



District 19 City Championship Tournaments

2012 Tournament Rules, Guidelines & Ground Rules

Little League Minor Softball ®

Rules

Rules: The Tournament Rules as printed in the current Little League Rules under the T-Section at the rear of the Little League Rule Book will apply for these tournaments except where noted in these District City Championship Tournament Rules and Guidelines. The Little League Softball Official Regulations and Playing Rules will be used in the conduct of the Little League Softball Tournament.

Responsibility and Chain of Command

It should be clearly understood by Tournament Directors and league presidents that operation of the annual tournaments in Little League come under a different authority and jurisdiction from that normally observed during the playing season. It is, in fact, a whole new ball game. Once the City Championship Tournaments start, authority is vested solely in the Tournament Directors and the District Administrator.

There will be no waivers or resort to local rules or other variation. To administer the tournament properly and complete the tournament in the limited time afforded by the upcoming tournament season, it is a necessity that no delays occur. Games must be played as scheduled. If weather or other reasons cause a tournament site to be not acceptable for play; the tournament can be moved by the District Administrator.

Once the tournament starts, it must proceed without interruption. If protest or disputes occur which cannot be settled by the umpires or Tournament directors through immediate and concise application of the rules, appeal must be made through proper channels promptly to the District Administrator to present a major blockage or loss of momentum.

Revocation of tournament privileges or forfeiture of a tournament game may be decided only by the District Tournament Committee. Should a problem arise that cannot be resolved while a game is in progress, the game must be suspended by the umpire-in-chief and the problem referred immediately to the Tournament Director. If not resolved, it must be referred to the District Administrator immediately.

Knowledge of the rules must be guaranteed before a Tournament Director is declared qualified. All Tournament Directors will undergo a thorough and instructive briefing session prior to taking on their duties, must signify that they understand the rules and regardless of personal feelings, they are in full agreement and can interpret them properly. At the time of the district tournament meeting, it will be required that each league president or the representative in attendance signify that the league and tournament team managing personnel are knowledgeable of Tournament Rules and are in full agreement with these conditions.

Tournament Teams

These Tournaments will consist of the League Champion of each chartered Little League. These are not All-Star Teams and each League President must assure that their team or teams consist of regular season players and that those players have been a member of that team at least **sixty (60%)** percent of the regular season. Any player or players brought up to any team who have not been a member of that team for at least **sixty (60%)** percent of the regular season, must not and can not participate in these City Championship Tournament Games.

Each team will be allowed to add two (2) additional players to the regular season League Championship Team, but no team may have more than sixteen (16) players. These two additional players must be from a team or teams from within the league and division (if more than one league, i.e. American and National) and must have participated on that team or teams at least 60% of the regular season. The purpose of allowing the two (2) additional players is to replace players lost due to vacation or illness.

Once the team rosters are certified by the League President and submitted to the District Administrator, there will be no additions allowed. If a team loses players due to sickness, injury or vacation after the start of the tournament and/or submission of the City Championship Tournament Affidavit, then that team must continue in the tournament with the remaining players.

Tournament Organization

This Section does not apply to the City Championship Tournaments.

Managers and Coaches (This replaces what is printed in the Little League Rule Book)

The District Administrator or Assistant District Administrator shall not serve as manager or coach.

Little League Softball: The manager and coach(es) shall be the regular season team managers and/or coaches from the Little League Softball (Minor) Division Championship Team from their Little League. If vacation, illness, job or other justifiable reasons prevent the regular season team coach or manager from participating, the league president may appoint a replacement from the proper division, with the approval of the District Administrator.

Each team will be permitted to have one Manager and two Coaches regardless of the number of players on the team.

Scorekeepers & Announcers

Scorekeepers & Announcers: The home team must furnish an announcer for each tournament game played. This individual may be a parent or assistant coach, but they must be adults at least 18 years of age. **Host leagues furnish the official scorekeeper.**

Umpires (This replaces what is printed in the Little League Rule Book)

The District Umpire Consultant shall have full responsibility for providing volunteer Little League umpires for tournament games. Umpires from leagues involved in the game may be assigned. The District Administrator shall have final approval of all assignments. There should be at least two umpires in each game. More are recommended when available.

Tournament Eligibility Affidavit (This replaces what is printed in the Little League Rule Book)

It shall be the League President's responsibility to review and certify the birth records (league age) and residence (as defined by Little League Baseball, Incorporated) of all players. When the league finally determines the League Champion, names must be entered on the league's Eligibility Affidavit. Once the League President certifies the Affidavit, two copies should be given to the Team Manager. **The Team Manager is responsible for verifying that ALL eligible regular season team players are listed on the Eligibility Affidavit, including the two additional players, prior to beginning the first game. After that time, no additions can be made to this form.** The Team Manager shall present two signed original Eligibility Affidavits to the District Tournament Director at the Mandatory Managers and Coaches meeting. **Note: The Eligibility Affidavit becomes official once the teams starts its first game.**

Participation in Other Programs (This replaces what is printed in the Little League Rule Book)

Players may participate in other programs during this tournament so long as such participation does not disrupt the tournament program in which such player participates. NOTE: Consistent with a manager's ability to conduct the affairs of his or her team, a manager may disqualify a player from the team for the current season, subject to Board of Directors approval, if the player repeatedly misses practice or games.

Release of Names (Does not apply to the City Championship Tournaments)

League Eligibility (This replaces what is printed in the Little League Rule Book)

In order to be eligible to submit teams in the City Championship Tournaments, the League must be chartered in the proper divisions for which they wish to enter a team.

District Tournament Fees must be paid by established deadlines.

Leagues must agree to abide by these Special Games Rules in order to participate and will make all managers and coaches aware that these are Special Games and that the authority to resolve all protests, rules interpretations and problems rests sole with the District Tournament Committee and the District Administrator.

Player Eligibility (This replaces what is printed in the Little League Rule Book)

Players are eligible for City Championship Tournament Play, provided they meet the criteria established by Little League for league age, residence and the following:

Little League Softball (Minor Division) - Any Player, who has participated as an eligible player in sixty percent of the regular season games prior to this Tournament on the League Championship Team, with the exception of the school softball season.

CONDITION: A player who is not able to participate in a number of local league regular season games because of participation in a school softball program will receive an adjustment on the minimum participation in games required under this rule.

Example: If Little League Softball Team A played 20 regular season games prior to this tournament, and a player missed 10 (ten) games because of participation in a school softball program, that player is required to have participated in only six (6) regular season Little League Softball games to be eligible for the Leagues Championship Little League Softball Team. *Violation of this rule may be cause for revocation of tournament privilege by the District Tournament Committee.*

Replacement of Manager or Coaches (Players-See Note) (This replaces what is printed in the Little League Rule Book)

Any manager or coach listed on the Eligibility Affidavit who is unable to participate because of injury, illness, vacation or other justifiable reason may be replaced by another eligible person by the league president. The replacement must be from the same division and league as the manager or coach being replaced. If a manager or coach is replaced, that person may not be returned to the Tournament Affidavit. Permanent replacements must be from the league's regular season teams and shall be recorded and approved by the District Administrator or Tournament Director in the space provided on the back of the Eligibility Affidavit.

All managers, coaches, replacement and temporary managers and coaches must have had a background check performed by their local Little League in accordance with Little League Regulations and Guidelines.

Exception: If a manager or coach is unable to attend a game for a justifiable reason, a Tournament Director could approve a temporary replacement. Temporary replacement of a manager or coach need not be entered on the Eligibility Affidavit. Replacements must be from the same division and league.

NOTE:

Since this is a League Championship Tournament, **no players can be replaced.** If a player is lost due to sickness, vacation, injury or any other reason, the League Championship Team must proceed in the Tournament with the remaining players. If a team can not field at least nine players due to any reason, that team will be given a loss and will be eliminated from the tournament.

Playing Equipment (This replaces what is printed in the Little League Rule Book)

All equipment used in these Tournament Games will be inspected at the Managers and Coaches Meetings and prior to each game. The reason for this check is to assure safety and condition of all playing equipment. No other equipment other than that approved by Little League Baseball, Inc. will be permitted in the dugout or on the field.

Little League Minor Softball uses the 11" Little League Approved Softball.

Example: Donuts are not approved or allowed. Metal Cleats and Skull type catcher helmets are not allowed.

Every member of the team must wear a conventional uniform which includes shirt, pants or shorts, stockings and cap or visor. Each league is encouraged to have their teams wear their regular season uniform. If a league desires, special caps, visors or shirts may be worn, provided that all team members wear the same uniform including shirt, pants or shorts, stockings and cap or visor. The wearing of caps or visors is optional while on defense.

NOTE: The two additional players will wear their regular season team uniforms. Therefore team and league officials should be aware that teams will have more than one type of uniform in this tournament.

Each team must provide at least six (6) NOCSAE approved safety helmets with warning labels. The batter, all base runners and player base coaches must wear approved helmets.

Note: Helmets may not be painted and may not contain tape or decals unless approved in writing by the manufacturer. (See Little League Rule 1.16)

Catchers must wear a mask with (NOCSAE) approved catchers helmet (skull cap type not acceptable) and "dangling" type throat guard during practice, infield, pitcher warm-up and games. All catchers must wear chest protector and shin guards.

Shoes with metal cleats or spikes shall not be worn by players, managers, coaches or umpires.

Schedules – This does not apply to the City Championship Tournaments.

Tournament Team Practice - This does not apply to the City Championship Tournaments.

Selection of Fields (This replaces what is printed in the Little League Rule Book)

All games shall be played upon Little League fields approved by the District Tournament Committee. The Tournament Director or assistant shall judge fitness of the playing field before the game starts.

Games under lights (This replaces what is printed in the Little League Rule Book)

Games under lights will be scheduled by the District Tournament Committee. The District Administrator will have the authority to determine that lighting installations meet minimum standards for the level of play.

Curfew (The rule as printed in the Little League Tournament Rules will apply)

Starting Time of Games (This replaces what is printed in the Little League Rule Book)

The Tournament Director and District Administrator will be the sole judges as to whether to start a game which has been delayed or rescheduled. Special consideration will be given to assure that there is adequate time to complete the game before darkness or curfew.

Admission Charge (This replaces what is printed in the Little League Rule Book)

There will be no admission charge to these City Championship Games. However, we ask that each League President and Team Manager and Coach make their fans aware that we will pass the bat for donations. Please encourage your fans to help us offset the costs of these tournaments with their donations.

CONDITIONS OF TOURNAMENT PLAY:

Following are exceptions to the Tournament Rules as printed in the current Little League Rule Book:

(Note: Unless noted below all Little League Rules and Tournament Rules as printed in the current Little League Softball Rule Book will apply.)

TIME LIMITS – LEGAL GAME

Games will have a **one hour & 45 minute time limit**. No new inning will be started after expiration of the two hour time limit, however, the current inning will continue until completion. It will be held that a new inning starts the moment the third out is made in a game. The Tournament Director will be the official timekeeper for these purposes.

If at the end of the fourth inning (3 1/2 if Home Team), one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the umpire in chief shall declare the game a "legal game" and the team with the ten run lead the winner.

In this Minor Softball Tournament, the continuous batting IS NOT ALLOWED. The regular season requirement that calls for an inning to end after five runs are scored IS NOT IN EFFECT for these tournaments.

Note: Regular nine person lineups are used in these tournaments, tournament substitution rules and tournament mandatory play as listed in the current Little League Rulebook in the T-Sections for tournament for the 9-10 and 10-11 year old Divisions apply for these tournaments.

PROTESTS

Exceptions:

All protests for these City Championship Tournaments will be resolved through the District Administrator with the District Tournament Committee. The decision of the District Tournament Committee shall be final and binding.

Disregard any reference to the Regional Headquarters and Regional Director, to the Little League International Tournament Committee or Little League Headquarters. Responsibility for the City Championship Tournaments falls under Special Games and all protests and problems must be resolved locally with the District Administrator and the District Tournament Committee.

MUST PLAY TO ADVANCE

Disregard, as there is no advancing in the City Championship Tournaments.

TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES:

Exceptions:

PITCHING RULES – LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL, 9 & 10 YEAR OLD AND 10 & 11 YEAR OLD WILL APPLY. SEE T-RULES. 12 YEAR OLDS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PITCH IN THESE TOURNAMENTS.

MANDATORY PLAY: (T-Rules)

FORFEITS - Reference of the Tournament Committee shall be the District Tournament Committee. (Violations must be reported to the District Administrator, not the Regional Director)

Please note that these are Special Games Tournaments and as such, all authority to resolve protest and forfeits rests with the District Tournament Committee and the District Administrator

Reference to the Tournament Committee shall mean the District Tournament Committee.

SUSPENDED GAMES – Will not apply to these City Championship Games.

REPLAYING GAMES - Reference to the Tournament Committee shall mean the District Tournament Committee.

ALTERCATIONS - Reference to the Tournament Committee shall mean the District Tournament Committee.

Important: Please refer to the Texas District 19 Tournament Ground Rules which contain the Ground Rules for these Tournaments.



TEXAS DISTRICT 19 TOURNAMENT GROUND RULES BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL



1. The current Official Little League Rules and Regulations will govern except as noted in the Tournament Rules.
2. Home team will furnish the announcer for the game. Home and visitor teams will be decided by the toss of the coin. Visitor team will occupy third base dugout and will take infield practice first. Home team will occupy first base dugout. The visiting team should be ready to take infield 30 minutes before game time. The home team should be ready at least 20 minutes prior to game time.
3. Extra Coaches are not permitted to coach or manage in any manner and are not allowed on the playing field at any time, prior to, during or after the games.
4. All players, managers, coaches and umpires are required to stay within the fenced playing field once the game begins, except for restroom use or emergencies.
5. The players, manager and coaches and tournament officials **ONLY** will be allowed on the field or in the dugout. (Note: Little League Tournament Rules limit the number of adults allowed in the dugout or on the field). Safety rules require those in the dugout to be seated rather than pacing up and down or hanging out of the dugout.
6. Fans, photographers and news personnel are not allowed on the field at any time, prior to, during or after games. Please check with the tournament director for approved places where news personnel may shoot video or photography for news purposes.
7. The on deck batter position has been eliminated.
(Exception: Junior Baseball, Senior Baseball, Big League Baseball, Senior Softball & Big League Softball, the on deck batter position **has not** been eliminated for these divisions.)
8. When both the manager and coaches are in the dugout, one of these adults will be designated to request a time-out. **Only** after the time-out has been called by the umpire, will that adult manager or coach be permitted to leave the dug-out.
9. In accordance with rule 3.17, the use of electronic equipment during the game is restricted. No team shall use electronic equipment, including walkie-talkies, cellular telephones, etc., for any communications with on-field personnel including those in the dugout, bullpen or field. See penalty under rule 3.17.
10. No outside food or drink are allowed at the tournament sites. Spectators are not allowed to bring in any outside food, ice chest or coolers. However, teams are allowed to bring in coolers or ice chests to be placed in the dugouts which can only contain bottled water, Gatorade products and other items to keep players hydrated during the game. (NOTE: No glass containers are allowed in the dugouts)

Note: Teams cooler and/or ice chest must be checked in with the tournament director and must remain in the dugout for use by players during the games. Immediately after games

those coolers and/or ice chests must be removed and placed in vehicles. (Please do not pass out drinks to team members after games from those coolers and/or ice chests)

Host leagues use the concession income to help offset the cost of providing the facilities for use by the teams during the tournaments. Please purchase your team drinks and refreshments from the concession prior to and after games.

11. Umpires are instructed to give ear to any request for clarification of rules situations, but not on any judgement decisions.
12. Players shall not gather around the pitcher at the start of an inning or following an out. They must remain near their positions while tossing the ball around the infield and call encouragement to the pitcher from that point.
13. All equipment used in tournaments must be clearly identifiable as Little League Approved. All equipment will be checked at the mandatory Managers and Coaches Meeting held prior to the beginning of tournament play. Umpires and Tournament Officials will also check equipment at tournament games.
14. Spectators or players of one team shall not yell strike, swing or make other remarks towards players of the opposing team or umpire. *Stomping feet, cadence counting and clapping of the hands for the obvious intent of distracting the other team will not be permitted.* The umpires and tournament officials have the right to rule on any noise they feel is distracting. Noise makers such as bells, sirens and whistles are not permitted.
15. Rings, watches, Little League pins and other types of jewelry must not be worn on the field. **Note: Metal cleats or spikes are permitted for Junior, Senior & Big League Baseball and Softball.**
16. Each team must position a protection player facing the batter in order to stop any batted ball from striking the pitcher warming up outside the outfield foul lines or in the bull pen. (Note: Only Pitchers and Catchers are allowed in the bull pen at any time.)
17. The manager or coach will be charged with a visit to the pitcher if he calls a time out to talk with his/her catcher or any defensive player.
18. Foul or rude language or unsportsmanlike conduct by spectators will not be tolerated and can result in offenders being barred from the Little League Park.
19. **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WILL BE ALLOWED** at any Little League Tournament Game.

FOR SOFTBALL ONLY

If both Manager and Coach of a Softball Tournament Team are male, then that team must have an adult female assistant coach present at all practices and games. During Tournament games, the female assistant coach may occupy a seat outside, but close to the dugout. This female assistant will not be listed on the affidavit.