

The 7th Inning Stretch

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL CANADA



LITTLE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCES BAT RULE CHANGES FOR 2012 SEASON

Article taken from the Little League International Official Website www.littleleague.org

By Communications Division
SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa.
November 2, 2011



In an effort to provide timely information on bat rules, Little League International today announced the bat specifications and standards for the 2012 season.

Here are the highlights, followed by the actual text of the 2012 baseball bat rules:

For the Little League Major Baseball Division and below: The moratorium on composite-barreled baseball bats remains in effect. However, some composite-barreled baseball bats that have been proven in laboratory testing to meet the BPF (Bat Performance Factor) standard throughout the life of the bat, through the Accelerated Break-In (ABI) process, have received waivers. That list is here: [Licensed/Approved Composite 2 1/4 Bats](#). Note that in the Little League Majors Baseball Division and below, there is no limit on the “drop” weight of any bat.

- **For Junior League Baseball:** The rule was updated to reflect the changes that were anticipated and published two years ago regarding bats with 2 5/8 inch barrels. As a result, composite-barreled baseball bats in this division, regardless of barrel size, must meet BBCOR (Batted Ball Co-Efficient of Restitution) standards, and must be so labeled. Note that all composite-barreled baseball bats that meet the BBCOR standard have a “drop” of no more than “minus-

3.” However, in the Junior League Baseball division, bats that **do not have composite materials in the barrel (i.e., all metal, all alloy, all wood)**, and meet all other applicable standards, can have ANY drop weight. Bats with a barrel of less than 2 5/8 inches also can be used in the Junior League Baseball Division, but must still comply with all other specifications noted.

- **For Senior League Baseball and Big League Baseball:** The rule was updated to reflect the changes that were anticipated and published two years ago regarding bats with 2 5/8 inch barrels. As a result, all bats with non-wood barrels must meet BBCOR (Batted Ball Co-Efficient of Restitution) standards, and must be so labeled. Because all BBCOR bats have a “drop” of no more than “minus-3,” this means all non-wood bats in these divisions must have a drop of no more than minus-3.

- **Tamper-Evident Bats:** Because the technology to create bats that show evidence of tampering is not yet available, this aspect of the rules that was anticipated and published two years ago, and again last year, will not apply in 2012.

- **Penalty for Use of an Illegal Bat:** Previously, the penalty for the use of an illegal bat was simply to remove the bat from the game. In 2012, the penalty has been increased as noted in the rules below.

- **Definition of an Illegal Bat:** To narrow the definition of an illegal bat, a new entry was added to Rule 2.00, specifically describing an illegal bat for the purposes of imposing the penalty. As a result, the definition includes altered bats, but excludes a bat that: is no longer smooth because of normal use; is cracked or dented because of normal use; has a handle that has a smaller diameter than the measurement noted in the specifications; or, has material on the grip (or no material) that does not meet the specifications.

- **Softball:** All rules regarding bats in all softball

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Remember...If it isn't fun...it isn't Little League!

TEACHING FOR TOMORROW LITTLE LEAGUE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Article by Al Herback - National Coach - Little League Baseball Canada

Pronation — The Arm Saver

The Teaching for Tomorrow education program is entering its third year and to date has been very successful. A reprint of the manuals will be necessary and there will be minor changes to both manuals. There is, however, one major addition to the Playing the Game manual. As I have included it as part of the throwing section of every clinic for the managers and coaches, pronation is now being included in the written material. It will follow Inning #2, Throwing, Catching and Sliding. This article will focus on the technical definition and instruction of pronation rather than the total body movement already covered in the throwing section of the manual.

Throwing is one of the most difficult skills in baseball/softball. We must remember that throwing is not that simple. It requires the entire body to work together and, for many children, is one of the most difficult challenges they

will face. It is extremely important that whether practicing throwing with the team or playing catch with someone in the back yard, always work on the proper mechanics. Teaching the proper technique to a young player is crucial. Throwing muscle memory begins at an early age and once formed it is extremely hard to change.

Definition of pronation: When the forearm and hand of the throwing arm are slightly turned away from the rest of the body. Slow motion photography reveals that this action occurs at the release of the ball. Pronation (palm facing slightly outward and thumb down) immediately assists in allowing the arm to relax and the elbow to bend and begin the deceleration process.

Throwing a baseball is an acceleration to deceleration motion. Whenever a ball is thrown, the arm is traveling at a tremendous speed and this momentum must decelerate quickly. Therefore, on release of the ball, the arm and body pronate to help the arm slow down and decelerate the elbow extension. This process continues as a pitcher rotates

the body over the landing leg to follow through or a positional player completes a throw.

Pronation is the ideal way for the body to slow down the arm and eliminate the stress placed on the shoulder and elbow. It will also allow you to release the ball off the fingertips with the perfect backspin and over time increase velocity and accuracy. This should be a natural movement but very few players do it well or efficiently. It must be taught.

Pain and injury from throwing either as a pitcher or positional player can usually be attributed to overuse or poor mechanics. A proper warm-up along with the complete body pronation could be determining factors in helping to eliminate some of these problems.

As this is a twelve and under program, this section about pronation for a pitcher is for a fastball and change-up only.

If you wish to contact me for any reason, please call 403-273-4656 or email al.herback@gmail.com.



The 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

REVIEW OF TEACHING FOR TOMORROW CLINICS ACROSS CANADA 2011

Windsor, Ontario - District 5

Little League Baseball Canada's training program for managers and coaches "Teaching for Tomorrow" was again successful in Windsor, Ontario, March 26, 2011. The instructional program Learning the Game for coaches working with players ages 4 thru 6, was offered from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. There were 61 attendees enjoying the active instruction lead by Canada's National Coach, Al Herback. In the afternoon session from 12:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., coaches teaching children ages 7 thru 12 were treated to another exciting afternoon of fun. This was for the skill development for the program Playing the Game. More than 70 coaches were in attendance. Outstanding! These dedicated volunteers gave their time again, many for both sessions, not only for their personal training but for the challenges faced with the players at the park. On behalf of the District, all managers and coaches attending the clinic received an instructional manual as well as an opportunity to receive the Level I Technical Certificate of Commitment for their efforts on time well spent on behalf of our children.

A special thank you and congratulations to Kathy Recchia, District Administrator for Windsor and surrounding area along with her outstanding staff who not only organized this event, but spent the day helping in any way possible. The leagues that participated were the **Turtle Club, Windsor South Canadian, Windsor South, Windsor Central and Windsor East**. As this was only the second clinic for the 2011 season, we are all very positive that the clinic run will be a tremendous success throughout Canada! This brings our numbers for the first two clinics to 144 for the Learning the Game program and 134 who enjoyed the Playing the Game. Thank you to all managers and coaches for their dedication to our children!

Victoria, BC - District 7

The 2011 clinic run of Little League Baseball Canada's training program for managers and coaches continued with a stop in Victoria, BC. The two components of the "Teaching for Tomorrow" program enjoyed the instruction of Al Herback for two evenings near the end of March. Al Jansen, District Administrator, along with his staff were well organized and ready for the coaches participating. Wednesday evening, March 30, 2011 was scheduled for the Learning the Game program for ages 4 thru 6. Coaches participated from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. with all the action focused on the gym floor preparing themselves for a fun season with those young, aspiring players wanting to learn this great game. In all, 36 attended with many deciding to take the following evening session in as well. Thursday evening, March 31, 2011 had 59 enthusiastic members of Victoria Little League go through the paces with the Playing the Game program focusing on how to enjoy practices and teach skills and drills but, most of all, have fun with our children at the diamond.

The Victoria Food Bank was also a recipient of seven bags of food donated by the managers and coaches to help those in need within the community. All attendees had the opportunity to apply to Little League Baseball Canada

for their Level I Technical Certificate of Commitment for the program they participated in throughout the week.

The leagues represented at these two clinics were **Lakehill, Beacon Hill, Hampton, Central Saanich, National, and Lazritz**. With clinic number three under wraps, the outlook for the remaining clinics is extremely encourag-



North Vancouver clinic

ing. With the outstanding numbers in Victoria our totals now are 180 for the Learning the Game and 193 for the Playing the Game programs. Thank you to all the managers and coaches for their dedication to our children!

West Vancouver, BC - District 5

With a short trip from Victoria, Saturday, April 2, 2011 was the site of the fourth clinic held in West Vancouver. With District Administrator, Wayne Hobson in charge, it was truly enlightening to see the number of coaches and managers in attendance. Saturday morning from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon there were a total of 118 for the Learning the Game program! Their participation and enthusiasm was enjoyable to watch as instructor Al Herback took them through the paces for the skill development

necessary for the children to learn this very complicated game of baseball. Instructional manuals were given to the attendees to be used as reference material for the for practices and future guidance.

In the afternoon of April 2, registration was held for the Playing the Game at 12:30 p.m. and the clinic ended at 5:00 p.m. A 2011 record was established with a group of 148 dedicated volunteers jammed the floor of the gymnasium again being taken through the paces by AI. The Playing the Game program is very demanding for not only the coaches, but for the players as well. There are so many skills to learn and usually in a short period of time. By being on the west coast, weather is to their advantage.

With the certification initiative offered by LLC, close to 175 were eligible for the Level I Technical Certificate of Commitment. This clinic as well brought in over ten bags of food donations for the local Food Bank.

Leagues included in the District 5 clinic were **Mt. Seymour, Lynn Valley, Forest Hills, Highlands, North Van Central, West Vancouver, Cypress Park, Trout Lake, Jericho, Kerrisdale and Little Mountain.** With West Vancouver now included in our escalating totals, 298 have now attended the Learning the Game clinic program and 341 have participated in the Playing the Game sessions. Thank you to all the managers and coaches for their dedication to our children!

Medicine Hat, AB - District 4

On the evenings of April 4 and 5, 2011, Medicine Hat hosted the "Teaching for Tomorrow" clinic for managers, coaches and interested parents. Under the leadership of Lovell McDonnell, Special Events Coordinator plus many other titles, he did a great job in convincing 70% of eligible coaches to attend. Chuck Henson, District Administrator, in complete support of the program, left everything in the capable hands of Lovell.

Monday evening from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m., a nice group of 23 participated in the Learning the Game for ages 4 thru 6. The focus was to have every practice loaded with fun activities to learn the skills in an exciting way. As they left on a happy note, a comment that comes up frequently goes something like this: "I had no idea there was this much to working with this age group!" They are very capable of learning if we take the time to teach.

Tuesday evening from 6:00 p.m. to



10:00 p.m. had an excited crowd of 41 including three who also attended the first program. The returnees wanted to see how the skills taught in the Learning the Game transferred over to the Playing the Game. They were quite amazed at the value of teaching the skills at the younger age and how it moves directly into the older program. Through the generosity of District 4, each team involved in the program within and around Medicine Hat received two manuals for their age group.

Thank you to the coaches, Lovell, Chuck, and instructor AI Herback. The children of Medicine Hat already are involved in an exciting and well-run program and we hope with this clinic and many new coaches, the quality will again be another positive approach to serving our children through baseball. The total attendance for the five clinics to date are 321 for the Learning the

Game and 382 for the Playing the Game. Outstanding!

Brossard, Quebec – District 4

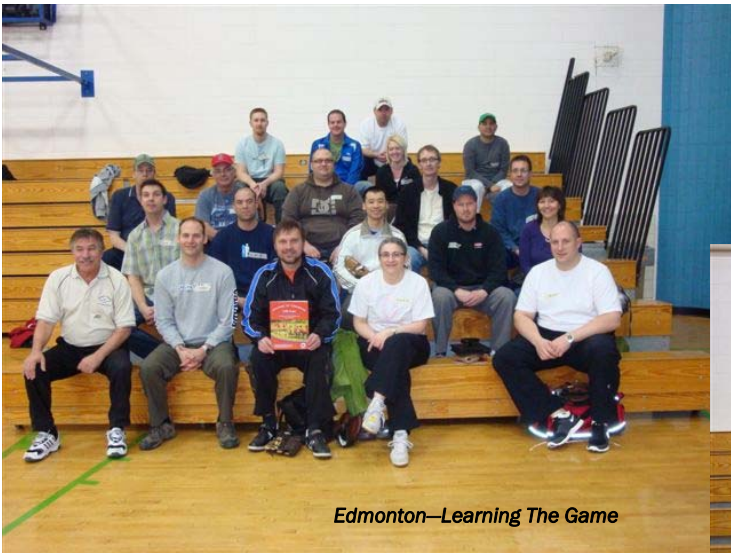
Under the leadership of Jean-Francois Julien, DA for District 2 and Serge Séguin, DA for District 3, a very successful and exciting clinic was held in Brossard, Quebec on Saturday, May 14, 2011, where twenty-three participants took in both sessions. Their day started at 8:00 a.m. with the Learning the Game program, had a break at 12:00

for a delicious lunch supplied by the two Districts, and continued from 1:00 until 4:30 with the Playing the Game program. It was a very positive experience and with

the help of Serge, Jean-Francois, and coaches helping coaches, I was able to overcome the language barrier I had, not being able to converse in French. It is Little League Baseball Canada's hope that they will be able to serve Quebec again with a clinic or two in 2012!

Saint John, NB District 1

The final stop of the 2011 clinic schedule was in Saint John, NB. A total of seventeen coaches attended the Playing the Game program on Wednesday, May 17th. This clinic was well attended by the coaches of District 1 and Victor Fitzgerald, DA, was very pleased. A special thank you to Victor for his efforts and leadership in hosting this clinic.



Edmonton—Learning The Game



Edmonton—Playing The Game



Ottawa Clinic

Toronto Clinic



TEACHING FOR TOMORROW 2012 CLINICS

Article by Al Herback - National Coach - Little League Baseball Canada

One of Canada's greatest attractions in minor sports is Little League Baseball. It has given our children the opportunity to learn this great game when the first league chartered here in Canada in 1951! The excitement for Little League Baseball Canada for the coming season will not only be to have our children return for another challenging and fun year but to enhance the training of coaches and managers. The 2012 baseball/softball season will continue the three components put in place last year as they were extremely successful and we thank you for that! The Board of Directors is extremely pleased that with these initiatives in place communities, families, managers, coaches, and players will all be winners. The *Teaching for Tomorrow* program is very proud to focus on the community and the lives of the children as well as teaching them how to play the game.

1. MANAGER/COACH CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Any manager/coach attending either the Learning the Game session or the Playing the Game session of the *Teaching for Tomorrow* clinic program will be awarded a **Level I Technical** certificate. If both sessions are attended by a participant, both certificates will be given. The 'Certificate of Commitment' signifies the importance of the coaches who are not only enhancing their own personal training for the game but also benefiting the players they will be teaching throughout the season. We are aware that some will be unable to attend but their dedication to our children is greatly appreciated as well.

How does it work? There will be clinics scheduled in almost every District in Canada that is affiliated with Little League. These locations will be available on the LLBC website as well as at the local level. Dates, times, and locations will be listed and, due to the popularity of these clinics, pre-registration is highly recommended. As has been the case in past years you will be notified of the clinic in your area and the registration time for the session you wish to

attend. At the conclusion of the clinic, each participant will receive a sheet explaining the procedure as follows: Go to the LLBC website, locate the section 'Certificate', fill in the necessary information on your name, address, date, and the location of the clinic you attended and click submit. As the list of participants from all clinics will be sent to National Headquarters in Ottawa, your name will appear on the clinic you attended and the certificates will be mailed out immediately. Why certificates? Little League Baseball Canada wishes to issue these to extend an extra thank you to participants of the clinics and a personal reward for giving freely of their time, energy, and valuable expertise. There will be two issued - one for possible framing and one wallet size.

Note: Attendance at a clinic will be necessary to be eligible for certification. There will be no online program.

2. FOOD BANK DONATIONS

The children throughout Canada involved in Little League Baseball are extremely fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers to help them enjoy this wonderful game! With our initiative called the 'Food Bank Donations', these volunteers are embarking on a new community commitment. The Food Bank for many families throughout Canada is the lifeline for their daily meals. As the years go by, there are more and more people who need assistance.

How does it work? Little League Baseball Canada is very aware of the value and importance of the clinic program for managers and coaches. As a result, all expenses will be paid by LLBC for every District that hosts a clinic. The food bank initiative will be a chance for the managers, coaches, and interested parents attending the clinic to show their appreciation for the no-cost clinics by bringing donations when arriving for the clinic. Whatever is collected from each session will be boxed and delivered to the local food bank. These will be direct donations to the host area for those in need day-to-day. It may be possible that some of the families of players on your team will benefit from

your generosity. With all the hardships that many face today, what better way can we work as a 'team' to help alleviate some of the strain families endure?

3. SESSION PICTURES

This year we are going to once again take a photo of each session. How does it work? At the end of the Learning the Game and the Playing the Game sessions, we will gather in the stands for a picture. We could at that time bring in the boxes for the food bank as well to be part of the photo. These pictures will be posted on the LLBC website and Districts and Leagues may wish to do the same on their websites. As well, from month to month, they will be featured in LLBC's official newsletter "The 7th Inning Stretch." These pictures could also be included in a community or local newspaper or featured as a highlight at every spring registration desk. Your imagination will be the guideline! How better to promote the outstanding work of all the volunteers associated with the program in your community.

This photo would display all the attendees at the clinic and give a clear picture of the commitment of those working with our children in baseball. With the food bank donations, our volunteers are not only looking at the positives of a clinic to help them with the challenges faced on the ball diamond but the donations also focus on many of the life lessons so clearly defined in the new *Teaching for Tomorrow* program.

Note: If any or all Districts would like to make a banner to be available for the picture, great! It could be professionally done or a simple home made one would be fine. Make it bold so it stands out in the photo. You may already have one for the District. A personalized District banner could be used in many more ways throughout the season and along with this picture will really help promote Little League in your community!

We are hoping to have this information in the hands of the District Administrators and League Presidents early in the

New Year. This will give you, as well as us, plenty of lead time to be well organized for the clinic scheduled in your city.

Feel free to send myself or LLBC any thoughts or suggestions on these exciting new initiatives. You may contact me

at al.herback@gmail.com or 403-273-4656.

Date	District	Location	Contact	Number	E-mail
March 31	AB D4	Medicine Hat	Lovell McDonnel	403-548-5990	mcdonnel@memlane.com
TBD	BC D3	Langley	Linda Hanson	604-240-8970	linda.hanson@telus.net
TBD	ON D5	Windsor	Kathy Recchia	519-973-3196	kathyh@cogeco.ca
TBD	AB D1	Lethbridge	Kevin Kvame	403-315-4064	kevin@bullsbseball.com
TBD	AB D3	Calgary	Doug Stevens	403-295-3366	da@albertadistrict3.com
April 11 & 12	AB D2	Edmonton	Glen Gregory	780-446-8383	gsgregory@shaw.ca
April 16 & 17	SK D1	Regina	Anna & Rick Burton	306-545-9296	rick.annaburton@sasktel.net
TBD	AB D8	Calgary	Dave Stevens	403-613-4217	d.stevens@shaw.ca
April 20 & 21	ON D2	Ottawa	Bill Magnus	613-851-7126	magnbil@rogers.com
	ON D6		Jim Dean	613-723-0810	jimdean@littleleague.ca
April 22	ON D1	Mississauga	Anne Dundon	416-727-4754	adundon@rogers.com

2011 JOE SHEA AWARDS

The Joe Shea Award is a sportsmanship award and is given to the team that displays outstanding sportsmanship not only on the field but at all team functions and any other area at the tournament sites during the Canadian Championships at each level of play.

The following is a list of winners for the 2011 season. Congratulations to all!

2011 Joe Shea Awards		
Division	League	District
Little League Softball	Windsor South LL	District 5 Ontario
Junior League Softball	Layritz LL	District 7 British Columbia
Senior League Softball	Erindale LL	District 1 Ontario
Little League Baseball	Sydney & District LL	District 1 Nova Scotia
Junior League Baseball	Drummondville LL	District 4 Quebec
Senior League Baseball	Windsor West LL	District 5 Ontario
Big League Baseball	Ottawa Crusaders	District 2 Ontario



International Year of Volunteers
 10th anniversary
 2011

Click on the logo above to be redirected to the appropriate website for more information.

HELPING PLAYERS BEYOND FEAR OF FAILURE

Taken from the Little League International Publication "The Coach's Box"

Article By David Jacobson of The Positive Coaching Alliance

"The team that makes the most mistakes will probably win," wrote the legendary basketball coach John Wooden in *They Call Me Coach*. "The doer makes mistakes, and I wanted doers on my team—players who made things happen."

That's a difficult concept to convey to Little Leaguers. By the time they are on your team, some players may have been yelled at for making mistakes. Or, they may be so self-conscious or hard on themselves for failing to make plays that they stop really trying.

You've probably seen outfielders pulling up short of fly balls that seem catchable, and you can practically see the

thought bubble: "If I don't get too close to this ball, maybe it won't really look like an error."

Helping players overcome that mentality is one of the greatest things you can do for them as players and as people. As players, you want them to perform well, both for the good of the team on the scoreboard and for the good of their individual self-esteem. As people, your Little Leaguers will benefit – in school, business and personal relationships – from adopting the attitude that "failing" is not the end of the world, especially if they try their hardest.

You develop this mentality in practice by setting up an "all-out" drill that encourages players to play fly balls as aggressively as possible with no fear of failure. Simply toss or hit fly balls that require players' maximum effort to catch, and then reward them with praise for their all-out effort even if they do not catch the ball.

Often, in this drill, it is best to comment only on the player's level of commitment...nothing about technique. The only "criticism" might be along the lines of, "You're a talented-enough athlete, and I believe in your ability enough, that if you had fully committed to making the catch, without fear, you could have gotten there."

Slowly but surely, they will start getting there more often. When they do, their confidence will bloom, helping them get to that many more fly balls that before they might not even have pursued.

For more ideas on getting the most out of your players while teaching life lessons, take the Little League Double-Goal Coach® Course at <http://shopping.positivecoach.org/Little-League-DGC>, and for a video that explains Double-Goal Coaching in more detail, visit <http://www.littleleague.org/pca>

BRUCE BOCHY ON THE POWER OF POSITIVE COACHING

Taken from the Little League International Publication "The Coach's Box"

Article By David Jacobson of The Positive Coaching Alliance

It's one thing to trust research showing that Positive Coaching helps athletes perform better. It's another to hear about it from Bruce Bochy, Manager of the World Champion San Francisco Giants.

[In this video excerpt from PCA's National Youth Sports Awards Dinner](#),

where Bochy accepted PCA's Ronald L. Jensen Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Giants skipper explains how his own positive coaching and willingness to help players past their mistakes generated the resilience that fueled the Giants' World Series victory.

Stay tuned to the end for a special message about how Bochy's techniques

translate to coaching Little Leaguers!

For more ideas on getting the most out of your players while teaching life lessons, take the Little League Double-Goal Coach® Course at <http://shopping.positivecoach.org/Little-League-DGC>, and for a video that explains Double-Goal Coaching in more detail, visit <http://www.littleleague.org/pca>

SIMPLE EXPLANATION OF THE GAME OF BASEBALL

This is a game played by two teams, one out the other in. The one that's in sends players out one at a time, to see if they can get in before they get out. If they get out before they get in, they come in, but it doesn't count. If they get in before they get out it does count.

When the ones out get three outs from the ones in before they get in without being out, the team that's out comes in and the team in goes out to get those going in out before they get in without being out.

When both teams have been in and out nine times the game is over. The team with the most in without being out before coming in wins unless the ones in are equal. In which case, the last ones in go out to get the ones in out before they get in without being out.

The game will end when each team has the same number of ins out but one team has more in without being out before coming in. Simple!! Right???

HEY BLUE! I HAVE A QUESTION?

Taken from the Little League International Publication "The Coach's Box"

With a runner on second base, a ground ball is hit to shortstop, but the ball goes through the player's legs into outfield. The runner, advancing to third base brushes the shortstop. Can the runner be called out for interfering with shortstop, even though the ball was already in the outfield? Thanks.
Local Little League Coach

RE: Local Little League Coach:
A fielder is protected while fielding a batted ball under 7.09 (j), which states in part ... "It is interference by a batter or runner when the runner fails to avoid the fielder who is fielding a batted ball..." so the question becomes, when is a player considered fielding a ball, and when is he not.

A fielder is considered as fielding a batted ball during his first effort at fielding the ball and also any second effort

provided the batted ball remains within about a stride of the fielder. For example, a batted ball that hits off the chest of a shortstop and falls to the ground is still being fielded by that fielder provided the shortstop can legitimately reach the ball without taking more than one stride. If a runner were to make contact with that fielder, while reaching for the ball in his second effort, the ball should be ruled dead and the runner called out for interference under 7.09 (j).

However, if a batted ball is not fielded cleanly and is out of the fielder's reach after taking a stride, then 7.09 (j) no longer applies. In the scenario presented, the ball has passed through the legs of the shortstop and is in the outfield when the contact is made. Thus, it would be inappropriate to rule the runner out for interference. Depending on how soon after the ball passed the fielder the contact with the runner occurred, the fielder could be called for obstruction as he is no longer fielding the ball and must be out of the way of the runner.

Hey Blue ... I have a question: If a batter hits ball a few inches in front of home plate, and when the batter drops his bat, it hits the ball, what is the rule?
Thanks,
Local Little League Coach

RE: Local Little League Coach:
According to Rule 6.05 (g), the batter is out when after hitting or bunting a fair ball, the bat hits the ball a second time, in fair territory. The ball is dead and no runner may advance.

If, however, the batter drops the bat, and the ball roles against the bat a second time, and in the umpire's judgment there was no intent to interfere, the ball remains alive. For most instances, we can hang our hat on this statement: Ball initiates second contact, ball is alive and in play. Bat initiates second contact call play dead and batter out, no one advances.

WHO SAYS YOU ARE TOO OLD TO GO TO SCHOOL (CLINIC)? (FROM JULY 2008)

Marvin H Young
South Shore Little League
Staten Island, NY.
District 24

The first 10 years or so of umpiring, all my knowledge was acquired 'on the job'.

Guided and coached by mentors. And of course watching others and learning. I had what I thought was enough plate time that an hour or two clinic wasn't really going to be much of a benefit for a veteran like me. But it did and they still do. Here's a tip I leaned at a clinic and to this day as I relate it to other similar veterans each remarks the same - "I didn't know that?"

I had observed that a plate umpire would position himself behind the catcher during a pitcher's warm up. Just a few pitches at the start of the game and the same as each new pitcher entered. I knew why, familiarizing himself

with how the pitcher delivers. This may be true and is of value, but once you give it some thought and consider that the game isn't about the umpire, but about the kids, the actual reason makes so much more sense.

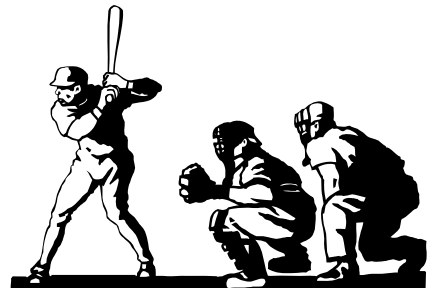
The pitcher has been warming up before the game with only the catcher. Then the youngster enters the game and there's an umpire behind the catcher. The pitcher has no idea of the rhythm of the umpire, when he bends, how he squats, etc. The pitcher starts his delivery and at some point the umpire moves, catches the pitcher's eye, maybe throwing him off just a bit. It could take a couple of pitches till the youngster gets it all together.

So why does the umpire 'warm up' a few pitches with the battery? To help the youngster ease into the inning, knowing how the umpire moves. What I do is let the pitcher throw three, then move in and take three behind the

catcher, back off and let him throw two more. And by the way, being involved at the plate during a pitching change helps to move the game along.

How often do we see the umpires' off talking with managers and/or fans?

And there you go , lesson over.



Continued from page 1...

divisions remain the same as in 2011. The moratorium on composite-barreled bats does not apply to softball.

Licensed Bats: As it has for decades, Little League is publishing a list of licensed bats, all of which have a barrel diameter of 2 1/4 inches. This is not a list of all bats that can be used. As long as the bat meets all the specifications and standards for the specific division of play in question, it need not carry the Little League trademark. (Note that Little League does not license any bats with a diameter of 2 5/8 inches.) The list of licensed 2 1/4 bats can be downloaded as a PDF here: [All Licensed 2 1/4 Bats](#).

1 The rules regarding baseball bats for 2012 are:

2 **Rule 1.10 - Baseball** - The bat must be a baseball bat which meets Little League specifications and standards as noted in this rule. It shall be a smooth, rounded stick and made of wood or of material and color tested and proved acceptable to Little League standards.

3 **Little League (Majors) and below:** it shall not be more than thirty-three (33) inches in length nor more than two and one-quarter (2¼) inches in diameter. Non-wood bats shall be labeled with a BPF (bat performance factor) of 1.15 or less; **EXCEPTION: For the 2011-2012 Little League (Majors) and below, for regular season play and Tournament, composite bats are prohibited unless approved by Little League International.**

4 A list of approved and licensed composite bats can be found on the Little League website at www.littleleague.org.

5 **Junior League:** it shall not be more than 34 inches in length; nor more than 2 5/8 inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. All composite bats shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be so labeled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular,

a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color.

6 **Senior/Big League:** it shall not be more than 36 inches in length, nor more than 2 5/8 inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. The bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a 33-inch-long bat cannot weigh less than 30 ounces). All bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be so labeled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color. Aluminum and composite bats shall be marked as to their material makeup being aluminum or composite. This marking shall be silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one-half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color.

7 In all divisions, wood bats may be taped or fitted with a sleeve for a distance not exceeding sixteen (16) inches (18 inches for Junior/Senior/Big League baseball) from the small end. A non-wood bat must have a grip of cork, tape or composition material, and must extend a minimum of 10 inches from the small end. Slippery tape or similar material is prohibited.

8 **NOTE 1:** Junior/Senior/Big League: The 2 3/4 inch in diameter bat is not allowed in any division.

9 **NOTE 2:** The traditional batting donut is not permissible

10 **NOTE 3:** The bat may carry the mark "Little League Tee Ball."

11 **NOTE 4:** Non-wood bats may develop dents from time to time. Bats that cannot pass through the approved Little League bat ring for the appropriate division must be removed from play. The 2¼ inch bat ring must be used for bats in the Tee Ball, Minor League and Little League Baseball divisions. The 2

5/8 inch bat ring must be used for bats in the Junior, Senior and Big League divisions of baseball.

12 **NOTE 5:** An illegal bat must be removed. Any bat that has been altered shall be removed from play. Penalty - See Rule - 6.06 (d).

13 **Rule 2.00 Definition of Illegal Bat**
Illegal Bat - An Illegal bat is a bat that has been altered or a bat that is not approved for play because it does not meet specifications with regard to length, weight, barrel diameter, labeling or performance standard for the division in which it is used.

14 **Rule 6.06 - Baseball** - The batter is out for illegal action when -
 (d) The batter enters the batter's box with an illegal bat (see bat specifications Rule 1.10) or is discovered having used an illegal bat.

Note: If the infraction is discovered before the next pitch following the turn at bat of the player who used an illegal bat -

1. The manager of the defense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline the penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play.
2. For the first violation, the offensive team will lose one eligible adult base coach for the duration of the game.
3. For the second violation, the manager of the team will be ejected from the game. Any subsequent violation will result in the newly designated manager being ejected.

**LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL CANADA 2012
BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT
SCHEDULE (S U B J E C T T O C H A N G E)**

Baseball**Major (Little League):**

World Series: Williamsport, Pennsylvania, Aug 16-26

Canadian Championship: Edmonton, AB, Aug 4-11

Divisionals:

Atlantic: St. John, NB Date TBD

Quebec: Val D'Or, QC, Date TBD

Ontario: Ottawa, ON, D2, Date TBD

Prairies: Lethbridge, AB, Date TBD

British Columbia: Trail, BC, Date TBD

Junior:

World Series: Taylor, Michigan, Aug. 12-18

Canadian Championship: Lethbridge, AB, Aug. 1-9

Divisionals:

Atlantic: New Brunswick, Date TBD

Quebec: Valleyfield, QC, Date TBD

Ontario: Cornwall, ON, Date TBD

Prairies: District 8, Date TBD

British Columbia: D5 or D3, Date TBD

Senior:

World Series: Bangor, Maine, Aug. 12-18

Canadian Championship: Regina, SK, Aug. 2-8

Divisionals:

Atlantic: New Brunswick, Date TBD

Quebec: Valleyfield, QC, Date TBD

Ontario: Thunder Bay, ON, Date TBD

Prairies: Date and location TBD

British Columbia: D3 or D5, Date TBD

Big League:

World Series: Easley, South Carolina, July 25- Aug. 1

Canadian Championship: Rouyn-Noranda, QC, July 17-22

Divisionals:

Atlantic: New Brunswick, Date TBD

Quebec: Brossard, QC, Date TBD

Ontario: Oakville, ON, Date TBD

Prairies: Edmonton, AB, Date TBD

British Columbia: D3 or D5, Date TBD

Softball**Major (Little League):**

World Series: Portland, Oregon, Aug. 9-15

Canadian Championship: Date and location TBD

Divisionals:

Ontario: TBD

Prairies: TBD

British Columbia: TBD

Junior:

World Series: Kirkland, Washington, Aug. 12-18

Canadian Championship: Date and location TBD

Divisionals:

Ontario: TBD

Prairies: TBD

Senior:

World Series: Lower Sussex, Delaware, Aug. 5-11

Canadian Championship: Windsor, ON, Date TBD

Divisionals: TBD

Big League:

World Series: Kalamazoo, Michigan, Aug. 2-8

Canadian Championship: Windsor, ON, Date TBD

Divisionals: TBD

**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 out-
come of the game**

If anyone has information that can help to fill in the blanks...dates, District or League hosts, for any of the above, please email me with the details so I can update this page...thestretch@littleleague.ca

Little League Baseball Canada is now on Facebook! Click on the logo in this and any future issue to take you to our page.





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Become an Alumni Member and support Little League in your community and across the Country.

The Little League Baseball Canada Foundation's goal is "to ensure that all children in Canada have the chance to participate in Little League regardless of their abilities, either physical or financial". For an annual membership of \$10.00 or three year membership of \$25.00, as an Alumni member you will have the opportunity to have input into the growth and direction of Little League and its programs.

For a membership application form, please contact Little League Baseball Canada at Canada@littleleague.org.

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Start Growing Your Little League Today!

One of the best ways to grow your Little League and gain the support of your community, is to create a program for EVERYONE.

By adding Little League Softball, your league can provide opportunities for all children in your community to enjoy a Little League experience.



Little League Softball Offers

- Divisions of play for all ages (4-18)
- Regular Season & International Tournament play
- Training resources for coaches, umpires & players
- Competitive softball rules.

We'll help walk your Board of Directors through the process of adding a softball program. Talk to your league today about starting a Little League Softball program for 2012. For more information about the benefits of Little League Softball or how your league can start a softball program, follow the links below:



- Benefits of Little League Softball
- How to Add a Little League Softball Program
- Request More Information
- About Starting a Softball Program

For more information, visit us online at www.LittleLeagueSoftball.org
or at [www.Facebook.com/LittleLeagueSoftball](https://www.facebook.com/LittleLeagueSoftball).