



DELAWARE DISTRICT 3

Little League Baseball and Softball
16 Gosling Dr
Lewes, DE 19958
www.dedistrict3.org



ALL-STAR MANAGERS MEETING - 2022

1. **Delaware District III Little League Tournaments** are double elimination unless weather delays force a change to format so that winner can be determined before states begin. Exact schedules are posted and updated on dedistrict3.org.

2. **Team Composition**

Each team is allowed a maximum of 14 players, one manager, and one or two coaches depending upon number of players at the start of the game. **Exceptions:** Senior League maximum of 16 players.

IMPORTANT: Manager/Coach may NOT warm up pitchers at the game site before or during games.

3. **Dugouts**

Top team on the bracket shall occupy 3rd base dugout. Bottom team on the bracket shall occupy 1st base dugout.

4. **On Field Pre-game Warm Up**

Each team is allowed 20 minutes pre-game practice time (time permitting). The team in the 3rd base dugout shall take the infield first at approximately 50 minutes prior to the start of the game. The team in the 1st base dugout shall take the infield at approximately 30 minutes prior to the start of the game.

IMPORTANT: Anyone acting as a catcher must have a catcher's mask (helmet) with throat guard (infield warm-up, outfield warm-up or warming up pitcher).

5. **Neutral Fields**

All fields are considered neutral for all games. A flip of the coin by the Tournament Director (TD) shall determine the Home Team for all games; this includes an if necessary championship game. The manager of the team in the third base dugout calls the flip of the coin. The winner of the toss shall select if they wish to be the HOME or GUEST team.

6. **Tournament Team Eligibility Affidavit**

Managers shall have ready and present to the TD their Affidavit with all necessary accompanying documentation at least one (1) hour prior to the game. TD will log game results and pitchers information following the completion of the game. Affidavit will then be returned to the managers.

Temporary Manager/Coach – If a manager or coach that is listed on the Affidavit who is unable to participate because of injury, illness, vacation or other justifiable reason (not ejection). The TD will approve a temporary replacement and that individual must be entered on the Affidavit. A person who is filling in for a second time must present a valid background check.

Player Replacement or Addition - players may be approved by the TD to be added to the Affidavit if a Player Verification Form and proper documentation including birth certificate (or previous Player Verification form) is provided. The player must be added to the boundary map.

7. Player Lineup

Managers shall have ready and present to the TD three (3) copies of their player line up at the time of submitting their Affidavit. Continuous batting order is NOT acceptable. The TD will distribute copies to the opposing manager, scorekeeper, and plate umpire.

8. Equipment and Uniforms

A. Players:

All teams must wear uniforms consisting of shirts, pants, or shorts and stirrups. The Little League patch must be on the left sleeve; (if shirt is sleeveless the patch must be on the left front of the shirt). For softball players, hats or visors are optional.

B. Manager and Coaches

Team managers and coaches must wear pants/shorts except at Jr/Sr level where they may wear uniforms. Shirts must be in team colors. **No athletic wear. NO JEAN CLOTHING.**

C. Catcher

Catchers must wear an approved catcher helmet, mask **and a dangling throat guard**, chest protector, shin guards at all times. Male catchers must wear a protective cup with athletic supporter.

NOTE: Helmet is to be worn during infield practice

NOTE: Full gear is to be worn during pitcher warm-ups.

D. Batter

Batter must wear batting helmets. Helmets must meet NICOSIA specifications with stamp and warning labels. Helmets with stickers will **NOT** be allowed unless there is a note from the manufacturer stating the sticker is approved by them.

E. No jewelry is to be worn during the games except medical alert jewelry and wedding rings.

10. In-Game Rule Highlights

A. Once the games begin, permission to leave the field/dugout must be granted by the umpire for players and managers/coaches. No players may warm up (throwing or swinging bats) outside the fences of the field. All equipment to be used during the game must remain within the fences of the field.

B. All coaches and players must remain in the dugout unless active as part of the game. Base coaches are the exception as are the on-deck batter for Junior/Senior League. **No coaches outside the dugout to call pitches.**

C. Books **MUST** be kept in the dugout/coaches boxes if you want to keep a book. **There is NO communication between the dugout/playing field and the stands; this includes parents talking to their kids.**

D. **IMPORTANT:** Make offensive substitutions when the player comes to bat or pinch run. Make defensive substitutions when your team enters the field. Failure to properly notify the official scorekeeper may result in penalties for failing to meet mandatory play.

E. Catcher's must wear dangling throat guards. They will not be allowed to catch without one.

F. Illegal bat – Manager and Batter are ejected and loss of one adult base coach on first offense. Umpires **may** check bats before the game, but the manager is ultimately responsible to make sure no illegal bats are used.

G. **8-10/Majors** – NO on deck batting. Only lead off hitter each inning is allowed to swing a bat.

H. **8-10 Tournaments** - Uncaught third strike does NOT apply.

I. Batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat

EXCEPTIONS:

- i. On a swing, slap, or check swing
- ii. When forced out of the box by a pitch
- iii. When the batter attempts a "drag bunt"
- iv. When the catcher does not catch the pitched ball
- v. When a play is attempted
- vi. When time is called
- vii. BASEBALL: When the pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher's plate after receiving the ball or the catcher leaves the catcher's box.
SOFTBALL: When the pitcher leaves the eighth foot circle or the catcher leaves the catcher's box.
- viii. On a three ball count pitch that is a strike that the batter thinks is a ball.

J. Special pinch runner may only be used once per inning and twice per game and only once per player replaced.

K. Stealing of pitch signs or locations is illegal. Players, coaches, and managers will be given one warning. Any subsequent infractions the player/person involved will be ejected.

L. Players are tied to their position in the batting order. Therefore, substitute and starter may not be in the game at the same time.

M. Substitutes may not be removed from the game until their mandatory play is completed. Does not apply to starters.

N. Number of eligible players in uniform at start of the game determines number of coaches and mandatory play requirements. Senior League does not have mandatory play.

- i. eleven (11) or fewer players
one manager and one coach (one must remain in dugout at all times)
minimum of six (6) consecutive defensive outs and one (1) at bat.
- ii. twelve (12) players
one manager and two coaches (one must remain in dugout at all times)
minimum of six (6) consecutive defensive outs and one (1) at bat.
- iii. thirteen (13) or more players
one manager and two coaches (one must remain in dugout at all times)
minimum of one (1) at bat.

O. Mandatory Play – Does not apply to Senior League

Prior to start of play of the top of the fourth inning, you will be reminded of who has not met mandatory play yet.

A manager's failure/refusal to insert players into the line-up as outlined below shall result in IMMEDIATE EJECTION of the manager and removal for the remainder of the International Tournament. If deemed to be creating a travesty of the game, additional penalties may be applied including up to disqualifying the team from any further tournament play.

If a team has 12 or fewer players in uniform at the start of a game, and is:

Visiting Team: Any player(s) who has yet to enter the game to meet the defensive requirement of mandatory play must be inserted prior to the first pitch or play in the bottom half of the 4th inning (Juniors: 5th inning) into one of the next **six** positions in the line-up that will ensure all requirements of mandatory play will be satisfied, absent a shortened game, including one at-bat.

Home Team: Any player(s) who has yet to enter the game to meet the defensive requirement of mandatory play must be inserted prior to the first pitch or play in the top half of the 5th inning (Junior: 6th inning) into one of the next **three** positions in the line-up that will ensure all requirements of mandatory play will be satisfied, absent a shortened game, including one at-bat.

If a team has 13 or more players in uniform at the start of a game, players must be inserted into the line-up to bat offensively during the:

Visiting Team: 4th or 5th inning, or as one of the first three batters in the 6th inning (Junior: 5th or 7th inning, or as one of the first three batters in the 7th inning), that will allow their one at-bat to be satisfied.

Home Team: 4th inning or as one of the first three batters in the 5th inning (Juniors: 5th inning or as one of the first three batters in 6th inning), that will allow their one at-bat to be satisfied.

P. Completion of Mandatory Play - Once both players in a batting order position have completed mandatory play, there is free substitution between those players. Exception: A pitcher can only be re-entered once if removed for a batter.

Q. **Senior League** – 10(i) A starter may be re-entered once in the same position in the batting order. A non-starter may not re-enter once removed.

R. **Baseball:**

Under no circumstances shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days.

Pitchers: may finish the batter when being stopped at less than maximum for days of rest consideration. Pitchers going to catcher **DO** get this consideration.

Catchers: I) Any player who has thrown more than 40 pitches may not play catcher that day.

II) A player who played the position of catcher for three (3) innings or less, moves to the pitcher position, and delivers 21 pitches or more in the same day, may not return to the catcher position on that calendar day. EXCEPTION: The pitcher may finish the current batter when 20 pitches is reached.

T. **Mound Visits** - Majors and above - Second visit in inning or third visit in the game must remove the pitcher. 8-10 - Third visit in inning or fourth visit in the game must remove the pitcher. Removing the pitcher does not count as a mound visit as long as the manager/coach does not talk to the defense first.

U. Run Rule - 15 runs after 3 innings (4 innings for Jr/Sr) or 10 runs after 4+ innings (5+ innings for Jr/Sr)

V. Starting in the 8th inning (9th inning for Jr/Sr), the offensive team will begin with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that half inning on second base.

W. **Curfews:** Midnight for 8-10/Majors, 12:30 for Junior, 1:00 for Senior. There are no game time limits except curfew.

X. There is no DH except in Senior League.

Y. If you question the validity of a rule or interpretation, ask for a timeout to have a clarification before proceeding including if necessary the TD contacting Andy. I can not correct something I am unaware of.