



# 2022 LITTLE LEAGUE® INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS AGENDA

The 2022 Little League® International Congress Agenda will be reviewed in a panel format utilizing Little League International Staff and current District Administrators. The panel will review each topic thoroughly to identify areas of concern and discuss ways to modify regulations and policies that will avoid potential abuses that come with programmatic changes.

## TACTICAL INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

### PROPOSED TACTICAL CHANGE #1 – LEAGUE BOUNDARIES

#### Overview:

Local League Boundaries were established to create a community-based program while maintaining competitive balance. Over time, the definition of community has changed, and the Little League® International Charter Committee has processed more than 4,083 out-of-boundary waiver requests in the last two years, proving that families desire more flexibility to select the program they feel is best for their family. It has also been established through our electronic mapping system that boundary population differs drastically from state-to-state and district-to-district and does not play as large of a role in creating competitive balance as originally intended.

#### Proposal:

Any player, regardless of age, that is registering in the Little League program **for the first time** is eligible to register in any Little League program.

Player Registration system

- All players will register through a central registration system, confirming league participation.
- Players will not be required to provide proof of residency or school enrollment
- League will be responsible for verifying league age

Any player that elects to switch leagues will require a release from the league they last participated. Once released, the player will be eligible to participate in a new league with red shirt eligibility, followed by full eligibility for the duration of the player's career with Charter Committee approval.

***DISCUSSION POINTS:** During this session we will discuss ways to identify areas of concern and discuss ways to modify regulations and policies that will avoid potential abuses that come with programmatic changes. For example, we will review how will this change impact Regulation II(d)? What will the procedure be if a league accepts an intact travel team of players league age 12 into the league for the first time? Will siblings be permitted to play in a league where another sibling is playing? What happens if a player decides to change leagues?*

### PROPOSED TACTICAL CHANGE #2 – TEENAGE DIVISIONS

#### Overview:

The Teenage Divisions of Little League make up 7% of the overall Little League program. The evolution of youth baseball and softball in the teenage divisions has shifted from a traditional community-based structure to more regular tournament play and individual showcase style events.

#### Proposal:

Create a new structure that will allow each state organization the authority to organize itself using approved Little League age structures and playing rules. This new structure would require less regulations, oversight, and provide flexibility from Little League International.

The change in structure would still allow for a traditional tournament trail in all teenage divisions, complete with Region and World Series Tournaments provided players meet the minimum regular season participation requirements determined by each State Organization.



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**DISCUSSION POINTS:** During this session we will discuss operating procedures to administering this program. For example, how will tournament eligibility be determined for all leagues and players?

## PROPOSED TACTICAL CHANGE #3 – D.A. SELECTION SYSTEM

### Overview:

District Administrators play a key role within the Little League Organization. Currently, District Administrators are elected by local leagues to a four-year term. Elections are administered locally by D.A.s and staff and are limited to people within the local Little League network, resulting in little to no change to district performance.

### Proposal:

Develop a system that will replace traditional District elections. The new system would allow District Administrators to be appointed by Little League Officials with input from elected State Directors. Only districts that are up for election or have a current vacancy would follow this procedure with the goal of identifying strong Little League volunteers and community leaders to administer the Little League program in an effort to improve performance in underperforming areas.

## RULE AND REGULATION CHANGES

### PROPOSED RULE AND REGULATION CHANGE #1 – REGULATION I (A) (3), REGULATION III (C), AND REGULATION IV (A)

- Proposed Change: Permit leagues to operate a 3- to 4-year-old Tee Ball Program
- Proposed Wording Change
  - Regulation I (a) (3) – The League
    - (a) (3) The Tee Ball division is an extension of the local league to accommodate participants league ages 3-7 and may utilize the batting tee or the pitched ball (by a coach). The league may opt to deliver a designated number of pitches to all batters and then utilize a tee if necessary.
  - Regulation III (3) (c) – The Teams
    - (3) (c) **Tee Ball:** Local league must establish the age structure for the Tee Ball Division. Players league age 3 and 4 are eligible ONLY for Tee Ball, unless otherwise approved by the Charter Committee. **Players league age 3 are only eligible to participate if the league structures a Tee Ball Division for players league age 3 and 4.** **EXCEPTION:** Participants league age 5 and 6 are permitted to advance to Minor League Coach Pitch or Machine Pitch after participation in Tee Ball for one year. Participants league age 6 are permitted to advance to Minor League Player Pitch Division after participation in Tee Ball for one year, provided the maximum age limit in the division is league age ten (10). Players must be assessed by the league as capable of participation at that level. A player listed on a Tee Ball Roster shall not be permitted to play with a Minor League team.
  - Regulation IV (a) – The Players
    - **Tee Ball Division:** Any candidate with amateur status who will attain the age of 3 before September 1, 2022, and who will not attain the age of 8 on or before August 31, 2022 shall be eligible to compete in the Tee Ball Baseball Division (subject to the local league Board of Directors alignment of this division). This means that a participant who will be 8 years old on September 1 or later is eligible to play that year; a participant who will be 8 years old on August 31 or earlier will not be eligible at any time during the calendar year in question.

**Synopsis:** This allows local leagues the ability to offer a program for players as young as 3 without requiring a waiver from the Charter Committee. This change will also allow local leagues a chance to utilize alternate methods of play to support a more innovative way to operate this division to better serve younger players.

### PROPOSED RULE AND REGULATION CHANGE #2 – REGULATION IV (F) – THE PLAYERS



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- Proposed Change: Modify the requirement to attend 50% of player evaluations to attend one league-scheduled player evaluation event
- Proposed Wording:
  - (f) **Majors/Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League:** Any candidate failing to attend at least ~~50 percent~~ **one** of the spring tryout sessions, shall forfeit league eligibility unless an excuse is presented which is accepted by a majority of the Board of Directors.
  - All other parts of this regulation remain unchanged for the Tee Ball and Minor Leagues and the Note
- This change would be for all divisions of Baseball and Softball.

**Synopsis:** This change would require players to attend one player evaluation event instead of 50% of the total number of events scheduled by the league.

## PROPOSED RULE AND REGULATION CHANGE #3 - RULE 3.09

- Proposed Change: Permit coaches to warm-up a pitcher or to help aid in game administration and flow
- Proposed Wording Change – Rule 3.09
  - Managers or coaches ~~must not~~ **are permitted to** warm up a pitcher at home plate or in the bullpen or elsewhere at any time.
  - Important will also be to clarify this potential change to include not only in-game warm-ups, but pre-game warm-ups. As written, the rule does include “any time” to include both situations, but clear language identifying such may be beneficial.
- This change would be for Regular Season and Tournament Play for all divisions of Baseball and Softball.

**Synopsis:** This would aid in efforts to improve the pace of play by allowing adult coaches to warm up pitchers.

## PROPOSED RULE AND REGULATION CHANGE #4 – RULE 4.10 (E)

- Proposed Change: Expand the current run-rule into the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> Innings based upon division:
  - 15 after 3 Innings
  - 10 after 4 Innings
  - 8 after 5 Innings
- Proposed Wording Change – Rule 4.10 (e)
  - If after (3) innings [**Intermediate (50-70) Division / Junior / Senior League:** four innings], two and one-half innings [**Intermediate (50-70) Division / Junior / Senior League:** three and one-half innings] if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If after four (4) innings [**Intermediate (50-70) Division / Junior / Senior League:** five innings], three and one-half innings [**Intermediate (50-70) Division / Junior / Senior League:** four and one-half innings], if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. **If after five (5) innings [**Intermediate (50-70) Division / Junior / Senior League:** six innings], four and one-half innings [**Intermediate (50-70) Division / Junior / Senior League:** five and one-half innings], if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of eight (8) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent.**
  - NOTE: (1) If the visiting team has a lead of fifteen (15), ten (10), **or eight (8) runs** or more respectively, the home team must bat in its half of the inning. (2) The local league may adopt the option of not utilizing this rule. A game determined by the 15-run rule, the 10-run rule, **or the 8-run rule** shall be considered a regulation game.
- This change would be for Regular Season for all divisions of Baseball and Softball.

**Synopsis:** This would revise the run rule for all divisions of play during the regular season.

## PROPOSED RULE AND REGULATION CHANGE #5 – RULE 6.08 (A) (2)



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- Proposed Change: Expand the Intentional Walk from the Little League (Major) and Minor League Divisions into the Intermediate (50-70) /Junior League/Senior League Divisions
- Proposed Wording Change – Rule 6.08 (a) (2)
  - Eliminate the specification of Little League (Major) and Minor League Divisions
  - All remaining parts of the rule remain the same:
    - The batter becomes a runner and is entitled to first base without liability to be put out (provided said runner advances to and touches first base) when –
      - (a) (2) **ALL DIVISIONS**: the defense elects to “Intentionally Walk” the batter by announcing such decision to the plate umpire. The request may be made prior to or during the at-bat.
      - NOTE 1: Such notification must be made by the defensive manager. The manager must request and be granted “time” by the umpire and then inform the umpire of the defense’s intent to walk the batter.
      - NOTE 2: The ball is dead, and no other runners may advance unless forced by the batter’s award. The appropriate number of “balls” needed based on the count on the batter at the time of the manager’s request to complete the Intentional Walk will be added to the pitch count.
- This change would be for Regular Season and Tournament play for all divisions of Baseball.
- This change would not affect the current Intentional Walk for all divisions of Softball. Softball Rule 6.08(a)(2) will remain the same as written for both Regular Season and Tournament play.

**Synopsis:** This would revise the intentional walk rule to be consistent in all divisions of play for both baseball and softball.

## PROPOSED RULE AND REGULATION CHANGE #6 – RULE 7.13

- Proposed Change: Runner out for leaving too soon (leaving early) in the Little League (Majors) and Minor League Baseball divisions
- Proposed Wording Change – Rule 7.13
  - When a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher’s plate and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher’s box ready to receive the delivery of the ball, the base runners shall not leave their bases until the ball has been delivered and reached the batter. **NOTE: Tee Ball:** Base runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit. When players have advanced as far as possible without being put out or having been retired, the umpire shall call “time” and place the ball on the tee.
  - **PENALTY:** When a base runner leaves the base before the pitched ball has reached the batter and it is detected by the umpire, the ball is dead. “No Pitch” is declared and the runner is out.
  - **NOTE 1:** When an umpire detects a base runner leaving the base too soon, that umpire shall call “time,” and the ball is dead. “No Pitch” is declared, and the umpire shall call the runner out for leaving the base too soon. This is not an appeal play.
  - Eliminate all other parts of the rule including:
    - Rule 7.13 (a)
    - Rule 7.13 (b)
    - Rule 7.13 (c)
    - Rule 7.13 (c) Note
    - Rule 7.13 (c) Exception
    - Examples 1-16, including 16 Note 1 and Note 2
  - NOTE 3: Remains as written -- Tee Ball: Base runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit. When players have advanced as far as possible without being put out or having been retired, the umpire shall call “time” and place the ball on the tee.
- This change would be for Regular Season and Tournament Play in the Little League (Majors) and Minor League Divisions

**Synopsis:** This would revise the rule in baseball to an out for leaving the base too early.



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## PROPOSED RULE AND REGULATION CHANGE #7 – TOURNAMENT ORGANIZATION – MANAGERS AND COACHES IN THE DUGOUT

- Proposed Change: Eliminate the number of eligible coaches permitted to be in the dugout based on roster size
- Proposed Wording Change – **Tournament Organization, Managers/Coaches in the Dugout**
  - ~~If a tournament team has twelve (12) or more eligible players in uniform at the game site at the start of a game, then the A~~ maximum of three (3) adults who are named on the affidavit (or authorized replacements as noted on the affidavit) will be permitted to act as manager/coaches for that game. ~~However, if a tournament team has eleven (11) or fewer eligible players in uniform at the game site at the start of the game, then a maximum of two (2) adults must be named at the start of the game as manager and coach. The two named adults must be listed on the affidavit or must be authorized temporary replacements as noted on the affidavit. If there is a third adult listed on the affidavit, that adult is not permitted to be in the dugout or on the field during that game.~~
  - **NOTE:** Base coaches may be adults and/or players provided at least one adult manager or coach remains in the dugout. See 4.05(b).
- This change would be for Tournament Play in all divisions of Baseball and Softball.

**Synopsis:** This would allow teams to have up to three eligible coaches permitted in the dugout regardless of tournament team roster size.

## PROPOSED RULE AND REGULATION CHANGE #8 – TOURNAMENT ORGANIZATION – RELEASE OF NAMES

- Proposed Change: Remove the May 15 Tournament Team announcement date
- Proposed Wording Change
  - The release of names of players for the tournament team shall not be made ~~before May 15, and not~~ until the availability and eligibility of all prospective team members have been established. (The AIG group accident insurance program for Little League tournament team try-out and practice will not go into effect until the tournament team has been announced by the league in accordance with the requirements outlined in this rule.)
- This change would be for Tournament Play in all divisions of Baseball and Softball

**Synopsis:** This would remove the date when leagues can announce tournament teams.