

Little League® Significant Rule and Regulation Updates for 2020

Below, outlined in red, are the significant rule and regulation updates to the 2020 *Little League® Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Operating Policies*. These significant updates, as well as all other updates to the 2020 rulebook can also be found in the new Little League Rulebook App, available for download on both the Apple and Google Play App stores. More information, including how to download the app, can be found at LittleLeague.org/RulebookApp.

Playing Rules

Rule 9.01 (d) NOTE [Baseball, Softball]; Rule 9.01 (e) NOTE [Challenger]

Synopsis: Provides guidance to umpires on how to administer and rule regarding the stealing and relaying of signs.

Rule: Each umpire has authority to disqualify any player, coach, manager, or substitute for objecting to decisions or for unsportsmanlike conduct or language and to eject such disqualified person from the playing field. If an umpire disqualifies a player while a play is in progress, the disqualification shall not take effect until no further action is possible in that play.

NOTE: The local league has the option to adopt this rule application. The stealing and relaying of signs to alert the batter of pitch selection and/or location is unsportsmanlike behavior. If, in the judgment of the umpire this behavior is occurring, **the team manager and those responsible including any player(s) and/or coach(es) shall be warned after the first offense. Those responsible including any player(s), coach(es), and/or manager shall be ejected from the game for a team's subsequent offense.**

Tournament Rules and Guidelines

Managers and Coaches [Baseball]

Synopsis: Permits regular season Intermediate (50-70) Division coaches and managers to be selected to coach/manage the Little League Major (Major) Division Tournament team.

Little League: The manager and coach(es) shall be regular season team managers and/or coaches from the Little League Baseball (Major) Division **or Intermediate (50-70) Division.**

Player Eligibility [Baseball]

Synopsis: Permits age appropriate, regular season Intermediate (50-70) Division players to be eligible for selection to a 9- to 11-Year-Old Division **Tournament** team.

9- to 11-Year-Old Division: Any player League Age 9, 10, or 11, with amateur status, who has participated **as required by Mandatory Play** 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 season, on a:

1. Minor League Baseball team, or;
2. Little League Baseball (Major) Division team, **or;**
3. **Intermediate (50-70) Division Baseball team.**

Player Eligibility Condition 2 [Baseball, Softball]

Synopsis: Players who want to receive a school exception, participation adjustment must register with the league prior to regular season games within that division.

CONDITION: A player who is not able to participate in a number of local league regular season games because of participation in a school baseball program will receive an adjustment on the minimum participation in games required under this rule. **In order to receive the adjustment, players must register with the league prior to the start of regular season games within that division.**

Tournament Rule 3(e) [Baseball]; Tournament Rule 3 (f) [Softball]

Synopsis: Provides guidance to umpires on how to administer and rule regarding the stealing and relaying of signs.

Rule: Each umpire has authority to disqualify any player, coach, manager, or substitute for objecting to decisions or for unsportsmanlike conduct or language and to eject such disqualified person from the playing field. If an umpire disqualifies a player while a play is in progress, the disqualification shall not take effect until no further action is possible in that play. The stealing and relaying of signs to alert the batter of pitch selection and/or location is unsportsmanlike behavior. If, in the judgment of the umpire this behavior is occurring, **the team manager and those responsible including any player(s) and/or coach(es) shall be warned after the first offense. Those responsible including any player(s), coach(es), and/or manager shall be ejected from the game for a team's subsequent offense.**

NOTE: In addition to the updates listed above, the following significant updates were also made to all three Little League rulebooks:

- **Appendix F** – Updates to the Little League Privacy Policy
- **Little League Child Protection Program** – Updates and Revisions regarding reporting procedures
- **Websites, Little League Trademarks, and Fundraising** - Updates and revisions regarding local league and District websites, Little League Trademarks, and fundraising.

For all of the rule and regulation updates, and to keep track of any additional rule and regulation updates that are made moving forward, download the Little League Rulebook App by visiting

LittleLeague.org/RulebookApp.