

Little League Virginia District 16 Safety Newsletter



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November 2010

NEW Rules Governing Baseball Bats

November 2010 – Beginning in the 2011 season, baseball bats in Juniors division and above (including the Transitional 50-70 division) must meet the *Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution* (BBCOR) standard. The BESR standard is no longer acceptable.

Q: Does this mean that players and leagues will need to buy new bats?

A: Probably. BBCOR approved bats are just hitting the market. There is also no grace-period for non-approved bats. Look for the BBCOR Certification mark:



Q: Are there approved bats that I can buy this Christmas?

A: A quick search of several vendors found less than a dozen approved bats, all in the -3 weight class.

Q: Why the new standard?

A: The BESR standard is not sufficient given the abundance of composite bats and modern construction techniques. This policy aligns with the NCAA, who is also requiring BBCOR certification for 2011, and the NFHS, who is transitioning in 2012.

Q: Does this change the BPF requirement for bats in Majors and below?

A: This change only applies to 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ inch diameter bats that are permitted only in the Transitional 50-70, Juniors and above divisions.

Little League Changes 50-70 Pilot Program for 2011

September 2010 – For the 2011 season, Little League will offer the 50-70 Pilot Program with some changes. Players league age 11 and 12 may play in the “Supplemental” program, which uses Junior’s division rules EXCEPT they may only use bats approved for Majors and below. Players league age 12 and 13 may play in the “Transitional” program which uses all Junior’s division rules. The “Transitional” and “Supplemental” programs may not be combined.

With double-header games more common in 50-70, keep a close eye on the pitcher protection rules:

- Maximum pitch count and required rest rules are based on the league age of the player and the calendar day;
- Players catching in 4 or more innings in one game are not eligible to pitch on that calendar day;
- Players may pitch in both games provided they do not exceed 30 pitches in the first game.

Winter is the Time to Inspect Playing Equipment

Take a weekend to check for bats that are no longer legal, catcher’s gear and batting helmets that are damaged or worn, and umpire equipment in need of replacement. Take advantage of off-season and closeout discounts.

Charter Early! Little League Insurance Expires December 31

Make sure that you have insurance before Spring tryouts!

2011 Southeastern Region Road Show

Plan to attend the 2011 Road Show co-hosted by District 16 January 14-16, 2011 at the Dulles Hilton. Hear from the Southeastern Region staff on Little League’s recommendations for running your league.



LexisNexis Refines Background Check Process

October 2010 - Social Security Numbers will now be required to improve search accuracy.

