

CALIFORNIA DISTRICT 24 LITTLE STARS INVITATIONAL

1.0 PHILOSOPHY

The Little Stars Invitational Tournament has been designed for the sole benefit of the leagues within California District 24. The tournament provides an opportunity for league age seven (7) and eight (8) year old players to compete against their peers, from other District 24 leagues, in a tournament setting.

2.0 WHO MAY PARTICIPATE

- In order to participate:
 - ❑ Each player must be from a regular season team and must be league age seven (7) or league age eight (8) to be eligible.
 - ❑ Each league may select a team from all eligible players on their regular season rosters. A maximum of eight (8) players from either age group may participate.
 - ❑ One (1) manager and two (2) coaches may be selected but they must have been rostered Farm or Minor managers/coaches during regular season. No Major managers/coaches are allowed.
 - ❑ The team roster must be registered with the Tournament Director no later than the date and time determined.
 - ❑ The team roster **MUST** contain **NO LESS** than twelve (12) rostered players and no more than fifteen (15) rostered players unless it has been approved in advance by the Tournament Director.

3.0 WHAT KIND OF TOURNAMENT

- The tournament shall be a double elimination tournament, utilizing regular season rules and shall be hosted at one (1) site.
- The tournament winner does not progress to any other level tournament outside of CA District 24.
- There will be a \$ 75.00 non-refundable entry fee per team.

4.0 WHAT DOES A GAME HOST DO

- The host league is responsible for providing a playing field that is up to tournament standards. Our primary concern is safety, therefore, filling in potholes, securing of base anchors, leveling of the infield, etc. will be of prime importance. **Portable mounds may be used.** Since the fields have been used in regular season play, this should not require a great deal of extra effort.
- During the games, the host league will provide bases, chalk the fields, provide water to the umpires and provide water in the dugouts for the players. The host league is responsible for keeping the field in playing condition.
- In case of emergencies, the host league shall provide ice/plastic bags, along with a first aid kit that should be kept at the Site Director's table. Incident Reports must be completed for any reported injury and be sure that a copy is emailed to the Tournament Director, Pamela White, as soon as possible.
- The host league is to provide the Official Scorekeeper and the Official Announcer. The Official Scorebook will be provided by District 24. At the completion of each game, the line-ups and the Pitch Count sheet is to be stapled to the official scoresheet of that game.
- The host league is to provide a roped off area behind home plate, along with a table and chairs for tournament staff/officials. The dugouts are to be roped off. A special parking area (at least 5-6 parking spaces roped off) needs to be provided for tournament staff/umpires.
- **All proceeds from the snack bar, collections or donations shall remain sole property of the host league.**

5.0 WHAT ABOUT INSURANCE

- Each league is responsible for their own insurance coverage. District 24 is to be notified of any injuries that occur during this tournament, whether it involves a player or an adult. **PLAYERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED BACK IN THE GAME WITHOUT PRESENTING AN ORIGINAL COPY OF THEIR DOCTOR'S RELEASE, NOT THE EMERGENCY ROOM RELEASE, TO THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR.**
- Each league will be responsible for filing their own claims, medical follow-up, etc.
- A copy of any incident reports **MUST** be given or emailed to the Site Director and to the District Administrator **within 48 hours**.

6.0 WHAT AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN

- Any awards given to the participants will be consistent with the rules and regulations of Little League Baseball, Inc.

7.0 WHO IS IN CHARGE

- The tournament shall be administered by the District 24 Administrator and District 24 Staff.
- **TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:** The ADA's of the District 24 staff shall be the first line of contact for dispute resolution, with the final decision resting solely with the District Administrator, who is the designated Tournament Director. The Little Stars Invitational is a District run tournament; therefore, West Region Headquarters and Little League Headquarters are **NOT** in the chain of command.
- **SITE DIRECTOR:** Qualified individuals shall be appointed to the position of Site Director by the host league.
- **TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE:** The District Administrator, the members of the District 24 Staff, along with the Site Director, shall compose the Tournament Committee. **The final decision will rest solely with the District Administrator.**
- **OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER:** The host league shall provide a qualified individual to perform the duties of official scorekeeping. The Official Scorekeeper will be responsible for keeping the required Pitch Count for each game.
- **OFFICIAL ANNOUNCER:** The host league shall provide a qualified individual to perform the duties of official announcer for the designated game.
- **PROTESTS:** A protest involving a playing rule **MUST** be made **before** the next pitch or the protest is deemed invalid.
 - ❑ In the event of a playing rule violation being filed properly with the home plate umpire, the game's umpire crew shall consult to resolve the alleged violation. In the event the umpiring crew is unable to resolve the issue, the protest shall be referred to the Site Director, and then to the Tournament Director, if necessary. **NOTE: ANY RULING MADE BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR WILL BE DEEMED FINAL AND BINDING.**
 - ❑ Team disqualification shall be referred to the Tournament Director for a decision.

8.0 WHAT ARE THE GAME PRELIMINARIES

- Each team should arrive at the game site sixty (60) minutes prior to the start of the game.
- The home team shall be designated by a coin toss and shall occupy the third base dugout.
- A game script for the announcer to follow will be provided by District 24.
- The Site Director shall have sole authority to rule on the playing conditions of the field prior to game time.

CALIFORNIA DISTRICT 24 LITTLE STARS INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES AND GUIDELINES

LITTLE STARS PLAYING RULES:

The official Little League rules and regulations shall govern play in the Little Stars Invitational, **EXCEPT** as noted below:

- ❑ **PITCHING:**
 - Regular season pitching rules will apply. Regulation VI, under the title of “EXCEPTION”, regarding Pitch Threshold/Days Rest, will apply. Failure of a manager to comply with Regulation VI will result in a one (1) game suspension and may result in the removal of the team manager from the tournament.
 - Player pitch will be utilized and continuous batting order will be in effect. Pitch count will be enforced.
- ❑ **TIME LIMIT:**
 - No new inning will begin after one (1) hour forty-five (45) minutes or until a legal game is completed (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead or 4 innings if the visiting team is ahead). If an inning begins prior to the time limit, that inning will be completed. Time will be kept by the home plate umpire.
- ❑ **CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER:**
 - Continuous batting order will be in effect.
- ❑ **RUN LIMIT:**
 - There will be a five (5) run limit per inning until the start of the 5th inning. After the start of the 5th inning, there will be no run limit enforced. **EXCEPTION: For the first four (4) innings, if the 5th run is a home run that is batted out of the park and over the fence, all runs will count.**
 - Stealing of bases will be allowed.
- ❑ **MANDATORY PLAY:**
 - Regulation IV (i) applies. Failure to comply with this regulation shall result in the player playing in the **ENTIRE** next game.
 - Failure of a manager to comply with mandatory play will result in a one (1) game suspension and may result in the removal of the team manager from the tournament. **NOTE: To assist the manager in complying with this regulation, so that an honest oversight does not occur, the Official scorekeeper shall notify the Umpire-in-Chief at the top of the 2nd inning, of the players who have not participated fully. The Umpire-in-Chief will notify the respective manager. This assistance will NOT relieve the manager of the responsibility of fully observing this regulation.**
 - During defensive play, ten (10) players of a team will be allowed to participate and be on the field; the additional player will be placed in the outfield dirt and/or grass area only.

- ❑ **FORFEITURE OF A GAME:**
 - A team unable or refusing to place nine [9] players on the field may start the game with eight [8] players. If a team is still unable to start the game, a forfeit may be called by the Tournament Director 10-minutes after the scheduled game time. All forfeits can **only** be approved by the Tournament Director, whose decision will be deemed final and binding.

- ❑ **EJECTIONS:**
 - Ejection of a player, manager and/or coach: Rule 4.07 applies.
 - If ejection of a player prevents a team from fielding the required number of players, the opposing manager may insert a previously used player in the lineup. A player, who has been ejected from the game, is NOT eligible for re-entry.

- ❑ **COURTESY RUNNER: (7.14b)** A courtesy runner for the catcher and/or the pitcher of record when there are [2] outs will be permitted. Neither the pitcher or the catcher is subject to removal from the line-up.
 - A courtesy runner must be reported to the plate umpire.
 - The same courtesy runner may not run for both the pitcher and the catcher at any time during the game.
 - If continuous batting order is used, the courtesy runner may be in the team's batting order and **MUST** be the player who made the last out.

- ❑ **FIFTEEN RUN RULE: Rule 4.10(e)**

If after three (3) innings, two and one-half innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If after four (4) innings, three and one-half innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. **NOTE:** (1) If the visiting team has a lead of fifteen (15) or ten (10) runs or more respectively, the home team must bat in its half of the inning. (2) The local league may adopt the option of not utilizing this rule. [15 runs after 3 innings, 2 ½ if the home team is ahead] [10 runs after 4 innings, 3 ½ if the home team is ahead]

- ❑ **THE BATTER**
 - Rule 6.02 (C) and Rule 6.08 (A) will be in effect for the Little Stars Tournament. One (1) foot **MUST** remain in the batter's box at all times.

LITTLE STARS PLAYING GUIDELINES:

1. The team shall arrive at the playing field at least sixty (60) minutes prior to game time, being warmed up and ready to take infield thirty (30) minutes prior to game time. **PRIOR TO EACH GAME, ALL TEAM EQUIPMENT MUST BE LEFT OUTSIDE THE DUGOUT UNTIL CHECKED BY THE GAME UMPIRES.**
2. UMPIRES: Each participating team shall provide **one (1)** umpire for the game in which they are involved.
 - The designated home team umpire shall occupy the field.
 - The designated visitor's team umpire shall occupy the plate.
 - The Tournament Director must approve any deviation from these assignments.
 - **The league that does not provide an umpire will automatically be designated as the Visiting team.**
 - **The District 24 staff shall assign umpires for the final game.**
 - All umpires shall be instructed to report to the Site Director for the designated game sixty (60) minutes prior to game time.
3. PITCHING RECORDS: Each team **must** use the Official Little Stars Pitching Record, provided by the district. The Little Stars Pitching Record, along with the team's Little Star roster, **must** be turned in to the Site Director thirty (30) minutes prior to game time. **PENALTY:** The manager will be suspended for that game and if the up-to-date, Little Star's pitching record is not presented to the Site Director by the end of that game, the game may be deemed a forfeit.
4. Home team designation shall be determined by a coin toss conducted by tournament site staff with both team manager's or their designated substitute(s) present, sixty (60) minutes prior to the scheduled game time. Home team shall occupy the third base dugout.
5. Three (3) copies of the line-up must be given to the Site Director thirty (30) minutes prior to the game time. Leagues will supply their own line-up sheets. **The information required on the line-up sheet is first name, last name, uniform number, position number and the names of the manager and coaches.**
6. Team equipment will be checked before each game. Illegal or damaged equipment will be removed and no protest will be considered.
7. The catcher must wear a hard cup, along with headgear that covers their ears with full mask and a **dangling** throat protector. This is the responsibility of the manager. Rule 1.17 shall be interpreted to include infield and outfield practice. Players who are catching for the batter for infield and outfield practice will wear the helmet/face mask. Each team is responsible to warm up their own pitcher. **Adult manager and coaches will NOT be allowed to act as a substitute nor be allowed to warm up any player.**

PENALTY: *Offender will be removed from the game. If this occurs prior to the start of the game, the offender will not be permitted to participate in that game.*
8. **BASEBALL:** Each team will provide two (2) new regulation Little League approved baseballs per each tournament game played.
9. Only the rostered team manager, two (2) coaches and a maximum of fifteen (15) rostered players shall be permitted in the dugout. All other persons shall occupy the identified spectator area. Managers and coaches

must be rostered in their **respective** division on a regular season Farm, Triple A, Double A, Single A or a Minor team. **ALL TEAMS MUST HAVE AT LEAST TWELVE (12) ROSTERED PLAYERS and NO MORE THAN FIFTEEN (15) ROSTERED PLAYERS.**

10. If the manager/coach participant is **NOT** rostered in their respective division, during regular season play, he/she must be approved to participate by the Tournament Director prior to the start of the tournament.
11. The game strategy shall be conducted from the dugout. Conversation from the dugout with the spectators may result in the offending player, coach, and/or manager being removed from the game.
12. There will not be any special seating provided for the team scorekeeper. All changes will be reported from the dugout through the home plate umpire directly to the official scorekeeper. Changes will then be announced.
PITCH COUNT REGULATIONS WILL BE ENFORCED AND KEPT BY THE OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER.
13. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, only approved officials or newspaper photographers may be on the playing field during the game.
14. Managers, coaches, and players are to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. If you disagree with the umpire's decision, it is expected that the correct and appropriate procedure will be used in discussing the matter.
15. **THE USE OF FOUL LANGUAGE, GESTURES OR MAKING DEROGATORY REMARKS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** This may be cause for immediate removal of the offender from the game and/or the tournament.
16. Disruptive behavior by the spectators will **NOT** be tolerated and will be cause for removal of the offender(s) from the ballpark.
17. **NO** artificial noisemakers will be allowed. Please be sure spectators are advised prior to the start of the game.
18. Teams are expected to hustle on and off the field. There will be one (1) minute between innings.
19. Additional ground rules pertaining to specific playing field adjustments or expected conduct of team members will be discussed at the opening plate conference with the game umpires.
20. Managers or coaches are not allowed to wear cutoff shorts, tank tops, open-toed shoes or jewelry. The dress code shall be neat and appropriate for a Little League representative.
21. Once the game begins, **NO PLAYER, MANAGER OR COACH** may leave the dugout without permission of the game umpires. Stepping outside of the dugout for a smoke will constitute leaving the dugout without permission and that person will be prevented from re-entering the dugout for the remainder of the game. There will be no smoking or tobacco of any kind allowed in/or near the dugout.

22. Restroom privileges will be permitted providing:
- Permission is first obtained from a game umpire.
 - The individual goes directly to and from the restroom without engaging in conversation with parents and/or spectators. **Up to two (2) designated parents from each team, determined prior to start of the game, will be allowed to accompany the team's players to the restroom.**
PENALTY: *Offender may be removed from the game.*
23. NO pins or good luck charms may be worn on the uniform or caps of the managers, coaches, or players.
24. NO jewelry may be worn on the field by the players, managers, and coaches with the exception of jewelry that alerts medical personnel to a specific condition. NOTE: The rubber wristbands from charity organizations will be considered jewelry and may not be worn. Religious medals may be worn if they are covered and do not keep 'popping out' of their enclosure.
25. Electronic devices will be restricted per Rule 3.17. The use of Game Changer and the Electronic Pitch Counting App will be allowed. There will be no posted stationary cameras/tripods OR continuous recording devices (ex. Go PRO) allowed during this tournament.