

# 2022 LITTLE LEAGUE® RULEBOOK SIGNIFICANT UPDATES

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

**Baseball, Softball, and Challenger**– Regulation IV(i), Rules 2.00 and 3.03(a), Tournament Rule 9(e) – **Mandatory Play/At-Bat Definition**. Clarifies the definition of at-bat, for the purposes of meeting the requirements of Mandatory Play, is when a player assumes the position of a batter with no count and one of the following occurs: he/she is retired as a batter; or he/she is retired as a batter-runner; or he/she reaches base and scores; or after he/she reaches base safely, the inning or game ends.

**Regulation IV(i): Mandatory Play:** Every rostered player present at the start of a game will participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time. For the purposes of this rule, “six (6) defensive outs” is defined as: A player enters the field in one of the nine defensive positions when his/her team is on defense and occupies a defensive position while six outs are made; “bat at least one (1) time” is defined as: **A player enters the batter’s box with no count and completes that time at bat by being retired, retired as a batter-runner or runner, scores, reaches base safely, or, after reaching base safely, the inning or game ends. For the purposes of meeting the requirements of Mandatory Play, is when a player assumes the position of a batter with no count and one of the following occurs:**

- He/she is retired as a batter; or
- He/she is retired as a batter-runner; or
- He/she reaches base and scores; or
- **After he/she reaches base, the inning or game ends.**

**PENALTY:** The player(s) involved shall start the next scheduled game, play any previous requirement not completed for Section (i), and the requirement for this game before being removed.

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**Rule 2.00 An At-Bat**, for the purposes of meeting the requirements of Mandatory Play (if applicable), is when a batter assumes the position of a batter with no count and is retired or reaches base.

**An AT-BAT**, for the purposes of meeting the requirements of Mandatory Play (if applicable), is when a player assumes the position of a batter with no count and one of the following occurs:

- He/she is retired as a batter; or
- He/she is retired as a batter-runner; or
- He/she reaches base and scores; or
- **After he/she reaches base, the inning or game ends.**

**APPROVED RULING:** While at-bat, if the third out of the half-inning is recorded by putting out another base-runner prior to the occurrence of any of the above, that batter must return as the first batter in the next half-inning.

**NOTE:** For the purpose of satisfying the requirements of Mandatory Play, when appearing offensively for the first time in the game, a player must remain in the game until one of the following occurs:

- He/She is retired as a batter; or
- He/She is retired as a batter-runner; or,
- He/She reaches base and scores; or
- After he/she reaches base, the inning or game ends.

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**Rule 3.03** A player in the starting line-up who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game, in the SAME position in the batting order, provided:

(a) His or her substitute has completed one time at bat; for the purposes of meeting the requirements of Mandatory Play, is when a player assumes the position of a batter with no count and one of the following occurs:

- He/she is retired as a batter; or
- He/she is retired as a batter-runner; or
- He/she reaches base and scores; or
- After he/she reaches base, the inning or game ends.

**APPROVED RULING:** While at-bat, if the third out of the half-inning is recorded by putting out another base-runner prior to the occurrence of any of the above, that batter must return as the first batter in the next half-inning.

**NOTE:** For the purpose of satisfying the requirements of Mandatory Play, when appearing offensively for the first time in the game, a player must remain in the game until one of the following occurs:

- He/She is retired as a batter; or
- He/She is retired as a batter-runner; or,
- He/She reaches base and scores; or
- After he/she reaches base, the inning or game ends.

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### **Tournament Rule 9**

(e) For the purposes of this rule, "six (6) consecutive defensive outs" is defined as: A player enters the field in one of the nine defensive positions when his/her team is on defense and occupies such position while six consecutive outs are made; "bat at least one (1) time" is defined as: A player enters the batter's box with no count and completes that time at bat by being retired, retired as a batter-runner or runner, scores, reaches base safely, or, after reaching base safely, the inning or game ends.

**APPROVED RULING:** While at-bat, if the third out of the half-inning is recorded by putting out another base-runner prior to the occurrence of any of the above, that batter must return as the first batter in the next half-inning.

**NOTE:** For the purpose of satisfying the requirements of Mandatory Play, when appearing offensively for the first time in the game, a player must remain in the game until one of the following occurs:

- He/She is retired as a batter; or
- He/She is retired as a batter-runner; or,
- He/She reaches base and scores; or
- After he/she reaches base, the inning or game ends.

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### **Baseball and Challenger – Regulation VI, Tournament Rule 4 – Pitching Days Rest Threshold Exemptions and Notes.**

Provides clarification that a pitcher's pitch count for the purposes of day(s) rest threshold is determined by the first pitch thrown to a batter. The pitcher may not start a new batter once the limit imposed in Regulation VI(c) has been met. An additional exemption has been added to the days rest requirement for pitch count thresholds to allow for a pitcher to be removed from the mound prior to the batter completing his/her at bat to be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he/she started the batter with.

#### **Regulation VI(c); Tournament Rule 4(d) (*and all other instances of "exemption"*)**

EXCEPTION: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Regulation VI(c) for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs:

1. That batter reaches base;
2. That batter is put out;
3. The third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game;
4. The pitcher is removed from the mound prior to the batter completing his/her at bat.

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#### **Regulation VI(d); Tournament Rule 4(e) (*and all other instances of "threshold"*)**

Note 2: A pitcher's pitch count for the purposes of day(s) rest threshold is determined by the first pitch thrown to a batter. The pitcher may not start a new batter once the limit imposed in Regulation VI(c) has been met.

~~EXCEPTION: If a pitcher reaches a day(s) of rest threshold while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: (1) That batter reaches base; (2) That batter is retired; (3) The third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game. The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he/she reached during that at bat, provided that pitcher is removed or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter.~~



**Baseball, Softball, and Challenger – Rule 1.11 (a)(2); Policy: The Official Shoulder Patch.** Updates the Little League Official Patch to reflect that new for 2022, Little League International has established a new, unified patch that reflects all levels of the program. This patch, which matches our new Little League logo, can be used, regardless of the division of play, on your league’s uniforms. “Rocker patches” that can go above the new patch for all divisions and roles will also be available, for those who wish to add those distinctions to your uniforms. If your league still has patches that have been previously purchased, you do not need to replace those patches, and limited quantities of our previous patches are still available, while supplies last. Additional information can be found at [LittleLeague.org/Patch](http://LittleLeague.org/Patch).

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## TOURNAMENT

**Baseball and Softball - Tournament Player Eligibility** – Updates Condition #3 to permit a player to be selected to a second tournament team, either at an upper division or lower division, once their tournament team is eliminated from the Little League International Tournament. The player must meet the requirements as outlined and be selected to a tournament team.

**CONDITION 3:** A player may be named to the roster of, and practice with, only ONE Little League International Tournament Team at a time. Once the affidavit is signed by the local league president, player agent, and District Administrator (or their representatives), the players listed on the affidavit shall not be eligible to participate on any other Little League International Tournament Team until the team is eliminated from the Tournament. Once the team is eliminated from the Little League International Tournament, players from that team may be added to the affidavit of a second team so long as 1. The player meets all eligibility requirements as outlined in Tournament Player Eligibility; 2. There is space on the team affidavit for an additional player; 3. The player is not replacing another eligible and available player currently named on the affidavit; **and 4. The player must be assessed capable to play within the division of play. 4. The player is named to a team within an older division of play; and 5. The player must be assessed capable to play within the older division of play. The addition must be certified by the District Administrator or his/her appointee prior to playing with the second team.**

Baseball/Softball players league age 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 may be eligible for selection to multiple tournament teams. These players may only be selected to one tournament team at a time. Under no circumstances may these players be chosen for, practice with, or participate with more than one tournament team at a time. Only under the circumstances listed in Condition 3 may a player be selected to a second tournament team.