

California District 4 Little League



2022

Softball

Tournament Handbook

The Road to the World Series

We are often asked, what it takes to get to the Little League Softball World Series? Well, here is the answer.

All games leading up to the Western Region Tournament are double elimination. Pool play and modified double elimination formats are used for Western Region and World Series tournaments.

Softball

1. Be a member of a chartered local Little League Softball All Star Team.
2. Win the California District 4 International Tournament. California District 4 is comprised of 9 leagues that play softball. Games are played at local fields throughout California District 4.
3. Win the California Delta Section Tournament (8-10 and 10-12). The Delta Section is comprised of 8 Districts in Northern California.
4. Win the Northern California Championship. Winner of the 4 Section Tournaments (Delta-Capitol-Valley-Shasta). This is for 8-10 and 10-12 divisions. 9-11, Junior and Senior advance to Northern California Championships. Games are hosted by local leagues within a District. In 2022, CA 4 will host the 8-10 and 10-12 Delta Section Tournaments, and the 10-12 and Senior Leagues Northern California Tournaments.
5. Win the Western Regional Tournament. The Little League Western Region Tournament has been held at the Western Region Headquarters in San Bernardino, California. The Tournament is comprised of 10 State Champions and both Northern and Southern California. The Junior Western Region Tournament, held in Tucson, Arizona, and the Senior Western Region Tournament, held in Missoula, Montana.
6. The Little League Softball World Series is held in Greenville, North Carolina. The Junior Softball World Series in Kirkland, Washington and the Senior Softball World Series in Lower Sussex, Delaware. Teams are comprised of the US region winners from the Central, East, Southeast, Southwest, West, and Host District with International teams from Asia-Pacific, Canada, Europe/Africa and Latin America.



California District 4 Little League

California District 4 conducts tournaments under the guidelines provided by Little League Baseball & Softball.

The **Manager** is the most important volunteer member of a team. The Little League manager must be a leader and recognize they hold a position of trust, responsibility and as role models will have an ever lasting impression on their players. It is the manager more than any other individual who controls the situation in which the players may be benefited. The program of Little League can only be as good as the quality of leadership in the managing and coaching personnel.

The **Tournament of Champions** is sponsored under Regulation IX, Special Games, provision of Little League Baseball's Rules and Regulations. This tournament is administered exclusively by Ted Boet (California 4 District Administrator). Game schedules and playing locations are determined and approved locally. This Tournament is an extension of the regular season and is played using regular season rules.

The **International (All-Star) Tournament** is administered by the International Tournament Director at Little League Baseball, Inc., Williamsport, PA. The International Tournament Committee issues "Tournament Rules and Guidelines" indicating exceptions to the regular playing rules. These rules are contained in the back of the "Official Regulations and Playing Rules," for each division of Little League, they are identified as T-1, T-2, etc. Regular playing rules and regulations apply except when modified by these "Tournament Rules." Game schedules are double elimination and are created and issued by California District 4. After the "Game Schedules" are finalized (June 15th) and approved by Little League Western Region Headquarters they will be followed unless weather or other circumstances require reverting to single elimination.

This pamphlet is prepared to assist managers and coaches in understanding how tournaments are conducted. It is the responsibility of the manager (or acting manager) to know and understand both regular season and tournament rules.

If you have any comments regarding the information contained in this pamphlet, please provide them to the District Administrator (Ted Boet), or the District Softball ADA (Phil Raines).

Field Locations & Restrictions Visit:
http://www.californiadistrict4littleleague.org/d4_fields.html

District 4 Tournament Guidelines

Teams

- Managers and coaches **MUST** show a valid government identification (passport or driver's license) to show they are the actual person listed on the team roster/affidavit before they are allowed to participate with the team.

Medical Releases

- Each team **MUST** have a medical release for each player prior to the start of the game. No medical releases for the International Tournament will result in the game being suspended and referred to the District Administrator for possible rescheduling.
- Failure to have medical releases for TOC is covered in the TOC Section on page 6.

Coin Toss

- All fields are considered neutral.
- Prior to the teams taking the field a coin toss will be held by the Tournament Director. The winner of the coin toss has the choice of being "Home or Visitor."
- **Loser has choice of "Dugout." This policy is ONLY for games played in CA4.**

Equipment

- All equipment to be used in a game must be made available for inspection by the Tournament Director and/or Umpires prior to the game.
- All equipment determined to be "unsafe" or "illegal" will be removed from the playing field to prevent its inadvertent use. Equipment removed, if held by the "Tournament Director" will be returned at the end of the game.
- Unsafe or Illegal equipment may not be protested.

Safety Equipment

- All safety equipment will be used in accordance with the rules.
- Form fitting helmets with snaps are allowed without straps provided they fit properly. Chin straps if used/required must be worn securely under the chin.
- Helmets may not be painted and may not contain tape or decals unless approved in writing by the helmet manufacturer.
- Catcher's throat protectors will be attached so the space between the protector and the mask is not more than two (2) inches.
- Catchers shall wear NOCSAE approved catchers helmet and "dangling" throat protector for practice, infield & outfield drills, pitcher warm-up and game.

Uniforms

- Uniforms will conform to the requirements of Playing Rule 1.11.
- Official Little League patches will be affixed (not pinned) in accordance with Rule 1.11(a)(2).
- The wearing of a cap or visor is optional for each team member in softball.

Softballs

- Tournament host supplies all softballs for the game.
- Awarding of softballs for home runs will be at the discretion of the local TD.

Pre-Game Warm-Ups

- 30 minutes before scheduled game time the "Home" team will have ten (10) minutes for pre-game warm-up.
- 20 minutes before scheduled game time the "Visiting" team will have ten (10) minutes for pre-game warm-up.
- 10 minutes before scheduled game time pregame ceremony will commence (announcement of teams, National Anthem, Little League Pledge, pregame meeting with the umpires, etc.).

Pre-Game Meeting

- Prior to the start of the game Managers and Team Captains from both teams will meet with the umpires to cover the "Ground Rules" as provided by the host TD.
- Each team will provide a lineup consisting of an original and three (3) copies in accordance with playing rule 4.01(b) to the Umpire-in-Chief at the pregame meeting.
- The scorekeeper/announcer may review the lineups prior to the pregame meeting to expedite entering the batting lineups in the official book. Copies must remain intact.

Field Conditions

- The Tournament Director or assistant shall judge the fitness of the playing field prior to the pre-game meeting. When the "Home" team presents their lineup to the plate umpire at the pre-game meeting the umpires are the sole judge of field conditions.

Decorum

- The conduct of managers, coaches, players, umpires and league officials must be above reproach.
- An adult ejected from the game shall leave...sight and sound. A player ejected from the game may remain in the dugout or released to his/her parent or the Tournament Director.
- Team member ejected from a game **May Not** attend the team's next physically played game.
- Local Tournament Directors will be responsible for the conduct of spectators. Spectators will be removed from the proximity of the playing field when requested by tournament officials. If necessary the game will be suspended. [9.01 (f)]

Playing Rules

- Tournament Of Champions (regular season rules) will be governed by, "Official Playing Rules and Regulations" and established California District 4 Rules.
- **During the International (All Star) Tournaments, the section in the back of the rulebook titled, "Tournament Rules and Guidelines," will provide exceptions to the regular season rules.**
- **LOCAL LEAGUE PLAYING RULES ARE NOT RECOGNIZED FOR TOURNAMENT PLAY.**



TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

California District 4 Rules & Guidelines

TOC Roster/Pitching Records

- Each team must have a California District 4, "Roster of Championship Team." This form can be downloaded at <http://www.californiadistrict4littleleague.org>. Look under forms.
- A team will not be allowed to play without the "Roster of Championship Team".

TOC Medical Releases

- Each team will have a "Medical Release" for each player on the team.
- Medical release must have an original parent signature on the regular season form.
- The team that does not have medical releases or is unable to field a team because of the shortage of medical releases will forfeit the game to the opposing team. If neither team has medical releases, both teams will be removed from the tournament and their next opponent will draw a "bye."

TOC Managers / Coaches / Players

- All players shall have a Little League patch on their uniform. **Penalty (will not be accessed in 2021 TOC, but will be assessed in Little League (Majors) Softball):** One to three players without a patch, one adult base coach position is eliminated. Four or more players without patches, all adults will be restricted to their dugout before and during the game. A manager, with permission, may leave the dugout for official business.
- Manager and coaches listed on the team roster are the only coaches for that team. No other coaches are allowed on the playing field or dugout.

TOC Manager / Coach Ejection

- **No replacement allowed.** Manager/Coach may not return to the team.
- A manager or coach ejected from any District 4 Special game for the 2nd time may not participate in any future Special Games (TOC) in District 4. Record ejections.

TOC Replacement Manager / Coach

- There is no temporary replacement of a manager or coach in TOC. League president MUST contact Ted Boet within 24 hours in advance if a team will not have any of the team coaches at a game.
- A team with only one adult (that adult) must remain in the dugout and base coaches must be players. The TD will supervise the dugout during the umpire plate meeting.

TOC Dress Code

- Dockers type pants, slacks, skorts or hemmed shorts. No cargo pant, cut-offs, denim type pants or shorts. Collared shirts/polos or team jersey which must be tucked into pants or shorts. No t-shirts, opened toe shoes or metal cleats.
- May wear a team hat or visor in softball.
- Junior & Senior Leagues may be in full team uniform or comply with Little League Dress Code.

TOC Playing Rules

- TOC will be played using regular season Playing Rules and Regulations found on the CA D4 website for each level of play. **LOCAL PLAYING RULES DO NOT APPLY IN ANY TOURNAMENT GAME.** Exceptions to, and options used for, Little League Rules are contained below.
- 1. A game may begin and/or continue with eight players.
- 2. There are no Time Limits.
- 3. Both Special Pinch Runner (major and above) (once per inning) and Courtesy Runner allowed at all levels.
- 4. Third Strike Not Caught is enforced (major and above).
- 5. One Foot in the Batter's Box is enforced.
- 6. Stealing of Signs penalty not automatically enforced.
- 7. Modified Run Rules are in effect. Game ends if team is ahead by 15 runs in the 4th inning (3.5 if home team is leading) or 10 runs in the 5th inning (4.5 if the home team is leading). NOTE: this differs from Playing Rule 4.10(e).
- 8. A pitcher who pitches in five or more innings in a game may only pitch in four innings or fewer in the next played game, no matter how many days separate the games. NOTE: this is different than Regulation VI(b).
- 9. Mandatory Play Requirement is one at bat and six defensive outs. Six defensive outs must be consecutive for a substitute.
- 10. Substitutions per Playing Rule 3.03:
 - A starter may be removed from the lineup prior to meeting Mandatory Play.
 - Starters may re-enter the game, but only once the substitute has met Mandatory Play Requirement AND only in the same position in the batting order.
 - Once a starter and substitute have both met mandatory Play, they may be substituted for each other freely.
 - Free substitution at AAA level.

Note: Violations of Mandatory Play Requirement, innings pitched and days of rest, and substitutions will eliminate that team from further participation in the TOC. Violation may not be as a result of a protest.

TOC Protests

- Protests made in accordance with playing rule 4.19 must be settled before the next pitch, play, or attempted play. Umpire's judgement is NOT protestable.
- Protests regarding the use of an ineligible player must be made before the umpires leave the field.
- **The TOC Tournament Director, who may use a Local Protest Committee, shall rule on a protest and the decision is FINAL.**

TOC Tied Game

- Games will be played until there is a winner or until the umpire terminates play.
- If the game is tied at the end of the last completed inning and reverting to that inning will result in a tie in accordance with rule 4.11, a tied game will be declared.
- Tied games will be resumed at the exact point they were stopped and scheduled for completion at the next game site for either team. Game time will be **4pm** for a weekday game and **one (1) hour before the regularly weekend scheduled game.**
- Manager from one of the teams may be asked to deliver an envelope containing the official score sheet and official lineups to the next game site.

International All-Star Tournaments

Tied Game

- Games will be played until there is a winner or until the umpire terminates play.
- Regulation games terminated because of weather, darkness or curfew must be resumed if the visiting team ties the game or takes the lead and the home team does not complete their at bat or take the lead in an incomplete inning.
- Tied games will be resumed at the exact point they were stopped and scheduled for completion at the next game site for either team. Game time will be **4pm** for a weekday game and **one (1) hour before the regularly scheduled game for a weekend game.**
- Manager from one of the two teams may be asked to deliver an envelope containing the official score sheet and official lineups to the next game site.

Tournament Substitution

- Mandatory Playing Requirement (MPR) is 1 at bat. A team with less than 13 players...all players must also play 6 consecutive defensive outs.
- Any player who has been removed for a substitute may reenter the game in the same position in the batting order.
- A starter may be subbed for prior to meeting mandatory play. However, during her first at bat, she **MUST** complete the Mandatory Play Requirement of an at bat.
- A substitute entering for the first time in the game may not be removed before completing MPR. Unlimited re-entry by both starter and substitute once MPR have been met by both players.
- A starter and substitute are “locked” in the batting order and may not be in the game at the same time.
- Defensive substitutions must be made while the team is on defense. Offensive substitutions must be made at the time the offensive player has her/his turn at bat or is on base.
- A pitcher who has met MPR may be removed for a substitute batter (not replaced on the mound) and then return to pitch in the next half-inning provided the substitute had also met MPR...only **ONCE** in a game.
- Special Pinch Runner Rule remains in effect. T-3(d). No courtesy runner allowed.

Tournament Protest

- **A Local Protest Committee Is Not Allowed For All Stars**
- A manager shall protest before the next pitch, play or attempted play.
- A protest shall be decided in the following order:
 1. All umpires shall meet to resolve the protest and reach a final decision. If either manager does not agree with the umpires' final decision the protest may continue.
 2. If the protest cannot be resolved on the field, contact the District 4 Administrator, **Ted Boet, 925-494-CAD4.**
 3. **If Ted Boet is not available** or the protest is still not resolved to a manager's satisfaction, the TD (**NOT A MANAGER**) shall contact the **Western Region Protest Hotline, 909-726-2226.**
 4. If still not resolved to the protesting manager's satisfaction, the TD or DA shall contact **Little League Headquarters.** The protest must be resolved before the

next pitch or play. Headquarters decision is final and the game will be resumed, replayed, or forfeited based on the Tournament Committee's decision.

Manager / Coach Temporary Replacement

- Host TD may authorize **a one game temporary replacement** with approval letter from league president. Government picture ID required.
- Approval letter from league president (Volunteer Application Form and Background Check) required for temporary replacement of **two or more days**.

Manager / Coach Permanent Replacement

- Host TD may authorize **a permanent replacement** of a manager/coach.
- The replacement Manager/Coach must have a letter of approval from the league president (Volunteer Application and Background Check). Government picture ID required. Manager/Coach replaced **MAY NOT** return to the team.

Player Replacement

- Ted Boet or his appointed ADA may authorize a player replacement if notified within 24 hours before the next game.
- Team Manager must show the following:
 - Completed Tournament Player Verification Form.
 - Three (3) proofs of residency documents from three (3) different "Groups" as listed in the **2022** Little League Official Baseball Regulations. Residency documents with an issue date between **2-1-21 and 2-1-22....OR**
 - School attendance to verify a player to a league from one of the following:
 - Little League form that is completed by a school administrator. Only acceptable signatures.....Principal, Vice Principal, or authorized administrator to sign on behalf of the school.
 - Official School enrollment record dated prior to October 1, **2021**.
 - An original or a certified copy of an original government proof of birth document with the issued date within one (1) year of the birth date. California Proof of Birth Abstracts are **Not** allowed.
 - A Medical Release Form with the parent's original signature.
 - Records of regular season play, which shows the regular season's team name, the number of games played by the regular season team, and the number of games played by this player as of June 15th. Supplemental Tournament Affidavit Sheet may be used for school participation.
 - Location of the replacement player's residence on the League Boundary Map.
 - Appropriate waiver [II(d), IV(h), etc.] and supporting documents.

Note: A "lined-out" through the name of a manager, coach, or player will remove that team member "PERMANENTLY" from the team eligibility roster.

District Winner

- As soon as possible, the winning team manager shall contact Ted Boet to have tournament documents reviewed.
- Send a photo of the Championship team to Ted Boet.
- Managers are required to carry copies of documents used to establish the residency of parent(s) or legal guardians of all players on the team.
- The Manager, League President and District Administrator will be responsible for verifying that each player has provided a document from each of the three (3) "Groups" listed in the **2022** Official Baseball Regulations & Playing Rules.

Northern California Tournament Dress Code

Dress Code in effect for all International Tournaments in Northern California

Dress Code

- Only coaches that comply to the dress code will be allowed on the field. If no adult complies, they will be required to remain in their dugout. The TD shall appoint one adult to represent their team at home plate and to make necessary changes.

Little League

- Dockers type pants, slacks, skorts or hemmed shorts will be required for managers and coaches. No denim type pants or shorts will be allowed. No cargo pants or shorts will be allowed. Shorts must be no higher than 2" above the knee and no lower than the knee. Pants, slacks or shorts must be the same color for the manager and coaches.
- Collared shirts (no tee shirts) or team jersey will be required and must be tucked into the pants.

Junior League / Senior League

- Managers and coaches may wear full uniforms. If not in uniform, the same dress code for Little League will apply.

Shoes

- No open toed shoes, sandals, shoes with metal cleats, etc.

Hats & Visors

- Hats or Visors with bills facing forward may be worn.



Any Manager or Coach who does not conform to the dress code will not be allowed on the playing field before or during the game.

The purpose of the dress code is to ensure an acceptable uniform appearance of all participants and to promote a positive role model for players and spectators at Little League tournament.

Notes:

The Little League Pledge:

I TRUST IN GOD
I LOVE MY COUNTRY
AND WILL RESPECT ITS LAWS
I WILL PLAY FAIR AND STRIVE TO WIN
BUT WIN OR LOSE
I WILL ALWAYS DO MY BEST

Important Contact Information

District 4 Chief Umpire
Don Waddell
925-788-6346 (C)
llcad4uic@gmail.com

Report Game Results
California District 4
Text (925) 257-4600
Email scores@llcad4.org

Visit the CA4 Website:
<http://www.californiadistrict4littleleague.org>

**International Tournament (All-Star)
Protest Phone Numbers**

CA4 District Administrator
Tournament Director
Ted Boet
925-494-CAD4 (C)

Western Region Headquarters
Protest Hotline: 909-726-2226