

June 2018

Little League Baseball California District 67

Post-Season Tournaments Standard Operating Procedures



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Tournaments

1.1 California District 67 sponsors several post-season tournaments at various levels of play. Participation in these tournaments is voluntary and subject to the approval of the District Administrator.

Tournament of Champions (TOC)

1.2 The Tournament of Champions is a District sponsored post-season tournament. Each league is invited to send the champion of its regular season or end of season play-off champion team to compete in a double-elimination tournament against the other District 67 leagues' regular season champions.

1.3 The Tournament of Champions Tournament is double-elimination tournament conducted prior to the commencement of All Star Tournament.

1.3.1 No affidavits, birth certificates, or proofs of residency are required for players to participate in the Tournament of Champions. The tournament is played on the "honor system." Any team found using players who did play at least half of their regular season games in their respective league and appropriate division shall forfeit the current year's tournament and be prohibited from playing in the following year's tournament. This is District 67 specific tournament and the District Administrator has the final ruling on player eligibility.

1.3.2 Each league participating in the Tournament of Champions tournament shall have a representative of their respective Boards of Directors in attendance whenever their respective league is playing. The league representative shall be responsible for the conduct of all players, coaches, managers, and spectators, and shall take corrective action, whenever necessary, support the Tournament Director to ensure that Little League Regulation XIV is fully enforced.

1.3.3 Protests may be filed in accordance with Little League Rule 4.19. The Tournament Director of the respective Tournament of Champions Tournament shall immediately suspend play and meet with the umpires before determining a ruling on the protest. Once the Tournament Director has made his/her decision it is final and cannot be appealed any further.

1.3.4 The Tournament of Champions tournament shall be conducted with the "ten-run rule" (4.10e) enforced.

1.3.5 Consecutive Tournament of Champions games played on the same day and same field shall be played under a two-hour time limit (no new inning may start two hours after the first pitch is thrown.) The last scheduled Tournament of Champions game of the day is exempt from this rule.

1.3.6 Any player, coach or manager ejected from a Tournament of Champions game shall be ineligible from participating in any future Tournament of Champions games during the current calendar year.

1.3.7 District 67 will make every effort possible to provide umpires to cover all Tournament of Champions games. Host leagues, however, must be able to provide qualified and competent umpires in the event District 67 umpires are unable to cover Tournament of Champions games.

1.3.8 Each host league for each Tournament of Champions tournament shall provide for each Tournament of Champions game a qualified and competent Official Scorekeeper for each game.

1.3.9 By direction of the Western Region, the Tournament of Champions tournament shall be played under Little League Baseball regular season rules.

1.3.10 Tournament of Champions Major tournament teams shall be comprised of players representing their respective leagues that played a majority of their scheduled regular season games and never competed in or above the Major Division (Little League Baseball). The Tournament of Champions Minor Tournament shall be comprised of players, age 12 and under, who did NOT play any Major division level games during the entire season. Every team shall roster at least twelve and not more than fourteen players.

1.3.11 The Tournament of Champions tournament shall be played under Little League Baseball regular season rules. In the Minor Tournament, the five-run per inning rule shall be waived after the conclusion of the fifth inning. Tournament of Champions tournaments shall also use a "roster batting order."

1.3.12 The "automatic" intentional walk (6.08a(2)), the prohibition of stealing signs (9.01d), and the requirement that the batter keep at least one foot in the batter's box (6.02c) rules shall be enforced.

District 67 All Star Tournaments

1.4 California District 67 conducts post-season All Star tournaments for players between the ages of 9 and 18. The various levels of play include: 9-10 year old, 10-11 year old, 11-12 year old, 11-13 year old (Intermediate-50/70 Division), 13-14 year old (Junior Division), 14-16 year old (Senior Division), and 16-18 year old (Big League Division). All post-season All Star tournament games shall comply with all rules and regulations set forth in the current edition of the Little League Baseball (or Softball) rule book, as applicable, and as modified by the Tournament Rules section of each respective rule book. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS OR DEVIATIONS FROM THIS REQUIREMENT.**

1.4.1 Local leagues within District 67 may request to host any of the tournaments listed above, and, once selected by the District Administrator to be the host site, agree to comply with the host league responsibilities set forth within this guidebook. Any deviation or exception to these responsibilities must be approved by the District Administrator prior to commencement of tournament play.

1.4.2 Each league participating in a District 67 All Star tournament shall have a representative of their respective Boards of Directors in attendance whenever their respective league is playing. The league representative shall be responsible for the conduct of all players, coaches, managers, and spectators, and shall take corrective action, whenever necessary, support the Tournament Director to ensure that Little League Regulation XIV is fully enforced.

1.4.3 Protests may be filed in accordance with Little League Rule 4.19. (Judgment calls cannot be protested.) All legally filed protests shall be adjudicated by the Tournament Committee in Little League Baseball's Western Region office. Play shall be suspended until the protest is resolved.

1.4.4 All District 67 All Star tournaments shall be conducted with the "ten-run rule" (4.10e) enforced. Additionally, the "automatic" intentional walk (6.08a(2)), the prohibition of stealing signs (9.01d), the "twice per game" restriction on the Special Pinch Runner (SPR), and the requirement that the batter keep at least one foot in the batter's box (6.02c) rules shall also be enforced.

1.4.5 In accordance with Little League Baseball Tournament Rules, players in the 11/12 (Major) Division and the 10/11 year-old Division shall be allowed to advance to first base on a dropped third strike as defined by rule 6.09(b). Also see Tournament Rule 3b.

1.4.6 District 67 All Star tournament games shall be played until a winner is determined in accordance with the current Little League Baseball (or Softball, as appropriate) Rule Book. **THERE IS NO TIME LIMIT ON ALL STAR TOURNAMENT GAMES.**

1.4.7 Each team competing in District 67 All Star tournament play shall have its respective affidavits completed, signed by both the respective League's President and Player Agent, signed by the District Administrator or designated representative, and all supporting documentation (medical releases, proofs of residency and birth certificates, or other accepted age verification documentation) completed and assembled prior to the commencement of tournament play. Alternate players are not authorized, nor shall they accompany the team, nor shall they be listed on the official affidavit. All players listed on the affidavit shall meet all of the player eligibility requirements as delineated on page T-5 of the Tournament Rules section of the current Little League Baseball (or Softball, as applicable) Official Regulations and Playing Rules.

1.4.8 All teams competing in District 67 All Star tournaments strictly adhere to the mandatory play requirements as outlined in Rule 9 (page T-16) of the Tournament Rules and Guidelines for Little League Baseball, 9-10 Year Old Division, 10-11 Year Old Division, Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior Division, and Senior Division.

1.4.9 The use of an illegal bat, as defined by Little League Baseball (or Softball, as applicable) Official Regulations and Playing Rules is prohibited. Under Tournament Rules and Guidelines, page T-12, penalties for the use of an illegal bat are “[see Rule 6.06 (d)], 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:

i. The batter is out (**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;

ii. 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.”

1.4.10 Current Tournament Rules and Guidelines may be downloaded directly from Little League Baseball at:

http://www.littleleague.org/Assets/forms_pubs/tournaments/TournamentRules-Baseball.pdf

Section 6 All Star Tournaments

1.5 District 67, along with Districts 8, 15, and 73 comprise California Section 6. All teams that win the District 67 All Star Tournament are eligible to advance to the Section 6 All Star Tournament and compete against teams representing the other three Districts in Section 6.

1.5.1 Managers, coaches, and players of teams representing District 67 shall display exemplary conduct and participate in all tournament play with highest possible level of sportsmanship and fair play.

1.5.2 Any league, with a team participating in a Section 6 tournament, shall have at least one member of its Board of Directors, in attendance whenever its team is playing in a Section 6 tournament. It is the responsibility of this representative to ensure all players, managers, coaches and spectators adhere to the principles, rules, and regulations of Little League Baseball and Softball.

1.5.3 By mutual agreement of all of the District Administrators in Section 6, a “Code of Conduct” for players, managers, and coaches has been adopted. All teams representing District 67 by participating in a Section 6 tournament shall strictly adhere to this Code of Conduct.

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1.5.4 Tournament sites for all Section 6 tournaments are rotated annually among the four Districts within Section 6.

1.5.5 All District 67 leagues that are hosting a Section 6 tournament are required to also provide on the first full day of Section play, lunch for all players, managers, coaches and umpires, participating in the Section 6 tournament. See paragraph 2.1.13 of this guidebook.

Division All Star Tournaments

1.6 All teams that win their respective Section 6 tournament advance to Division tournament play. Division tournament play consists of teams representing all of northern California. As a result, Division tournament games may be played anywhere in northern California.

1.6.1 Teams representing District 67 and Section 6 in Division play shall display exemplary conduct and participate in all tournament play with highest possible level of sportsmanship and fair play.

1.6.2 Any league, with a team participating in a Division tournament, shall have at least one member of its Board of Directors, in attendance whenever its team is playing in a Division tournament. It is the responsibility of this representative to ensure all players, managers, coaches and spectators adhere to the principles, rules, and regulations of Little League Baseball and Softball.

1.6.3 Division tournament play is the highest level of competition for teams in 9-10 year old and 10-11 year old age groups.

1.6.4 All District 67 leagues that are hosting a Division tournament are required to also provide on the first full day of Division play, lunch for all players, managers, coaches and umpires, participating in the Division tournament. See paragraph 2.1.13 of this guidebook.

Western Region and World Series Tournaments

1.7 Teams winning their respective Division tournament advance to the West Regional tournament. For teams in the 11-12 year old age group, the West Regional is held every year in San Bernardino, California.

1.7.1 Players, coaches and managers are lodged in dormitory-style rooms at Little League's Western Regional Headquarters. The Northern California representative will compete against other Division champions from Southern California, Hawaii, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. The winner of this tournament advances to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania as the representative of the United States West Region.

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1.7.2 Junior and Senior West Region Tournaments are held at various locations throughout the West Region. The winners of these tournaments also advance to their respective World Series tournaments held at various sites throughout the nation.

Host League Responsibilities

2.1 Leagues hosting any District 67 sponsored tournament (Tournament of Champions, District All Star, Section or Division) shall agree to provide, at a minimum, the follow for all tournament games:

2.1.1 Provide the best possible playing conditions. All Major or Minor games shall be played upon Major fields only. Exception to this rule can only be made with the consent of the District Administrator.

2.1.2 Before each game the following, at a minimum, shall be performed: cut grass (daily), drag field, water down infield, secure bases properly and mark field (foul lines, batter's, catcher's and coaches' boxes, first base alley and out of bounds line, etc) strictly in accordance with the Little League Rule Book (see Section IV of this SOP for more details) and re-chalk batter's box after infield practice, if needed. Foul lines shall be chalked or painted all the way to the outfield fence foul pole.

2.1.3 Provide the League President or a Board Member to assist the Tournament Site Director. He/she must be familiar with regular season rules and Little League Tournament rules.

2.1.4 Provide at least one current Little League rulebook in score booth. If no score booth is available, provide roped off area with table and chairs for scorekeepers. The Tournament Site Director shall establish the scorekeepers' location away from the fans and ensure it has a clear and unobstructive view of the playing field. Additionally, each Host League shall ensure that each dugout is properly roped off, or otherwise clearly delineated, to ensure that immediately prior to, during and immediately following each game no spectators have direct or indirect contact or communication with any player, manager or coach. No public access or direct contact to the dugouts shall be provided to spectators during All-Star tournaments. (District, Section, Division, Regional and World Series.)

2.1.5 Provide the Tournament Site Director with written ground rules for your field at least thirty (30) minutes before game time.

2.1.6 At all games, furnish a game announcer, a public address (P.A.) system, United States flag and the ability to play the National Anthem over the P.A. system. Also furnish a Safety Director, foul ball chasers and scoreboard operator.

2.1.7 At least thirty minutes prior to the scheduled first pitch of each game, the Host League shall provide at least three new Little League tournament-approved (RS-T) game balls to the plate umpire, with additional new game balls available, upon request.

2.1.8 Shall provide a first-aid kit and ice packs.

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2.1.9 Shall post in the score booth and in the snack bar the name and address of the field location, name and phone number of a doctor, ambulance, nearest hospital, fire department and police department. All host Leagues **shall** have a working telephone (regular or cellular) on site.

2.1.10 Shall aid the Tournament Site Director in crowd control and assist the Tournament Director in whatever manner is required to properly manage and administer the Tournament.

2.1.11 Host League is responsible for providing water for both dugouts.

2.1.12 Provide adequate vehicle parking for all umpires scheduled to work the daily schedule of games, as well as the District Administrator or his/her designated representative.

2.1.13 On the first full day of Section and/or Division tournament play, the Host League shall provide for all players, managers, coaches, and umpires, at a minimum, hamburgers/hot dogs, snack, and beverage, at no charge to any of the participants or participating leagues.

Game Day Schedule of Activities

2.2 The following schedule of activities shall be strictly adhered to for all District 67 sponsored tournaments. If the Tournament is running behind schedule, the Tournament Director has the discretion to shorten the length of the infield practice, or cancel it outright.

2.2.1 **Sixty minutes prior to scheduled first pitch:** Both teams arrive at field and commence warm-ups. Depending on the number of players present and ready to play teams may have either one manager and one coach or one manager and two coaches on the field during warm-ups.

2.2.2 **Fifty-five minutes prior to first pitch:** Each manager shall report to the Tournament Director for pre-game coin toss. The team traveling the greatest distance to the game site shall have the option to call “heads” or “tails.” The winner of the coin toss then has the option to select either “home team” or “visiting team” or choice of dugout. Once the winner has selected an option, the other team’s manager shall select one of the remaining options.

2.2.3 **Thirty-five minutes prior to first pitch:** Each manager shall submit to the Official Scorekeeper an official line-up with players’ first and last names, position, and jersey number. All ineligible pitchers shall be clearly designated as such. For information on the minimum requirements for an official line-up see Sections 2.4.7 and 3.2.1.

2.2.4 **Thirty minutes prior to first pitch:** The Visiting team shall be allowed the option of taking infield practice for 10 minutes.

2.2.5 **Twenty minutes prior to first pitch:** The Home team shall be allowed the option of taking infield practice for 10 minutes.

2.2.6 **Ten minutes prior to first pitch:** Pregame Ceremonies – Introduction of complete roster (including player positions), coaches and managers. Only those named on the roster/affidavit shall be allowed on the field. Visiting team to be announced first, then home team. Alternatively, players are to take position from home plate to either first or third base. Players shall be introduced either alphabetically by last name or numerically by uniform number. No reference as to whether the player is a “starter” or “substitute” shall be made. Announce umpires by position. Umpires to take position behind home plate facing teams. Play National Anthem and recite Little League pledge.

2.2.7 **Five minutes prior to first pitch:** Managers meet with the Umpires and Tournament Director at Home Plate and exchange line-ups and review ground rules.

2.2.8 **Schedule first pitch time: PLAY BALL!**

Tournament/Site Director Responsibilities

2.3 All Tournament/Tournament Site Directors shall comply with the following requirements when hosting a District 67 sponsored tournament:

2.3.1 All Tournament/Tournament Site Directors shall have thorough knowledge of all regular season rules and Little League tournament rules and be prepared to interpret, instruct and follow them with the spirit and intent they are intended.

2.3.2 Arrive at playing field one and a half (1 ½) hours before game time. Follow pre-game schedule (see Section 2.2).

2.3.3 Verify pitcher eligibility by reviewing pitching logs.

2.3.4 Resolve protests ONLY when called upon for help by chief umpire.

2.3.5 Tournament Site Director or umpires are responsible for the inspection of playing equipment of both teams. Some items to look for are:

(a) Bat length, bats that won't pass freely through LL approved bat ring, loose sleeves on aluminum bats, cracked bats, etc.

(b) Cracked or painted helmets, decals (unless team manager has with him/her letter from manufacturer regarding the paint or decal or if it was applied by the manufacturer) or with missing or loose pads shall not be allowed.

(c) Players age 12 and under playing catcher shall use long or short model chest protector with high collar, Junior and Senior catchers may use long or short model chest protectors. All players warming up pitcher must wear mask with dangling throat guard. Hockey-style mask **must** have a throat guard.

(d) Rule 1.17 shall apply and be strictly enforced:

*"1.1 7 All male players must wear athletic supporters. Male catchers must wear the metal, fiber or plastic type cup, and a long or short-model chest protector. Female catchers must wear long or short model chest protectors. All catchers must wear chest protectors with neck collar, throat guard, shin guards and catchers helmet all of which must meet Little League specifications and standards. Catcher's helmet must meet NOCSAE specifications and standards. All catchers must wear a mask, "dangling" type throat protector and catcher's helmet during practice, pitcher warm-up and games. **Note:** Skull caps are not permitted."*

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2.3.6 Be alert throughout the game for control and safety practices. Keep fans away from both dugouts. The Tournament Site Director is expected to remain at the playing field until completion of game.

2.3.7 Check medical release forms for each player. IF THERE IS NO MEDICAL RELEASE FORM, A PLAYER CANNOT PARTICIPATE UNLESS THEIR PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN IS IN THE STANDS.

2.3.8 At the end of the game make sure to:

(a) For All-Star teams – have official scorekeeper sign the Little League All-Star Pitching Affidavit. **Ensure pitching records are posted in ink before signing. Umpires are not required to sign scorebooks. If there are discrepancies between the pitching affidavit and the scorebook before or at a subsequent game, the pitching affidavit rules.**

(b) Following elimination games, each team shall line up on their respective baselines so that the eliminated team may receive their District 67 (or Section or Division, as appropriate) All-Star pins.

Tournament Managers & Coaches Code of Conduct

2.4 By direction of the District Administrator of District 67 the following rules shall be strictly enforced throughout all tournament play:

2.4.1 At least one adult, either the manager or the coach must be in the dugout at all times whenever at least one or more players are in the dugout. If a team wishes to keep its own scorebook, then the manager or one of the coaches shall be the team's scorekeeper. At no time may a manager, coach or player have contact nor communicate with a scorekeeper outside their respective dugout other than the official tournament scorekeeper.

2.4.2 **Dress Code:** All players shall comply with all provisions of the Little League Baseball Rule Book regarding uniforms and equipment. All managers and coaches shall wear either long pants (slacks) or shorts that are their respective team colors or of neutral colors black, gray, khaki or white. All shorts and pants shall be hemmed. Shorts must be Bermuda, tennis or walking-type shorts. At no time shall a coach or manager wear cut-offs, gym or running shorts, running pants or running suits, sweatpants, or any other attire that an umpire or tournament official finds inappropriate. All coaches and managers may wear a team jersey or coaching shirt, or a collared "golf-type" shirt, in the respective team colors or in neutral colors of black, white, gray or khaki. Plain, non-collared T-shirts or T-shirts with non-team or non-Little League related designs or logos are not allowed. Tank top shirts are not allowed. All managers and coaches are prohibited from wearing sandals or "flip-flops," or any other type of "open-toe" footwear. All players, managers, and coaches shall have their shirts/jerseys tucked in at all times while on the field of play or in the dugout. At no time may a coach or manager wear any type of denim shorts or pants. In the event of inclement weather, coaches and managers may wear jackets or sweatshirts. **THE DRESS CODE IS NOT OPTIONAL.**

2.4.3 Official line-ups shall be submitted to the official scorekeeper no less than thirty-five minutes prior to the scheduled game time. Official line-ups shall be submitted to the Umpire and Official Scorekeeper using a standardized carbon-less copy line-up designed for use in Little League Baseball (www.battlingorders.com) or of similar design, approved by District 67. **No other line-ups shall be accepted by the official scorekeeper or the umpire.**

2.4.4 When making line-up changes between innings, managers **are strongly encouraged** to make line-up changes immediately following the third out of the previous half-inning and not waiting until the next half-inning is about to begin. Offensive players may also be "self-entered" (**and this is also strongly encouraged**) as they come up to bat by just informing the Home Plate umpire that they are entering the game and giving the umpire the number of the player that is being replaced.

2.4.5 The conduct of all players, coaches, managers and League Officials shall be closely scrutinized by District 67 officials. The umpires shall be in complete charge of all games once started. League presidents and Board Members shall support the umpires fully. Umpires shall enforce all rules with **SPECIAL** emphasis on good sportsmanship by all participants.

2.4.6 ANY PLAYER, MANAGER, COACH OR OFFICIAL WHO BECOMES INVOLVED IN AN ALTERCATION AT THE GAME SITE MAY BE SUSPENDED OR REMOVED INDEFINITELY FROM ALL POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT PLAY.

2.4.7 The manager and coaches are totally and completely responsible for the conduct of their team members at all times. After investigation of all complaints and ejections, the manager, coach or player may be suspended or removed from the team. All penalties shall be enforced through the League President.

2.4.8 Any player or manager making an appeal play shall make the appeal in accordance with the Little League Rule Book and to the appropriate umpire (i.e., the umpire whose call it is to make). Improper appeals shall not be allowed and play shall be continued.

2.4.9 All players in tournament play:

- (a) Shall conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times. No profanity or unsportsmanlike conduct shall be tolerated.
- (b) Shall not throw equipment.
- (c) Shall remain in the dugout. Base coaches must be in their respective boxes. No player may leave the field or dugout without the permission of an umpire after the game has started.
- (d) Shall not make any exhibition or demonstration about any judgment call by an umpire, including strike or ball, safe or out, and fair or foul balls.
- (e) Positive cheering encouraged:
 - a. No taunting, banging on fences, verbal comments directed at the opponent, or other acts of poor sportsmanship
 - b. This **DOES NOT** imply that the dugouts need to be silent during the pitcher's delivery, but there shouldn't be increasing volume, screaming, whistling, etc., in an effort to distract the pitcher. This is a baseball game – there will be some noise and players will need to deal with it.

2.4.10 The following is expected of all managers and coaches in tournament play:

- (a) They shall conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times. No profanity or unsportsmanlike conduct shall be tolerated.
- (b) They shall remain in the dugout after the game starts. Sitting on buckets at dugout opening is not permitted.

- (c) They shall request time and receive time before leaving dugout.
- (d) Only the manager or one of his coaches may come out of the dugout when time is requested and granted by an umpire.
- (e) From the time a team first arrives at the field for warm-ups until the teams have left the field at the conclusion of the game, only rostered players, the manager, and coaches are permitted on the playing field, in the dugout, in bullpens or other warm-up areas. No other adults are permitted to assist with warm-ups or team pre-game preparation. This does not prevent the Tournament Site Director, grounds crew, or other host league staff or officials from being on the field to carry out their duties.

Note: Food or drink (with the exception of water or Gatorade) is not permitted in the dugouts. Also, managers shall remind parents/relatives that the players, managers and coaches are not permitted to talk with the spectators during the game. Players, managers or coaches could be ejected from the game at the discretion of the umpire, particularly if the umpire judges that game information is being communicated. Spectators shall be removed from the dugout area by the Tournament Site Director or League Official during the game.

No cell phones or other communication devices, other than those used for scorekeeping purposes, are permitted on the field or in the dugouts.

The use of any tobacco product by a player, manager or coach on or immediately adjacent to a Little League field is strictly prohibited. Any player, manager, or coach in violation of this prohibition shall be ejected for the remainder of the tournament.

FREQUENTLY VIOLATED RULES DURING TOURNAMENT PLAY

2.5 Over the years, District 67 umpires, in spite of repeated efforts to correct this problem, continually observe managers, coaches, and players participate in tournament play while at the same time being totally unfamiliar with several basic Little League Baseball Rules that should have been applied and enforced throughout their respective regular seasons. In the District's continued effort to prevent this from occurring again, all managers and coaches shall, prior to commencement of tournament play review the following sections (in their entirety) of the Little League Rule Book:

- Regulation XIV, paragraphs (a), (b), (d), (e) and (f) – Field Decorum
- Rule 1.08, Note 1 and Note 2 – On Deck Batter
- Rule 1.11(j) – No jewelry
- Rule 1.17 – Approved catcher's equipment
- Rule 3.09 – Players, managers, coaches and contact with spectators
- Rule 4.05 – Base coaches
- Rule 5.10 – Calling "Time"
- Rule 7.13 – Leaving the base early
- Rule 8.02 – "The pitcher shall not..."
- Rule 8.05 – Illegal pitch
- Rule 8.06 – Visits to the pitcher
- Rule 9.02 – Umpire's decision/judgment
- Rule T-10 – Substitution and Re-entry for Tournament Play

Little League Baseball and Softball Tournament Policy

2.6 Little League Baseball and Softball Tournament Policy

2.6.1 In a few instances during tournament play, managers have instructed players to intentionally pitch wildly for the purpose of allowing the opposing team to score runs. In these cases, the intent was:

- (a) to prolong the game for the purpose of extending it beyond the current half-inning, in order to fulfill the minimum requirements of mandatory play, or,
- (b) to lose the game intentionally for the purpose of influencing the tiebreaker system under the Pool Play Format.

2.6.2 In other cases, managers have instructed hitters and runners to intentionally take action that would result in being called out (to shorten the game for any purpose).

2.6.3 When it becomes apparent to the umpire that the level of play in the game has deteriorated (by the actions of either team), the game should be stopped. If, in the umpire's judgment, either team is engaged in the actions above, the umpire should refer the issue to the Tournament Director, who should then contact the appropriate Regional Center for a decision by the Tournament Committee in Williamsport.

2.6.4 The Tournament Committee shall not tolerate this type of behavior, as it undermines the values of sportsmanship and fair play that should be foremost on the minds of all adults involved. When such behavior is brought to the attention of the Tournament Committee, the Tournament Committee may impose penalties up to and including suspension or revocation of tournament privileges for the league, team, manager, coaches and/or players involved, and/or forfeiture of the game.

Note: This policy is not to be interpreted as a prohibition against intentional walks when used as a tactic on the part of the defense to set up a force-out, double-play, to avoid pitching to a strong hitter, etc. Such intentional walks should be considered a natural part of the game.

2.6.5 All appeal plays shall be conducted in accordance with the current edition of the Little League Baseball (or Softball, as applicable) Rule Book and toward the appropriate umpire. It is the responsibility of the players, coaches and managers to know and understand how to properly conduct an appeal play. **An appeal that is not conducted in accordance with the rules shall not be ruled upon by the umpire.**

2.6.6 **No umpire shall overrule another umpire's judgment call unless the umpire who made the original call requests assistance from another umpire.** The umpire may request assistance on his or her own volition, or a player, coach or manager may

directly request the umpire who made the original call to seek assistance from another umpire. Should the umpire who made the original judgment call inform the player, coach, or manager that his or her judgment decision was correct and no assistance is necessary, the decision stands as originally called and play shall resume.

2.6.7 The use of an ineligible pitcher is considered to be a violation of safety regulations, not playing rules. Therefore, it is the responsibility of all game officials (umpires, managers, coaches, players, scorekeepers, etc.) to ensure that only eligible pitchers pitch, or continue pitching in the game. Should an ineligible pitcher be allowed to pitch in game and a protest is filed by the offended team, and during the course of the adjudication of the protest it becomes clear that the offended team knew in advance of the pitcher's ineligible status and took no corrective action to prevent said pitcher from pitching, the Tournament Protest Committee may (and has) levy sanctions against the managers of both teams, up to and including ejection from further tournament play.

2.6.8 It is the responsibility of the players, coaches or managers to appeal any possible violations of batting out of order. In accordance with the Little League Rule Book, "The umpire and scorekeeper shall not direct the attention of any persons to the presence in the batter's box of an improper batter." (Rule 6.07, Note)

Safety Rules

3.1 The following safety rules shall be strictly enforced for all District 67 sponsored tournaments:

3.1.1 No jewelry (bracelets, necklaces, rings, earrings, etc) or pins (with the exception of Medic-Alert jewelry) are allowed to be worn by a player. Pins on players, managers and coaches' hats shall be removed. Medic-Alert bracelets and necklaces shall be covered with skin-colored tape.

3.1.2 Players who throw a bat, a helmet or any other equipment while on the field shall be removed from the game if in the judgment of the umpire the act was deliberate and intentional.

3.1.3 In the event of an injury to a player during a play, no one may enter the playing field until the umpire calls "time" or the ball has become dead from other legal causes. The Tournament Director is to make sure that all players stay away from the injured player. No parent is allowed on the field unless called for by the personnel attending to the injured player.

3.1.4 The plate umpire may allow the lead-off batter out of the dugout with a bat between innings. In levels of play where the on-deck batter is permitted (Junior, Senior, and Big League), the on-deck batter shall remain in the dugout until the lead-off batter is called to the plate. Base coaches (both adults and/or players) may not leave the dugout for their appropriate position until the pitcher has completed his preparatory pitches.

3.1.5 No adult shall warm-up pitchers at any time before, during or after a game. A player shall wear a catcher's helmet and mask with dangling throat guard during pitcher warm-up and infield practice.

Tournament Game Rules & Procedures

3.2 The following rules and procedures shall be followed for all District 67 sponsored tournaments:

3.2.1 Line-up cards shall be made out in quadruplicate (listing ineligible players/pitchers) on a District 67 approved form with a copy given to the official scorekeeper, umpire and other manager. Line-up cards shall be clearly legible and all starters and substitutes and include the players' jersey number, first and last names, and position, if starting. Managers shall turn in one copy of their completed lineup cards to the Official Scorekeeper at least 35 minutes prior to the start of the game and bring one copy and 2 additional copies to the umpire's plate meeting 5 minutes prior to the game. The lineups are official once they are verified by the plate umpire. Managers may make changes or correct errors right up to that point.

3.2.2 All games shall be completed in accordance with the Little League Rule Book. Players shall hustle on and off the field. Between innings, umpires are directed to allow for six warm-up pitches or one minute (whatever occurs first) between each half-inning. (Remember, by rule, the next half-inning begins as soon as the third out is made!)

3.2.3 Managers shall not leave the dugout until recognized by the umpire.

3.2.4 Managers, coaches and players shall not be permitted to leave the field during the game to smoke. *Chewing tobacco is not allowed anywhere on or near a Little League field.*

3.2.5 All protests must be resolved before the next pitch or play. No protest shall be considered once the next pitch or play has been made. Umpires may (but are not required to) consult with the Tournament Site Director to assist with a rule interpretation or help resolve a protest. If a problem cannot be resolved, the umpire-in-chief shall suspend the game and refer the problem immediately to the Tournament Site Director who will develop an understanding of the protest and contact the appropriate party.

3.2.6 The Tournament Site Director will go to make the call regarding the protest. Both managers may accompany the Tournament Site Director, but will not be allowed to speak during the phone call. The Tournament Site Director will develop a clear understanding of the protest prior to the call and then inform the protest committee of the situation. The Tournament Site Director can delegate the phone call to the plate umpire. **Absolutely no more comments shall be accepted from the managers after the decision is rendered and play shall resume immediately.**

3.2.7 Tournament Site Directors should immediate contact the District Administrator whenever a protest situation exists.

3.2.8 **Please complete form included in the end of this section for all protest. You will be asked this information by Western Region when calling for a ruling on your**

protest. Tournament Field Directors are provided with the necessary phone number in their Tournament Book. Western Region will call Williamsport after a ruling has been issued and either manager chooses to continue a protest. After the protest is resolved, please phone the District Administrator to inform him of the details of the protest and the decision by Western Region or the Tournament Committee in Williamsport.

Note: Western Region will only speak to a Tournament Director or Chief Umpire. Williamsport will only speak to Western Region.

3.2.9 If a manager, coach or spectator is ejected from a game, the individual shall leave the playing field and the host League's premises immediately. For a player ejection – if there is no parent or guardian in attendance, the player must remain in the dugout in the custody of his manager or coach.

3.2.10 At the conclusion of All-Star tournament games, the official scorekeepers shall complete the Little League All-Star tournament pitching affidavit in ink. Each team has a separate affidavit. Umpires do not need to sign scorebooks. Pitching affidavits must be delivered to the tournament director prior to each game and shall be available for review by the opposing manager, upon request, prior to the game. If there is a discrepancy between the pitching affidavit and a team's scorebook prior to or at a subsequent game, the affidavit rules. Managers must be sure to review their affidavit and resolve any discrepancies through the Tournament Field Director before leaving the game site.

3.2.11 No cell phones, pagers or other electronic communication devices are permitted on the fields or in the dugouts one the game has started.

3.2.12 No artificial noise makers are permitted during the games.

Public Address Procedures

3.3 Public Address announcers for all District 67 tournaments shall strictly comply with the following procedures.

3.3.1 All personnel working as public address announcers must remember that each District 67 tournament game is considered to be played at a “neutral site” and that at no time anytime any type of favoritism or other unsportsmanlike or unbecoming behavior is to be exhibited or encouraged by the public address announcer. Every announcer shall use the following procedures for all District 67 tournament games:

3.3.2 At least thirty minutes prior to the first pitch the public address announcer shall obtain from the official scorekeeper a copy of both of the teams’ line-ups and rosters.

3.3.3 The public address announcer shall review each player’s name and the proper pronunciation with a coach or manager of the player’s respective team.

3.3.4 During pregame introductions, the public address announcer shall read the initial welcome (see the Announcer’s form located in this guidebook) and then introduce the Visiting team, either alphabetically by last name or numerically by jersey number, then the manager and coaches. The announcer shall then introduce the Home team in the same manner. The Umpires are then introduced, beginning with the Home Plate umpire, and then followed by 1st Base, 2nd Base, and 3rd Base.

3.3.5 Once all of the teams and umpires have been introduced, the public address announcer will request that everyone stand for the National Anthem and remain standing for the Little League Pledge.

3.3.6 Following the conclusion of the Little League Pledge, the public address announcer shall direct the teams back to their respective dugouts and ask that the managers meet with the umpires at home plate.

3.3.7 Once the “play ball” signal has been given by the Home Plate umpire, the public address announcer shall announce the name and number of the player that is coming to bat. **AT NO TIME, SHALL THE PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCER ANNOUNCE THE NAME AND NUMBER OF THE PLAYER WHO SHOULD BE AT BAT. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCER ONLY ANNOUNCE THE NAME AND NUMBER OF THE PLAYER WHO IS ACTUALLY PHYSICALLY AT BAT.** This is extremely important procedure to follow because games have been lost and won when public address announcers were following their score card and not what was actually happening in the game. This procedure is in accordance with the Little League Rule Book, “The umpire and scorekeeper shall not direct the attention of any persons to the presence in the batter’s box of an improper batter.” (Rule 6.07, Note)

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3.3.8 At no time shall the public address system be used when the ball is in play or about to be pitched.

3.3.9 All changes, once officially recorded by the official scorekeeper, shall be announced, during an appropriate break in the game, by the public address announcer.

3.3.10 At the conclusion of each half inning, the Public Address Announcer shall announce the previous pitcher's cumulative pitch count.

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Tournament Announcer

Date: _____ **Level of Play** _____

Good Morning / Afternoon / Evening

Welcome to _____.

The game today is between _____ and _____.

A few announcements before the start of the game: The use of tobacco and alcohol is prohibited at all Little League events. Fraternization with the participants is not allowed. Should you fraternize with the participants, you shall be asked to stop. If you do not stop the fraternization, you will be asked to leave. For your information, the players have been provided with water by the host league, so the passing of food and drinks to the participants will not be allowed. For your convenience, there is a snack bar open for you to enjoy during the game. District 67 wishes to remind all in attendance that all managers, coaches, umpires and tournament officials are volunteers and that all players, managers, coaches, umpires and spectators are required to conduct themselves in a manner which shall bring credit to themselves, their teams, their communities, their coaches, and their families. All players, coaches, manager, and spectators are required to refrain from any conduct which degrades baits, intimidates, or otherwise discredits their opponents or an official. Anyone who violates this requirement will be asked to leave the game site.

Visiting Team Introductions:

Home Team Introductions:

Umpires for today's game are:

Plate _____ 1st Base _____

2nd Base _____ 3rd Base _____

Winning team will play: Date _____ Place _____ Time _____.

Losing team will play: Date _____ Place _____ Time _____.

(Note: Check the tournament book and announce where each team will play next.)

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LITTLE LEAGUE PROTEST FORM

CALL INFORMATION

District Administrator: Paul Zwickey

Tournament Director: _____ **District:** 67 **State:** CA **Phone:** _____

Protesting Official's Name: _____ **Title:** _____

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Level of Play:

District _____ Section _____ State _____ Division _____ Region _____ Division: Baseball

Age Group:

9 & 10 _____ 10 & 11 _____ Minors _____ Majors _____ Intermediate _____

Juniors _____ Seniors _____ Big League _____

Tournament Format:

Double Elimination _____ Double Elimination _____ Pool Play _____

Date(s) of Next Game(s) for Winner or Loser: W _____ L _____

GAME INFORMATION

Protesting Team: _____ **Home or Visitor:** _____ **League No.** _____

Opposing Team: _____ **Home or Visitor:** _____ **League No.** _____

Umpire-in-Chief: _____

Situation immediately before the umpire's call or decision resulting in the protest:

Inning: Top of _____ **Bottom of** _____ **Outs** _____ **Score:** H _____ v. V _____
Runners on: 1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____ **Count on Batter:** S _____ B _____

Details of Protest:

Committee Decision (To be relayed through Regional Director or District Administrator or Tournament Director at the level of protest):

Recorded by: _____

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TOURNAMENT NO SHOW/FORFEIT FORM

Western Region

Date: _____

District Administrator: Paul Zwickey

Tournament Director: _____ **State:** CA **District:** 67

Tournament Information:

Level of Play: ☐ District ☐ Section ☐ State ☐ Division ☐ Region

Baseball: ☐ 9 & 10 ☐ LLB ☐ ILB(50/70) ☐ JLB ☐ SLB ☐ BLB

Tournament Format: ☐ Double Elimination ☐ Double Elimination ☐ Pool Play

Date(s) of Next Game for Winner and/or Loser W: ____ L: _____

Game Information

Team without enough players: _____ **League ID#:** _____

Scheduled Opponent: _____ **Current Time:** _____

Scheduled Time of Game: _____ **Game in Progress?** _____

If yes, current score: H: _____ v. V: _____

Reason(s) for team not having enough players to begin/continue game: _____

Committee Decision (To be replayed through Regional Director to District Administrator or Tournament Director at the level of protest): _____

Recorded by: _____

Required Field Layout and Markings

4.1 All fields used in tournament play shall be marked in accordance with the current edition of the Little League Rule Book.

4.2 The following requirements are the minimum standards for field markings for Little League Baseball (12 and under) tournaments.

4.2.1 Batters' Boxes. Little League Baseball batters' boxes are rectangles 6' long and 3' wide. The inside edge of each batter's box is located 4" from the edge of homeplate and centered on the middle of homeplate so that three feet of the batter's box is in front of the middle of homeplate and three feet of the box is behind the middle of homeplate. Both batters' boxes shall be square to the pitcher's plate and parallel to each other.

4.2.2 Foul Lines. Foul lines shall be drawn from the top edge of each batter's box, along the outside edge of both first and third base and extend to the outfield foul pole. When drawing the lines, a string shall be attached from the back point of homeplate, along the outer edge of the respective base and to the foul pole. The outer edge of the chalk or paint line shall correspond directly with string line. No paint or chalk shall be located on the foul side of either first or third base.

4.2.3 First Base Running Lane. The first base running lane shall be drawn beginning at a midpoint between homeplate and first base (30 feet) and be located 3 feet off of the first base foul line and run parallel to the baseline in foul territory ending at the back edge of first base. **This is NOT an optional marking.**

4.2.4 Coaches' Boxes. The Little League Coaches' Box is a 8' by 4' rectangle located 6' from the first and third foul lines in foul territory. The back edge of the coach's box is aligned with and abeam to the back edge of the respective base.

4.2.5 Catcher's Box. The Little League Baseball Catcher's Box is a trapezoid shaped area defined by extending each foul line behind homeplate 9' from the back point of homeplate and then connecting the extended lines with a line parallel to the front of homeplate.

4.3 The following requirements are the minimum standards for field markings for Junior League, Senior League and Big League tournament play.

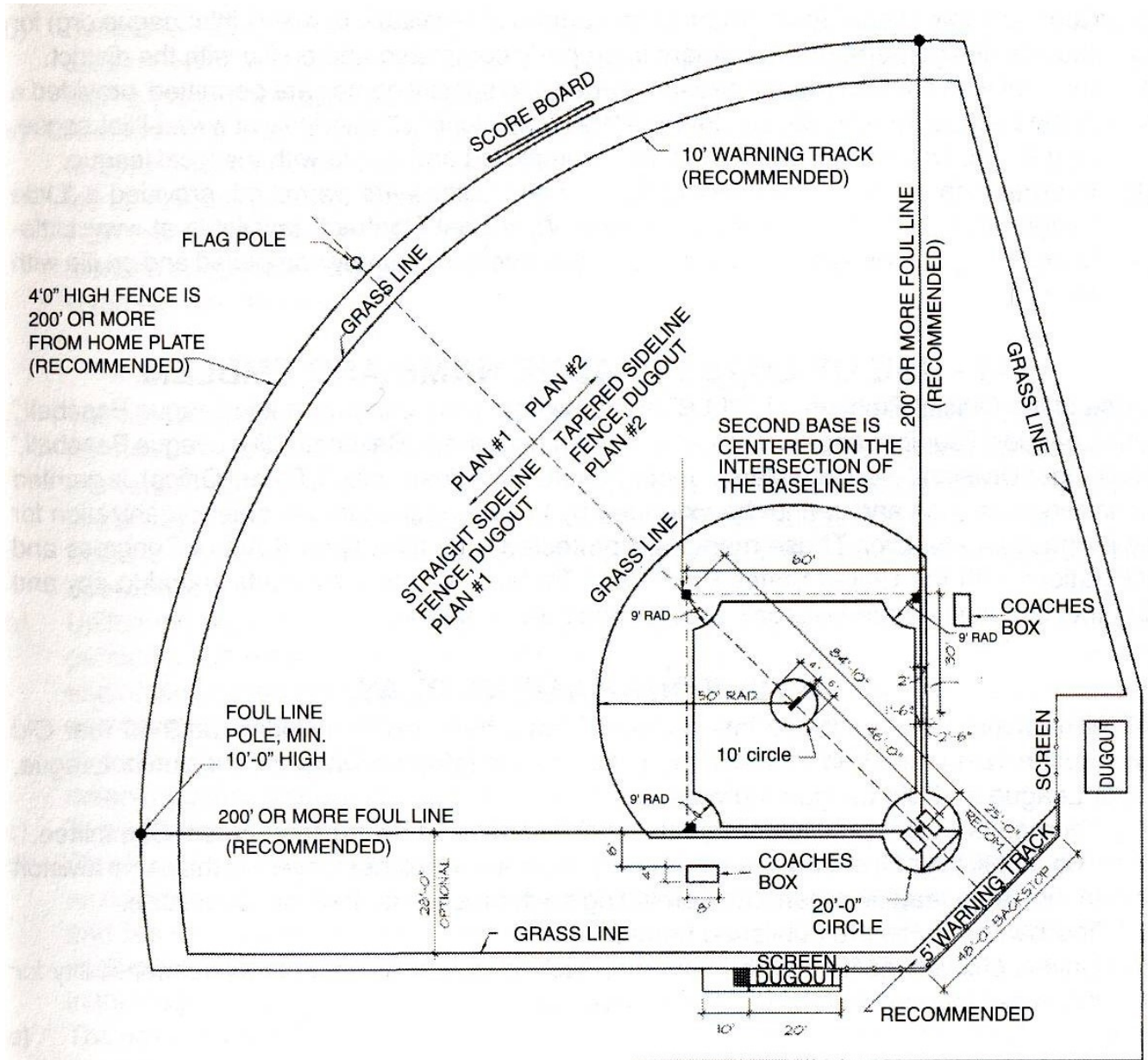
4.3.1 Batters' Boxes. Little League Baseball batters' boxes are rectangles 6' long and 4' wide. The inside edge of each batter's box is located 6" from the edge of homeplate and centered on the middle of homeplate so that three feet of the batter's box is in front of the middle of homeplate and three feet of the box is behind the middle of homeplate. Both batters' boxes shall be square to the pitcher's plate and parallel to each other.

4.3.2 Foul Lines. Foul lines shall be drawn from the top edge of each batter's box, along the outside edge of both first and third base and extend to the outfield foul pole. When drawing the lines, a string shall be attached from the back point of homeplate, along the outer edge of the respective base and to the foul pole. The outer edge of the chalk or paint line shall correspond directly with string line. No paint or chalk shall be located on the foul side of either first or third base.

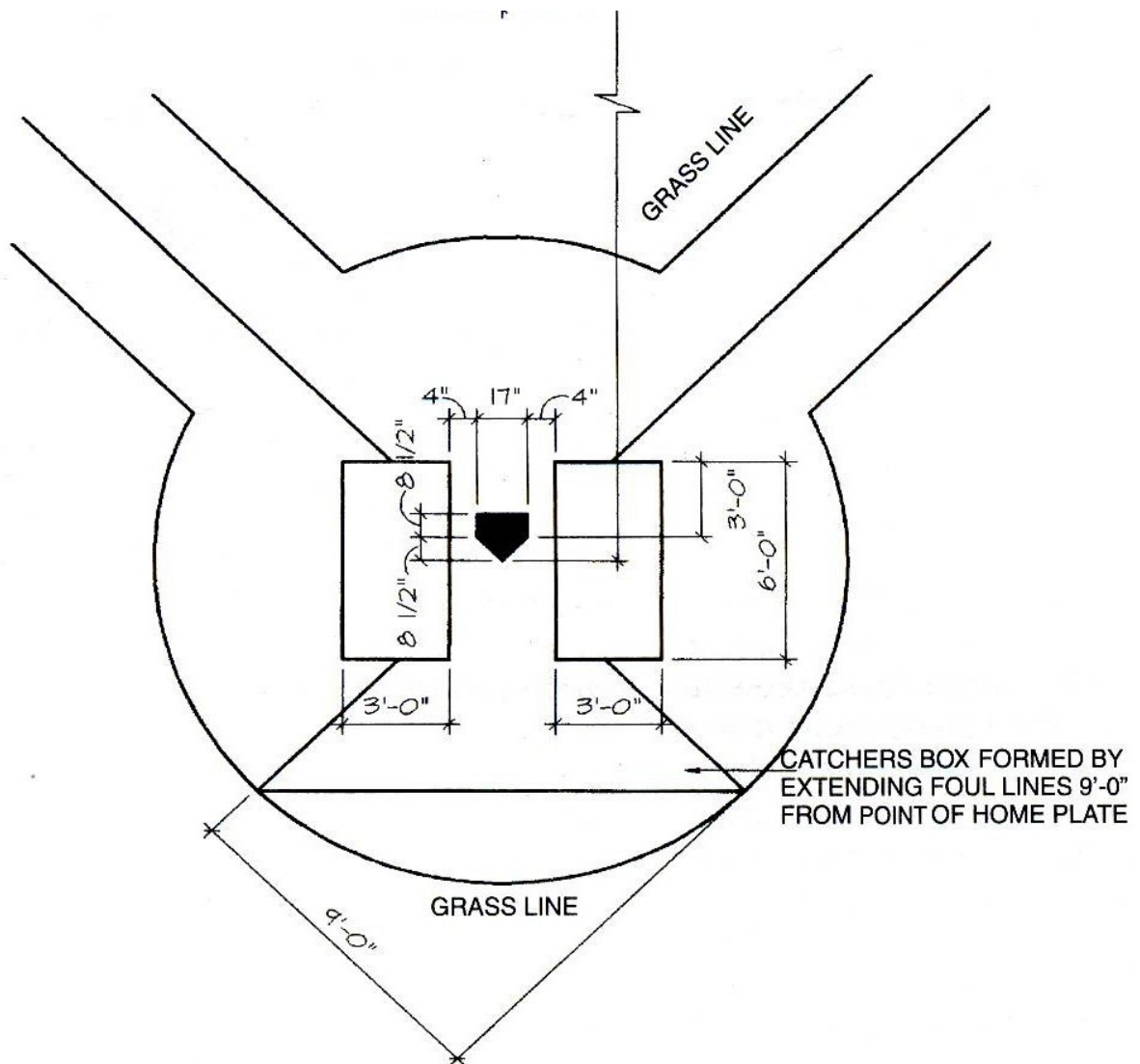
4.3.3 First Base Running Lane. The first base running lane shall be drawn beginning at a midpoint between homeplate and first base (45') and be located 3' off of the first base foul line and run parallel to the baseline in foul territory ending at the back edge of first base. **This is NOT an optional marking.**

4.3.4 Coaches' Boxes. The Coaches' Box is a 20' by 10' rectangle located 8' from the first and third foul lines in foul territory. The back edge of the coach's box is aligned with and abeam to the back edge of the respective base.

4.3.5 Catcher's Box. The Catcher's Box is a rectangular shaped area directly behind and centered on homeplate that is 43" wide and the back edge of the box is located 8' from the rear point of homeplate.

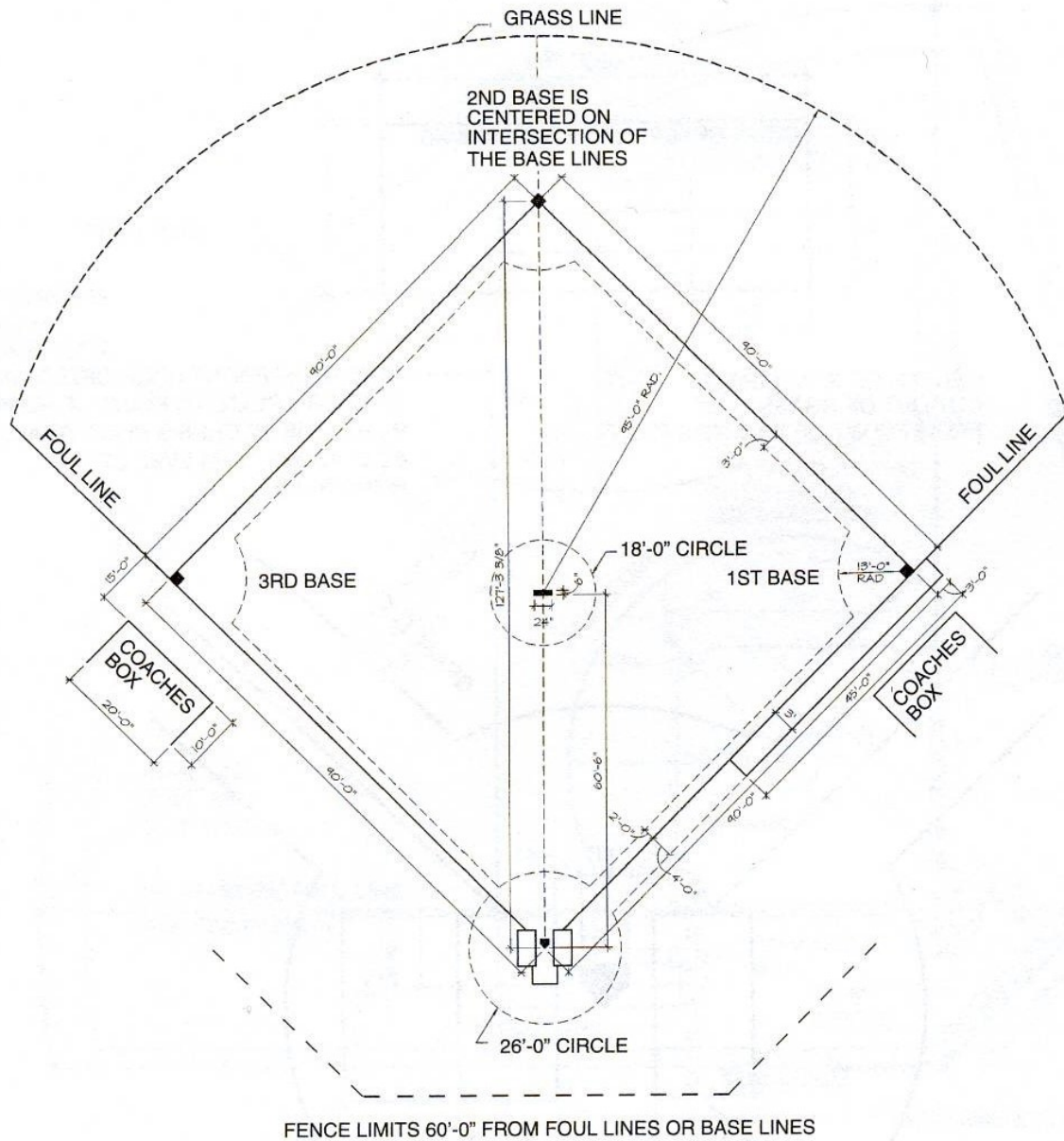


Little League Field Layout Diagram (Ages 12 and under)

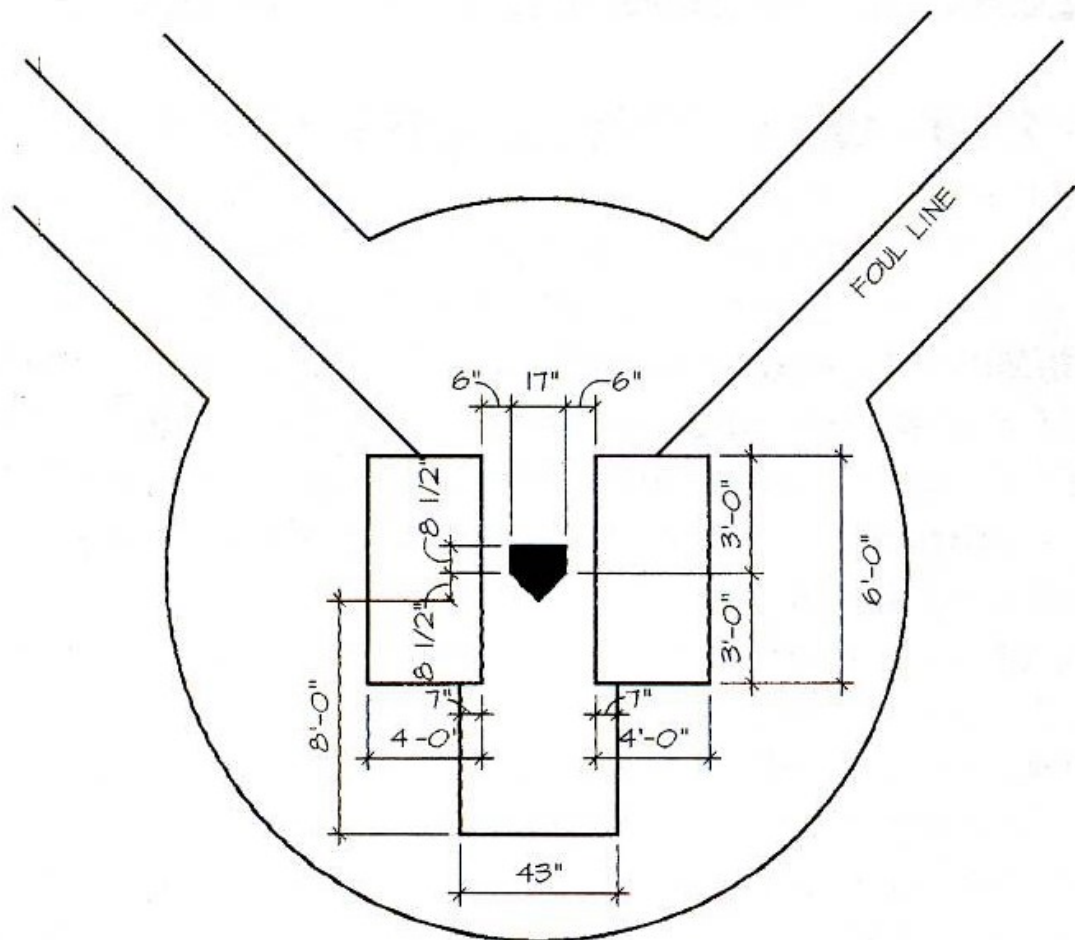


Little League Baseball Homeplate Layout Diagram (Ages 12 and under)

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Junior, Senior and Big League Field Layout Diagram (Ages 13 and older).



Junior, Senior and Big League Homeplate Layout Diagram (Ages 13 and older).