weekly inning restriction for all divisions. A local league or district may implement additional limitations during the Regular Season; however, local limitations will not apply during the International Tournament.

For 12-year-olds participating in the Major and Junior Divisions as permitted under Regulation IV(a), the pitching rules and regulations regarding days of rest that are pertinent to the division in which the pitcher is used will apply to that game.

Regulation VII(d) – Schedules in the **Softball Rule Book** has been amended to read, in part:

(d) **Minor/Little League (Major) Division:** A team may play **two (2)** doubleheaders in a **seven (7) - day period**. No team shall play three games in a day. (Exception under condition of Rule 4.12.)

Tee Ball: No team shall be scheduled to play two games in one day. (See Rule 4.12.)

Junior/Senior/Big League: A team may play **three (3)** games in a day.

Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately, this allows Minor and Major Softball divisions to schedule and play two doubleheaders **in a seven-day period** and Junior, Senior and Big League teams to schedule and play three games in a day.

Minor/Major Example: A local league schedules Team A to play a double header on Saturday and a doubleheader on Wednesday. Team A may not be scheduled to play another doubleheader until the following Saturday or later.

Regulation IX(a) – Special Games in the **Baseball and Softball Rule Books** has been amended to read, in part:

(a) Special Games are defined as games that:

1. are non-regular season games, and,
2. are not Little League International Tournament games, and,
3. involve only teams from chartered Little League programs, and,

4. have been approved in writing by the regional office.

Exception: Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior League: Up to six (6) games played under Special Games against Little League teams may count towards players' Regular Season schedule. **Senior/Big League:** Up to twelve (12) games played under Special Games against Little League teams may count towards players' Regular Season schedule.

Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately, under Special Games, this allows games against Little League teams to count towards players' Regular Season schedule and Tournament eligibility for Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, Senior and Big League Baseball and Softball. The Special Games may utilize Regular Season, Tournament or Expanded Special Game Guidelines (softball only) rules. Any district or league coordinating Special Games must complete and submit the appropriate form to their respective Regional Office for approval prior to the start of the first game.

Rule 1.17 in the **Baseball Rule Book** has been amended to read, in part:

1.17 - All male players must wear athletic supporters. Male catchers must wear the metal, fibre or plastic type cup, and approved long **or short**-model chest protector. Female catchers must wear long or short model chest protectors. All catchers must wear chest protectors with neck collar, throat guard, shin guards and catcher's helmet, all of which must meet Little League specifications and standards. The catcher's helmet must meet NOCSAE specifications and standards, and bear the NOCSAE stamp. All catchers must wear a mask, "dangling" type throat protector and catcher's helmet during infield/outfield practice, pitcher warm-up and games. **NOTE:** Skull caps are not permitted.

Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately, male participants playing the catcher position may wear a short or a long-model chest protector in the Minor and Major Baseball divisions.
