



# 2010 SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT RULE UPDATES

## REGULATION IX – SPECIAL GAMES (f)

(f) Tournament teams may participate in Special Games only *after June 15th*.

## TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES - SELECTION OF FIELDS

### Selection of Fields

*Local leagues selected to host a section, state, division, region or world series tournament must have an approved ASAP safety plan.*

## TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES - TOURNAMENT TEAM PRACTICE

**Little/Junior/Senior/Big League:** Try-outs or practices by tournament teams shall not be held before June 15. *Tournament team practice may only take place against other teams within the same or contiguous districts in the same division, providing such practice is done out of uniform.* (Little League accident insurance for tournament teams will not go into effect until June 15, or the date of the release of the names of tournament Team members, whichever is later).

**9-10 & 10-11 Year Old Divisions:** Try-outs or practices by tournament teams shall not be held before June 15 or two weeks prior to the start of the tournament. *Tournament team practice may only take place against other teams within the same or contiguous districts in the same division, providing such practice is done out of uniform.* (Little League accident insurance for tournament teams will not go into effect until June 15, or the date of the release of the names of tournament Team members, whichever is earlier).

## TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES - CURFEW

### Curfew

No inning shall start after *midnight prevailing time (12:30 a.m. prevailing time for Junior League; 1:00 a.m. prevailing time for Senior/Big League)*. **NOTE:** An inning starts the moment the third out is made completing the previous inning.

## TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES – RULE 3

**PLAYING RULES:** A copy of the Official Little League Regulations and Playing Rules and the Tournament Rules and Guidelines must be available at each tournament site and at the time the game is to be played. This is the responsibility of the Tournament Director. Written ground rules established by the Tournament Director or assistant must be reviewed with both managers and the umpire-in-chief at least ten (10) minutes before the start of the game. It is suggested the same be available to news media if requested. **NOTE:** *In the 10-11 tournament division, the batter may advance on a dropped third strike and the base runner will be allowed to advance when the ball is released by the pitcher (6.09 and 7.08(a)(5)). These rules will not apply for the 9-10 tournament division.*

## **TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES - RULE 13**

**REGULATION GAME:** Each tournament game must be played to the point of being an official game: (b) Regulation games (when a winner can be determined) terminated because of weather, darkness or curfew *must be resumed if the visiting team ties the game or takes the lead in their half of the inning and the home team does not complete their at bat or take the lead in an incomplete inning.* This does not apply to games suspended or delayed by weather that may still be resumed before darkness or curfew (as defined in Tournament Rules and Guidelines - Curfew) on the same day.

### **RULE 1.07**

1.07 - The pitcher's plate shall be a rectangle slab of whitened rubber 24 inches by 6 inches. It shall be set in the ground as shown in Diagrams 1 and 2, so that the distance between the front side of the pitcher's plate and home base (the rear point of home plate) shall be - (1) Minor League: 35 feet; (2) Little League (Majors) and Junior League: 40 feet; (3) *Senior and Big League: 43 feet.*

### **RULE 1.11 (h)**

1.11 (h) - Shoes with metal spikes or cleats are not permitted. Shoes with molded cleats are permissible. *Junior/Senior/Big League: Shoes with metal spikes or cleats are permitted.*

### **RULE 2.00**

Bunt is a batted ball not swung at but intentionally met with the bat and tapped slowly. *Holding the bat in the strike zone is considered an attempted bunt. In order to take a pitch, the batter must withdraw the bat backwards away from the ball. (Tee Ball: Bunts are not permitted. Batters are not permitted to take a half-swing. If the umpire feels the batter is taking a half-swing, the batter may be called back to swing again.)*

### **RULE 6.09 (b)**

The batter becomes a runner when -

(b) **Major/Junior/Senior/Big League:** the third strike called by the umpire is not caught, providing (a) first base is unoccupied or (2) first base is occupied with two out. **NOTE:** A batter forfeits the opportunity to advance to first base when he/she enters the dugout or any other dead ball area.

### **RULE 7.08 (a) (5)**

A runner is out when -

(a) (5) **Major/Junior/Senior/Big League Divisions:** *the runner fails to keep contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been released by the pitcher on the delivery. (NOTE: A local league may adopt a rule that requires the runner to keep in contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been batted or reaches the batter, or be called out.)*

(b) **Minor League/Tee Ball:** *the runner fails to keep in contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been batted or reaches the batter.*

### **RULE 8.03 (c)**

(c) **Major/Junior/Senior/Big League:** *If the pitcher desires to walk a batter intentionally, all pitches must be legally delivered to the batter.*