



Most Commonly Misunderstood and Misapplied Little League Rules

Based on my experience over the years, the following Rules & Regulations generate the most misunderstandings throughout regular season and tournament play.

1. **NO Adults Warming up Pitchers (SAFETY)**
 - a. **NOT** Pre-game - **NOT** in bullpen - **NOT** behind dugout - **NOT** between innings- **NOT** squatting or standing.
2. **Adults in Dugout (GAME ADMIN)**
 - a. Includes Manager, Coaches, & Scorekeeper
 - b. Must be approved Adult on the roster and/or affidavit
 - c. Depends on number of eligible players in uniform, at the game
 - 13 or more players = **THREE** Adults
 - 12 or less players = **TWO** Adults
3. **CATCHER REQUIREMENTS (SAFETY)**
 - a. **ALL CATCHERS MUST WEAR A DANGLING THROAT GUARD.**
ALL helmet/mask combinations are included. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
 - b. Catcher **MUST** wear Helmet/Mask/Dangler combination when:
 1. Warming up Pitchers
 2. Catching Infield Practice
 3. Catching Outfield Practice
 - c. **BASEBALL** Catchers must wear the **LONG-STYLE Chest Protector** in all BB tournaments played on the 60 ft. diamond.
 - d. **BASEBALL** catchers must use a catcher's mitt.
4. **NO Jewelry (except medical alert) (SAFETY)**
 - a. Earrings **CANNOT** be taped/covered with band-aid
 - b. **NO** "rubber band-type" or other non-metal jewelry
 - c. Medical Alert Jewelry should be taped in place
5. **NO ON DECK BATTER** below the Junior Level. Player may not swing a bat off the field prior to coming onto the field for their time at bat. **(SAFETY)**
6. **NO Batting Donuts. Bat Sleeves are OK (SAFETY)**
7. **Batting Helmets (SAFETY)**
 - a. **DO NOT** require Facemasks or Chin Straps
 - b. **NO** painted or stickers without permission from helmet manufacturer
8. **NO Courtesy Runners in any tournament (RULES)**
 - a. Not for pitchers, catchers or any players
 - b. Special Pinch Runner Rule 7.14 applies
9. **Pitchers MAY (RULES)**
 - a. Wear batting glove under fielder's glove

- b. Wear sunglasses
 - c. Umpires judgment if these items are distracting
 - d. Wear white undershirt, but not long sleeve white undershirt in BB
 - e. NOT wear sweatbands on arms
10. Infield Fly rule is used for **ALL** tournaments **(RULES)**
 11. Throwing the bat (unless intentional) is **NOT** an out. Player should be warned on first offense and then ejected for second offense. **(RULES)**
 12. There is **NO** Must Slide Rule at **ANY** Base. **(RULES)**
 13. Below the Junior level, Head First Slides are **NOT ALLOWED** (automatic out) when **ADVANCING**. A head first slide is **NOT** a trip, stumble, crawling to the base, touching with the hands before the feet. **(RULES)**
 14. There is **NO** rule on “How many batters a pitcher may hit with pitches before he/she has to be removed.” Intentionally hitting batters is illegal **(RULES)**
 15. First base **CAN** be overrun on a walk **(RULES)**
 16. The batter-runner may turn **LEFT OR RIGHT** after overrunning first base. Only if the Batter-Runner makes an attempt toward second base has he/she lost their “overrun” protection. **(RULES)**
 17. The pitcher’s plate (BB) or pitching circle (SB) **DOES NOT** stop continuous advancement of a base runner. On a walk, the batter-runner may advance beyond first base, if they do not stop, even if the pitcher has the ball on the pitcher’s plate (BB) or in the pitching circle (SB). **(RULES)**
 18. It is **LEGAL** to fake a bunt and then swing at a pitch. **(RULES)**
 19. The Hands are **NEVER** part of the Bat **(RULES)**
 20. If the batter does not pull the bat out of the strike zone while in the bunting position, it is **NOT** an automatic strike. **(RULES)**
 21. Pitches that bounce on the ground are **NOT** dead balls. A batter may swing, hit, foul off, etc. A batter hit by a bouncing pitch **IS** awarded first base (if the batter does not swing at the pitch). **(RULES)**
 22. Home plate is in **FAIR** territory. Balls hitting the plate **ARE NOT** dead. Batter stepping on the plate **IS NOT** automatically out. **(RULES)**

Rules questions should be directed to Gary Hall:

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Less urgent questions, email: UMPIRED27@comcast.net