

# 2012 Little League Softball Tournament Rule Summary

Updated 18-April-2012

	9/10 year old	10/11 year old	Little League (11/12)	Juniors (12-14)	Seniors (13-16)	Big League (14-18)
<b>Max Roster Size</b>	14	14	14	14	14	15
<b>Pitching Distance</b>	35 feet	40 feet			43 feet	
<b>Softballs</b>	11-inch softball	12-inch softball				
<b>Mandatory Play</b>	13+ players: Minimum of 1 at bat and 3 consecutive defensive outs. 12 or fewer: Minimum of 1 at bat and 6 consecutive defensive outs. Substitute entering game for first time may not be removed until this is met.				Does not apply	
<b>Curfew</b>	No new inning after midnight			No new inning after 12:30 AM	No new inning after 1:00 AM.	
<b>Time Limits</b>	If two games are scheduled for the same site, no time limit may be imposed on the first game.					
<b>Pitching Innings</b>	Max 7 per day Max 7 per game		Max 9 per day Max 9 per game		Max 10 per game Max 10 per day	
<b>Pitching Rest</b>	One or two innings in a day – none required Three or more innings in a day – one calendar day			Less than 5 pitched – none required. Five or more innings – one day.		
<b>Pitching in Consecutive Games</b>	Allowed, subject to rest requirements.					
<b>Pitching on Consecutive Days</b>	If only one or two innings pitched previous day, or if pitcher of record in continuation of suspended game.			If less than five innings pitched previous day, or if pitcher of record in continuation of suspended game.		
<b>Pitcher returning to mound</b>	A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher any time in the remainder of the game, but only once in the same inning as he/she was removed.					
<b>Player Re-entry (Starter or Sub)</b>	Any player who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game in the SAME position in the batting order. A substitute entering the game for the first time may not be removed prior to completion of his/her mandatory play requirements.				Starters may re-enter to their original spot in the batting order <u>once</u> . Substitutes may not re-enter once they have left the game.	
<b>Substitutions</b>	Defensive: Must be made as team takes the field, or while team is in the field. Offensive: Must be made as player comes to bat, or while player is on base.					
<b>Defensive Conferences</b>	Two in an inning, pitcher must be removed from mound on third visit in inning. Three in a game, pitcher must be removed from mound on fourth visit in game. Each pitcher has his/her own "count" of visits, which resumes if pitcher returns to mound.					
<b>10-Run Rule</b>	After 4 innings, 3 ½ if home team is ahead.			After 5 innings, 4 ½ if home team is ahead		
<b>3rd Strike Not Caught</b>	Batter is out	Batter is out if first is occupied with less than two outs. If first is unoccupied or there are two outs, batter becomes runner and defense must put him/her out.				
<b>Leaving Early</b>	Pitch reaches batter	Pitch leaves the pitcher's hand				
<b>On Deck Batters</b>	Not allowed. Only the leadoff batter is permitted outside the dugout between innings.			Allowed.		
<b>Special Pinch Runner</b>	Allowed at all levels. Once per inning, any player not currently in the batting order may run. A player may only be <u>removed</u> for a special pinch runner once per game.					
<b>Adults</b>	1 manager and 2 coaches allowed regardless of number of players.					
<b>Base Coaches</b>	Two adult base coaches may be used at all levels, provided there is an adult in the dugout.					
<b>Protests</b>	<b>Playing rule or improper substitution:</b>		Must be made before next pitch, play or attempted play.			
	<b>Mandatory play:</b>		As soon as the facts become known.			
	<b>Ineligible pitcher or player:</b>		As soon as facts become known, but before either teams' next game.			

The information on this chart is intended as a reference summary of the various tournament rules. It does not cover every possible circumstance, and is not a substitute for reading and fully understanding the tournament rules section of the Official Playing Rules.