



LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

DISTRICT 2, OHIO

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Little League International Mission Statement

*Little League believes in the power of youth baseball and softball
to teach life lessons that build stronger individuals and communities.*

2024 District 2 Ohio Tournament Guide (All Baseball and Softball Minor/Major Divisions)

The following information will be covered during the District 2 Ohio Tournament Review and Draw meetings for baseball and softball.

Softball Meeting -Tuesday, June 18th at 6:00 PM: to be held in the clubhouse at McCune Field, Canfield Baseball Club (5327 Shields Road, Canfield)

Baseball Meeting -Monday, June 24th at 6:00 PM: to be held in the clubhouse at Field of Dreams, Boardman Community Baseball (410 McClurg Road, Boardman)

Welcome to the 2024 District 2 Ohio Baseball and Softball Tournament! I am very pleased to help facilitate a competitive environment for our youth, but more importantly my fervent wish is that all persons involved find the tournament to be a positive experience in accord with the values representative of Little League – Community, Fun, Inclusion, Integrity, and Teamwork.

This guide has been compiled to cover various aspects of the tournament, not just how it will be operated, but what players, coaches, and fans should expect from the tournament as well as what is expected of them. The contents contained herein mimic much of what is found in the tournament guides for softball play at the state, regional, and world series levels. As such, this guide provides consistency found across all levels of play.

Also, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the wonderful folks of Boardman Community Baseball for hosting the different tournament divisions. They have worked ever so diligently to be sure the games are a positive experience for everyone involved. Please be sure to show them your appreciation. Moreover, please be respectful of all facilities and recognize the inherent restrictions (e.g., no tobacco products, no alcohol, no vaping, etc.).

I wish for all the teams involved in the tournament the best of luck.

Chet Cooper

District Administrator, Ohio District 2, Little League Baseball and Softball

Tournament Organization:

The following persons have been designated as tournament officials bearing particular responsibilities:

- Tournament Director: Chet Cooper (District Administrator)
- Assistant Tournament Directors – Rich Randall, John Walsh, and Greg Kreiger
- Tournament Umpire-in-Chief: Rich Randall

Contact Information:

This information will be provided at the time of the review/draw meeting.

Location of Games:

All tournament games are scheduled to be played at the Field of Dreams in Boardman, Ohio, located at 410 McClurg Road. See the tournament brackets for the specific field location of each game.

Pre-Tournament Managers/Coaches Meeting:

A mandatory meeting of tournament team managers shall take place as noted in the box at the top of this guide. Though this meeting is mandatory, if a team manager cannot make this meeting for good reason, one of the team coaches must attend and act for the manager. This person should be so designated to the District Administrator before the meeting. The absence of the team manager does not relieve him/her of any and all expected responsibilities as covered by Little League tournament rules/regulations or matters covered during the pre-tournament meeting. League Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Player Agents are welcome to attend the meeting as are the two adult coaches on a tournament team's affidavit.

Tournament Affidavits:

Completed and signed affidavits, to include the tournament form/roster, player eligibility/school attendance forms, supporting documentation, player residence map, and any other required materials (e.g., waivers), must be submitted and **approved** prior to the first game played in the tournament. All tournament affidavits are due on Wednesday, June 19th. Teams should also be prepared to provide additional materials as requested (e.g., scorebooks).

Tournament Dates:

District 2 Tournament. The following district tournament play dates are anticipated.

- Softball: All Divisions, June 24 – July 2
- Intermediate (50/70) Baseball: June 17 – June 23
- All Other Baseball Divisions: June 28 – July 10

IMPORTANT NOTE: Games will be played as scheduled. There will be no changes to scheduled games due to the absence of personnel, conflicts with personal obligations, etc. Appeals to such situations shall not be considered.

However, scheduled games are subject to change due to unanticipated or uncontrollable circumstances, e.g., rain outs. Also, unless necessary, double headers will not be played. Managers, coaches, players, and fans should be aware of the above possibilities.

Finally, all schedule changes are solely at the discretion of the District Administrator or Little League International.

Championship Games. At the time this guide was written, discussions were underway to televise for the championship games of the Minor and Major Divisions softball and baseball, as well as the 9-year-old championship game.

Tournament Rules:

The Ohio District 2 tournament shall be played in strict accordance to all applicable Little League Rules and Regulations. No deviations from these rules/regulations are permitted without the explicit approval of Little League Baseball and Softball, Incorporated.

Managers, coaches, and umpires are expected to know Little League rules and regulations, including those rules and regulations established for the international tournament. Not knowing the rules/regulations is not an excuse for the abeyance of penalties due to violations. Moreover, what may have been practiced during the regular season that was not in keeping with the official Little League rules and regulations certainly will not be acceptable during tournament play, e.g., a 'no swinging bunt' local league rule is not applicable in tournament play.

These Tournament Rules and Guidelines are published in the official rule book. However, a PDF of the tournament rules for both softball and baseball can be accessed at the following URL:

<https://www.littleleague.org/tournament-resources/>

In addition, an unofficial summaries of the tournament rules can be found at the following URLs:

https://www.llumpires.com/files/2024_tournament_rules_chart_bb.pdf

https://www.llumpires.com/files/2024_tournament_rules_chart_sb.pdf

Bear in mind that the above noted summaries are not an officially sanctioned Little League document and are subservient to the official Tournament Rules and Guidelines.

Below, several notable tournament rules/regulations are summarized. Please note, within the team's tournament affidavit, your local league president has certified that the team's manager and coaches are knowledgeable of tournament rules and in full agreement with them. Hence, not knowing the rules/regulations is not an excuse for the abeyance of penalties due to violations.

Below, several notable tournament rules/regulations are summarized. Unless otherwise indicated, the following applies to all baseball and softball divisions. Please note, your local league president has certified that the team's manager and coaches are knowledgeable of tournament rules and in full agreement with them. Hence, not knowing the rules/regulations is not an excuse for the abeyance of penalties due to violations.

Brief Overview of Selected Tournament Rules:

Number of Players. Unless pre-tournament approval has been granted by a league's District Administrator, teams must have rostered twelve (12) or more eligible players. It is expected that a minimum of 12 eligible players on a team be present in uniform at the game site at the start of a

game. If less than 12 players are present, the game shall still be played, with no penalty for the “missing” batter, but it is expected that teams present the Tournament Director a reason for the absence of an eligible player or players.

NOTE: There is no penalty for a player not in the batting order due to injury or ejection.

Mandatory Play. The following is taken from the Little League Rule Book (page 188) requiring a continuous batting order for all divisions of tournament play except for the Senior Division.

“All Tournament Teams must adopt a policy of a continuous batting order that will include all players on the team affidavit present at the start of the game, to appear in the batting order. Each player is required to bat in his/her respective spot in the batting order.”

Again, there is no penalty if a team has less than 12 players in the batting order.

DO NOT COMPLAIN TO THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR OR TOURNAMENT STAFF REGARDING THE ABSENCE OF A PENALTY. This is a policy that is mandated by Little League Baseball and Softball. The responsibility of the tournament staff is to comply with this policy. However, teams that inappropriately exploit this policy shall be referred to Little League authorities.

Managers/Coaches in Dugout: Tournament rules permit three (3) adults in the dugout during a game – the manager and two coaches – regardless of the number of players present. In addition, the following conditions must be met:

- The three adults must be named on the affidavit or must be authorized temporary replacements as noted on the affidavit. There will be no substitutions permitted during pre-game warm-ups or throughout a game. That is, the “subbing in and out” of an adult coach during pre-game or in game activities is NOT permitted.
- No other adult is permitted in the dugout or on the field at any time (pre-game or in-game activities) for any reason other than medical necessity (e.g., player injury or illness) and then only with the permission of the Tournament Director or umpire.
- A fourth adult acting as a score keeper is NOT permitted in the dugout.
- Managers/coaches may communicate with the scorekeeper but ONLY regarding scorekeeping matters, e.g., line ups, scores, etc.
- If used, the “fourth adult” score keeper is NOT permitted to coach whatsoever. Doing so subjects that person to removal from the game and the complex. In addition, the manager may be removed from the game for violation of this rule.
- Adults are not permitted to warm-up pitchers anywhere on the complex, before or during a game, throughout the tournament.
- During the game, one adult must always be present in the dugout to supervise player behavior and safety.
- During competition, only the manager of a team is permitted to request permission to enter the field of play to discuss a matter with an umpire. However, this does not preclude casual conversation or inquiries from coaches.

Courtesy Runner: A tournament team may permit a “courtesy runner” for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are two (2) outs. The courtesy runner must be the player in the batting order who made the last out.

Approved Ruling: The courtesy runner must always be the player in the batting order who made the last out. If a team chooses to use a courtesy runner and the player who made the last out is the pitcher or catcher of record, that pitcher or catcher of record must be used as the courtesy runner. A team may not skip the pitcher or catcher of record if that pitcher or catcher of record made the last out and is therefore due to be the courtesy runner.

Stealing Signs: 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, the team manager and those responsible including any player(s) and/or coach(es) shall be warned after the first offense. Those responsible including any player(s), coach(es), and/or manager shall be ejected from the game for a team’s subsequent offense.

Run Rule: See Tournament Rule 12. If a team has a 15-run lead after three and one-half (home team)/four innings (visitors) OR 10 runs after a regulation game is completed, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent.

Tie Game: When the completion of six innings and the score is tied, the following tie-breaker will be played to determine a winning team:

- The seventh inning will be played as normal.
- Starting in the top of the eighth inning, 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.

Rule/Regulation Reminders:

- a) Regulation I/Rule 1.11(a)(2) - All player uniforms must have the official Little League patch properly affixed. Older versions of the patch may be used for 2024.
- b) Rule 1.11a(3) – Arm Bands. The use of play calling bands by players is permitted under the following conditions:
 - The equipment must be worn as the manufacturer intended (i.e., on either the wrist or forearm).
 - The play calling band MAY NOT be attached to the belt or any other location on the player’s person.
 - Pitchers are permitted to wear a play calling band on their non-pitching (glove) arm, provided it is a solid color and not white, gray, or optic yellow. If the umpire considers it distracting to the batter, he/she may have it removed.
- c) Rule 3.17 - The use of electronic communication equipment during the game is restricted. No team shall use electronic communication equipment, including walkie-talkies, cellular telephones, etc., for any communication with on-field personnel including those in the dugout, bullpen, or field.

Exception: A cell phone/tablet may be used to access the Little League Rule Book app and Game Changer. No other usage is permitted.

IMPORTANT: Devices that transmit or record game action shall not be permitted on the backstops or surrounding area near home plate. In addition, electronic devices shall NEVER be used to influence the decision of an umpire. The latter action is subject to removal from the game and/or complex.

- d) Rule 3.09 - Players, managers and coaches of participating teams shall not address or mingle with spectators, nor sit in the stands during a game in which they are engaged. This includes the use of signs to a pitcher or other player from a spectator sitting in the stands. Violation of this rule is grounds for ejection and/or removal of the spectator from the tournament site.

Required Diamond Leader Training:

As a condition of eligibility for selection as a tournament team manager/coach, the manager and coaches must have completed the Little League Diamond Leader Training Program (<https://www.littleleague.org/DiamondLeader/>). This program should have been completed prior to the individual being named a tournament team manager/coach and before participating in any practices or games. Tournament Team managers/coaches who have completed the program must produce the Little League Diamond Leader completion certificate and include it in the tournament affidavit. Persons who have not completed the program shall NOT be permitted to participate in the tournament until a certificate of completion has been presented.

Abuse Awareness Training:

By selection of an adult as a manager or coach of a tournament team, the local league verifies that each individual has successfully completed the Abuse Awareness training required by Little League Baseball and Softball. If this is not true, managers and coaches should immediately complete an Abuse Awareness Training (see <https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/child-protection-program/safesport-resources-parents/>).

Concussion Training:

All managers, coaches, and umpires will be expected to abide by Ohio's Return-to-Play Law. This is a state law!!!! It is mandatory that all youth league managers, coaches, and umpires possess this certificate!!! It is best practice for all managers and coaches to carry their certificate on their person or in the affidavit binder.

The concussion training course is simple and short, and best of all – free. The certificate is valid for three years from the date the course is passed. Go to the following link for online testing sites:

<https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/child-injury-prevention/resources/onlineconcussiontraining>

Decorum – Managers, Coaches, Players, and Fans:

The following policy has been approved and adopted by the State of Ohio Little League District Administrators. This policy shall be strictly enforced. Please share this information with your parents and other fans.

It is expected that the behavior of all participants, as well as fans, must be above reproach. You are representing yourselves, your leagues, your communities, and the Little League program. *Exemplary behavior of all participants and fans is expected.* Profanity and unsportsmanlike conduct will NOT be tolerated from participants and fans.

In particular, Little League Regulation XIV: Field Decorum states the following:

“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 local league Board of Directors.”

In this tournament, the Tournament Director serves as the ultimate Board of Directors. Proper behavior is expected of ALL persons in attendance, including fans. Inappropriate behavior shall subject an individual to removal from the game and the tournament premises, possibly for the entire tournament. In addition, other sanctions are possible.

Please take note of the following points of emphasis:

- Caution should be employed regarding the use of social media by persons associated with a team. The improper use of social media (e.g., demeaning opponents) has been, and will continue to be, penalized by Little League up to and including removal from the tournament.

Please be sure to inform your players and fans to restrain from making any derogatory remarks via social media.

In addition, for privacy and safety concerns, caution should be exerted when posting information on social media regarding a player.

- Managers and coaches need to inform their fans that inappropriate behavior (e.g., taunting or verbal abuse of opposing teams, umpires, etc.) shall not be tolerated whatsoever. *Such behavior shall subject an individual to removal from the facility, possibly for the entire tournament, in addition to possible future sanctions.*

Encourage your fans to cheer positively not just for your team, but also for good play and sportsmanship of opposing players.

- Noise makers (horns, whistles, vuvuzelas, and any like item) are prohibited. The removal of the items, and possibly the fan(s) from the premises, is at the discretion of the Tournament Director and Assistant Directors.
- No one except the players, manager, coach(es), tournament officials, or umpires shall enter/occupy the bench or dugout prior to or during a game. This includes parents and fans.
- Smoking or vaping is not permitted by any person on the premises of McCune Field (Canfield) or the Field of Dreams (Boardman). Those who do so shall be removed from the park premises.

Batting Helmets:

All batting helmets must meet the criteria established in Rule 1.16. No helmet shall be altered in a manner that is in conflict with this rule.

Catcher's Equipment:

All catchers must wear equipment that meets the criteria established in Rule 1.17.

Baseball Bats:

All bats must meet the criteria set forth in Rule 1.10. All non-wood and laminated bats must bear a clear USA Baseball (USABat) logo. All non-wood and laminated bats not bearing this logo are illegal and must be removed from the team's dugout and equipment inventory. The USA Baseball logo must be legible. If the logo is not legible, that bat must be removed from the team's dugout and equipment inventory.

All wood bats do not need to bear the USABat or BBCOR logos, but still must meet the criteria set forth in Rule 1.10.

For updated baseball bat information, go to the following URL:

<https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/bat-information/>

Softball Bats:

All bats must meet the criteria set forth in Rule 1.10. All non-wood bats must bear a clear BPF 1.20 logo. The logo must be legible. All non-wood not bearing this logo are illegal and must be removed from the team's dugout and equipment inventory. If the BPF 1.20 logo is not legible, that bat must be removed from the team's dugout and equipment inventory.

All wood bats do not need to bear the BPF 1.20 logo, but still must meet the criteria set forth in Rule 1.10.

Illegal Bats:

Managers are responsible for assuring that illegal bats are not used for play or are present in the dugout during a game. IF THERE IS ANY QUESTION REGARDING THE LEGALITY OF A BAT, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MANAGER TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE THAT THE BAT IS APPROVED FOR USE BY LITTLE LEAGUE. However, the final arbiter of the legality of a bat resides with the umpires.

Penalty for illegal bats: The penalty for use of an illegal bat, if discovered before the next player enters the batter's box following the turn at bat of the player who used an illegal bat, is:

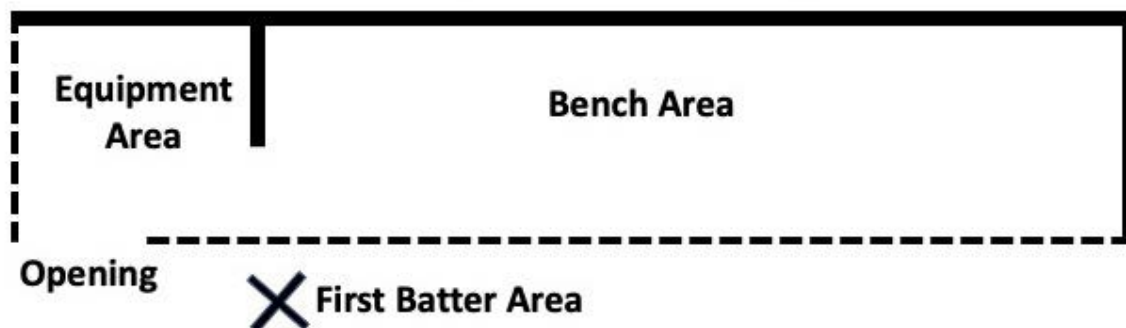
- The batter is out. The ball is dead and runners must return if they advanced on the play (NOTE: The manager of the defense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline this portion of the penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play), and;
- The manager of the team will be ejected from the game, the batter who violated the rule will be ejected from the game, and the offensive team will lose one eligible adult base coach for the duration of the game.
- Regardless if the opposing manager elects the result of the play,
 - The batter using the illegal bat is ejected from the game;
 - The manager of the batter using the illegal bat is ejected from the game; and
 - The offensive team shall be restricted to one adult base coach.

Dugouts:

For all games on all fields, the home team (previously determined by a coin toss) shall occupy the first base dugout. The visiting team shall occupy the third base dugout.

All dugouts on fields L-1, L-2, L-3, S-1, and S-2 are laid out in a similar manner as depicted in the accompanying figure. The dugouts on the other fields differ in configuration, but follow the same general pattern.

General Layout of Team Dugout



For those dugouts on fields L-1, L-2, L-3, S-1, S-2, M-1, M-3, and M-6 the following restrictions apply:

- Sunflower seeds and tobacco products (including vaping products) are NOT permitted in the dugout areas, or on any playing field. Water/beverages are permitted in the dugout.
- All bats and helmets shall be placed in the “Equipment Area” following pre-game inspection.
- Players shall not have “hands on a bat” while in the dugout and NEVER are they permitted to swing a bat in the dugout.
- No players are permitted to be in the “Opening” area during live ball situations. Only the manager and coaches are permitted in the “Opening” during live ball situations, but they must be stationed behind a line (chalked or not) from “pole to pole”.
- All players must remain behind the front fence in the general “Bench Area”. They should not wander needlessly in the “Equipment Area”. Players are never permitted to be sit outside the “Bench Area”.
- There is NEVER an on-deck batter in Major and Minor divisions of play. Only the first batter of the inning may have a bat in his/her hands and may be stationed outside the dugout on the chalked “X” (“Frist Batter Area”) on the gravel/dirt immediately next to the front fence of the “Bench Area” of their team’s dugout.
- Scorekeepers are NEVER permitted in the dugout and must be positioned outside the “Equipment Area”. Managers/coaches may communicate with the scorekeeper but ONLY regarding scorekeeping matters, e.g., line ups, scores, etc. Scorekeepers may NEVER offer coaching advice.

- Unless authorized by the District Administrator, no other person is permitted in the dugout. An exception is made for medical personnel who are present solely to attend to injured team personnel.
- No fans are permitted to interact with players in the dugout during a game other than to provide drinks, ice, towels, etc. All fans are NOT permitted to enter the dugout to provide such items.
- If a walkway exists between the dugout and the score booth, neither team personnel nor fans are permitted in this area. The manager and coaches may use this walkway to communicate with the score booth.
- Should a member of the team (adult or player) need to use the restroom facilities, first seek the permission of the umpire to leave the dugout. Except in an emergency, team personnel shall not leave the dugout without the umpire's permission.

Pre-Game Activities:

- Only the team manager, eligible coaches, and players in uniform, collectively whose names are listed on the eligibility affidavit, are allowed in the dugout during a game or on the playing field during a warm up. No practice coaches or helpers are permitted on the field or in the dugout, or in the bullpen area regardless if the latter is inside the fence or outside the field of play.
- Immediately following the specified warm-up time on the field for a team, have all bats, helmets, and catcher's equipment placed in front of the dugout for umpires to inspect. This includes all equipment (e.g., bats, gloves, helmets, etc.) in player bags. Any equipment removed from the game will be marked, kept in the tournament director's office and returned at the end of the tournament
- Players who are catching for a coach during infield/outfield practice before a game and players who are warming up a pitcher at any time must wear the approved helmet/face mask with dangling-style throat protector. Violations of this rule during the pre-game period or during a game may subject the manager to ejection.
- No adult is permitted to warm up a pitcher *before or during the game*.
NOTE: adults can play 'catch' in pre-game, but not 'catcher'; adults are not allowed to play 'catch'/'catcher" during a game.
- ONLY MANAGERS are to attend the plate meeting and discuss the following with the umpires. Team captains may attend the plate meeting.
NOTE: No players are to be out of their dugouts during the plate meeting.
- The tournament director will provide line up cards/sheets for all games. For uncommon names, please provide a phonic pronunciation.
- Line ups for the day's games must be handed in to the assigned score keeper in the scorer's booth at least 30 minutes before the game is scheduled to start. Line ups do not become official until verified to the umpire at the plate meeting.

- Please complete and submit the line-up form provided by the official score keeper being sure to provide a phonetic pronunciation for each player's name.
- Submit your pitching affidavits to the official score keeper.
- Field access and pre-game warm-up shall abide by a schedule to be distributed at the mandatory pre-tournament meeting.

In-Game Activities:

- *Sportsmanship.* Good sportsmanship is expected at all times and that if there is a question regarding a rule application or interpretation, then ONLY the manager may approach an umpire after receiving "time out" to come onto the field of play; all calls involving judgment will not be permitted to be questioned. There shall be **ZERO TOLERANCE** for **ANY** un-sportsman like conduct. Managers are ultimately responsible for the behavior of their coaches and players.

NOTE: Coaches and players may ask casual questions of an umpire, but neither is permitted to approach or openly criticize an umpire regarding his/her decision.

- *Appeal.* Rule 2.00: "An appeal is an act of a fielder in claiming a violation of the rules by the offensive team." It is the responsibility of the manager (not coaches), or a player, to request and appeal on a violation (or misinterpretation) of a rule AND to do so using the proper procedure. Judgement calls are NOT subject to an appeal.
- *Base Coaches.* Adult base coaches must remain inside or by the dugout until between inning warm-ups are completed. Player base coaches need to remain *inside* dugout until between inning warm-ups are completed.
- *Live Ball Play.* Except for base coaches and the batter, during live ball play adults must remain within the dugout or the opening of the dugout (not outside of dugout and no sitting on buckets outside dugout), whereas players must stay inside the dugout and behind the fence at all times.
- *Scorekeeper.* A team's scorekeeper must remain outside the dugout and is the ONLY person that a manager/coach may talk to outside dugout and only regarding scorekeeping matters, e.g., line ups, scores, etc. Scorekeepers may NEVER offer coaching advice. If they do so, they are subject to ejection from the park.
- *Between Innings.* The "one minute between innings" rule **will be enforced** (starting/new pitcher, 8 warm-up pitches; subsequent innings, 3-4 warm-up pitches or one minute, whichever comes first). **HAVE A PLAYER READY WITH A MASK/CUP TO WARM-UP PITCHER BEWTEEN INNINGS.**
- *Ejections.* A manager or coach ejected from the game MUST leave the park. Players MUST leave the park only if parents/guardians are present to take charge of them. If none are present, player MUST sit quietly on the bench with their team.
- *Manager and Coaches Hats/Visors.* Managers and coaches must be properly attired. Shabbily dressed persons shall not be permitted on the field. No substitutes will be allowed for an inappropriately attired manager or coach. Khaki style pants or shorts preferred – NO GYM SHORTS OR WARM-UP PANTS. Also preferred is a polo style shirt or tasteful T-shirt that is

team specific. Shoes must be worn; sandals are not permitted. If a hat is worn by baseball managers/coaches, it must be a conventional baseball hat. A visor may be worn by softball managers and coaches during games, but is not required. The hat/visor may not be worn backwards. Coaches and players shirts must be tucked in at all times when on the field.

- *Eye Black.* Eye black may be worn by players. However, it should be worn in a conservative manner, i.e., a single streak beneath the eye. Eye black that is worn in excess is not acceptable. No images/patterns within or drawn in eye black shall be permitted. Additionally, no names or branding of any nature may be printed on the eye black. Players wearing unacceptable eye black shall be required to remove it.



In the above composite picture, the left image depicts acceptable wearing of eye black, whereas the center and right image depict unacceptable wearing of eye black.

- *Pitch Count.* The Official Scorekeeper is the authority on the pitch count – NOT team scorekeepers/manager/coaches. Check with the official scorekeeper each half inning to ensure accuracy of counts.
- *Reporting Substitutions/Line-Up Changes.* Despite the use of a continuous batting order and “free” defensive substitutions, as a courtesy please report any changes to the score keeper. However, pitching changes shall be reported initially by the manager to the home plate umpire, who will accompany the manger to the score booth behind the backstop to make changes with the official scorer.
- *Ground Rule Clarification.* On chain-linked fenced fields, any fly ball that hits the yellow tubing on the fence in fair territory and bounces back into the field of play will be alive and in play. Runners may advance at their own risk.

Any fly ball that hits the yellow tubing on the fence in fair territory, crosses over the fence in fair territory, and lands outside the field of play will be ruled a home run. All bases must be legally touched.

- *Hints to Speed Up the Game.* Consider assigning players not currently in the line-up the following duties in order to speed up the game:
 - Catcher to warm-up pitcher between half innings (must wear mask and cup)
 - Bat retriever (must wear helmet)
 - Bullpen protector when new pitcher is warming up down the sideline (must wear helmet)

All team personnel and fans should remember baseball and softball are games. Winners accept victory with humility and graciously congratulate their opponents. Teams that lose a game are expected to accept the result graciously as well as congratulate their opponents. The practice of good sportsmanship is even more important following a contest as during the competition. Inappropriate behavior shall not be tolerated under any circumstances.

For inappropriate behavior following a contest, post-game ejections are possible while umpires remain on the field. Removal from a game or the tournament for inappropriate behavior before, during, or after a game is at the sole discretion of the District Administration and is non-appealable.

Managers, coaches, players, and fans are cautioned in their interaction with the media and careful consideration should take place prior to any post to social media sites. Statements or postings that are considered inappropriate may be reflected in punitive action taken by the District Administrator and/or Little League International.

Other important items include the following:

- Any complaints regarding a tournament official or umpire needs to be reported to the District Administrator by the team manager or league president.
- No one other than umpires and tournament officials are permitted in the umpire dressing room.
- NEVER criticize an umpire or another manager/coach/player in public. if you have an issue, contact Chet Cooper (District Administrator) or Rich Randall (District Umpire-in-Chief).

Tournament Brackets, Draw Procedure, and Determination of Home Team:

The District 2 Ohio tournament shall be a double-elimination playoff. The tournament brackets used in the tournament shall be those approved by Little League Baseball and Softball (<https://www.littleleague.org/downloads/double-elimination-tournament-brackets/>). These brackets cannot be altered. Games must be played in the order dictated by the bracket. A copy of the various tournament brackets is attached.

As scheduled, each team shall play no more than one game per day with games on consecutive days probable, depending upon the team's position in the bracket. No double-header games have been scheduled. However, if circumstances warrant (e.g., continuous bad weather), the playing of double headers cannot be precluded and shall be scheduled at the direction of the District Administrator. *In extreme cases, the tournament may be shortened, but only upon the direction of the Little League International.* Local Little League authorities have no jurisdiction in shortening tournaments.

NOTE: The managers of teams advancing beyond the district tournament should be prepared for the possibility of playing double headers.

The draw procedure shall take place as follows:

- 1) For each team entered into a particular division of play, a numbered ping-pong ball shall be placed in a container. The numbers shall be sequential, beginning with Number 1.
- 2) The balls within the container shall be mixed blindly by an individual designated by the District Administrator. In accord with the draw procedure (see below), this person shall then offer a team manager (or the designated team representative) the opportunity to draw a numbered ball, without the manager being able to see into the container.
- 3) The order of the initial and subsequent draws shall take place as follows:

- a. The initial draw shall take place alphabetically by the name of the league entering a team into the tournament. Specifically, in District 2, supposing all leagues have entered a team in a given tournament division, then Austintown shall draw first, followed by Boardman, Campbell, Canfield, Howland, Lowellville, Poland, South Range, Springfield, Struthers, and lastly, Warren.

NOTE: A league can voluntarily pass their turn to draw and take their turn, in sequential alphabetical order, at the end of the draw.

- b. The subsequent draw for a different division of play shall take place in reverse alphabetical order, e.g., Warren, Struthers,, Boardman, and Austintown.

NOTE: A league can voluntarily pass their turn to draw and take their turn, in sequential reverse alphabetical order, at the end of the draw.

- c. Additional draws for different divisions of play shall alternate between normal and reverse alphabetical order.

- 4) Once all balls have been drawn, the manager (or team representative) who drew the ball numbered "1" shall then announce which line on the bracket their team shall occupy during the opening round of games. This shall be recorded on the master bracket.
- 5) Next, the manager who drew the ball numbered "2" shall then announce which open line on the bracket their team shall occupy during the opening round of games. This shall be recorded on the master bracket.
- 6) The above selection process shall continue in numerical order until the team with the last numbered ball has been placed on the last open line on the bracket for the opening round of games.
- 7) At the end of each draw, the bracket lines shall be reviewed and affirmed. Any discrepancies shall be decided by the District Administrator whose decision is final and non-appealable.
- 8) *Home and Visitor Teams - Opening Round:* For the opening round of games, except for those with bye games, the determination of the HOME team shall take place by a coin toss conducted by the District Administrator or an individual designated by the District Administrator. The manager from the two competing teams whose team is from the league furthest from the Field of Dreams has the option to declare "heads" or "tails" prior to the coin flip. The manager could defer this declaration to the opposing manager. If the coin flip results in the calling manager's choice, then he/she can choose to be either the HOME team or the VISITING team. If the coin flip does not result in the calling manager's choice, then the opposing manager can choose to be either the HOME team or the VISITING team.
- 9) *Home and Visitor Teams - Subsequent Rounds:* For games following the opening round, including any initial bye games, the HOME and VISITOR team designation shall be determined by a coin toss conducted by the District Administrator, or an individual designated by the District Administrator, in the presence of both team managers or his/her designee. Coin flips will be conducted no later than 15 minutes after the two competing teams have been determined.

For softball games, the managers (or his/her designee) should meet behind the scorer's booth on Field S-2. If one or both managers is/are not present at the designated time, the District

Administrator, Tournament Director, or Assistant Tournament Director will act on his/her/their behalf.

For baseball games, the managers (or his/her designee) should meet behind the scorer's booth on Field L-1. If one or both managers is/are not present at the designated time, the District Administrator, Tournament Director, or Assistant Tournament Director will act on his/her/their behalf.

The manager whose team is from the league furthest from the Field of Dreams has the option to declare "heads" or "tails" prior to the coin flip. The manager could defer this declaration to the opposing manager. If the coin flip results in the calling manager's choice, then he/she can choose to be either the HOME team or the VISITING team. If the coin flip does not result in the calling manager's choice, then the opposing manager can choose to be either the HOME team or the VISITING team.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If for any reason, a team decides not to participate in the tournament after the draw, but prior to the first game of the tournament being played, the District Administrator, available Assistant District Administrators, and/or others designated by the District Administrator, shall meet at the earliest opportunity and re-draw the bracket *in its entirety*. Only this group of individuals shall be involved in the actual re-draw of the bracket. No team personnel shall be permitted to participate.

All managers of teams remaining in the tournament shall be notified as soon as practical and are welcome to attend the re-draw. All team managers, including those not in attendance of the re-draw, shall be notified of any changes to the bracket. Managers should be aware that opponents, times, and dates of games are likely to be changed in the re-drawn bracket. There shall be no appeal to re-drawing a bracket should the above situation occur.

Should a team remaining in the tournament after the first round of games are played then decide not to continue participating, the District Administrator shall contact the Little League International for direction. Teams cannot be declared to have forfeited a game, nor can they be removed from the tournament after the first game has been played, without the approval of the Little League International.