



## 2012 Most Commonly Misunderstood and Misapplied Little League Rules

1. **NO** Adults Warming up Pitchers - **NOT** Pre-game - **NOT** in bullpen - **NOT** behind dugout - **NOT** between innings- **NOT** squatting or standing.
2. **TOURNAMENT Mandatory Play**
  - a. Determined at **START** of the game
  - b. 13+ Players: Minimum 1 at bat AND 3 Consecutive Defensive Outs
  - c. 12 or less: Minimum 1 at bat AND 6 Consecutive Defensive Outs
  - d. Subs entering game for 1<sup>st</sup> time cannot be removed until MP is met.
3. **Adults in Dugout = 3** (Includes Manager, Coaches, **AND** Scorekeepers)
  - a. Must be approved Adult on the roster and/or affidavit
4. **CATCHER REQUIREMENTS**
  - a. **ALL CATCHERS MUST WEAR A DANGLING THROAT GUARD.** **ALL** helmet/mask combinations are included. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
  - b. Catcher **MUST** wear Helmet/Mask/Dangler combination when:
    1. Warming up Pitchers & Catching Infield or Outfield Practice
  - c. **BASEBALL** Catchers must wear the **LONG-STYLE Chest Protector** in all BB tournaments played on the 60 ft. diamond.
  - d. **BASEBALL** catchers must use a catcher's mitt.
5. **NO** Jewelry (except medical alert)
  - a. Earrings **CANNOT** be taped/covered with band-aid
  - b. **NO** "rubber band-type" or other non-metal jewelry
  - c. Medical Alert Jewelry should be taped in place
6. **NO ON-DECK BATTER** below the Junior Level. Player may not swing a bat off the field prior to coming onto the field for their time at bat.
7. **NO** Batting Donuts. Bat Sleeves are OK
8. Batting Helmets
  - a. **DO NOT** require Facemasks or Chin Straps
  - b. **NO** painted or stickers without permission from helmet manufacturer
9. **NO** Courtesy Runners are permitted - Not for pitchers, catchers or any players. Special Pinch Runner Rule 7.14 applies
10. Pitchers **MAY**
  - a. Wear batting glove under fielder's glove. Not white, grey or optic yellow
  - b. Wear sunglasses
  - c. Wear white undershirt, but not long sleeve white undershirt in BB
  - d. **NOT** wear sweatbands on either arms
  - e. Plate Umpire sole judge if these items are distracting
11. **Infield Fly Rule** applies to **ALL** Baseball and Softball Tournaments.
12. Throwing the bat (unless intentional) is **NOT** an out. Player should be warned on first offense and then ejected for second offense. Warnings are per player, **NOT** a team warning.
13. There is **NO** Must Slide Rule at **ANY** Base.

14. Below the Junior level, Head First Slides are **NOT ALLOWED** (automatic out) when **ADVANCING**. A head first slide is **NOT** a trip, stumble, crawling to the base, touching with the hands before the feet.
15. There is **NO** rule for number of batters a pitcher may hit with pitches before he/she has to be removed. - Intentionally hitting batters is illegal.
16. First base **CAN** be overrun on a walk
17. The batter-runner may turn **LEFT OR RIGHT** after overrunning first base. Only if the Batter-Runner makes an attempt toward second base has he/she lost their "overrun" protection.
18. The pitcher's plate (BB) or pitching circle (SB) **DOES NOT** stop continuous advancement of a base runner. On a walk, the batter-runner may advance beyond first base, if they do not stop, even if the pitcher has the ball on the pitcher's plate (BB) or in the pitching circle (SB).
19. It is **LEGAL** to fake a bunt and then swing at a pitch.
20. The Hands are **NEVER** part of the Bat.
21. If the batter does not pull the bat out of the strike zone while in the bunting position:
  - **BASEBALL: IS NOT** an Automatic strike
  - **SOFTBALL: IS** an Automatic Strike
22. Pitches that bounce on the ground are **NOT** dead balls. A batter may swing, hit, foul off, etc. A batter hit by a bouncing pitch **IS** awarded first base (if the batter does not swing at the pitch).
23. **DROPPED THIRD STRIKE** (Not for 9-10 tournaments) On a called or swinging 3<sup>rd</sup> strike, Batter becomes a runner **IF** pitch not caught by the catcher when less than 2 out and 1<sup>st</sup> base unoccupied at the time of the pitch or with 2 outs.
24. Home plate is in **FAIR** territory. Balls hitting the plate **ARE NOT** dead. Batter stepping on the plate **IS NOT** automatically out.
25. The batter's box **IS NOT** a safety zone for the batter. The batter **may** be called out for Interference although he/she is still in the batter's box.
26. **NO AUTOMATIC Intentional Walks** are permitted in Baseball or Softball. Intentional walks are permitted, but require the pitcher to pitch to batter.
27. 60 ft Baseball: Non-Wood bats **MUST** have BPF 1.15 or less printed on bat.
  - Composite bats – only bats on the Licensed BPF-ABI list are legal for BB. Should inspect before game if possible.
  - Illegal in game penalty – If Batter steps into batter's box and/or before next batter
    - Batter OUT, or defensive manager can take outcome of play
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Offense – Base Coach Ejected
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – Manager Ejected
28. Protests:
  - Playing Rule or Improper Substitution: Before next play or pitch
  - Ineligible Pitcher or Mandatory Play: Before Umpires level the field
  - Ineligible Player: When facts become known, but before next game

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