
LITTLE LEAGUE CHANGES FOR 2016 SEASON – BASEBALL ONLY

Last Updated Feb 16, 2016

The following is a summary of the changes between the 2016 Little League Baseball regulations and rules and their 2015 counterparts. Items have been loosely categorized as to whether the change represents a clarification of existing practice that was simply added to the rulebook, or whether it represents an actual change to the rules or regulations.

Throughout this document, text that is underlined represents the modified or newly added text.

REGULATION I(C)

REGULATION CHANGE

The duration for which leagues are required to save Volunteer Applications has changed. Regulation I(c)(8) used to read, in part:

The "Little League Official Volunteer Application" must be maintained by the president of the local league Board of Directors for all persons named above, for a minimum of the duration of the applicant's service to the league for that year.

It now reads

The "Little League Official Volunteer Application" must be maintained by the president of the local league Board of Directors for all persons named above, for a minimum of at least two years after the volunteer is no longer in the league. When it comes time to dispose of these records, they should be destroyed as they contain sensitive information.

In addition:

- “admission to” a crime involving a minor has been added to the criteria for prohibiting a person from serving as a volunteer.
- Mississippi and Oregon have been added to the list of states known to require background checks in addition to those required by Little League.

REGULATION I(K)

REGULATION CHANGE

As before, Regulation I(j) stipulates that, where two or more leagues combine at the Junior level or above, the leagues “shall each elect a vice president and player agent to be in charge of the league(s).”

Regulation I(k) used to stipulate that the vice presidents “and will alternate every other year as senior vice president in charge of the program. The off-year vice president will serve as assistant to the vice president in charge.” This requirement has been removed.

REGULATION II(F)

CLARIFICATION

Regulation II(f) used to state:

“When necessary the District Administrator shall have the authority to adjust the league boundaries and be subject to review and approval of the Charter Committee.”

It now is phrased

“When necessary the District Administrator shall have the authority to recommend adjusting the league boundaries and be subject to review and approval of the Charter Committee.”

to emphasize that only the Charter Committee can approve league boundary changes.

REGULATION III(A)

RECOMMENDATION

Regulation III(a) now includes an explicit recommendation that a roster size of 8-10 players is recommended at the Tee Ball and Minor League levels.

REGULATION IV(A)

REGULATION CHANGE

The date as of which a baseball player's league age is determined has been changed. The regulation includes details of the implementation plan, which involves grandfathering certain players. The rulebook also includes detailed charts in Appendix G to help leagues confirm a player's proper league age.

REGULATION VII

CLARIFICATION

The underlined text has been added to Regulations VII(a) and VII(b):

- (a) The schedule of games for the regular season shall be prepared by the Board of Directors of the league (or district, if the Senior/Big League is administered as a district operation) and must provide for not less than twelve (12) games per team per regular season against other Little League teams within their respective division, exclusive of playoff and tournament games. Tee Ball: It is recommended that no more than twelve (12) games be scheduled per team per season.

This would appear to prohibit a team counting games against non-Little League teams as part of their required 12 game schedule.

- (b) The schedule should provide for not less than two (2) games per week per team. Any facility used for practices and/or games must be approved by the local league Board of Directors. Junior League: Interleague play is permitted provided the proper form is submitted to the District Administrator for approval. Senior/Big League: Interleague play is permitted within the district.

This would appear to prohibit a team from practicing at a non-league site without approval from the league.

REGULATION XIII

REGULATION CHANGE

The underlined text has been added to Regulation XIII(f):

- Once a Tournament Team plays its first game in the International Tournament, a reference to a company, product, or service (including, but not limited to, a slogan or logo) shall not be added to, included on, or appear on any Tournament Team uniform, apparel, or equipment.

This would now appear to effectively prohibit any sponsorship display on Tournament team uniforms.

RULE 1.10

CLARIFICATION

The following text has been added to the portion of Rule 1.10 governing Intermediate and Junior leagues:

- If a 2¼ barrel bat has no composite materials in the barrel, it may be used provided it is labeled with a BPF (bat performance factor) of 1.15 or less.

This brings the interpretation of what constitutes a "composite bat" in line with the interpretation for Majors. Note that the rule, as written, still does not allow a composite bat that is licensed and approved for Major play to be used in Intermediate or Junior play. As written, the rule still bans all 2¼-inch diameter composite barrel bats in these divisions unless the bat meets the BBCOR standard. What this changes does do is to allow non-composite-barrel bats that are legal in Majors to be used in Intermediate and Juniors without the BBCOR requirement. Previously, a bat that had a composite handle and alloy barrel could be legal in Majors, but not in Intermediate or Juniors.

RULE 1.10

RULE CHANGE

The following text has been added to Rule 1.10:

- NOTE: Beginning with the 2018 season, non-wood and laminated bats used in the Little League (league age 12 and below), Intermediate (50-70) Division, and Junior League shall bear the USA Baseball logo signifying that the bat meets the USA Baseball Performance Standard. All BPF – 1.15 bats will be prohibited beginning with the 2018 season. Additionally, starting in 2018, the bat diameter shall not exceed 2 5/8 for these divisions of play.

This provides advance warning that Little League will be moving away from the BPF standard in 2018.

RULE 4.15

RULE CHANGE

The following text has been added to Rule 4.15(6):

4.15 - A game may be forfeited by the Umpire-in-Chief of the game in progress to the opposing team when a team –

- (6) employs tactics designed to delay, shorten, or make a travesty of the game.

TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY

CHANGE

The underlined text was inserted into portion of the tournament rules describing what a Tournament team is required to have in its possession:

- 2. a map, signed and dated by the league president and District Administrator, showing the actual boundaries of the league, with locations noted for the residences of the parent or legal guardian (court-appointed) or location of the school for every participant named on the affidavit;

The requirements for league schedules in the League Eligibility section have also changed. Previously, the rulebook said:

- 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. See Reg. VII. The schedule shall be arranged so that at least one-half of the games are scheduled prior to June 15.

Now it reads

- 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.