



2015 LITTLE LEAGUE® INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Revision Date: April 21, 2015

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF QUESTIONS a typical league might ask while preparing for the International Tournament. Following each answer is the topic in the Official Rules and Tournament Guidelines which provide additional information. To make things easier to find the FAQs have been divided into two sections, one on General Administration and one on Playing Rules. If you have additional questions regarding tournament play, please contact your District Administrator.

PART A – GENERAL ADMINISTRATION/REGULATION/AFFIDAVIT QUESTIONS (questions 1-25)

1. Can a League President “resign” and then manage or coach a Tournament team, or would a waiver be required?

A: Any person who is currently the League President or any person who served as the League President after January 1st of the current year/season is required to have a waiver approved by Williamsport to manage/coach a Tournament team. The same applies for any District Administrator (DA) or District Staff Member. (*Tournament Regulation on Managers and Coaches*)

2. Can our league appoint a person to manage or coach a team in the International Tournament if that person was not a manager or coach in that division during the regular season?

A: No. The manager/coaches of the Tournament team must be rostered managers or coaches from that division during the regular season. It must be noted that a regular season coach can be a Tournament team manager and vice/versa. (*Tournament Regulation on Managers and Coaches*)

For Example: A manager or coach of a Senior League Softball division regular season team that includes 13-16-year-old players, would be permitted to coach or manage the Junior League Softball Tournament team. However, that manager or coach could not be appointed as the manager or coach of the Major Softball Tournament team.

Exception: If none of the division managers or coaches are interested in coaching the team, then the local league Board of Directors may request a waiver from the Tournament Committee to name another individual as manager or coach. The waiver request must include the written statements from each of the division managers and coaches, clearly documenting that they are not interested in the position.

3. With Team Affidavits now available on-line, how does a DA know if the league actually submitted the required paperwork and payment to be allowed to participate in the Tournament prior to the DA signing the affidavit?

A. Prior to or during the review and sign-off of the Team Affidavit, the DA should verify that the team is “eligible” for Tournament play by checking the information in the LL Data Center – LittleLeague.org/datacenter.
(*Tournament Affidavit*)

4. How exactly is the “school exception” documented/calculated towards the 60 percent participation requirement?

A: Registered Little League players who are on the rosters of local school teams are given an exemption from participating in their Little League games that are played while the player is a member of the school team. Many schools do not allow their players to participate in other programs while the school season is in progress. As such, the local league is allowed to only count those games played before or after completion of the school schedule towards the required participation percentage. (*Tournament Player Eligibility and Tournament Affidavit*)

For Example: A player registers at the start of the season to play Junior Baseball but prior to the start of local league play the player is placed on the roster of the high school Junior Varsity (JV) team. The JV team practices/plays through May 31. To be eligible for the Tournament team the player would need to play in 60 percent of the team’s scheduled games between June 1 and June 15. However, if the player does not register until after the school season is over, the “school exemption” does not apply. The exemption only applies to the Little League games missed because of school play “while the player was a member” of a Little League team.

NOTE: As specified above, a player must be a registered member of the local Little League during his/her participation on the school baseball/softball team in order to take advantage of the “school exception.” The Tournament Committee in Williamsport will consider a request for a waiver of this requirement. To apply for the waiver, the local league Board of Directors would be requesting to make a player eligible for selection to a Tournament team when such player failed to register for the league before he/she had a chance to meet the 60 percent requirement.

The request may only be submitted if the player:

1. Was a member of the school team; and,
2. Would otherwise have been able to take advantage of the “school exception” if he/she had registered in the league on time.

5. Are players who missed regular season games due to illness or injury given any kind of “exemption” towards the 60 percent participation requirement?

A: The local league Board of Directors may waive the requirement for registered Little League players to participate in 60 percent of their teams’ Little League regular season games for illness or injury. However, for such a waiver to be granted, a physician’s note must be obtained that documents the timeframe from which the player was prohibited from participation in games/practices and the note must also state that the player has been released for full participation as a player on the Tournament team. A copy of the note/justification must accompany the team to all Tournament levels. (*Tournament Player Eligibility and Tournament Affidavit*)

6. What is the minimum number of players that is required on a team affidavit?

A: Little League encourages all local leagues to carry the maximum number of players allowed in order to give as many players as possible the opportunity to participate and experience the International Tournament. The minimum number of players on a tournament affidavit is twelve. EXCEPTION: If a team has less than twelve players listed on their affidavit, justification must be provided by the league and approved by that league’s District Administrator signified by his/her approval signature on the Affidavit. (*Tournament Eligibility Affidavit and Tournament Regulation on Teams*)

7. Do games played as a Pool Player during the season count towards a player's 60 percent participation requirement?

A: No. The only games that count towards the 60 percent participation requirement for a player are the games he/she played with his/her regular season team. The Tournament Affidavit documentation requires that the number of games played by each team be listed and that the number of games played by the player while playing for his/her team be recorded. The 60 percent participation level is based on these two numbers. (*Tournament Affidavit – Games Played by June 15*)

Exception: Intermediate 50/70, Junior, Senior and Big League may count some Special Games against Little League teams towards their Tournament Participation requirement. Please reference Regulation IX and Tournament Player Eligibility for details.

8. If a league age eight (8) participant played "up" in a local league 9-10 player pitch division, can that player play on the league's 9-10 Tournament team?

A: No. A player must be league age nine (9) or league age ten (10) to participate on the 9-10-Year-Old Tournament team. Players must be of the proper league age to participate on any Tournament team. (*Tournament Player Eligibility*)

9. If a league charters a regular season Senior League Baseball/Softball program of 13-16 year olds, can the league offer a Junior League Softball Tournament team?

A: Yes. The players' participation in the Senior League qualifies them for the Junior League Tournament provided they meet the age, participation and residency requirements. (*Baseball Rulebook Page 113/Softball Rulebook Page 107, NOTE 2*)

10. Under Residence Eligibility Requirements in the rulebooks, it says, "...Residence shall be established and supported by documents, dated or in force between February 1 of the previous year and February 1 of the current year ...". Does this also apply to players that are claimed under Regulation II(d) and Regulation IV(h)?

A: No. These waivers allow the players to participate while residing outside the league's boundaries, but only under specific, documented, and verifiable situations. The II(d) and IV(h) residency documentation is that which supports the former residence within the league boundary and, as a result, may be several years old. (*Residency and School Attendance Eligibility Requirements, Rulebook Pages 13-15*)

11. For Regulation II(d) and Regulation IV(h) waivers, what addresses are we required to verify or certify?

A: The League President must verify and document the eligibility of a child who is claimed under Regulation II(d) or Regulation IV(h) by producing documentation proving that the child's parent(s) or legal guardian previously lived in the league's boundaries during the specific dates required for eligibility. For a Regulation IV (h) waiver, the League President will be required to document that the parent(s) or legal guardian lived in the boundaries and was a board member, manager or coach for the two years or more when they lived in the boundaries, and has remained so since that time without breaking service. For a Regulation II (d) waiver, the League President will be required to document that the parent(s) or legal guardian lived in the boundaries while the participant was a rostered player in the league, then moved out of the boundaries or the boundaries changed, but the participant has maintained a rostered position in the league since that time. (*Regulation II[d] and Regulation IV[h]*)

12. Under School Attendance Requirements in the rulebook it says "...A player will be deemed to attend school in the boundaries if: The physical location of the school where they attend classes is within the boundaries established by the local league." Can a player utilize school attendance documentation to meet eligibility requirements for tournament play?

A: Yes – provided school attendance is established and supported by a document indicating enrollment for the current academic year, dated prior to October 1 of the current school year and with the physical location of the school. Any ONE of the following documents can be used to verify school attendance by such player:

1. Official/Certified school enrollment record;
2. School issued report card or performance record;
3. A Little League issued school attendance form completed by the principal, assistant principal or superintendent.

(Residency and School Attendance Eligibility Requirements, Rulebook Page 14)

13. What type of map (required to be carried by the Tournament team manager) is acceptable? Can it be hand-drawn? Does it have to show streets, highways, etc.?

A: The team manager must obtain the league boundary map, signed by the District Administrator and the League President, prior to the start of the tournament. The map may be hand drawn and must use physical structures (such as a road), or a geographic feature (such as a river) to determine boundaries. A team without an approved map is subject to protest. *(Tournament Eligibility Affidavit, Baseball Rulebook Page 110/Softball Rulebook Page 104)*

14. What forms or documents are required to be carried by the manager with the team while playing in Tournament games?

A: A completed affidavit with all required signatures, eligibility waivers for participants otherwise ineligible, three forms of residency documentation (all three of which must be dated between February 1st of the previous year and February 1st of the current year) OR one proof of attendance at a school within league boundaries (proof of attendance must be dated prior to October 1 of the current school year) and a league boundary map depicting the same boundaries on file at the Regional Center . It is strongly recommended that managers also carry Tournament Verification forms and Medical Release forms for every player. *(Tournament Eligibility Affidavit, Baseball Rulebook Page 110/Softball Rulebook Page 104)*

15. After the Team Announcement Date but before their first tournament game, our 9-10 Tournament team wants to practice/scrimmage with a team of the same age group from a neighboring Little League. Is that legal?

A: Yes, that would be legal provided it is done out of uniform. *(Tournament Team Practice, Baseball Rulebook Page 115/Softball Rulebook Page 109)*

16. Our 11-12 team is losing a player right after the third game of the Tournament. This player will not be back for any more Tournament games. Who can authorize the replacement player and what documentation do we have to produce to get the replacement player on the team's Affidavit?

A: The District Administrator or Tournament Director can authorize the addition of the replacement player to the team's Affidavit. The league would be required to produce:

1. An original birth certificate that meets the current criteria;
2. Three forms of proof that meet residency requirements or one proof of attendance at a school within league boundaries;
3. The league's boundary map, annotated with residence of the new player, and;
4. Verification by the league president that the player participated in at least 60 percent of the regular season games as of June 15.

(Replacement of Player, Manager or Coach, Baseball Rulebook Page 114/Softball Rulebook Page 108)

17. Can a player on a Tournament team be moved up to play with a different Tournament team providing he/she is eligible? For example, can a league age eleven (11) player who played Majors during the season and was on the 10-11 Tournament team be moved up to the 11-12 Tournament team if there is an injury to one of the 11-12 players?

A: No. A player may only be selected to/play for ONE Tournament team per season. (*Tournament Player Eligibility CONDITION 3, Baseball Rulebook Page 113/Softball Rulebook Page 107,*)

18. In 9-10, 10-11, Majors and Juniors, is each child on a Tournament team affidavit required to participate in each and every game during tournament play? What about a player who is not at the game?

A: Every eligible player on a team roster that is present at the start of a game must meet the mandatory play requirement applicable for that game. Depending on the number of rostered players present at the start of game mandatory play is either six (6) consecutive defensive outs and one at-bat or just one at bat (if there are 13 or more rostered players present at the start of the game). (*Tournament Rule 9: Mandatory Play, Baseball Rulebook Page 123/Softball Rulebook Page 115*)

Definition: Six consecutive defensive outs is when a player enters the field in one of nine defensive positions when his/her team is on defense and occupies such position while six consecutive outs are made; bat at least one (1) time is when a player enters the batter's box with no count and completes that time at bat by being put out, by reaching base safely or by hitting into a fielder's choice to end a half-inning.

19. Juniors and below: If my starting pitcher ("Player A") is due to bat, can I replace him/her with another player ("Player B"), only for the purpose of batting, then bring "Player A" back in to pitch in the next half-inning?

A: The answer to this question depends on the number of players present at the start of the game.

If there were 13 or more players present at the start of the game, so that the Minimum Play is only one at-bat, then the answer is 'Yes.' The starting pitcher (Player A) can go back in once because the substitute being replaced (Player B) has met MPR.

If there were 12 or fewer players present at the start of the game the answer is 'No.' The substitute (Player B) must complete one at-bat and play in the field for six consecutive defensive outs before being removed. In such a case, the starting pitcher (Player A) could re-enter the game, in the same position in the batting order once the substitute (Player B) has met MPR but could not return to the pitcher's mound/plate. (*Tournament Rule 10(c)*)

20. The manager of the Tournament team files a protest with the Tournament Director that the other team has an ineligible player. The manager provides some documentation that a player is ineligible. What happens at this point?

A: The Tournament Director, after reviewing the documentation, contacts the Regional Office, which then contacts the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee would consider the protest and provide direction to the Regional Office and Tournament Director. (*Protests, Baseball Rulebook Pages 116-118/Softball Rulebook Pages 110-112 Softball*)

21. May an opposing team request to see documentation for another team?

A: No. Each team must carry proper documentation such as copies used for residency under Regulation II and league boundary maps, but this information should only be made available to the Tournament Director in the case of a protest, at the direction of the Tournament Committee. (*Tournament Eligibility Affidavit, Baseball Rulebook Page 110/Softball Rulebook Page 104*)

22. What happens when one team is at the Tournament site with enough players to start the game, and the other team does not show up for game time, or does not have at least nine players present?

A: First, it is NOT an automatic forfeiture. Only the Tournament Committee can decree a forfeit, and ONLY AFTER the circumstances of the situation are known. The District Administrator or Tournament Director should determine why the team cannot field nine players. The DA/TD should then call and report the information to the

applicable Regional Office. (*Tournament Rule 5: Forfeits, Baseball Rulebook Page 122/Softball Rulebook Page 115*)

23. The manager of a Tournament team is ejected from the first game of the Tournament. Again, in the third game of the Tournament, the same manager is ejected. This second ejection, however, is for making contact with an umpire during a verbal altercation. Can the Tournament Director remove the manager from the team for the rest of the Tournament?

A: No. Rule 4.07 disqualifies any manager, coach or player from the next physically played game if he/she is ejected from a game. Tournament Rule 16 - Altercations allows the District Administrator or Tournament Director to refer physical or verbal altercations at the game site to the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee may remove or suspend any individual from Tournament play, and its decision is final and binding. However, in this situation, the manager's own local league Board of Directors also could remove the manager from the team. (*Tournament Rule 16: Altercations, Baseball Rulebook Page 126/Softball Rulebook Page 118*)

24. Can a District Administrator or Tournament Director forfeit a tournament game?

A: No. Only the Tournament Committee in Williamsport can decree a forfeit. (*Tournament Rule 5: Forfeits, Baseball Rulebook Page 122/Softball Rulebook Page 115*)

25. In Juniors and below, if Downtown Little League has 13 players on its affidavit but only 12 are present at the start of the game does that mean that MPR is only one at-bat? What happens if the 13th player shows up late and the manger puts the player in the game, is MPR then reduced to just and one at-bat?

A: No. If a 9-10, 10-11, 11-12, Intermediate or Junior League team has 12 or fewer players present at the start of the game, then MPR is six (6) consecutive defensive outs and one (1) at-bat for that game. If a player or players arrive late so that the team then has 13 or more players the MPR for that team for that game remains at six consecutive defensive outs and one at-bat.

If a 9-10, 10-11, LL, Intermediate or Junior League team has 13 players present **at the start of the game** then MPR is reduced to one at-bat for that game even if one of the 13 players is subsequently injured, becomes ill or is ejected such that the number of players is reduced to 12 or less. (*Tournament Rule 9: Mandatory Play, Baseball Rulebook Page 123/Softball Rulebook Page 115*)

NOTE: The defensive outs must be **consecutive**, so for example, if a team only has 12 players present at the start of a game and a starter is removed at during the first inning (after one or two defensive outs) the starter is still required to play six consecutive defensive outs later in the game and have at least one at-bat.

PART B – PLAYING RULE QUESTIONS (question 26-58)

26. What are the curfews for the various age groups?

A: Majors and below - 12 a.m. (midnight); Juniors - 12:30 a.m.; Seniors and Big League – 1:00 a.m. (*Tournament Curfew*)

27. What is the mandatory play requirement for the Tournament?

A: For the 9-10 Year Old Division, 10-11 Year Old Division, 11-12 Year Old Division (Majors), Intermediate (50-70) Baseball Division and Junior League, if a tournament team has thirteen or more eligible players in uniform at the start of a game, then every player shall participate in that game for a minimum of one at bat. If a tournament team has twelve or fewer eligible players in uniform at the start of a game, then every player shall participate in

that game for a minimum of six (6) consecutive defensive outs and bat at least one time. There is no mandatory play in Seniors or Big League. (*Tournament Rule 9: Mandatory Play*)

28. Juniors and below: Can a starter be removed from a game before he/she completes his/her mandatory play requirements.

A: A starter may be removed before he/she meets the mandatory play requirements. However, that starter still must meet the mandatory play requirement applicable for that game. This is the responsibility of the manager. However, a substitute may not be removed prior to completion of his/her mandatory play requirements. (*Tournament Rule 10: Substitutions/Re-entry*)

29. Major (11-12) Baseball and below: Our team has a doubleheader, can my pitcher deliver five pitches in the first game and then come back to pitch in the second game?

A: No. A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day. (*Tournament Rule 4: Pitching Rules*)

NOTE: Regional Office approval is required for a doubleheader in the 9-10, 10-11, and Major Division Tournaments.

30. All Divisions: Rule 1.10 was rewritten for both baseball and softball to include the wording “The bat must be a baseball bat.....” or “The bat must be a softball bat....” What should the umpires be looking for when they check equipment prior to the start of the game?

A: The umpire should be looking for the words “baseball” on a bat being used in a baseball game and “softball” on a bat being used in a softball game. The umpires will have to use their judgment on bats with no designation (baseball/softball); however, the bat must meet all specifications including markings as outlined in Rule 1.10. Bats that say “baseball” must not be used in a softball game, and bats marked “softball” must not be used in a baseball game. (*Rules 1.10 and 4.19*)

31. All Divisions: It is the bottom of the fifth inning when the skies open up and a torrential downpour washes out the rest of the fifth inning and the entire sixth inning. What do we do now?

A: If a natural occurrence (rain, darkness if no lights are available, etc.) halts a game, and it cannot be restarted that day, and it has reached the point of a regulation game when a winner can be determined, the game is over. However, if the game is halted by light failure, a locally imposed curfew on the lights, sprinkler malfunction, or some other human-error condition, it must be suspended and resumed the next available day. Tournament Directors should be advised to allow enough time to complete all games by the curfew imposed locally, if earlier than Little League’s curfew, but that such local curfew will not end the game. (*Tournament Curfew and Tournament Rule 13: Regulation Game*)

Example 1: Team A is winning 9-0 after five full innings on a lighted field at night, and because of a locally imposed curfew, the lights must be turned out. In this case, the teams must return the next available day to complete the game.

Example 2: Team A is winning at dusk 9-0 after five full innings on a field that has lights, which were presumed to be working and available for the game. However, the lights cannot be turned on because lightning hit them earlier in the day (a malfunction). In this case, the teams must return the next available day to complete the game.

32. All Divisions: The manager of the offensive team has requested a “time out” to discuss strategy with the batter. Two batters later in the same inning, he/she again wants “time out” to discuss strategy with a base runner.

A: This should not be permitted. Only ONE offensive time out is permitted each half inning. However, a manager

could have more than one time out in an inning for offensive substitutions, or to tend to an injured player. The rule's intent is to limit time spent in offensive conferences. (*Tournament Rule 7: Visits*)

33. All Divisions: The defensive manager requests and is granted a time out to talk to his/her pitcher. Can the offensive manager, talk to the batter or runner during this time out?

A: If one team calls for and receives a time out to confer with a player, it will be charged with a time out or visit. At this time, the opposing team may also confer without being charged with a time out or visit, provided the team is ready when the opponent concludes the time out or visit. (*Tournament Rule 7: Visits*)

34. All Baseball Divisions: Player A catches the 1st, 2nd and one pitch in the 3rd inning. Player A is moved to pitcher and pitches a total of 40 pitches in the 3rd and 4th innings and is removed. Can Player A be moved back to catcher for the remainder of the game?

A: Yes. Player A only caught for three (3) innings prior to moving to pitcher (which is legal). Player A then threw 40 or less pitches (which allows the pitcher to be moved to catcher). As such, the player is now eligible to be moved back to catcher for the remainder of the game. (*Tournament Rule 4: Pitching Rules*)

35. My baseball team has a doubleheader scheduled. I have a player who catches and pitches. If he does not pitch in the first game, can he catch in three innings in the first game and three more in the second game and then be moved from catcher to pitcher?

A. Yes, the restriction on moving from catcher to pitcher is if the catcher catches in four or more innings in a game, which did not happen here. As such, the player would be eligible to pitch in the second game after catching three innings in both the first and second game. (*Tournament Rule 4: Pitching Rules*)

36. All Divisions: A player is injured and is removed from the game. There is no doctor or medical personnel at the game site. Can the player be re-entered into the game later?

A: Yes, provided the player who replaced the injured player has met the Minimum Play requirement before being removed and the injured player is being re-entered into the same place in the batting order. If there is no doctor/medical personnel available, the decision on whether or not an injured player is able to return to the game is up to the team manager. (*Tournament Rule 10: Substitutions/Re-entry*)

Exception: If the injury is a concussion or suspected concussion the player must be, at a minimum, removed from the game and/or practice for the remainder of that day. The league/team/manager must also be aware of the respective state/provincial/municipal laws with regards to concussions and impose any additional requirements as necessary. His/her return to full participation is subject to:

1. Adherence to the applicable state/provincial/municipal laws,
2. An evaluation and a written clearance from a physician or other accredited medical provider and
3. Written acknowledgement of the parents. (*Regulation III(d) Note 3*)

37. A team wins the game and the other team had a player who did not meet MPR. The winning team manager does not protest the MPR prior to the umpires leaving the field. What, if anything, can be done?

A. If a MPR Violation was not protested by the opposing manager before the umpires leave the field is identified after the game by the opposing manager, by the Official Scorer or by the District Administrator/Tournament Director reviewing the scorebook and/or pitching affidavit, it should be reported to the Tournament Committee in Williamsport for a decision on whether or not any action will be taken against the manager. As such, it is very important that scorebooks are kept correctly/accurately in order to determine if an MPR Violation occurred. (*Tournament Rule 9: Mandatory Play*)

38. Junior and Senior Baseball: What are the pitching requirements for a league age 14 year old?

A: Fourteen year olds on a Junior team are subject to the pitching requirements for the Junior League. Fourteen year olds on a Senior team are subject to the pitching requirements for the Senior League. (*Tournament Rule 4: Pitching Rules*)

39. All Divisions: In the third inning the defensive manager enters #35 into the game for #10. In the fifth inning the same manager re-enters #10 back into the game for #35. Then in the sixth inning the manager now wants to enter #35 into the game for #55 at second base. Can he legally do this?

A: This would be considered an improper substitution and cannot be allowed to happen. The umpires, scorekeepers, and game officials all should not allow this to happen. Player #35 cannot re-enter in a different batting spot in the lineup, he/she is “tied” to his/her original spot in the order. Remember that an improper substitution is basis for a protest, but will not result in a forfeit. The solution is to correct the situation, and play on. All actions by the substitute up to that point are legal. (*Tournament Rule 10: Substitutions/Re-entry*) This is different from an ineligible pitcher, which can result in forfeiture. ALL Little League personnel, including all managers and coaches, the Tournament Director, scorekeeper and umpires, should PREVENT such a situation before it happens. (*Tournament Protests*)

NOTE 1: Batting out of order, which can result in an “out” being declared on the proper batter, the batter-runner being removed from the base, and the next batter in order coming up to bat, should NOT be reported by any Little League official to either team’s managers or coaches.

NOTE 2: It is possible to have an improper substitution AND batting out of order, if a batter (who is already in the batting order elsewhere) is sent to the plate as an improper substitution for another player. In this event, the batting out of order penalty is applied, but the protest should be avoided, if possible, before the batter takes a pitch.

40. All Divisions: In the third inning the defensive manager enters #35 into the game for #10. In the fifth inning the same manager enters #12 back into the game for #35. That would result in three players in the same spot in the batting order, is that allowed?

A: Yes, this is allowed. There is no restriction on how many players can legally be tied to the same place in the batting order. Depending on the number of players on a roster and each meeting the Minimum Play requirement it is possible to have three or more players tied to the same spot in the batting order. (*Tournament Rule 10: Substitutions/Re-entry*)

41. ALL Divisions: Going into the bottom of the 4th, Andy, Brian, and Carl are scheduled to bat. The manager informs the plate umpire/official scorekeeper at the start of the half inning that when Carl comes to bat, Zach will be entering for Carl. Andy bats and singles. The manager wants to use Carl as a Special Pinch Runner. Can he do that?

A: No. Offensive substitutions must be made at the time the offensive player has her/his turn at bat or is on base. Carl is still in the line-up as his turn to bat has yet to come up. Therefore, he cannot be utilized as a Special Pinch Runner. (*Tournament Rule 10: Substitutions/Re-entry and Special Pinch Runner Rule 7.14*)

42. Junior/Senior/Big League Baseball and all divisions of Softball: In the second inning the manager of the defensive team moves the pitcher into left field and brings the left fielder in to pitch. Then in the fifth inning the manager wants to reverse the procedure and bring back the original pitcher. Can this be done?

A: A pitcher could pitch to the first batter in the third inning, then be moved to left field for the rest of that inning and two more innings, then return to the pitcher’s mound/plate in the sixth inning. It is not necessary that the pitcher return to the pitcher’s mound/plate in the same inning in which he/she was removed. Provided he/she is not removed from the game for a substitute, he/she could return to the mound/plate any time, but

not more than once per game for baseball and once per inning for softball. (*Tournament Rule 4: Pitching Rules and Tournament Rule 10: Substitutions/Re-entry*)

43. Juniors and below: "Player A" was in the starting line-up (not a pitcher) and completed the mandatory play requirement before being removed for "Player B" in the third inning. "Player B" is moved to the pitcher's mound/plate and pitches the third and fourth innings, and bats in the fourth as well. In the fifth inning, it is "Player B's" turn at bat. Could "Player A" be inserted as a batter, and could "Player B" then return to the pitcher's mound/plate as pitcher in the next half-inning?

A: Yes. "Player A" could re-enter as a batter (or pinch-runner) for "Player B" because "Player B" was not physically replaced on the pitcher's mound/plate, and because both "Player A" and "Player B" had previously met the requirements of mandatory play during the game. This can only be done ONCE. (*Tournament Rule 10: Substitutions/Re-entry*)

44. Juniors and below: "Player A" is the starting shortstop and completes the mandatory play requirement before being removed for "Player B" in the third inning. "Player B" completes his/her mandatory play. In the fourth inning, the manager uses Rule 7.14 (Special Pinch Runner) to replace "Player B" on the base paths with "Player C," which can only happen once for "Player B" in the game. Now in the sixth inning, could "Player A" again run for "Player B" without having to remain in the game defensively?

A: Yes, although it is very limiting because it allows only "Player A" to run for "Player B." (*Tournament Rule 10: Substitutions/Re-entry*)

45. Seniors and Big League: A substitute is sent up to bat for the pitcher. When the team goes back on defense can the pitcher go back in to pitch since he/she was never removed from the pitcher's mound/plate?

A: No. In Senior League and Big League if the pitcher is removed for a batter, the pitcher can immediately return to the game (since there is no MPR in Senior or Big League) but the pitcher cannot return to the mound/plate to pitch. (*Tournament Rule 10: Substitutions/Re-entry*).

46. All Divisions: If our team wins our District Tournament on a Wednesday and our Sectional Tournament starts on that Friday can a pitcher who pitched Wednesday in the District Tournament pitch on Friday in the Sectional Tournament?

A: In order for a pitcher to pitch in any game in the Tournament, he/she must meet the days rest requirement based on his/her league age and the number of pitches (baseball) or innings (softball) pitched in his/her last game pitched. For baseball, the answer to the above would be "Yes" if the pitcher requires one or no days rest and "No" if two or more days rest is required. For 9-10, 10-11 and 11-12 Softball, since there is a day between levels, all pitchers would be eligible. For Junior, Senior and Big League Softball, no pitching restrictions apply and all pitchers would be eligible. (*Tournament Rule 4: Pitching Rules*)

47. Junior Baseball and below: While a pitcher is pitching to a batter the pitcher reaches 20 pitches. On the next pitch (pitch #21) the batter strikes out. The pitcher is replaced before he/she throws a pitch to the next batter. Does the pitcher need a day of rest?

A: No, the pitcher reached the 20 pitch threshold while pitching to his/her last batter. The batter was put out and the pitcher did not pitch to another batter. According to the Pitching Threshold Exception the days rest is based on 1-20 pitches so no rest is required. (*Tournament Rule 4: Pitching Rules*)

48. Junior Baseball and above: A pitcher is at a days of rest threshold (example: 35 pitches in Juniors or 45 pitches in Senior or Big League) when the batter strikes out. The next batter comes to the plate. Prior to throwing a pitch to that batter the pitcher picks off the runner on first for the third out, ending that half inning. A new pitcher is placed on the mound at the start of the next inning. Does the previous pitcher need one or two days rest?

A: The pitcher reached the pitch threshold while pitching to a batter. The batter was put out and the pitcher did not pitch to another batter. According to the Pitching Threshold Exception the pitcher, in this example, would need ONE day of rest. (*Tournament Rule 4: Pitching Rules*)

49. Little League (11-12) Baseball: A team manager is keeping the pitch count for his pitcher. According to his pitch count the pitcher is at 20 pitches. On the second pitch to that batter the batter flies out. The manager requests time and comes out to replace the pitcher stating the pitcher does not need a day of rest. The official pitch counter says the pitcher does need a day of rest because he/she had passed the threshold by one pitch (pitch count was 21 pitches) prior to pitching to the batter in question. What happens?

A: The pitch count is kept by the official pitch counter. As such, in this case, the pitcher would need a day of rest. Managers or coaches pitch counts are NOT official. They should periodically check with the official pitch counter to make sure their count is correct. (*Tournament Rule 4: Pitching Rules*)

50. All Divisions of Baseball: A pitcher starts pitching to his/her last batter at pitch number 35. The batter eventually strikes out on pitch number 42. The pitcher's days rest is based on the pitch threshold reached during the at bat. Does this mean the pitcher can be used as a catcher that day since pitch number 42 was thrown while pitching to the last batter?

A: No. The Pitch Count Threshold Exception only applies to days rest with regards to pitchers. It does not apply to the 41 pitch limit for a pitcher being allowed to catch. (*Tournament Rule 4: Pitching Rules*)

51. 10-11 Softball Division: If a player pitches in six (6) innings or less and the game is suspended for rain, lightning or other causes and the game is resumed the next day, what are the pitching limits for the next day 1) if the only game is the resumed game and 2) if the team has another game after the resumed game?

A: 1) The resumption of the game is treated like it was being played on the same day so the player is allowed to pitch up to twelve (12) innings in a day for the 9-10, 10-11 and 11-12 Divisions.

Example: The player pitched in five (5) innings before the game was suspended. The player could pitch up to seven (7) additional innings in that game.

A: 2) The player is allowed to pitch up to twelve (12) innings in a day and may pitch up to the maximum number of innings allowed per day. In the example, if the player pitched in five (5) innings in the initial game, returned to pitch one (1) inning in the resumption, the player could pitch in up to six (6) innings in the second game. (*Tournament Rule 4: Pitching Rules*)

52. 9/10, 10/11 and 11/12 Softball: If the pitcher of record pitches in seven (7) or more innings in a doubleheader and the second game is suspended for rain, lightning or other causes and the second game is resumed the next day, what are the pitching limits for the next day 1) if only the second game is resumed and 2) if the team has another game after the resumed game?

A: 1) The resumption of the game is treated like it was being played on the same day so the player is allowed to pitch up to twelve (12) innings in a day.

Example: If the player pitched five (5) innings in the first game and two (2) innings in the second game (for a total of seven (7) innings in the two games), the player could pitch up to five (5) innings in the resumption of game two the next day.

A: 2) The pitcher is not allowed to pitch in the second game since the player pitched seven (7) or more innings the previous day, which requires a day of rest. (*Tournament Rule 4: Pitching Rules*)

53. All Divisions of Baseball: If a game is suspended and resumed at a later date (next day or later) what are the restrictions on the: 1) pitcher going in to catch and 2) catcher going in to pitch?

A: 1) The pitcher moving to catcher limit is for safety. The basis is that if a pitcher throws 41 or more pitches in a game, that player cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day. This is meant to apply to a normal game played in one day.

Example: A pitcher throwing 21 pitches Monday when the game suspended. It is resumed on Tuesday or a later date and the player throws 21 more pitches, for a total of 42 in the game. However, the 41 pitch limit applies to the day, not the combination of pitches thrown on different days. The player could throw 40 pitches in the resumption game and still move to the catcher position.

A: 2) The catcher moving to pitcher limit is for safety. Similar to the above answer, the rule is really meant to apply to a game played in one day.

Example: If a player catches 3 innings in a game on Monday that was suspended and resumed on Tuesday or Wednesday, the number of inning caught would reset to zero. The player would have to catch in four or more innings in the resumption game before being restricted from pitching. (*Tournament Rule 4: Pitching Rules*)

54. All Divisions of Baseball: If a game is suspended and resumed the next day how does the pitch count work if the pitcher of record continues to pitch in the resumed game?

A: Juniors and Below: If the pitcher, when the game was suspended, had thrown 40 or fewer pitches the player can continue to pitch in the resumed game the next day. If the pitcher had thrown 20 or less pitches when the game resumes, the pitch count re-sets to zero and days rest will be based on the resumed portion of the game. If the pitcher had thrown between 21 and 40 pitches, the pitch count will begin with the number of pitches thrown.

Example: Player throws 34 pitches and the game is resumed the next day. The first pitch thrown will be pitch number 35. In this example, the days rest will be based on the total combined pitch count of that game.

A: Seniors and Big League: If the pitcher, when the game was suspended, had thrown 60 or fewer pitches, the player can continue to pitch in the resumed game the next day. If the pitcher had thrown 30 or less pitches when the game resumes, the pitch count resets to zero. If the player had thrown between 31 and 60 pitches, the pitch count will begin with the number of pitches thrown

Example: Player throws 44 pitches and game is resumed the next day. The first pitch thrown will be pitch number 45. Days rest will be based on the total pitch count at the end of the game. (*Tournament Rule 4: Pitching Rules*)

55. All Divisions of Softball: What are the Softball Pitching Distances?

A: (1) 9-10 year old division: 35 feet; (2) 10-11 year old division and Little League: 40 feet; (3) Junior, Senior and Big League: 43 feet. (*Tournament Rule 2: Fields*)

56. All Divisions: At the end of the fifth inning, the home team is leading 5-4. The visiting team scores three runs to take the lead, 7-5 in the top of the sixth. The umpire calls the game because of darkness before the home team completes its turn at bat in the bottom of the sixth, and the home team has not retaken the lead. What is the outcome of the game?

A: The game must be resumed if the visiting team ties the game or takes the lead in their half of the inning and the home team does not complete their at bat or take the lead in an incomplete inning. (*Tournament Rule 13: Regulation Game*)

57. All Divisions: If a manager lodges a protest and he/she does not agree with the ruling of the umpire(s), can the manager refuse to allow his/her team to continue to play?

A: A manager may lodge a protest in accordance with the Tournament Rules and Guidelines. If the manager does not agree with the ruling of the umpire(s), his/her team can refuse to continue playing until such protest has been resolved, (A) to the satisfaction of the manager, or, (B) by the Tournament Committee in Williamsport. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final and binding. However, if the manager, FOR ANY REASON, allows the game to continue without having the matter referred to the Regional Office or the Tournament Committee in Williamsport, the manager has accepted the decision that was made at the local level. (*Tournament Affidavit and Tournament Protests*)

58. In the 9-10 Baseball Tournament, can a batter attempt to reach first base on an uncaught third strike?

A: No. A batter attempting to advance to first on an uncaught third strike only applies to the 10-11 and older divisions of baseball and all divisions of softball. (*Tournament Rule 3: Playing Rules*)