

# 2023 Little League Softball Tournament Rule Summary

Updated 23-May-2023

	8/9/10 year old	9/10/11 year old	Little League (10/11/12)	Juniors (12/13/14)	Seniors (13-16)
<b>Pitching Distance</b>	35 feet	40 feet		43 feet	
<b>Softballs</b>	11-inch softball	12-inch softball			
<b>Mandatory Play</b>	<i>Replaced by mandatory use of continuous batting order.</i>				Does not apply
<b>No New Inning After</b>	Midnight			12:30am	1:00am
<b>Time Limits</b>	If two games are scheduled for the same site, no time limit may be imposed on the first game.				
<b>Pitchers</b>	<b>Innings</b>	Max 12 per day Max 12 per game		No restrictions	
	<b>Rest</b>	Six or fewer innings in a day – none required Seven or more innings in a day – one calendar day		No rest required	
	<b>Consecutive Games</b>	Allowed, subject to rest requirements.		No restrictions	
	<b>Consecutive Days</b>	If six or fewer innings pitched previous day, or if pitcher of record in continuation of suspended game.		No restrictions	
	<b>Returning to Mound</b>	May move to a different position and return once per inning. If withdrawn from the game offensively or defensively for a substitute, may not return as pitcher later in the game.		May move to a different position and return once per inning. May be removed from game and return once per inning if return does not violate substitution, charged conference, or mandatory play rule(s).	
	<b>Intentional Walk</b>	<i>Once per batter</i> , team may request an "unpitched" intentional walk.			
<b>Re-Entry</b>	Continuous batting order is required. Players may be entered or re-entered defensively at any time.				Any player who has been removed for a sub may re-enter in the same position in the batting order.
<b>Defensive Conferences</b>	Pitcher must be removed on 3rd visit in inning or 4th visit in game.	Pitcher must be removed on 2nd visit in inning or 3rd visit in game.			
<b>Mercy Rule</b>	15 runs after 3 innings, 2 ½ if home team is ahead. 10 runs after 4 innings, 3 ½ if home team is ahead.		15 runs after 4 innings, 3 ½ if home team is ahead. 10 runs after 5 innings, 4 ½ if home team is ahead		
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Strike Not Caught</b>	Batter is out	Batter is out if first is occupied with less than two outs. If first is unoccupied or there are two outs, batter becomes runner and defense must put him/her out.			
<b>Leaving Early</b>	Pitch reaches batter	Pitch leaves the pitcher's hand			
<b>On Deck Batters</b>	Not allowed.			Allowed.	
<b>Illegal Bat</b>	Batter is out (unless defense opts for result of play). Batter and manager both ejected.				
<b>Batter's Box</b>	Batters must keep one foot in the batter's box except for certain specified conditions. Penalty: Warning, then strike.				
<b>Illegal Pitch Penalty</b>	<i>Ball awarded to batter</i>				
<b>Multiple Games/Day</b>	Up to two (2) doubleheaders in a seven-day period			Maximum of three games in a day	
<b>Special Runner</b>	<i>With two outs, a courtesy runner may be used for pitcher or catcher of record. Runner must be the player in the batting order who made the last out.</i>				Special pinch runner twice per game
<b>Adults</b>	<i>One manager and two coaches permitted regardless of number of players</i>				
<b>Protests</b>	<b>Playing rule or improper substitution:</b> Must be made before next pitch, play or attempted play. <b>Mandatory play:</b> As soon as the facts become known. <b>Ineligible pitcher or player:</b> As soon as facts become known, but before either teams' next game.				
<b>Unsportsmanlike Conduct</b>	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.				
<b>Tiebreaker Rule</b>	Starts in 8 <sup>th</sup> inning			Starts in 9 <sup>th</sup> inning	

This chart is intended as a reference summary of the various tournament rules. It does not cover every possible circumstance, and is not a substitute for reading and fully understanding the regular season and tournament rules sections of the Official Playing Rules.