



California 4 Little League



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Little League - Junior League - Senior League - Big League - Challenger Division



California 4 Little League

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-California 4 Finances-

Balance Forward	\$9,344.82
October Dinner	\$102.08
October Dinner	\$62.97
Vendors Donation	\$750.00
Umpire Dinner	\$493.34
October Dinner	\$52.86
Postage	\$19.75
District 44 Awards Dinner	\$40.00
November Vendors Dinner	\$675.59
DA WR Meeting Travel	\$266.65
Balance Ending	\$8381.58

Charter Applications

Leagues should have received their approved Charter and Insurance Coverage for the 2012 Season.

To complete an approved charter application from Headquarters the West Region Office must have on file a league's current.....

- approved constitution (reviewed annually),
- approved boundary map with written boundary description,
- board of directors list with complete contact information.



Softball

-Softball Interleague Meeting-

District 4 Softball Interleague Organizational Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 2-7-12, 7pm, UC Extension Office, 75 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill. Anyone interested in softball may attend, but a league with a softball program must send a representative. Presidents, please provide Carla Moore, Softball ADA with the name, email address, home & cell phone numbers for your Softball Director.



Baseball

-Junior League Interleague Meeting-

District 4 Junior League Interleague Organizational Meeting is scheduled for Monday, 2-6-12, 730-9pm, Blue Barn, 3rd & Harrison Street (near Gilman exit off I-80), Berkeley. Anyone interested in Junior League Baseball may attend, but a league with a Junior League Baseball program must send a representative to this meeting. League presidents, please provide David Preuss with the name, email address, home & cell phone numbers for your Junior League Baseball Director.



A Safety Awareness Plan

2012 League Safety Plans must be received and approved by Headquarters before **March 13, 2012**. To meet this "NEW" due date requirement local leagues must submit their LSPs to Alan Hatcher, D4SO, no later than the **February D4 Meeting, 2-21-12**. League Safety Officers should diligently follow the "template" created by Alan Hatcher and available on the D4 Website. Double check to make sure all minimum requirements are met since there is only a small window of opportunity to correct or add information.



Board Of Directors

To continue good communications between local leagues and District Staff we ask all league presidents to send each District Staff Member a copy of their current board's contact information.



The Third Team

-Open Umpire Meetings-

Don Waddell, District 4 Chief Umpire, will host the first C4UA Open Umpire Meeting, Wednesday, 1-18-12, 7-9pm, Legends, Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. This meeting and future monthly meetings, 3rd Wednesdays, are opened to the entire California 4 Family. This includes parents, players, league officials, managers, coaches, etc., and of course, umpires. The audience will control the topics for discussion and Don Waddell will moderate the meetings. Anyone interested in learning more about Little League Rules and Regulations and how they are applied for all the different Little League levels are invited and encouraged to attend.

Basic Umpire Clinic-

Alameda Little League will host the Annual 2012 California 4 Basic Umpire Clinic on the first Saturday in March (3-3-12). This clinic will allow leagues in District 4 to have their volunteer umpires trained by highly experienced volunteers from the C4UA Training Staff.

Local leagues will be assessed \$100 each. Fee entitles that league to 6 billets. Additional billets may become available at \$20 per billet. This will be an all day clinic so leagues are asked to **NOT** schedule any league activities on this day which may interfere with an umpire to attend the entire clinic. Lunch will be provided by Alameda Little League. Individuals with special meal needs are asked to bring their own lunch.

-Tournament Mechanics Clinic-

The Annual Tournament Mechanics Clinic has proven to be a very valuable training aid in preparing volunteer umpires for upcoming post season tournaments. The TMC is scheduled for the Sunday (5-20-12) before the Memorial Day Weekend. We anticipate no cost for this event.

-Outreach Field Clinics-

C4UA Outreach Field Clinic Coordinator is Mark Oda. Mark may be reached at MOdasan@comcast.net

Outreach Field Clinics are designed for specific needs of a local league. Reservations on a first come, first served, basis. 2012 field clinics are limited and tentative dates are.....

~~Saturday, 2-25~~ ~~Sunday, 2-26~~
~~Saturday, 3-10~~ ~~Sunday, 3-11~~
Saturday, 3-17 Sunday, 3-18

Key Points.....

- One (1) clinic per day. RSVP early.
- 25 students minimum.
- 4 hours minimum (provide H2O).
- Over 4 hours...provide lunch.
- Host Chief Umpire leads the clinic.
- Plan B (indoor facilities).
- Combine host leagues to help meet minimum attendance requirement.
- Host league(s) must attend the BUC.

-Outreach Rule Clinics-

C4UA Outreach Rules Clinic Coordinator is Dennis Eagan. Dennis may be reached at dandjeagan@gmail.com.

Two Outreach Rules Clinics are planned for 2012. Martinez Little League will host the 1st ORC on Wednesday, 2-1-12, 7-9pm, in the auditorium at Martinez Junior High School, 1600 Court Street, Martinez. North/South Oakland Little League will host the 2nd ORC on Wednesday, 2-8-12, 7-9pm, in the cafeteria at Bishop O'Dowd High School, 9500 Steams Avenue, Oakland



-Western Region Umpires-

Congratulations to Ed Newbegin and Roger Buhlis on their 2012 Western Region Tournament assignments. Ed will be working the Senior League Softball Tournament in Montana and Roger will be working the Big League Baseball Tournament in Washington. Ed and Roger are both long term members of C4UA, District Umpires, Crew Chiefs, and members of the elite Training Staff. Ed and Roger are most deserving of these prestigious assignments.



Big Al Clinic

Our good neighbors in District 57 have once again invited District 4 to their 22nd Annual Big Al Clinic on Saturday, 2-4-12 in San Ramon. This is an outstanding resource for local leagues to offer Little League approved training for their managers, coaches, and parents at an affordable cost. Cost is \$25 per person to attend one or both sessions. The morning session is 830-12pm, coaches of 5-8 year olds. The afternoon session is 1230-5pm, coaches of 9-12 year olds. Participants are encouraged to stay all day.

This is an **adult only** clinic and will be held indoors (Dougherty Valley High School varsity gymnasium). Wear sneakers and comfortable clothes as this will be an active event. Big Al will have training materials for sale.



IRS Extension

The IRS has granted an automatic extension to file Form 990 or 990-EZ from 2-15-12 to 3-30-12. The date change is due to the IRS's modernized e-file system being temporarily suspended during January and February. This extension does not affect Form 990-N. Visit IRS website for more information; <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=251322,00.html>



West Region Meeting

A West Region Meeting has been scheduled for January 26-29, 2012 in San Bernardino. Educational Sessions and Round Table discussions of Rules and Regulations are scheduled all day Friday and Saturday. If you have any questions or concerns for Little League Headquarters or the Region Center, please forward them to Ted Boet (Agenda, page 3).



LITTLE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

Item 1 – Affects Regulation II – LEAGUE BOUNDARIES – New Regulation – II (i)

The Board of Directors of the local Little League may enroll a player whose residence is outside the league's boundaries, but only under all three of the following conditions: (1) the player has residence within another chartered Little League's boundaries, and (2) the league where the player resides releases and waives all current and future rights to the player for regular season and tournament, and (3) the District Administrator approves the request. NOTE: A player who qualifies for and exercises this waiver, then elects not to participate for a playing season, is not eligible to be retained in future seasons.

Regulation II (i) – Processing Procedure – All Levels of Play

The league president will process a II (i) form. Once the president completes the form, he/she must receive written notification from the league where the player currently resides as outlined above. The league president will present this form and written notification to the District Administrator for review and approval. Once the District Administrator verifies the documentation meets the regulations, the District Administrator may sign the II (i) form granting his or her approval. The league and the district will maintain the form and documentation in their files. This verification process is only required once during a participant's career. The league must maintain this form and documentation for this player for the duration of his/her career until the player graduates from the program or breaks service with the league. Tournament teams with players qualifying under this regulation will be required to carry a copy of this form and documentation with them throughout the tournament. If contested during tournament play, the league will be required to produce the documentation. Additionally, if it is determined at a later date that the player does not meet the conditions of II (i), the player is ineligible for further participation. Situations in which documentation is not available must be referred to the Charter Committee through the regional office for decision. The decision of the Charter Committee is final and binding.

Synopsis: This regulation would allow leagues to register players who live in another chartered Little League's boundaries, with written consent from both league presidents and the District Administrator.

Item 2 – Affects Regulation IV (a) – THE PLAYERS – Baseball

50/70 Division: Any candidate who will attain the age of 11 years before May 1 and who will not attain the age of 14 before May 1 of the year in question shall be eligible to compete in the 50/70 Division (subject to the local League Board of Directors alignment of this division). This means that a child who will be 14 years old on May 1 or later, is eligible to play that year; a child who will be 14 years old on April 30 or earlier will not be eligible for either Local League play or Tournament play at any time during the calendar year in question.

Synopsis: This would create a new baseball division with a 50-foot pitching distance and 70-foot base paths for 11-13 year olds.

Item 3 – Affects Rule 1.07 – Junior League Softball

1.07 - The pitcher's plate shall be a rectangular slab of whitened rubber 24 inches by 6 inches. It shall be set in the ground as shown in Diagrams 1 and 2, so that the distance between the front side of the pitcher's plate and home base (the rear point of home plate) shall be— (1) **Minor League:** 35 feet; (2) **Little League (Majors):** 40 feet; and (3) **Junior/ Senior/Big League:** 43 feet.

Synopsis: This would modify the Junior League Softball pitching distance to 43 feet.

Item 4 – Affects Rule 6.06 – Major League Baseball and Softball A batter is out for illegal action when – **(d)** he/she fakes a bunt and then takes a full swing.

Synopsis: This would eliminate a Major player from fake bunting and “slap-hitting” the ball.

Item 5 – Affects Tournament Teams – Senior League and Big League Softball

Senior League: Tournament teams and Eligibility Affidavits shall consist of, and must be limited, a maximum of **sixteen (16)** players, one (1) manager and a maximum of two (2) coaches.

Big League: Tournament teams may be selected from all league teams in a district or may be a regular season unit team. Teams and Eligibility Affidavit shall consist of, and must be limited to, a maximum of **seventeen (17) players**, one (1) manager and a maximum of two (2) coaches.

Synopsis: This change expands the Senior and Big League Softball rosters to 16 and 17 players respectively.

Item 6 – Affects Tournament Release of Names – Major, Junior, Senior and Big League Baseball and Softball Release of Names

The release of names of players selected for the tournament team shall not be made before June 15, **or two weeks prior to the start of the tournament (whichever is earlier)**, and not until the availability and eligibility of all prospective team members have been established. (Little League accident insurance for tournament teams will not go into effect until June 15, or the date of the release of the names of Tournament Team members, whichever is **earlier**). **Violation of this rule may be cause for revocation of tournament privilege by the Tournament Committee.**

Synopsis: This would align the date on which leagues are allowed to release the names of their Tournament Team with the current 9-10 and 10-11 year old divisions.

Item 7 – Affects Tournament Player Eligibility – All Division Baseball and Softball

Any player League Age (specific), who has participated as an eligible player in 60% of the regular season games as of June 15, with the exception of the school softball season, on a:

1. (Specific) division

Exception: The local league Board of Directors may allow a player to be eligible for selection, who does not meet the 60% requirement, if they provide a physician's note documenting an injury prior to or during the season prohibiting his/her participation.

Synopsis: This would allow a player who has not met the 60% Regular Season participation to be eligible for selection to a Tournament Team if they acquire (obtain/attain) a physician's note documenting an injury.

Item 8 – Affects Tournament Player Eligibility – Major Baseball and Softball

Players are eligible for Tournament Play, provided they meet the criteria established by the Little League "Residency Eligibility Requirement," "Participation In Other Programs" and the following:

Little League (Majors Division) - Any player League Age **10, 11 or 12**, who has participated as an eligible player in 60 percent of the regular season games as of June 15 on a Little League Baseball/Softball (Majors Division) team, with the exception of the school baseball/softball season.

Synopsis: This would allow League Age 10-year-olds to be eligible for selection to the Major Division Tournament team.

Item 9 – Affects Tournament Team Practice – Major, Junior, Senior and Big League Baseball and Softball

Try-outs or practices by tournament teams shall not be held before June 15 **or two weeks prior to the start of the tournament**. Tournament team practice may only take place against other teams within the same or contiguous districts in the same division, providing such practice is done out of uniform. (Little League accident insurance for tournament teams will not go into effect until June 15, or the date of the release of the names of tournament Team members, whichever is **earlier**). **Violation of this rule may be cause for revocation of tournament privileges by the Tournament Committee.**

Synopsis: This would align the date on which leagues are allowed to begin their Tournament Team practice with the current 9-10 and 10-11 year old rule.



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 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](#).

The rules regarding baseball bats for 2012 are:

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.

Little League (Majors) and below: it shall not be more than thirty-three (33) inches in length nor more than two and one-quarter ($2\frac{1}{4}$) 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.**

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

Junior League: it shall not be more than 34 inches in length; nor more than $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths ($\frac{15}{16}$) inches in diameter ($\frac{7}{8}$ 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.

Senior/Big League: it shall not be more than 36 inches in length, nor more than $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths ($\frac{15}{16}$) inches in diameter ($\frac{7}{8}$ 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.

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. Slippy tape or similar material is prohibited.

NOTE 1: Junior/Senior/Big League: The $2\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter bat is not allowed in any division.

NOTE 2: The traditional batting donut is not permissible

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

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 $2\frac{1}{4}$ inch bat ring must be used for bats in the Tee Ball, Minor League and Little League Baseball divisions. The $2\frac{5}{8}$ inch bat ring must be used for bats in the Junior, Senior, and Big League divisions of baseball.

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).

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.

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.