



# New Jersey State Little League 8 Year Old Baseball Tournament Rules



These rules, as listed below, shall be used for all Section and State 8 Year Old Baseball Tournament games. It is strongly recommended, though not required, that they also be used in District level tournaments. Highlighted items represent clarifications and/or changes from previous year's rules.

## Administrative

- Districts shall indicate their intention of participating in the 8 Year Old Tournament on or before June 15.
- Team contact information shall be provided to the Host District Administrator as soon as the team has been determined.
- Teams must represent one league. Combined teams are not permitted.
- Rosters for participating teams will consist of a minimum of 12 players and a maximum of 14 players.
- Players must be eligible in accordance with Little League Tournament Regulations.
- Teams must complete a NJ State L.L. amended affidavit form which will be reviewed and approved by their respective D.A. and, again, by the tournament host D.A. Affidavits must be accompanied by a copy of each player's birth certificate and copy of the parent's driver license or the LL issued School Enrollment Form.
- Tournament hosts shall not schedule any teams to play on back-to-back days.

## Playing Rules

**Game play will follow Regular Season Minor League Rules as outlined in the current year Little League Rules, including these points of emphasis:**

- 46-foot pitching distance.
- A courtesy runner shall be allowed (but not required) for pitcher and/or catcher with two outs.
- "Infield Fly" rule will be enforced.
- Pitching rules as described in Little League Regulation IV.
  - 6-8 year olds may pitch a maximum of 50 pitches per day.
  - If a player pitches 36-50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 21-35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.
  - If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.
- Mandatory play requirement of six outs on defense which do not have to be played consecutively.

**Modifications to Regular Season Minor League Rules to be used in the 8 Year Old Baseball Tournament.**

- Games will be five innings.
- Games may not start with less than nine (9) regular rostered players. If a team has eight (8) players, they may borrow a defensive player from the opposing team. If during the game, a team drops below eight (8) players, that team shall concede defeat.
- There will be a five-run limit per offensive half-inning for the first 4 innings.
- There will be a nine-run limit per offensive half-inning for the 5th inning.
- If the game is tied after five complete innings, the 6<sup>th</sup> inning shall be played as normal.
  - If the game remains tied after six complete innings, the 7<sup>th</sup> inning, and each half-inning thereafter, will begin with a runner on second base.
  - That runner will be the batter in the order who is furthest from batting in that half inning.
  - There will be a five-run limit per offensive half-inning for all extra innings.



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- Mercy Rule will be 15 runs after three at-bats by the trailing team; and 10 runs after four at-bats.
  - The game will end if the Visiting team goes ahead by 10 in the top of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning.
- Teams will be allowed a total of four adults (one manager and three coaches) during games. One coach must be placed at the backstop to retrieve balls that get by the catcher while their team is on defense. This coach shall not provide instruction to players or comment in any way on balls and strikes. If the backstop is too close for a coach to safely stand.
  - If the backstop is too close for a coach to safely stand, the requirement to place a coach at the backstop may be waived by the Tournament Director.
- A continuous batting order shall be used in accordance with LL Tournament Rule #9.
- “Stealing” bases is not permitted. Runners may only advance on a batted ball, or when forced due to base on balls, hit by pitch, or catcher’s interference.
- Minor League rule 5.07 will NOT apply.
- Runners may advance one base the first time the ball is “overthrown” into foul territory on a given play. Runners may be put out when attempting to advance. Runners may NOT advance on any subsequent overthrow regardless of being in fair or foul territory.
- “Slash Bunting” is not permitted.
  - Penalty – A team warning shall be issued for that game if the first violation is NOT put into play. A batter shall be called out if any slash bunt attempt is put into play or any subsequent attempts are made after the team warning. On any called Slash Bunt attempt, the ball is dead and runners may not advance.

*Approved by the State Association, November 11, 2023*