



LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL INC
CALIFORNIA DISTRICT 33
SAN DIEGO CA
CLAY BERRY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
2024



TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS
GENERAL RULES AND INFORMATION

TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES: 2024 Regular season rules will be used for each division with noted exceptions.

PRE-GAME

60 minutes before each TOC game the managers will be required to provide the Tournament Site Director An original typed or legibly printed **Eligibility Affidavit** with the **League President's signature** with the following, **organized into a 3-Ring binder**, which will be kept at the Scoring Area during the game: listing all eligible players and verifying compliance with District 33 clinic requirements for TOC (player development and safety) for each manager and coach. Eligibility Affidavit on District 33 website: [CA District 33 Little League](#)

1. Current (from this season): An **Original, Wet-Signed Medical Release** for each player on the team roster, put into the same order as players are listed on the Eligibility Affidavit. Medications/Inhalers indicated as needed on Med Releases must be produced by the player and be up-to-date. The player will not participate in pre-game warm-ups or in the game if these items are not available in the dugout (player's equipment bag).
2. A concussion and head injury information sheet signed by both the athlete and a parent/guardian.
3. An original pitch count record for all games starting **Thursday, May 24th**, the week prior to the tournament and any games played during the tournament.
4. Each adult must provide proof that they have passed the required safety on-line concussion protocol, sudden cardiac arrest and abuse awareness training sessions, and **Little League Diamond Leader certificate**. The certificates must be paper. See information at the end of this document.
5. Using plastic sleeves for the Eligibility Affidavit and each Medical Release / Concussion/Head Injury form is required.
6. A copy of the current 2024 District 33 TOC Rules.
7. A copy of the 2024 Tournament Bracket for TOC of the division being played (District 33 website)
8. The League's current safety plan for 2024.
9. A list of players with the phonetic spelling of each name for the announcer (available on District 33 website).
10. Only those listed on the affidavit are allowed on the field at any time. Temporary replacement of a manager or coach on a game-by-game basis is possible (for a justifiable reason) with prior approval from the Tournament Director.

PENALTY: failure to provide items #1, 2, 3 and 4 from above, within 10 minutes of game time MAY result in the forfeiture of that game.

Each Team will **provide the Site Director with three new game balls**. The balls provided must meet Little League specifications and standards. Baseballs licensed by Little League will be printed with one of two designations: "RS" (for regular season play) or "RS-T" (for regular season and tournament play).

Baseball Type Designations:

Majors and Below: Little League Baseball

Juniors: Senior League Baseball

The balls will be returned (if available) following the game.

Rule 1.11 (Little League Patches): Uniforms shall have an official **Little League Patch** on the left sleeve or, if vest type jersey, on the front of the jersey. Either the 2024 updated patch or the previous Little League patch is allowed.

COIN FLIP: Be at the field site at least 45 minutes prior to game time. The site director will flip a coin in the presence of the two opposing managers (or their representative) to determine Home Team and dugouts.

Tournament line-up cards will be provided at coin flip, line-up cards must be turned in to gain access to the field. Players must be listed on the line-up card in this format: last name, first name or initial, defensive position and uniform number. Any rostered player not present at the game must be listed on the line-up card at the bottom.

DUGOUTS: The winner of the flip will choose Home or Visitors. Home team will have the first base dugout and Visitors will have the third base dugout.

PLAYER REFRESHMENT: Only water/sports drinks will be permitted in the dugout during the game. Seeds, food or soda are not permitted in the dugouts. Gum, while not recommended, will be allowed at Juniors Division when players are in dugouts. No gum chewing while on the field of play- batting, running, coaching at a base or playing a position on the field.

The **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** or the **National Anthem**, the **Little League Pledge** and the **Parent Pledge** will be done prior to each game. Each team will stand on their respective base line during these opening ceremonies after umpire-plate meeting with managers. Announcements regarding decorum during the game will be made prior to the start of the game - see the last page of TOC Rules.

SPECIAL TOC RULES

INELIGIBLE PLAYERS: Players on the TOC team **MUST** have been a member of that team at the conclusion of the regular playing season. Players cannot be “borrowed” from another team within the player’s league, as this opens the door to manipulation for a team’s advantage, in other words no pool play during TOC.

Games may start and play games with eight (8) players on each team. When used, team(s) **WILL BE** charged an out for the ninth (9th) position.

PENALTY: Any TOC team ruled to have ineligible player(s) the penalty will be removal of the ineligible **Player** or **Players** from the tournament and possible forfeiture of games. All officials (including rival coaches and managers) must do everything in their power to prevent protest.

PROTEST: Since the Tournament of Champions is a District 33-sponsored tournament protests will be handled as follows:

1) If a manager wishes to file a protest, he/she will do so with the Umpire in Chief for that game. The game stops while the protest is resolved. If not resolved to the protesting manager’s satisfaction, he may take the protest to the Tournament Site Director. If the protesting manager is still not satisfied, he may take the protest to the District Tournament Protest Committee. The ruling by the District Tournament Protest Committee will be final. **All protests must be initiated before an ensuing pitch or play. Failure to protest before the next pitch or play will result in any protest being denied, as the game resumed.** No game will continue once a protest is lodged until one of the following conditions is met: the protest has been rescinded by the protesting manager or ruled on either to the protesting manager’s satisfaction or the District Tournament Protest Committee has issued a final ruling.

MANDATORY PLAY (MPR): It is the responsibility of each manager to make sure that all players meet the required playing time (**six consecutive defensive outs**). Mandatory play requirements will not be grounds for a protest. Those players failing to meet mandatory play will start the next game and meet mandatory play for the previous game and that game. Managers failing to meet mandatory play unless the game is shortened for any reason will be suspended one game for the first offense and two for the second offense.

NOTE: If mandatory play is not met in the final game of the tournament, that game will be forfeited, unless game is shortened for any reason.

MANAGER MUST REPORT DEFENSIVE SUBSTITUTIONS/CHANGES TO DOCUMENT MPR:

There will be free substitution using CBO with the manager being responsible to see that all players meet their MPR. **Defensive changes are to be reported to the plate umpire and scorekeeper for all pitcher and catcher changes. All other defensive changes must be reported to the plate umpire and scorekeeper until all players have played their 6 consecutive defensive outs.** Unreported subs will result in the player's failure to meet MPR, resulting in the manager being suspended.

MINORS 5-RUN RULE: We will be using the 5-run rule in minors. The inning will end when the fifth run is scored, the third out is made, or the entire team bats through the line up.

The only exception will be if there is a home run (over the fence) and then all runs that are driven in by the home run will count. The sixth inning or innings played under the Tied Game Rule will not have any run limits on them, however three outs or batting once through the entire lineup will end that teams at-bat.

MERCY RULES:

Majors and below: If after three (3) innings or two 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 or three 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 or four 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) or ten (10) or (8) runs or more respectively, the home team must bat in its half of the inning.

Juniors: If after four (4) innings or 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 five (5) innings or 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 six (6) innings or four 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) or ten (10) or (8) runs or more respectively, the home team must bat in its half of the inning.

BATTING ORDER: Continuous batting for all divisions. All players present are **listed by last name and first name** on the line-up form and bat in order. For CBO, if the current batter can't continue the previous player in the batting order not on base will assume the count. If a runner needs to be replaced the previous out recorded on a player will take that runner's place. If a player leaves due to injury or any other reason that spot in the line-up will be skipped without penalty.

RULE 6.02 (c): The TOC Tournament will follow all rules stated in the 2024 Little League Rule Book under rule 6.02 – The Batter - (c); relating to batters maintaining at least one foot in the batter's box at all times.

RULE 6.05 (b) (2): Uncaught third strike will be enforced in the Majors Division and above.

Rule 6.08 (a) (2): In all Divisions the batter may be intentionally walked at any time. Time is called and batter advances to 1st base this can only be done once per player per game. If pitches have been thrown official pitch counter will add number of pitches to pitch count total to equal four. *Example count is 2 balls and 1 strike add an additional 2 pitches to pitch count total.* No runners may advance unless forced to advance.

This would not restrict a team from walking a previously walked batter by throwing four pitches outside the strike zone.

RULE 7.14 (b): Courtesy Runners will be allowed in all Divisions. All elements of Rule 3.03(a) must be adhered to.

TIME LIMITS: Time Limits will only be used in minor games.

Minors: No new inning will begin after 2 hours from the **actual** start of the game. Actual start time of the game will begin at the end of the pledge recitals.

Juniors: No new inning will begin after 2:00 hours from the **actual** start of the game. Actual start time of the game will begin at the end of the pledge recitals.

Games tied when reaching the time limit will be played to determine a winning team. Tied Game procedure will be used in the next complete inning after reaching the time limit.

TIED GAME: When the completion of (six innings – Majors and Below, seven innings – Juniors) or reaching the time limit and the score is tied, the following tiebreaker will be used:

a. Starting in the top of the seventh inning (Min/Maj) eighth Inning (Jrs.), and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base. *EXAMPLE: If the number five batter is the lead-off batter, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base.* An eligible substitute or special pinch runner may be inserted for the runner. All elements of Rule 3.03(a) must be adhered to.

This will continue until either team scores more than their opponent, the tie is broken, and the game is complete. The Championship game will be played to conclusion and a tie breaker will be used.

DRESS CODE: All Managers and Coaches shall not wear tank tops, or flip flops while on the field. Coaches must wear appropriate looking shorts or pants. They can be any color but no “basketball shorts”. A conventional baseball hat must be worn by managers and coaches during games. A visor is not a hat. Only appropriate attire will be allowed.

TOURNAMENT PINS AND TOC PENNANT: Tournament pins will be passed out at the end of the first game. Pins are not to be worn during the games. The TOC Pennant will be awarded to the Championship team at the conclusion of the final game. The players will be invited to take a lap with the pennant after the presentation.

Regulation XIV- Field Decorum: The actions 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, is subject to disciplinary action by the Local League Board of Directors and/or by the District.

- a. Anyone who has disciplinary action pending will not be allowed to play in any game until such disciplinary action is resolved.
- b. Any player, manager or coach ejected from a game will be suspended for the next game. The District may dictate further suspension.
- c. Players, coaches or whole teams will be removed from the tournament if the rules are not followed.

Required Safety Training Sessions:

Concussion Protocol:

1. (a) California law requires that all coaches and administrators must complete an online concussion training *at least once* before supervising youth athletes; a certificate from a prior season is valid for this season. It takes only about 30 minutes to complete the training. Please save and carry the certificates for all your coaches in your binder.

The online Concussion Protocol Training is at: <https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/>

2. (b) A concussion and head injury information sheet must be signed by both the athlete and a parent/guardian before the athlete initiates practice or competition. An existing form from this spring may be used if it's available. The signed sheet must be carried with the player's medical release and code of conduct form.

Abuse Awareness Protocol:

1. (a) All managers and coaches must complete the Abuse Awareness training provided by USA Baseball and SafeSport. The managers and coaches must carry documentation that the course has been completed. Here is the link to the course: [Abuse Awareness for Adults \(usabdevelops.com\)](https://www.usabdevelops.com)

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Protocol:

AB379 now requires the same protocols used for concussions in youth and high school sports to be used to help protect young athletes participating in school and community youth sports organizations from sudden cardiac arrest—the #1 killer of young athletes. Community youth sports

organizations include an organization, business, nonprofit entity, or a local governmental agency that sponsors or conducts amateur sports competitions, training, camps, or clubs in which persons 17 years of age or younger participate. The online Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Training is at: <https://epsavealife.org/sca-prevention-training/>

Little League Diamond Leader <https://www.littleleague.org/training/#signup>

Please save and carry each of the certification certificates for all your managers/coaches in your team binder.

TOC PROTEST COMMITTEE

TOURNAMENT SITE DIRECTORS: If there is a protest that is not resolvable on the field, please contact one of the following members of the Protest Committee. Please try the numbers in the order that they are listed. Please fill out the Protest Report before making the call.

District Admin	Clay Berry	619-787-7593
Umpire in Chief	John Evans	858-444-5722