

California District 4 Little League



2025

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 7 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 5 Districts in Northern California.
4. Win the Northern California Championship. Winner of the 5 Section Tournaments (Delta-Capitol-Valley-Shasta-Mission). This is for 8-10, 9-11 and 10-12 divisions. Games are hosted by local leagues within a District. In 2025 California District 4 will host the 8-10, 9-11, 10-12 and Junior Delta Section Tournaments, and the Senior and Junior League Northern California Tournaments.
5. Win the Western Regional Tournament. The Little League Western Region is held in San Bernardino, California and comprised of 4 State Champions including both Northern and Southern California. The Junior Western Region Tournament is held in Tucson, Arizona and the Senior Western Region Tournament is held in Missoula, Montana.
6. The Little League Softball World Series will be held in Greenville, North Carolina. The Junior Softball World Series is held in Kirkland, Washington, and the Senior Softball World Series, held 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 everlasting impression on their players. It is the manager more than any other individual who controls the situation in which the players may benefit. 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 Softball'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. 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 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), ADA Liz Berg or the District Softball ADA (Phil Raines).

Field Locations & Restrictions Visit:

http://www.californiadistrict4littleleague.org/d4_fields.html

District 4 Tournament Guidelines

TOC and All Stars

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.

Coin Toss

- All fields are considered neutral.
- Prior to the teams taking the field, a coin toss will be held by the local 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.

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 or silkscreened) in accordance with Rule 1.11(a)(2).
- Wearing a cap or visor is optional for each team member in softball.

Softballs

- Tournament host supplies all softballs for the game.
- The 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 members 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

- "Official Playing Rules and Regulations" and established California District 4 Rules will govern tournament Of Champions (regular season 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 League Champion" signed by the league president, along with a pitching record is required.
- Prior to the start of the TOC a team may bring up player(s) from a lower division in order to fill a roster in order to compete in the tournament.
- Players brought up from a lower division are relegated to the outfield positions and will be listed last in the batting order of any game.
- Once the tournament starts no additions may be made.
- 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.
- Each team must have a signed Parent Code of Conduct for each player.
- A signed President Verification letter.
- A signed Medical release statement from the league President.
These forms can be downloaded under "LL Forms" at <http://www.californiadistrict4littleleague.org>.
- A team may not play if any of these items are missing.

TOC Managers / Coaches / Players

- All players shall have a Little League patch on their uniform. If one to three players are without a patch, one adult base coach position is eliminated. If four or more players are 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, or hemmed shorts, (skorts for woman). No cargo pants, 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, Crocs or metal cleats.
- May wear a team hat or visor in softball.
- Junior & Senior Leagues may be in full team uniform or comply with the 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.** 2025 rules can be found on the CA D4 website.
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 (Seniors) and Courtesy Runner are 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 will be enforced.
 7. Modified Run Rules are in effect. **Majors and below** Game ends if team is ahead by 15 runs or more in the 3rd inning (2.5 if home team is leading) or 10 runs or more in the 4th inning (3.5 if the home team is leading). **Seniors** Game ends if team is ahead by 15 runs or more in the 4th inning (3.5 if home team is leading) or 10 runs or more in the 5th inning (4.5 if the home team is leading) or 8 or more runs after 6 innings (5.5 innings if home team is leading) will concede and the game will end. (Rule 4.10e).
 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 six defensive outs and one at bat. All players will bat in a continuous batting order.
 10. Substitutions on defense can be made freely.
 11. Notify the scorekeeper each inning of what players are on the bench while playing defense. Once mandatory play has been met this is no longer required.
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.
- All protests will be decided by the staff of California District 4.
- Protests regarding the use of an ineligible player must be made before the umpires leave the field. The District Administrator shall rule on a protest involving an ineligible player and his decision is FINAL. **Umpire's judgment is not protestable.**

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. The game 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

All Star Roster

- Each team must have a Little League "Affidavit and team map" signed by the league president.
- Managers and coaches listed on the team affidavit are the only coaches for that team. No other coaches are allowed on the playing field or dugout.
- A signed President Verification letter
- A signed Medical release statement from the league President.
These forms can be downloaded under "LL Forms" at <http://www.californiadistrict4littleleague.org>.
- A team may not play if any of these items are missing.
- Each player must have an approved "Tournament Player Verification Form (TPV)
- Each player must have their approved proof of residency.
- Each player must have a signed Parent Code of Conduct.
- A player may not play without these documents.

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 2025 Official Baseball Regulations & Playing Rules.

All Star Players Dress Code

- Same as Tournament of Champions

All Star Manager / Coach Ejection

- Will need to leave the current game in both sight and sound.
- Will be absent from the next played game, including pre and post-game activities.

All Star Manager / Coach Temporary Replacement

- Local TD may authorize **a one game temporary replacement** with approval letter from league president. Government picture ID is required.
- A temporary replacement may not be made for an ejected manager or coach.
- Approval letter from league president (Volunteer Application Form and Background Check) required for temporary replacement of **two or more days**.

All Star 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 is required. Manager/Coach replaced **MAY NOT** return to the team.

All Star Player Replacement

- Ted Boet or his appointed ADA may authorize a player replacement if notified within 24 hours before the next game. A tournament director may also be instructed by the District Administrator to add a player to a roster.
- The team Manager must email the following to the District Administrator:
 - Completed Tournament Player Verification Form.
 - Three (3) proofs of residency documents from three (3) different "Groups" as listed in the **2025** Little League Official Baseball Regulations. Residency documents with an issue date between **2-1-24 and 2-1-25....OR**
 - Little League form that is completed by a school administrator. Only acceptable signatures are Principal, Vice Principal, or authorized administrator to sign on behalf of the school. Official School enrollment record must show player enrolled before October 1, **2024**.
 - 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.
 - Records of regular season play, which show 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.
 - Signed parent copy of Code of Conduct
 - New team affidavit and map.
 - Appropriate waiver [II(d), IV(h), etc.] and supporting documents if needed.
 - After review by the District Administrator the submitted forms will be returned with appropriate markings to allow the local tournament director to add the player to the affidavit.

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

All Star Dress Code

Dress Code in effect for all International Tournaments in Northern California

- Same as Tournament of Champions

All Star Playing Rules

Rules in the Little League Softball rulebook as well as the supplemental rules for tournament play will be enforced.

Tournament Substitution

- Mandatory Playing Requirement (MPR) is 1 at bat. Teams will use a continuous batting order. (Junior and Below) Senior will bat just 9. The use of a DP/Flex is allowed.
- Defensive substitutions may be made at any time. (Junior and Below) Senior will use book rules for substitution.
- Defensive substitutions must be made while the team is on defense.
- Courtesy runners may be used for the pitcher or catcher if there are two outs while they are on base. (Junior and Below) Rule 7.14 is in effect for Senior play.
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All Star 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.**
- Managers 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.

- **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,** the TD (**NOT A MANAGER**) shall contact the **Western Region Protest Hotline.**
 4. If it is still not resolved to the protesting manager's satisfaction, the Western Region will 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.

District Winner

- Send a photo of the Championship team to Ted Boet.
- District winners advance to the Section Tournament



Important Contact Information

District 4 Chief Umpire

Jim Rose
925-348-0734(C)
Jrose001@aol.com

Report Game Results

California District 4
Text (925) 664-4472

Visit the CA4 Website:

<http://www.californiadistrict4littleleague.org>

CA4 District Administrator Tournament Director

Ted Boet
llcad4da@gmail.com
925-494-CAD4

All information contained in this booklet is to assist managers and coaches during tournament season. All effort has been made to give accurate information to the managers and coaches at the time of publication. However, it is still the responsibility of the managers and coaches to know all the rules of competition for tournament play.

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