



7th Inning Stretch

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This Month's Newsletter

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone is having a nice holiday.

For just about every one of us, things will slowly start to gear up for the 2006 season at about this time.

I've included a couple of articles of interest from the Little League International website and from their monthly newsletter, The Little Leaguer.

Included in these articles is a story about Little League Canada President, Joe Shea.

If you have any info about your League or District...please pass it on so that the rest of the country can see what you're up to.

Please remember to try to get anything you can to me by as close to the end of the month as possible, as I put out the new issue on the 1st of every month.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and every issue.

Bob Taunton, btaunton@littleleague.ca

District Administrator

Ontario Little League District 7

Brain Teaser

With a runner on 3rd base, the batter – runner lofts a high fly ball to left field. The runner tags and starts home, the throw beats the runner by a mile. The runner now is in a rundown between 3rd and home. At the last moment the runner dives headfirst into home. The umpire calls the runner safe.

True Or False.

Answer at the end of the newsletter.

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Rule Changes For The 2006 Season

2006 sees some rule changes for both Baseball and softball. Please click on the link below to see what the changes are:

<http://www.littleleague.org/leagueofficials/forms.asp>

You will be brought to a page where you will need to click on the appropriate link

Joe Shea Concludes His Service to Little League International Board of Directors

Taken from Little League Online

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (Dec. 13, 2005) – More than 45 years ago, Joe Shea brought his love of children and baseball north to his native Canada where he has served as president of Little League Canada since 1975, and recently completed his term on the Little League International Board of Directors.

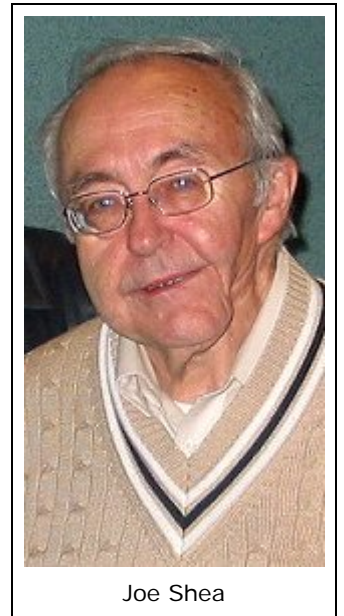
Mr. Shea and Little League Baseball and Softball have enjoyed a rich and rewarding relationship that began with him volunteering to coach a local Little League team in State College, Pa., during his college days in 1955.

Holding a seat on the Little League International Board of Directors since 1975, Mr. Shea, 70, was appointed Canada Regional Director at the annual board meeting in November.

"I tried to be the voice representing Canada and the international Little League programs," Mr. Shea said. "International teams were excluded from participating in the Little League World Series in 1975, and I was really trying to look after the international aspect of Little League."

Mr. Shea was born in Toronto, and attended Penn State University, graduating in 1958 with a degree in petroleum engineering. He and Beverly, his wife of 33 years, have two children, Ron and Kylene.

Moving to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in 1959 and taking a job with Continental Oil subsidiary Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Limited, Mr. Shea continued to serve Little League as a coach and local league volunteer with Hardisty Little League. In 1964, he moved to Calgary, and was elected as a District Administrator in 1971. In 1972, he officially joined the Little League Baseball organization as a founding director of Little League Canada. Mr. Shea continues to work as an engineering consultant.



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Little League Pledge:

I trust in God
I love my country
And will respect it's laws
I will play fair
And strive to win
But win or lose
I will always
Do my best

The Little League Parent /
Volunteer Pledge:

I will teach all children to play
fair and do their best
I will positively support all
managers, coaches and players
I will respect the decisions of
the umpires
I will praise a good effort
despite the outcome of the
game

"I tried to get more input from field directors and for that I feel the board has evolved quite well over these 30 years," Mr. Shea said. "My love is still the grassroots program, because it is so important that kids just play ball."

Such motivation prompted the creation of Little League Canada. In the beginning, field construction, improved training resources for coaches and umpires, and organization of the Little League programs throughout the country were primary goals.

"Little League Canada has always been focused on showing that Little League is an international program with a Canadian identity," Mr. Shea said. "Part of the reason I've stayed on as president was to see the growth of Little League Canada in all divisions of baseball and softball."

Mr. Shea said the Canadian Little League championship has grown into a major event and that teams representing Canada in the World Series have been good ambassadors for Canada. "I've always been proud of our Little League World Series teams," he said.

In 2001, Mr. Shea, Little League Canada, and Canada's capital city of Ottawa, welcomed Little League volunteers from around the world to the 22nd Little League International Congress – the only Congress to be conducted outside of the United States. Mr. Shea served as Congress chairman, and later that year was presented the Peter J. McGovern Distinguished Service Award during the annual Little League Baseball World Series, in Williamsport, Pa.

Mr. Shea formally retired from the Little League International board of directors in November. His current term as president of Little League Canada will end in two years.

During his three decades as an international board member, Mr. Shea has worked with former Little League International presidents Peter J. McGovern and Dr. Creighton J. Hale, and current Little League President and Chief



Joe Shea, third from left, president of Little League Canada, is joined by Joe Losch, far left (Little League International senior vice president), Roy Bergerman, second from left (a district administrator and treasurer for Little League Canada), and Chuck Bailey, far right (Canada Region assistant tournament director), in Vancouver, British Columbia, following announcement that Vancouver will be the site of the 2006 Canada Region Little League Baseball Tournament.



Joe Shea, president of Little League Canada, poses with the members of the Rotary Little League team from Rouyn, Quebec, that represented Canada in the 1982 Little League Baseball World Series while visiting the 2005 Canada Region Little League Baseball Tournament in Timmins, Ontario.

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Executive Officer, Stephen D. Keener. Throughout his experiences, Mr. Shea came to discover Little League is an outstanding organization and he is proud of its leadership.

"Mr. McGovern, Dr. Hale and Steve all have done a tremendous job," Mr. Shea said. "For me, Little League Baseball used to be a relatively brief summer activity after the hockey season ended, and now it keeps me involved year-round. I am so appreciative of the quality of people on the board, to be amongst them, and call them friends."

Optional Pitch Count Pilot Program Announced

From Little Leaguer Newsletter

Little League Pitch Count Pilot Program Offered for 2006 Season

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (Dec. 5, 2005) – Little League International will be conducting a Pitch Count Pilot Program during the 2006 season, available as an option to all of its 7,400 local programs worldwide.

The optional program will proscribe actual pitch limits on each pitcher, rather than the traditional method of limiting the number of innings.

"Little League has historically pioneered safety innovations in general and specifically in Little League," Stephen D. Keener, president and chief executive officer of Little League Baseball and Softball, said. "The Little League Pitch Count Pilot Program is a test to determine if it is feasible and practical to implement a regulation limiting the number of pitches a Little Leaguer can throw in a day, and the rest required before pitching again. Our goal would be to educate everyone, particularly parents, on the potential injuries that can occur from throwing too many pitches, and thereby reduce those injuries."

For all of Little League Baseball's history, and for the history of amateur youth baseball in general, pitching regulations have used innings pitched to determine pitcher eligibility. Recently, researchers and medical professionals in the field of sports medicine have been working to determine if the actual number of pitches thrown (i.e., pitch count) is a safer way to regulate pitching in youth baseball.

The Little League Pitch Count Pilot Program is available for the 2006 regular season to any chartered Little League that chooses to participate. It is an extension of a similar successful test program conducted by a small number of leagues in 2005.

In early 2006, Little League International will advise local leagues on how to enroll online in the Little League Pitch Count Pilot Program. Those leagues enrolling online will receive further information on tabulating pitch counts and maintaining these records. The program is for the baseball divisions of Little League only, and not for softball.

During the 2006 season, and near its conclusion, Little League will conduct surveys of the leagues that took part in the Little League Pitch Count Pilot Program, and will use those surveys to determine the feasibility of a new pitching regulation. The earliest a new regulation would be in place is for

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the 2007 season.

It is important to note that Little League's pilot program will not determine whether the revised regulations are of medical benefit to players. That is for medical professionals to determine, and their ongoing research is outside the purview of Little League. However, the Pitch Count Pilot Program will help Little League create a model for the future.

Currently, Little League pitching regulations limit pitchers (league age 12 and under) to six innings per week (Sunday through Saturday), and six innings per game. If a pitcher pitches in three or fewer innings, one day of rest is required before pitching again. If a pitcher pitches in four or more innings, three days of rest are required. The number of innings allowable is increased for older age groups.

The optional regulation for the leagues taking part in the Little League Pitch Count Pilot Program in 2006 will limit the number of actual pitches thrown by a pitcher in a day, regardless of the number of innings pitched. The number of pitches allowable is based on the pitcher's age. Specific rest periods are in place when a pitcher reaches a higher threshold of pitches delivered.

[The full text of the regulation can be found at the end of this newsletter.](#)

Little League also continues to explore other pitching-related issues, such as the use of breaking pitches.

"While there is no medical evidence to support a ban on breaking pitches, it is widely speculated by medical professionals that it is ill-advised for players under 14 years old to throw breaking pitches," Mr. Keener said. "Breaking pitches for these ages continues to be strongly discouraged by Little League, and that is an issue we are looking at going forward."

Little League is the world's largest youth sports program, with about 2.7 million players and 1 million adult volunteers in all 50 U.S. states and scores of other countries. About 2.3 million of its players are in the baseball divisions.

Blue's Corner...by Andy O'Brien

Runner on 3rd base, and the batter hits a single to score the runner. The defense wants to appeal that the runner failed to touch home plate. The manager requested time to talk to the pitcher and catcher to ensure that the appeal was correct. Upon placing the ball back in play, the pitcher disengaged from the rubber, and threw the ball to the catcher. The batter then hit a beautiful base hit up the middle.

Make the call...

See the answer at the end of the newsletter.

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Little League To Host It's First Challenger World Jamboree in 2006

Taken From Little Leaguer Newsletter

Challenger Jamboree is This Spring

This spring, Virginia District 8 will host the first "Challenger Little League Baseball World Jamboree" to be held May 11-14, 2006 at the Azalea Little League Complex in Norfolk, Va. The jamboree will include games, tours, picnics and other special events.



All the details about the Jamboree, including information on how your league can take part, [can be found here](#).

A world-wide Challenger jamboree was the concept of Jake Hardison, Virginia State Coordinator and District 8 Administrator. A dedicated supporter and longtime proponent of the Challenger Division, Mr. Hardison began the "Challenger Tournament and Fun Weekend" in 1992, featuring 16 teams. The jamboree will be an expansion of the Challenger weekend and is expected to draw between 200 and 300 teams from throughout the United States and around the world.



In 1989, Little League launched its Challenger Division to provide boys and girls with disabilities the opportunity to enjoy and participate in the game of baseball. Disabled children from the ages of 5-18 are eligible to participate. Challenger baseball features "buddies" who help their partners by assisting the players when needed. During the past 15 years, Challenger baseball has become Little League's fastest growing division.

For more information on the Little League Baseball Worldwide Challenger Jamboree, please contact Rosa Gregory, Virginia District

8 Challenger Representative at (757) 478-9793, or Jake Hardison, Virginia District 8 Administrator, at (757) 434-2092 or send email to Challenger@va8ll.org.

Media personnel that wish to cover the Challenger Jamboree, or need additional information about the event, please contact Andy Adler, Virginia District 8 Media and Communications at (757) 288-1356 or email media@va8ll.org.

Answer to Blues Corner question: Rule 7.09 (a) -The batter is out immediately for interference, the ball is dead, and all runners return to their original bases.

Answer to Brain Teaser: False. Rule 7.08(a) – In Majors and below the runner should have been called out for the headfirst slide while advancing. Of course in Juniors and above the umpire made a "great" call, as headfirst sliding is permitted while advancing.

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Little League® International

Optional Pitch Count Regulation – 2006 Regular Season

The following regulation takes the place of Regulation VI in the baseball division(s) of those local leagues choosing to adopt it for the 2006 Regular Season.

Regulation VI – Pitchers:

- a. Any player on a regular season team may pitch. (NOTE: There is no limit to the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.)
- b. **Junior, Senior, and Big League Divisions only:** A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game.
- c. The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

League Age	17-18	105 pitches per day
	13-16	95 pitches per day
	11-12	85 pitches per day
	10 and under	75 pitches per day

Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Regulation VI (c) for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until that batter reaches base or is put out. **Note 1.** If the pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Regulation VI (c) on his/her last pitch to a particular batter, the pitcher must be removed before delivering a pitch to the next batter. **Note 2. Intentional Walk:** Before a pitch is delivered to the batter, the catcher must inform the umpire-in-chief that the defensive team wishes to give the batter an intentional base-on-balls. The umpire-in-chief waves the batter to first base. The ball is dead.

- d. Pitchers league ages 7 through 16 must adhere to the following rest requirements:
 - If a player pitches 61 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches 41 - 60 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches 21 - 40 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.

Pitchers league age 17-18 must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- If a player pitches 76 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches 51 - 75 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches 26 - 50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches 1-25 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.
- e. Each league must designate the scorekeeper or another game official as the official pitch count recorder.

- f. The pitch count recorder must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager is responsible for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed.
- g. The official pitch count recorder should inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted in Regulation VI (c). The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed in accordance with Regulation VI (c). However, the failure by the pitch count recorder to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in-chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.
- h. Violation of any section of this regulation can result in protest of the game in which it occurs. Protest shall be made in accordance with Playing Rule 4.19.

NOTES:

- 1. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after that pitcher is announced, or after a warm-up pitch is delivered, but before that player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation. Little League officials are urged to take precautions to prevent protests. When a protest situation is imminent, the potential offender should be notified immediately.
- 2. Pitches delivered in games declared "Regulation Tie Games" or "Suspended Games" shall be charged against pitcher's eligibility.
- 3. In suspended games resumed on another day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of their eligibility for that day, provided said pitcher has observed the required days of rest.

Example 1: A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on the following Thursday. The pitcher is not eligible to pitch in the resumption of the game because he/she has not observed the required four days of rest.

Example 2: A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on Saturday. The pitcher is eligible to pitch up to 85 more pitches in the resumption of the game because he/she has observed the required four days of rest.

Example 3: A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes two weeks later. The pitcher is eligible to pitch up to 85 more pitches in the resumption of the game, provided he/she is eligible based on his/her pitching record during the previous four days.

Note: The use of this regulation negates the concept of the "calendar week" with regard to pitching eligibility.