

## REGULATION AND PLAYING RULES:

### Regulation XIV(a) – Field Decorum [Baseball, Softball, Challenger]-

**Divisions:** All divisions of Baseball, Softball, and Challenger

*Revises language to allow Board of Directors to act on behavior on or off the field and including social media. (Page 55 in Baseball and Softball, 42 in Challenger).*

**Summary:**

The actions, on or off the field, of players, managers, coaches, umpires, and league officials must be above reproach. Any player, manager, coach, umpire, or league representative who is involved in a verbal or physical altercation, or an incident of unsportsmanlike conduct, at the game site or any other Little League activity including through online or social media, is subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.

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### Playing Rule 1.10 – The Bat [Baseball, Challenger]-

**Divisions:** All divisions of Baseball and Challenger

*Updated the bat rule for all baseball and challenger divisions to comply with the USABat standard. (Pages 66-67 in Baseball, 49-50 in Challenger).*

**Summary:**

For Junior League Baseball divisions and below, as well as all Challenger divisions, the bat must be a baseball bat which meets the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat) as adopted by Little League. It shall be a smooth, rounded stick, and made of wood or of material and color tested and proved acceptable to the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat).

**Beginning with the 2018 season, non-wood and laminated bats used in the Little League (Majors) and below, Intermediate (50-70) Division, and Junior League divisions, as well as the Little League Challenger Division, shall bear the USA Baseball logo signifying that the bat meets the USABat - USA Baseball's Youth Bat Performance Standard. All BPF – 1.15 bats will be prohibited beginning with the 2018 season. Additionally, starting in 2018, the bat diameter shall not exceed 2-5/8 inches for these divisions of play. Additional information is available at LittleLeague.org/batinfo.**

**Tee Ball [Baseball]:** Under the USABat standard, certified Tee Ball bats (26" and shorter) will feature the USA Baseball mark and text which reads ONLY FOR USE WITH APPROVED TEE BALLS. All Tee Ball bats must feature the USA Baseball mark and accompanying text. Tee Ball bats that were produced and/or purchased prior to the implementation of the new standard can be certified using an Approved Tee Ball Sticker via the USA Baseball Tee Ball Sticker Program (USABaseballShop.com) beginning September 1, 2017.

**Minor/Major Divisions:** It shall not be more than 33 inches in length; nor more than 2-5/8 inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed sixteen (16) inches from the small end. **NOTE:** Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo.

#### Playing Rule 4.04 – Starting and Ending the Game [Baseball/Softball]-

**Divisions:** All divisions of Baseball and Softball

*An approved ruling was added regarding continuous batting order. (Pages 83-84 in Baseball, 79-80 in Softball).*

**Summary:**

A.R. – For the purpose of continuous batting order, all players listed in the batting order shall be considered starters.

**Divisions:** All divisions of Baseball, Softball, and Challenger

*The phrase “from which they were suspended” was removed from the rule. (Pages 84-85 in Baseball, 80-81 in Softball, 61 in Challenger).*

**Summary:**

When the manager, coach, or a player is ejected from a game, they shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in that game. They may not sit in the stands and may not be recalled. A manager or coach ejected from a game must not be present at the game site for the remainder of that game. Any manager, coach, or player ejected from a game is suspended for his or her team’s next physically played game and may not be in attendance at the game site. This includes pregame and postgame activities.

#### Playing Rule 9.01(d) Note – The Umpire [Baseball/Softball]; Playing Rule 9.01(e) Note [Challenger]-

**Divisions:** All divisions of Baseball, Softball, and Challenger

*Clarifies that any parties caught stealing and relaying pitch selection will be ejected – local league option. (Page 117 in Baseball, 111 in Softball, 76 in Challenger)*

**Summary:**

Each umpire has authority to disqualify any player, coach, manager, or substitute for objecting to decisions or for unsportsmanlike conduct or language and to eject such disqualified person from the playing field. If an umpire disqualifies a player while a play is in progress, the disqualification shall not take effect until no further action is possible in that play.

**NOTE:** The local league has the option to adopt this rule application. The stealing and relaying of signs to alert the batter of pitch selection and/or location is unsportsmanlike behavior. If, in the judgment of the umpire this behavior is occurring, those responsible including any player(s), coach(es), and/or manager shall be ejected from the game.

### TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES:

#### Responsibility and Chain of Command [Baseball, Softball]-

**Divisions:** All divisions of Baseball and Softball

*Updates wording regarding International Tournament behavior and the Tournament Committee’s authority. (Page 122 in Baseball, 116 in Softball)*

**Summary:**

The Tournament Committee also reserves the right in its sole discretion to impose any penalties if, in its judgment, any player, manager, coach, umpire, or other volunteer conducts him/herself in any manner, on or off the field, that does not positively reflect the high standard Little League holds for sportsmanship, citizenship, and decorum. This includes displays of unsportsmanlike conduct, “making a travesty of the game,” or violating any rules, regulations, or policies contained herein during the game, at the game site, at any other location or time related to the International Tournament. The Committee also reserves the right to impose any penalty the Committee deems appropriate if the Committee determines action is necessary to correct a situation brought to its attention, regardless of the source of that information. The decision of the Tournament Committee is final and binding.