

# The Little League® Tournament

*Tournament Organization*



# Tournament Organization

- **Teams**

- Each League is eligible to enter a team.

- NOTE – 8- to -10 and 9- to -11 Year-Old Divisions, a league may enter more than one team with District Administrator approval.

- Where two or more charters combine to form a single program, a tournament team must be formed by each charter composed of players from within its own chartered area.

- Exceptions can only be made by the Charter Committee of Little League International.



# Tournament Organization

- **Teams**

- Tournament Teams and Eligibility Affidavit may consist of, and must be limited to, a maximum of 14 players, 1 manager and 2 coaches.
- **Senior League:** Teams and Eligibility Affidavit may consist of, and must be limited to, a maximum of 16 players, 1 manager and 2 coaches

# Managers and Coaches

- The District Administrator or District Staff shall not serve as a manager or coach. The League President may be eligible for selection by the local league Board of Directors to coach or manage with written approval from their respective DA.
- **Little League** – must be a manager or coach in the regular season Little League (Majors) Division
- **8- to -10 & 9- to -11 Year Old Divisions** – must be a manager or coach in the regular season Little League (Majors) Division or Minor League Division
- **Intermediate (50-70) Division** – must be a manager or coach in the regular season Intermediate (50-70) Division
- **Junior League** – must be manager or coach in the regular season Junior or Senior Division.
- **Senior League** – must be manager or coach in the regular season Junior or Senior Division.

# Managers and Coaches

- **Managers/Coaches in the Dugout** – Any team, regardless of the number of players on the affidavit or at the game site, is permitted to have one manager and up to two coaches (provided such manager and coaches are eligible).

# Umpires

- The tournament director shall have full responsibility for providing volunteer umpires for tournament play.
- Umpires from the league involved in the game should not be assigned.
- The district administrator shall not umpire.
- There should be at least two umpires in each game. (*More are recommended when available*)
- The Designated Umpire-in-Chief for each game must be an adult

# Tournament Eligibility Affidavit

- It shall be the league president's responsibility to review and certify the birth records by viewing the original birth record and residence or school attendance of all players. When the league finally decides on the makeup of the team, names must be entered on the league's Eligibility Affidavit. Once the DA certifies the Eligibility Affidavit the tournament team must have in its possession at each tournament game/site:
  1. Eligibility Affidavit
  2. A Map signed and dated by the league president and District Administrator showing the actual boundaries of the league with locations noted for residences of the parent or legal guardian (court-appointed) of each player or the location of the school for every participant named on the affidavit
  3. Tournament verification form for each player; **NOTE: Players who established "residence" for regular season and/or tournament prior to the 2016-2017 season using Player Verification Form, and can produce the form with proper proofs and signatures, will be grandfathered and will NOT need to complete a new Player Verification Form**
  4. Three or more documents to determine residency of the parent(s) or legal guardian (court appointed) or a document to support school attendance/enrollment for each player named on the tournament affidavit;
  5. Waivers (i.e. II(d), IV (h), Charter Committee) if applicable.

# Tournament Eligibility Affidavit

## Important:

- Alternates are not authorized. They shall not accompany the team and shall not be listed on the affidavit.
- Affidavit must be certified by the District Administrator or his/her designated appointee.
- Each team must have at least twelve (12) eligible players for the District Administrator to certify. (A District Administrator may certify an affidavit with less than twelve (12) players for a justifiable reason.)
- Affidavit becomes official once the team plays its first tournament game.



# Participation in Other Programs

Once Tournament team practice commences, subject to the provisions of “Tournament Team Practice,” player participation in other programs during the International Tournament is permitted, subject to the specific provisions of Regulation I(g) and Regulation IV (a) Note 2

# Release of Names

- **All Divisions of Play**
  - The release of names of players selected for the tournament team shall not be made before June 1, and not until the availability and eligibility of prospective team members have been established.
- Little League accident insurance for tournament teams will not go into effect until June 1, or the date of release of names, whichever is earlier.
- **Violation of this rule may be cause for revocation of tournament privileges by the Tournament Committee.**

# League Eligibility

- In order for a Little League program to be eligible to enter a team or teams into the International Tournament (Including 8- to -10 Year Old Division and 9- to -11 Year Old Division), the following must be accomplished as indicated:
  1. The league must be chartered in an age appropriate division(s) for which it wishes to enter a tournament team(s), no later than **June 1, 2017**. **Examples:** Chartered in Little League Majors to enter a Major Division team (10-12 year olds); chartered in Senior League to enter a Junior, Senior; or Big League Division team, etc.
  2. The league must have scheduled and played, at a minimum a 12-game (per team) regular season exclusive of playoffs and tournament games for each division entering tournament prior to the first game in their respective tournament (See Reg. VII).
  3. All waivers requested (for the league, team, player, manager, and/or coach) of any kind must be submitted and approved not later than **June 1, 2017**.
  4. Team number revisions and fees incurred by the league must be paid in full by **June 1, 2017**.
  5. All combined team and interleague play requests that may involve tournament must be submitted and approved not later than **June 1, 2017**.

*Failure to meet any of the above requirements could result in a team or teams being declared ineligible by the Tournament Committee at Little League International.*



# Player Eligibility

- Players are eligible provided they meet:
  - Residency and School Attendance Eligibility Requirement
  - “Participation in Other Programs” as well as
    - **8- to -10 Year-Old Division** - Players League Age 8, 9, or 10 who have participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the school baseball/softball season on a
      - Little League (Majors) team
      - Minor League team
    - **9- to -11 Year- Old Division** - Players League Age 9, 10, or 11 who have participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of school baseball/softball seasons, on a
      - Little League (Majors) team
      - Minor League team

# Player Eligibility

- Players are eligible provided they meet:
  - Residency and School Attendance Player Eligibility Requirement
  - “Participation in Other Programs” and the following:
    - **Little League (Majors)** – Players League Age 10, 11, or 12 who have participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of school baseball/softball season.
    - **Intermediate (50/70)** – Players League age 11, 12, or 13 who have participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games (Special Games may be counted toward this requirement – See Regulation IX) by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the school baseball season

# Player Eligibility

- **Junior League Baseball Division** – Any player league age 12, 13, or 14 who have participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games (Special Games may be counted toward this requirement – See Regulation IX) by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of school baseball season on a:
- Senior League Baseball Team; or
  - Junior League Baseball Team

# Player Eligibility

- **Junior League Softball Division** - Players league age 12, 13, or 14 who have participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games (Special Games may be counted toward this requirement – See Regulation IX) by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of school softball season on a:
  - Senior League Softball Team; or
  - Junior League Softball Team

# Player Eligibility

- **Senior League Baseball/Softball Division** - Players league age 13, 14, 15, or 16 who have participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games (Special Games may be counted toward this requirement – See Regulation IX) by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District (whichever is later), with the exception of school baseball/softball season.
  - Senior League Team; or
  - Junior Team



# Player Eligibility

- **Exception:** The local league board of directors may permit a player to be eligible for selection who does not meet the 60% requirement if they provide a physician's note documenting an injury or illness prior to or during the current season prohibiting his/her participation and such note releases the player for the balance of the Regular Season and/or Tournament Play

# Player Eligibility

- **NOTE 1:** Consistent with a manager's ability to conduct the affairs of his or her team, a manager may disqualify a player from the team for the current season, with Board of Directors approval, if a player repeatedly misses practices or games.
- **NOTE 2:** Senior League; and Junior League Tournaments are divided by age, without regard to regular season division in which a player participates.

# Player Eligibility

- **Condition 1:** Participation must be within the chartered league/district named on the eligibility affidavit. Unless written approval is granted by the respective Regional Director and Charter Committee.
- **Condition 2:** A player who is not able to participate in a number of local league regular season games because of participation in a school baseball or softball program will receive an adjustment on the minimum participation in games required under this rule.

# Player Eligibility

- **Condition 3:** A player may be named to the roster of, and practice with, only ONE Little League International Tournament Team.
  - Once the affidavit is verified and signed, players listed shall not be eligible to participate on any other International Tournament Team for the current year.
  - Players league age 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 may be eligible for selection to multiple tournament teams. Under no circumstances may these players be chosen for, practice with or participate on more than one tournament team
- *Violation of this rule may be cause for revocation of tournament privilege by the Tournament Committee.*

# Tournament Requirement for Non-Citizens

- A participant who is not a citizen of the country in which he/she wishes to play, but meets residency requirements as defined by Little League, may participate in that country if:
  1. his/her visa allows that participant to remain in that country for a period of at least one year, or;
  2. the prevailing laws allow that participant to remain in that country for at least one year, or;
  3. the participant has an established bona fide residence in that country for at least two years prior to the start of the regular season.
- *Exceptions can only be made by action of the Charter Committee in Williamsport.*

# Insurance

**Accident:** A league, District Big League or District Senior Softball team shall not be accepted for tournament play unless covered by accident insurance, which includes tournament play. It is strongly recommended that a medical release for each player on the Affidavit be carried by the team manager.

**Liability:** Liability Insurance must be carried by the league on whose field tournaments are played as well as all leagues who participate in the tournament. Minimum coverage of \$1,000,000 single limit, bodily injury and property damage. The policy must include coverage for claims arising out of athletic participants.

*If insurance is purchased locally, a copy of the policy must be on file at Little League International.*



# Replacement of Player, Manager or Coach

- Any player, manager, or coach listed on the Eligibility Affidavit who is unable to participate because of injury, illness, vacation, or other justifiable reason may be replaced by another eligible person.
- If a player, manager, or coach is replaced, that person may not be returned to the Tournament Affidavit. Permanent replacements must be from the league's regular season teams and shall be recorded and approved by the District Administrator or Tournament Director in the space provided on the Eligibility Affidavit.
- **Exception:** If a manager or coach is unable to attend a game for a justifiable reason, a Tournament Director could approve a temporary replacement as outlined in the Little League Tournament Team Eligibility Affidavit. Temporary replacement of a manager or coach must be entered on the Eligibility Affidavit.

A manager or coach who is ejected from a game may not be replaced for the team's next physically played game.



# Playing Equipment

- The dimensions and other specifications of all playing equipment used must conform to those set forth in the Official Little League, Intermediate (50/70) Division, Junior League and Senior League Playing Rules except for those noted below:
  - Team member to wear conventional uniform to include shirt, pants or shorts(Softball), stockings and cap or visor (Softball). (Regular season uniform acceptable)
  - Each team to provide six (6) NOCSAE approved helmets (*Intermediate (50/70) Junior, and Senior League seven (7) Helmets*)
    - Batter, all base runners (On Deck batter for Intermediate (50/70), JL and SL) and player base coaches must wear approved helmets.
  - Male players must wear athletic supporters. Catchers (male) must wear metal, fiber, or plastic cup.



# Playing Equipment

- Catchers must wear NOCSAE approved catchers helmet *with* dangling throat protector during practice, infield, outfield and pitcher warm-up and games.
- Catchers must wear approved chest protectors and shin guards.
  - *Note: Catchers may wear long or short model chest protectors*
- Shoes with metal cleats must not be worn by players, managers, coaches, or umpires.
  - *Intermediate/Junior/Senior League Baseball/Softball* – Players may wear shoes with metal spikes.

# Schedules - Baseball

- Each District Administrator must finalize schedule prior to the start of the Tournament or June 1 (whichever is earlier)
- Schedules for each level (District, Section, Division, State, Regional) must use approved single elimination brackets, double elimination brackets or pool play with tie breaker format noted in the Little League Baseball and Softball Rulebooks
- All other formats must be approved by the Tournament Committee
- **NOTE:** Schedules shall not be altered once a tournament starts without Tournament Committee approval.

# Schedules - Baseball

- **8- to -10, 9- to -11 Year-Old Division, Little League:** A team may play two games in a day with Regional Director approval.
- **Intermediate (50/70)/Junior and Senior League:** Teams may participate in a maximum of two (2) games in a day.
- **Notes:**
  1. Inclement weather may be justification to revert to single elimination, **with** Regional Director approval.
  2. 8- to -10, 9- to -11 Year-Old Divisions advance to state level only.
  3. Consult approved schedules for specific dates.

# Schedules - Softball

- Each District Administrator must finalize schedule prior to the start of the Tournament or June 1 (whichever is earlier)
- Schedules for each level (District, Section, Division, State, Regional) must use approved single elimination brackets, double elimination brackets, or pool play with tie breaker format noted in the Little League Baseball and Softball Rulebooks
- All other formats must be approved by the Tournament Committee

# Schedules - Softball

- Each District Administrator must finalize schedule prior to the start of the Tournament or June 1 (whichever is earlier)
- Schedules for each level (District, Section, Division, State, Regional) must use approved single elimination brackets, double elimination brackets, or pool play with tie breaker format noted in the Little League Baseball and Softball Rulebooks
- All other formats must be approved by the Tournament Committee

# Schedules - Softball

- **8- to -10, 9- to -11 Year-Old Division, Little League:** A team may play in up to 2 doubleheaders in a seven (7) day period
- **Junior and Senior League:** Teams may participate in a maximum of three (3) games in a day.
- **Notes:**
  1. Inclement weather may be justification to revert to single elimination, **with** Regional Director approval.
  2. 8- to -10, 9- to -11 Year-Old Divisions advance to state level only.
  3. Consult approved schedules for specific dates.

# Tournament Team Practice

- **All Divisions of Tournament Play**
- Try-outs, practices or Special Games by tournament teams shall not be held before June 1.
  - Tournament Team practice may only take place against other Little League teams within the same or contiguous districts in the same division, provided such practice is done out of uniform.
  - Tournament team practice with a non-Little League program and/or participation in any non Little League program event, or game is subject to the specific provisions of Regulation I(g) and Regulation IX
  - Little League Accident Insurance for tournament teams will not go into effect until June 1, or the date of the release of names, whichever is earlier.
- ***Violation of this rule may be cause for revocation of tournament privileges by the Tournament Committee.***

# Selection of Fields

- All games shall be played upon Little League fields approved by the Tournament Director. *(Exception can only be made with consent of the Regional Director)*
- Local leagues selected to host a Section, State, Division, Region, or World Series tournament must have an approved ASAP safety plan
- Fields must be enclosed with an outfield fence.



# Selection of Fields

- Outfield Fence Distance Requirements:
  - 8- to -10 and 9- to -11 year-old baseball divisions: minimum 180 feet; maximum 225 feet
  - Little League Baseball Division: minimum 195 feet; maximum 225 feet
  - Intermediate (50/70) Division: minimum 225 feet; maximum 300 feet
  - Junior League Baseball Division: minimum 250 feet; maximum 350 feet
  - Senior League Divisions: minimum 280 feet; maximum 420 feet
  - All Softball Divisions: Minimum of 180 feet: Maximum of 225 feet
- 8- to -10, 9- to -11, Little League Baseball and Softball: The on-deck batter's position is not permitted
- A Little League approved artificial mound is permitted in District play
- The Tournament Director or assistant shall judge fitness of playing field before the game.

# Games Under Lights- Curfew

- Games under lights may be scheduled at all levels of tournament play.
- The District Administrator having jurisdiction must determine that lighting installations meet minimum standards approved by Little League International.
- No inning shall start after midnight (12:00 AM) prevailing time.
  - Intermediate (50/70) Division/Junior League – 12:30 AM
  - Senior League – 1:00 AM

# Games Under Lights- Curfew

- **NOTE:** An inning starts the moment the third out is made completing the previous inning.
- **NOTE 2:** Neither Tournament Directors and officials nor tournament teams are permitted to circumvent the curfews established above by continuing, suspending and restarting or starting a game after curfew has been reached and play is required to be terminated. If the curfew noted above occurs during a game suspended in accordance with Tournament Rule 11, that game must not be continued after the curfew. It must either be resumed on a subsequent day, or declared ended, as determined by rule.

# Starting Time of Games / Admission Charge

- A game shall not be started unless the Tournament Director or assistant judges there is adequate time to complete the game before darkness or curfew.
- There shall be no charge for admission to Little League, 8- to -10 or 9- to -11 Year-Old Divisions Tournament games.
- An admission charge is permitted for Intermediate (50/70)/Junior and Senior League.

Thank you !

[LittleLeagueToolkit.org/Tournament](http://LittleLeagueToolkit.org/Tournament)

