

## LLU Webinar Series: New Rules for 2019 discussion – Jan. 17

### Questions and Answers

1. When will eBooks be available on Amazon and iBook?

**Answer:** Yes. Expect the e-rulebooks to be available soon. We could provide links and more information now.

2. Will Regulation III(c), which previously limited the number of 12-year-olds on Regular Season Major Division teams to eight, remain? Are waivers required to exceed eight 12-year-olds?

**Answers:** Regulation III(c) now states: "It is now recommended that the local Little League set a maximum and/or minimum number of participants of a particular league age per team." A waiver would NOT be required for a league to draft more than eight 12-year-olds on to each of their Regular Season Major Division teams.

3. Are 12-year-olds required to play in the Majors division?

**Answer:** No; however, they must be permitted the opportunity to play on a Major Division team if the division is offered at the league. (See Regulation IV.)

- **Baseball:** A league age 12-year-old must be drafted to a Major Division team, Intermediate 50/70 team and/or Junior Division team.
- **Softball:** A league age 12-year-old must be drafted to a Major Division team and/or Junior Division team. Exceptions can only be made as noted under Regulation V or with a waiver from the Charter Committee.

4. Is there a rule that states that tee ball baseball bats can "only" be used with approved tee balls?

**Answer:** Yes. In Baseball Rule 1.10, in the reference to Tee Ball, it states that "Tee Ball bats must only be used with approved Tee Balls. This is also true for use of Tee Ball bats in Minor Coach Pitch/Machine Pitch.

5. Regarding Little League rule 8.02(a)(1), with runners on base, is it a balk and runners advance? With no runners on, it's a ball the batter?

**Answers:** Yes, and yes. In Baseball, to have a balk at the Intermediate 50/70, Junior, or Senior divisions, runners must be on base. In the Major Baseball division and below, there is no balk, because base runners may not lead off bases. If the pitcher commits an illegal act, then an illegal pitch is called, and a ball is awarded to the batter's count. In baseball, a pitch will be added to the pitcher's pitch count. In all softball divisions, there is no balk, but an illegal pitch. (See Rule 2.00 – Definitions).

6. Regarding rule 8.02(a)(1) in Little League Softball, with runners on base, is it an illegal pitch and runners advance in Junior and Seniors? With no runners on, it's a ball the batter?

**Answers:** In the Junior and Senior Softball Divisions, the illegal pitch penalty is a ball on the batter and, any base runners would advance one base if they did not do so on the play. In the Major Division and below, an illegal pitch is only a ball on the batter. (See Rule 2.00 – Definitions).

7. Regarding rule 8.08(a), if a coach speaks to a defensive player, prior to making a change, is the visit charged to incoming pitcher or outgoing pitcher?

**Answer:** The visit is charged to the outgoing pitcher. Any time play is stopped by the umpire, at the request of the defensive team's manager, a visit is charged to the defensive team's pitcher. This is true, even if the manager visits the mound/pitcher's circle or has a discussion with a defensive player, or several members of the defense.

8. When a manager comes to the umpire and announces the pitching change, he/she then may go to the mound/pitcher's circle and speak to any of the defensive players without being charged for a visit?

**Answer:** Yes. Once the defensive manager has announced his/her changes to the umpire, he/she may proceed to speak with the team without being charged a visit.

9. The new Tournament managers and coaches' rules does not replace the requirement of 12 players on a roster without District Administrator approval, correct?

**Answer:** Yes. A team must have at least 12 players on the affidavit unless the District Administrator agrees there is a justifiable reason to allow for fewer rostered players. (Tournament Eligibility Affidavit) Additionally, the number of players at the game site will determine how many manager/coaches may be used during a game. If a tournament team has twelve (12) or more eligible players in uniform at the game site at the start of a game, then the maximum of three (3) adults who are named on the affidavit (or authorized replacements as noted on the affidavit) will be permitted to act as manager/coaches for that game. However, if a tournament team has eleven (11) or fewer eligible players in uniform at the game site at the start of a game, then a maximum of two (2) adults must be named at the start of the game as manager and coach. The two named adults must be listed on the affidavit, or must be authorized temporary replacements as noted on the affidavit. If there is a third adult listed on the affidavit, that adult is not permitted to be in the dugout or on the field during that game. **NOTE:** Base coaches may be adults and/or players provided at least one adult manager or coach remains in the dugout [See rule 4.05(b)]. (Tournament Managers and Coaches)

10. Concerning the number of coaches a tournament team may have, if a team only has 11 on the affidavit, should only the manager and one coach be identified on the affidavit?

**Answer:** No. The team may name three (3) adults on the affidavit, but only two of those named may be in the dugout with the team. Those two individuals must be identified prior to the start of the game. The third adult may not participate in any coaching functions during the game. The requirement of one adult remaining in the dugout for the entire game is still in effect.

11. If a team has 13 players on its tournament roster and two get injured during a game, must the team remove one if its coaches?

**Answer:** No. If at the start of the game, the team has twelve (12) or more players in uniform and eligible to play, they are permitted three adult coaches. If during the game the number of available players drops below 12, due to injury, the team does not have to reduce the coaching staff. As the tournament progresses, if the number of available, eligible players falls below twelve (12) for any reason, the team is now entitled to only a manager and one coach.

12. Do you have suggested resources to provide to coaches or umpires on rules? I'm looking for a "cheat sheet" to distribute.

**Answer:** All new and revised rules that are in effect for the 2019 season are available on the Little League Website, at: <https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/rule-changes/>.

13. Can the pitcher lick and wipe his/her hand off while on the pitcher's plate?

**Answer:** Baseball: No. As 8.02(a)(1) is now written, the pitcher must be disengaged from the pitcher's plate before touching his/her fingers to his/her lips or mouth. He/she may be anywhere else within the confines of the 10-foot circle (Intermediate 50-70, Junior and Senior: 18-foot circle), but not on or touching the pitcher's plate. If the pitcher contacts his/her mouth while engaged with the pitcher's plate, it would be an illegal act. The pitcher, while not in contact with the plate, must still wipe his/her hand before touching the ball. During cold weather, the pitcher will be allowed to blow on his/her pitching hand while in contact with the pitcher's plate provided both managers agree to this prior to the start of the game.

**Answer:** Softball: Yes. A pitcher may bring the hand in contact with the mouth or lips provided he/she distinctly wipes off the pitching hand before contacting the ball. If, in the judgement of the umpire there is a violation, an illegal pitch will be called. (See rule 8.05(b) – Illegal Pitch).

END