



Rules and Regulations Changes for 2015 as Enacted at the 26th Little League® International Congress

The following changes to the Little League® Rules and Regulations will go into effect upon commencement of the 2015 season. These items were voted upon by the Congress Delegates (District Administrators or their appointees) at the 26th Little League International Congress, and approved by the Little League International Board of Directors for implementation in 2015.

Text in *red* indicates a change in the rule or regulation. The text in each “Summary and Implementation,” a short explanation of the new rule or regulation, will not appear in the Rule Books.

Regulation IV(a) – The Players in the **Challenger Rule Book** will be amended in 2015 to read, in part:

(a) **Little League Challenger Division:** Any candidate who will attain the age of 4 years before May 1 and who will not attain the age of 19 before May 1 shall be eligible to participate.

Senior League Challenger Division: Any candidate who will attain the age of 15 years before May 1 shall be eligible to participate. There is no age limit in the Senior League Challenger Division.

Note 1: A league offering only the Little League Challenger Division may retain a player until age 22 provided that player is still enrolled in a school program.

Note 2: A league must charter and offer a Little League Challenger Division to be eligible to charter and offer a Senior League Challenger Division.

Summary and Implementation: Beginning in 2015, Little League Challenger programs may create a two-division structure allowing players league age 18 and above to register and participate within the Challenger program. Players league age 4-18 may participate in the Little League Challenger Division, while players league age 15 and above may participate in the Senior League Challenger Division. Players league age 15-18 may participate in either division.

Regulation VIII(d) – Minor Leagues – Minor League Baseball and Softball

(d) A local league may elect to utilize adult pitch (“Minor League Coach Pitch”) or machine pitch (“Minor League Machine Pitch”) in Minor League games involving players league ages 7-12. Pitching machines, if used, must be in good working order and must be operated by adult managers, coaches, umpires or any adult approved by the local league.

NOTE: 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.

Summary and Implementation: Beginning in 2015, league age 5-year-olds, with one year of Tee Ball and assessed capable by the local league, will be permitted to participate in Minor League Coach Pitch or Machine Pitch divisions. Local leagues may create Minor League sub-divisions and adjust the age structure as the Board of Directors deems appropriate so long as it is within Little League Regulations.

Rule 8.01 and 8.05 Penalty in the **Softball Rule Book** has been amended to read, in part:

PENALTY: The penalty imposed for violation of all subsections of rule 8.01, with the exception of subsection (i), is an illegal pitch. Violation of (i) is ruled as a No Pitch. The pitch shall be called a ball. **Junior/Senior/Big League:** The pitch shall be called a ball and all base runners advance one base without liability to be put out. If a play follows the illegal pitch, the manager of the offense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline the illegal pitch penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play. However, if the batter hits the ball and reaches first base safely, and if all base runners advance at least one base on the action resulting from the batted ball, the play proceeds without reference to the illegal pitch. **NOTE:** A batter hit by a pitch shall be awarded first base without reference to the illegal pitch.

Summary and Implementation: Beginning in 2015, the penalty for an illegal pitch in the Junior, Senior and Big League Softball divisions will include all base runners advancing one base in addition to a ball.

District Administrator Term of Office

Term of Office for a District Administrator – The District Administrator is elected for a term of **four** years according to a timetable established. (Little League Operating Manual page 86.)

Summary and Implementation: Beginning with the 2014 elections, District Administrators will now be elected to a four-year term of office.
