

INTERLOCK Rules & Regulations

Spring: Ontario Districts 2 & 8

Summer: Ontario Districts 2, 6, 7 & 8

These Rules & Regulations apply to all MINOR, MAJOR, JUNIOR, and SENIOR divisions of Ontario District 2, 6, 7 and 8 INTERLOCK play.

LAST UPDATED on Friday, July 3, 2009

New or Changed Items are in RED

It is every coach's responsibility to be familiar with these Rules & Regulations. This document will always be available at the District 2 web site, <http://ontd2ll.fuzzybeagle.com>.

The ROOKIE division has its own rules which are not yet in this document.

The BIG LEAGUE division is run by District 6 and its own Constitution and Rules and is not specifically covered by this document, though an attempt has been made to fold them in here. The official documents should take priority and can be found at these locations:

DISTRICT 6 BIG LEAGUE CONSTITUTION: <http://www.littleleagueont6.on.ca/pages/blcon.htm>

DISTRICT 6 BIG LEAGUE RULES: <http://www.littleleagueont6.on.ca/pages/biglgrule.htm>

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INTRODUCTION:

The term "INTERLOCK" comes from the fact that here in Eastern Ontario, our Leagues are often so small that we cannot have a full schedule within one League, and therefore have to play teams from other Leagues, sometimes even with teams from neighbouring Districts. That is, we form an INTERLOCKING SCHEDULE with teams from different Leagues and Districts when we have to. Since each League may do things a little differently, one set of common rules is needed to govern INTERLOCK play.

There are at least 3 very good reasons that we follow rules, even if we don't agree with them:

1. We follow the rules because we agree to when we pay for the Charter granted to us by Little League.
2. We follow the rules so that no team can protest our teams' eligibility at any District, Provincial, National or World tournament.
3. We follow the rules so that there is no question that our players and volunteers are covered by Little League's insurance.

We don't normally change rules to make them less restrictive than the Little League rule books, especially if they would affect numbers 2 and 3 above, but we sometimes do change a rule to make it more restrictive.

Little League rules and regulations apply as stated in the current rule book, unless modified by one of the following rule changes and/or clarifications, for teams and divisions involved in INTERLOCK only.

Recent **(2009 season)** Little League Rule Changes can be found online at these locations:
http://www.littleleague.org/Assets/forms_pubs/RR_Changes_BB_09_10-30-08.pdf
http://www.littleleague.org/Assets/forms_pubs/Tourn_RuleChanges_BB_09_10-30-08.pdf
http://www.littleleague.org/Learn_More/rules/2009_Rule_and_Regulation_Changes/NewOptionRule5_07.htm

Section A: REGULATIONS – Guidelines for INTERLOCK Teams

1. **Play Nicely:** INTERLOCK and "Tournament Play" are two different Little League programs, although many Tournament players also participate in INTERLOCK in Spring and/or Summer. Every adult involved in a Little League game is a volunteer (coaches, umpires, scorekeepers, convenors, DA, ADA's, etc.) and all are contributing their time so that kids can have the experience of playing baseball. Keep it friendly. Think twice before you accuse someone of bias. It is in the best interest of everyone involved to be cooperative with each other.
2. **Seasons:** There are two INTERLOCK seasons: Spring INTERLOCK, which runs in May and June, and Summer INTERLOCK, which runs in July and August. Each of those seasons ends in a play-off. BIG LEAGUE has just one season, which runs from May thru August, with a play-off at the end.
3. **Convenors:** It is essential that INTERLOCK have a convenor for each division (ROOKIE, MINOR, MAJOR, JUNIOR, SENIOR and BIG LEAGUE). The same convenor can look after both the Canadians ("A") and Nationals ("B") leagues in the same age group. The convenor should NOT be a coach although it can be someone who is associated with a team. It should be someone who can communicate via email any day of the week. The convenor will be responsible for:
 - Creating the regular season schedule;
 - Communicating information to the teams;
 - Making sure each team promptly enters their game scores, pitch count, and participation data at the appropriate web site;
 - Assisting the coaches involved in rescheduling rained out games;
 - Keeping Official Standings (an effort will be made to ensure the web site is correct, but the convenor will be the final arbiter);
 - Scheduling and Overseeing the play-offs; and
 - Delivering the trophies to the final game, arranging the presentations, and the taking of pictures of the finalists to be put on the INTERLOCK web site.
4. **Teams:** Any league in Districts 2 and 6 can enter one or more teams into each division in the Spring and/or Summer INTERLOCK leagues.
 - Teams from Districts 7 and 8 will be considered for entry into INTERLOCK play on a case-by-case basis.
 - If a League enters only one team in a division, the League **MUST** enter it into the Canadians ("A") side. The League's President may appeal this to the District Administrators (DAs) with teams at that level, who may use their discretion to allow a League's single weak team to be entered into the Nationals ("B") division instead.
 - If a League enters more than one team in a division, the league must enter at least one team in the Canadians ("A") division. It will be the League's option to make equal teams and enter them in Canadians ("A"), or to select the teams according to skill level or age and enter some in Canadians ("A") division and some in the Nationals ("B") division.

- It is ESSENTIAL that each team have AT LEAST ONE person who can receive email any day of the week and be responsible for communicating information distributed that way to the rest of the team.
- Each team may have a maximum of 19 players on its roster (including taxi-squad). When a league has two teams in one division, they may designate a taxi squad of at most 4 players who can be used by either team.

5. Registration #1:

All players must be officially registered during the current season. This means that a team may not use any player unless that player is properly registered as per the second Registration regulation below. (Name on roster and roster entered electronically through the District 2 website, <http://ontd2ll.fuzzybeagle.com>.)

Rationale: This clarification ensures that players are properly registered so that they are playing on the correct team in the correct league, and are insured. It also prevents teams from adding a player to their roster at game time and later finding out they are ineligible and/or uninsured for some reason.

6. Registration #2:

All players on the regular roster and reserve must be registered by:

Spring INTERLOCK Season: May 20

Summer INTERLOCK Season: Jul 20.

In addition to each League and/or Districts Roster submission requirements, INTERLOCK requires that rosters must be entered by each team's manager using the Roster Entry form at the District 2 website, <http://ontd2ll.fuzzybeagle.com>. The form will ask only for Name, Uniform Number, and a check box for whether the player is allowed to pitch. (For example, over-age players may not pitch).

Rationale: This puts a process in place to make sure that all players are properly registered, so there will be fewer questions about a player's eligibility for INTERLOCK and Tournament games.

NOTE: Each District and/or League may have additional Roster rules, such as submitting a roster which shows players' name, address, phone number and birth date, as well as the name and phone number of the manager and all coaches. For INTERLOCK, however, we require only those fields shown on the web site's form.

- For the summer INTERLOCK season, a summer player must also have been registered in Little League during the Spring season. Any players not meeting that standard who wish to register for Summer INTERLOCK should have their League administration contact their District Administrator.

7. Fees: There are NO fees for the Spring INTERLOCK season, nor will there be trophies. For the Summer INTERLOCK season, registration fees will be \$60.00 per team to cover the cost of trophies. Cheques should be made payable to: Ontario District 2 Little League. At the end of the Summer INTERLOCK season, an accounting of these monies will be sent to the President of each League involved in the summer program. The balance, if any, will remain in District 2's hands in a Summer INTERLOCK account for use next season. Any balance at the end of this season will be deemed to be jointly owned by the Districts whose teams contributed.

8. Schedule: If at all possible, each team must have two home fields per week to allow for flexibility in scheduling and making up rainouts, etc. Teams will have an equal number of home and away games during the season, and, if possible, will have one home and one away game per week (with some maneuvering around the District Tournament for Canadians ("A") divisions).

- Weekend double headers may be scheduled to accommodate games between teams that cannot travel to each other on weekdays.
- A regular season will consist of 12 to 14 games per team.
- INTERLOCK Play-offs are single elimination.
- Spring INTERLOCK Regular season: May 1 to June 15.
- Spring INTERLOCK Play-offs: Jun 16 to June 26.
- Summer INTERLOCK Regular season: June 29 to Aug 08.

- Summer INTERLOCK Play-offs: Aug 09 to Aug 23.
- BIG LEAGUE Regular Season: May 15 to Aug 15.
- BIG LEAGUE Play-offs: Aug 16 to Aug 26.
- The schedules for all divisions and maps (or directions) to all fields are published on the District 2 website.

9. Home Team Responsibilities:

The home team will:

- Supply at least 2 approved leather game balls for the level of play;
- Set up the field with bases;
- Arrange for a home plate umpire and at least one base umpire;
 1. TWO UMPIRES should be scheduled for each game. If on occasion, you have only one umpire show up for a game, you can ask for a volunteer from the spectators to do the bases if the opposing coach agrees. This may happen occasionally, and should NOT be a normal occurrence.
 2. If no umpires show up after a 30 minute wait, the home team will forfeit the game to the visiting team.
- Home teams may have the choice of dugouts they will use for their home games.
- JUNIOR teams will use the dimensions of the field that is being used by the home team for that home game in that League area.
- The home team will provide the OFFICIAL SCORER. Both teams shall track their own scores and pitch counts (see section 12 below) and report them to the web site (see section 10 below). Scorekeepers should confer during the game, but in case of an irresolvable difference, the home team's scorekeeper will prevail.

10. Reporting Game Results:

Each team is to select an individual who will visit the District 2 web site, <http://ontd2ll.fuzzybeagle.com>, and enter:

- score
- pitch counts
- player participation

as soon as possible after each game. An easy-to-use form is provided at the web site, which lists the team's players, and for each player has a box for pitch count and a check box to indicate whether the player played or not. The representatives of **both teams must submit the results as each team can only enter the results for their half of the game.**

11. Rain-Outs and Re-Scheduling Games: Do NOT ask another team to reschedule a game because your team cannot field a full team for whatever reason besides Tournament Play or Rain, however good you think that reason is.

- If it is obvious that rain will make the field unplayable, the home team coach should call the opposing coach and the convenor to report that the game must be cancelled. This must be done at least 1.5 to 2 hours before game time (depending on the distance the visitors are traveling), and should be done only in situations where it is very clear that the rain is not going to stop. Otherwise, both teams should report to the diamond.
- Once both teams have arrived at the field, the decision remains with the coaches until the official game start time has been reached. At that time, the umpire shall become the sole judge as to when and whether a game must be suspended due to unsuitable weather conditions or the unfit condition of the playing field.
- Rained out games or games not played as scheduled are to be made up as soon as conveniently possible to the two teams. The two coaches, with the help of the convenor if necessary, should reschedule a rained out game, preferably within one week. (All games must be completed by the regular season end date as per the "Schedules" section, above). If agreement cannot be achieved by two coaches and the convenor on the time and location, the

District Administrator is to be notified by the teams involved and he will decide accordingly.

12. **Standings:** Each team will provide their own scorekeeper for the game. These scorekeepers should confer with each other to ensure that they agree on the score. After the game, the coach (or representative) of BOTH teams report game info as per the "Reporting Game Results" section above. Standings in BIG LEAGUE are computed differently than standings in the other divisions.
- BIG LEAGUE: Team standings will be determined on the basis of winning percentages (points earned divided by points available in games played), not on the absolute number points earned as in other divisions. A tie breaker will be determined by the team with the highest number of wins.
 - BIG LEAGUE: At the end of the schedule, any game not completed, will be considered a loss to both teams. Under certain circumstances, this is subject to a ruling by the Chairperson. At the end of the season, games that are not played are classed as NO GAME and no points are awarded.
 - FOR ALL OTHER DIVISIONS, standings will be computed as follows:
 1. Three points will be awarded for a win (including a win by forfeit).
 2. Two points will be awarded for a tie.
 3. One point will be awarded for a loss.
 4. No points will be awarded for a loss by forfeit.
 5. If a game cannot be played because a team is participating in the District Tournament or Provincial Tournament, it is the responsibility of the coach to inform the convenor that the team is unavailable. The coaches involved should find a mutually suitable time to reschedule and inform the convenor of the date. If the game has not been played by the end of the season, the game will be declared a tie with a 1-1 score.
 6. If a game is not played because one of the teams was unable to field at least 8 players, then this will be a forfeit with a score of 7-0 (6-0 in MINOR and MAJOR). Please note that games cancelled for any other reason except Tournament Play or RAIN will be forfeits.
 - There is no allowance in the standings for the fact that teams may have played different numbers of games.
 - TIEBREAKERS: If two or more teams are tied in the standings at the end of the season, the tie will be broken as follows:
 1. the winner of the regular season games between the teams
 2. the team with the most wins
 3. the team with the better record against the highest placed team in the division, then the second highest placed team, etc., until the tie is broken.
 4. If breaking the tie will determine a spot in the "A" play-off as opposed to the "B" play-off, then criteria 1 and 2 only will be applied. If the teams are still tied, then a game will be played to determine which team gets the higher placing.
 - If two teams which have had a game rained out are scheduled to play each other a second time during the season, the second game can be played for four points as long as both coaches agree and the convenor has been informed prior to the game being played. If the teams meet in a **House League weekend** tournament, the tournament game can be used to replace the rained out game, again if both coaches agree and the convenor has been informed.
 - The official standings will be kept by the convenor. Every effort will be made to make sure that the standings that appear on the website are correct.
13. **Play-offs:**
- In divisions with more than 7 teams, teams will be divided into an "A" side and a "B" side. Convenors are granted the flexibility to draw the line through the standings to create the "A" and "B" sides, though it is suggested that over

.500 teams should be on the "A" side, and under .500 teams should be on the "B" side; teams that finish exactly .500 could be placed on either side.

- The play-off format for each side is a single-elimination play-down.
- Trophies will be awarded to the Champions and Runners-up on each side. (Summer INTERLOCK Only; No trophies are awarded in Spring INTERLOCK.)
- All play-off games are sudden death. Extra innings must be played if the game ends in a tie. Tied games cut short by darkness, curfew or rain must be continued as soon as possible.
- The team with the higher place finish in the regular season will be the home team for any play-off game.
- The games will be scheduled by the convenor in consultation with the coaches. It is understood that the games will be played at the earliest time that a field is available, but, unless absolutely unavoidable, teams will not be required to play more than two **INTERLOCK** League play-off games in a week.
- **Play-off Eligibility:** INTERLOCK play-offs will now have a player regular season games-played requirement of 50%, similar to that required by Little League for Tournament play (raised to 60% in 2008, see Tournament Rules, "Player Eligibility", page T-6). **For "B" or Nationals divisions, the eligibility requirement is reduced to 40%.** NO allowance will be made for games missed due to participation in other (non-Little League) baseball programs.

Rationale: It is unfair for a team at the end of an INTERLOCK season to come up with players from other baseball programs in time for the play-offs.

1. Example: If a team's INTERLOCK regular season schedule is 12 games, a player must participate in 6 games to be eligible for the INTERLOCK play-offs. Participation is tracked on the District 2 web site. The Games Played requirement is rounded UP if the team plays an odd number of games. (6 GP for a player whose team plays 11 games, 7 GP for a player whose team plays 13 games.)

14. **Protests, Ejections and Other Incidents:**

Please attempt to avoid protests. Every Protest, Ejection and other Incident must be reported the same evening it happens, and certainly before the team's next scheduled game.

- **Protests:** Please see Official Rule 4.19 regarding protests. By that rule, protests are allowed, though we **actively discourage** them in INTERLOCK play. In the event of a protest, the umpires will deal with it on field as per rule 4.19. Play will not be suspended for a protest; teams will simply do what the umpire directs them to do, and the protest will be treated as incidents for review (by the Protest/Incident Committee) after the game is over.
- The umpire of the game, and the coach, and/or any other interested party, making the protest, reporting an ejection, or providing witness to an incident, should separately report this to the Protest/Incident Committee by submitting an Incident Report via the form provided on the District 2 web site, <http://ontd2ll.fuzzybeagle.com>.
- The form will automatically e-mail the Incident Report to the Protest/Incident Committee, which consists of District Administrators (or their delegates) of those Districts involved in the INTERLOCK. The District Umpire Consultant(s) may also receive the Incident Report.
- An ejected player or coach is automatically suspended from the team's next physically played game at any level, whether it be for Tournament play or an INTERLOCK game. Rain-outs do not void the penalty. See also "Ejections" in the RULES section below.
- Additional penalties may be imposed by the Protest/Incident Committee if the situation warrants, or by the player's or coach's League.
- **BIG LEAGUE:** A disciplinary hearing may be convened by the BIG LEAGUE Chairperson/DA District 6 and further action may be taken. Ejection of players and or coaches from a BIG LEAGUE game will be reported to the District 6 BIG LEAGUE convenor and the Chairperson/DA District 6 immediately following the

game. Reporting will be the responsibility of the home plate umpire or the umpire crew chief of that game AND also the manager of the affected team. The District 6 BIG LEAGUE Discipline Code will be used as the basis for consequences.

15. **Lightning & Storms:** For games where lightning and severe storms may be imminent, umpires and coaches should abide by the Little League Canada Lightning Protocol Tournament Guidelines.

Section B: RULES - Clarifications of Official Rules as applied to INTERLOCK

16. **Age:** (see Section IV(a), page 29, and AGE ALIGNMENT, **page 33, of the 2009** green book)

We follow all Little League age guidelines, with slight modifications for over-age and under-age players in some instances.

Rationale: We follow age rules to keep our players eligible for Tournament play, among other things. However, it is better to have a Tournament-ineligible player in interlock play than not if it means a team can play rather than forfeit or not exist at all.

- We follow the Little League rule using age as of April 30, and the alignment they call "League A", so that ages 7 & 8 are ROOKIE, 9 & 10 are MINOR, 11 & 12 are MAJOR, 13 & 14 are JUNIOR, 15 & 16 are SENIOR, and 17 & 18 are BIG LEAGUE.
- **Over-Age Exception:** Leagues may request (from the D.A. or group of D.A.s involved in INTERLOCK play) approval to use over-age players if the League has no team at the division these players belong to. **The D.A. decision will be final, and he/she/they may impose a limit on the number of over-age players allowed on a team.**
 1. BIG LEAGUE: For the **2009** season, each team in the league may have up to three (3) 19 year old players (that is, players who will be 19 years old on or before April 30, **2009** - one year above the Big League age limit) on the player roster. All 19 year old players on a big league team roster are NOT eligible to pitch in any game. All over-age players shall be designated and listed on the BIG LEAGUE team rosters that are sent to the Chairperson/DA and Convenor of the District 6 BIG LEAGUE committee.
- **Under-Age Exception:** Under-age players may only be used on a call-up basis, subject to the next clarification ("Call-ups").
 1. BIG LEAGUE: 16 year old players may be used in BIG LEAGUE. A 16 year old player who is part of the regular BIG LEAGUE team roster is eligible to pitch. However, a 16 year old player who is called up (from a SENIOR team) is not eligible to pitch in a BIG LEAGUE game to which he/she has been called up. As well, each 16 year old player who is called up must play a defensive position for a minimum of nine consecutive outs and bat once. (See the 'Call-ups' section below, and the Little League rule book, for more information on the use of call-up players.) It is the responsibility of each league to identify a contact (Player Agent) to co-ordinate the movement of call-up players from their SENIOR team(s) to the BIG LEAGUE team.

17. **Call-ups:** (see Section IV(a), page 30 of the **2009** green book)

Call-ups are permitted as per the rules, with notes below.

Rationale: Call-ups are used to prevent forfeits. They are not to be used for a strategic advantage to the team or for the benefit of the player's development.

- Little League International changed the call-up rule back in 2006, and it remains this way in **2009**. Any MAJOR player who is called up and plays even one game at JUNIOR will no longer be eligible for the MAJOR District (and higher) Tournament.

- The normal use of the call-up rule is to prevent forfeits by allowing a Canadians ("A") team to call up players from the Nationals ("B") team, and allowing both Canadians ("A") and Nationals ("B") teams to call up players from the Canadians ("A") team from the division below, with the exception of not allowing MAJOR to JUNIOR call-ups.
 1. A JUNIOR Canadian ("A") team may call up players from their JUNIOR National teams ("B"), but such player is not eligible to pitch.
 2. A JUNIOR Canadian ("A") team may use players from other JUNIOR Canadian ("A") teams in their own league if and only if there are no National ("B") teams in their league. Such a player is not eligible as a pitcher.
 3. A JUNIOR National ("B") team may use players from their other JUNIOR National ("B") teams in their own league, but such player is not eligible as a pitcher.
- A Canadians ("A") player can only be used on a Nationals ("B") team if it is at the next higher age group, with the exception for JUNIOR as above.
- Players can only be called up if it does not interfere with their own team schedule, and their coach approves the call up.
- Players called up are not eligible to pitch.
- **Call-downs:** A 14 year old on a SENIOR roster may be "called down" to play on a JUNIOR team, but may not pitch. However, we do not allow a 16 year old on a BIG LEAGUE roster to be "called down" to play on a SENIOR team. *Rationale:* There is only this single "Call-Down" exception made because JUNIOR teams do not have the ability to call-up a MAJOR player, where SENIOR teams do have the ability to call-up a JUNIOR player.
Clarification: The above case of the 14-year-old Senior being called-down to a Junior game is the ONLY allowed call-down. There are no other call-downs allowed.
- No player may be used who is not a regular member of a District 2/6/7/8 **Interlock** roster.
- Call-ups may only be used to bring the game day lineup to a maximum of 10 players. Any team which has 10 or more of its players present may not use a call-up.
- A manager using one or more call-ups must identify those call-ups to the opposing manager prior to the start of the game.
- If a player is called up more than 5 times in the season, they will be added to the roster of the higher team, and will not be eligible to play on the team to which they were originally assigned.

18. **Pitchers:** (see Section VI, **pages 34-37 of the 2009** green book)

We will follow the rule book pitching rules.

Rationale: They protect young arms, they protect our players' eligibility, and they will give more children a chance to pitch.

- As per part 'a' of this section, all players (clarification: except "call-ups" and over-age players) are eligible to pitch in a game.
- As per part 'a' of this section, there is no restriction on the number of pitchers that can be used in a game.
- As per part 'c' and 'd' of this section, the new Pitch Count rule will be followed scrupulously.
- **The following two notes have changed for 2009:**
 1. NOTE: In 2008, Little League instituted a "Game of Rest" policy for some pitch counts. **In 2009, Little League gives us the option of using an extra calendar day of rest instead of the game of rest. Interlock has selected that option for its SPRING & SUMMER INTERLOCK REGULAR SEASON. Note that the rule says we can't mix-and-match the two options, so be aware that teams may not use a game of rest in place of the extra day. For SPRING INTERLOCK PLAYOFFS, we will use the "Game of Rest"**

without the extra day of rest. This policy had been reviewed and accepted for the SUMMER INTERLOCK season as well.

2. NOTE: In 2008, Little League instituted a policy so that a player who throws one pitch is not eligible to play the position of catcher for the rest of the day. **In 2009, Little League has eased this restriction a bit, so that a pitcher may go to the catcher position if he/she has thrown fewer than 41 pitches.**
 - NOTE: Unlike the years prior to "Pitch Count", when pitchers were allowed a certain number of innings per week, the Days/Games of Rest clock does NOT reset at the end of the week.
 - NOTE: **When using the "Game of rest" option**, the "Game of Rest" requirement after the last game of the regular season (only) is waived. Therefore, a pitcher who pitched in the last game of the regular season may pitch in the first game of the playoffs as long as the required days of rest have been observed.
 - **Clarification: Once the playoff season has started, teams may not schedule a make-up of an unplayed regular season game, or any other type of game, if the purpose of that is to somehow circumvent a pitch count rule's required "game of rest". To say it another way, the "game of rest" if used in the playoffs, means a "playoff game of rest."**
19. **Metal cleats:** (see Rule 1.11(h), **page 49 of the 2009** green book)
District 2 is now permitting metal cleats to be worn by its JUNIOR and SENIOR players during the Spring INTERLOCK season. Coaches are encouraged to teach those players who are new to metal cleats how to run and slide in them. Players are reminded that infractions involving intentionally dangerous or intimidating use of metal cleats will be dealt with harshly.
20. **Run Limit:** (see Rule 2.00, "INNING", bottom of **page 53 of the 2009** green book)
We follow the official rules regarding Run Limits (with one possible exception), keeping in mind that we also follow a Mercy Rule which would take priority.
 - MAJOR, JUNIOR, SENIOR and BIG LEAGUE: There is no limit to the number of batters or runs scored in an inning (unless the Mercy Rule is invoked), unless an exception is made at some level by consensus vote of the League Presidents involved in INTERLOCK. **Such a decision was made starting in 2008 for the NATIONALS ("B") levels only. (See third bullet point of this item.)**
 - MINOR: (Both CANADIANS ("A") and NATIONALS ("B")) A team may score a maximum of 5 runs in an inning (unless the Mercy Rule is invoked first). The half inning is declared over as soon as the 5th run crosses the plate.
 - NATIONALS ("B") – all Levels (MINOR, MAJOR, and JUNIOR): This exception is unique to our INTERLOCK. A team may score a maximum of 5 runs in an inning (unless the Mercy Rule is invoked first). The half inning is declared over as soon as the 5th run crosses the plate. **This is by consensus vote of the Presidents in 2008.**
 - NOTE on Run Limits: **In 2009, the option formerly provided in rule 5.07 to allow more than 5 runs in the final half-inning was removed by Little League International (we did not use it anyway).** The final inning is not treated differently than previous innings, with respect to run limits. If a game gets to the last inning, and one team is ahead by more than the run limit (5), and less than the mercy rule limit (10), teams are still required to play the last inning until the game is properly completed, which means the visiting team will bat in the top of the inning, and the home team will bat in the bottom of the inning unless or until they are ahead, or until the run limit is reached. This is required for at least 3 reasons:
 1. It is consistent with the implementation of the run limit in Minors.
 2. Our players have paid money so that they can play baseball, so let's give them all the playing time to which they are entitled.

3. A coach is not allowed to shorten the game (Official rule 4.15 items (2) and (6)) and must take the field when directed by the umpire.
21. **Defensive Substitutions:** (see Rule 3.03, **page 56 of the 2009** green book)
District 2 chooses to override this rule to allow for (almost) unlimited defensive substitution. Players can be substituted in the field at any time during the game except for the pitcher. Once the pitcher has been removed, he/she can still play in any other position, but may not re-enter the game as a pitcher.
- Note that while there is no mandated "equal play rule" for the INTERLOCK program, teams are encouraged to have this as a team rule.
22. **Batting Order:** (see Rule 4.01 and 4.04, **page 59 of the 2009** green book)
As permitted by this rule, INTERLOCK adopts the policy of continuous batting order. Therefore, each player present at the game will be in the batting order. Any player who comes late to the game may be added to the bottom of the batting order, including continuation games.
23. **Base Coaches:** (see Rule 4.05, **page 60 of the 2009** green book)
INTERLOCK play **changed** in 2008 to follow the official rule. We will now allow two adult base coaches on the field. However, this is possible only if there is 1 adult on the bench at all times.
24. **Ejections:** (see Rule 4.07, **page 60 of the 2009** green book)
If a player or coach is ejected from a game, the player or coach is automatically suspended for the team's next **physically played** INTERLOCK regular or play-off game, **or District Tournament** game, and must leave the field as stated in the rule.
INTERLOCK addition: A player or coach ejected for a second or subsequent time during league play is suspended for the next two games, including play-offs, or as determined by the league administrator.
25. **Game Length and Curfew:** (see Rule 4.10(a), **page 61 of the 2009** green book)
JUNIOR/SENIOR/BIG LEAGUE: A complete game is 7 innings (6 1/2 if the home team is ahead). A regulation game must have 5 innings complete (4 1/2 if the home team is ahead).
MINOR/MAJOR: A complete game is 6 innings (5 1/2 if the home team is ahead). A regulation game must have 4 innings complete (3 1/2 if the home team is ahead).
Additional INTERLOCK clarifications/modifications of this rule:
- INTERLOCK will allow tie scores in the INTERLOCK regular season, if the game has reached regulation length and is then called due to curfew or weather. (This overrides Rule 4.12)
 - INTERLOCK regular season games will be a maximum of 7 innings for JUNIOR, SENIOR and BIG LEAGUE, and a maximum of 6 innings for MINOR and MAJOR.
 - All games are scheduled to begin promptly at **the time indicated on the schedule**. Typical start times are 6:00 without lights, or 8:15/8:30 with lights, but there are other start times as well. Refer to the schedule.
 - Fifteen minutes grace should be allowed for the arrival of late players. (More time may be granted at the umpires' and opposing team's discretion).
 - A time limit is imposed on all INTERLOCK regular season games. No inning is to begin more than 2 hours and 15 minutes after the *scheduled start time*.
 - Games may be ended earlier (especially in May) **at the sole discretion of the umpire**, due to darkness.
 - No inning should begin unless there is a reasonable expectation of completing that full inning.
 - On a field with lights where another team has a permit for a subsequent game or practice, the Little League game must end at least 10 minutes before the start time on the next game permit.

- For a late game on a field with lights on an automatic timer, a curfew is imposed: the game must end at least 10 minutes before the time the lights are scheduled to turn off.
- If an inning is incomplete when darkness, rain or curfew ends the game, then the score reverts to the last complete inning UNLESS the home team is at bat and has tied or gone ahead during this partial inning, in which case the score at the time the game is called stands.
- **The curfew or time limit does NOT apply to the INTERLOCK play-off games, which must be played through to completion and a winner is determined. However, playoff games may still end 'early' if called by the umpire on account of darkness or rain, or because the lights go off, or another game is scheduled.**

26. **Mercy Rule:** (see Rule 4.10(e), **page 61 of the 2009** green book)

Clarification: INTERLOCK chooses to use this optional mercy rule. As allowed under rule 4.10(e): MINOR/MAJOR: If after 4 innings (3 1/2 innings with the home team ahead) one team is leading by 10 or more runs, the game shall be declared over. JUNIOR/SENIOR/BIG LEAGUE: If after 5 innings (4 1/2 innings with the home team ahead) one team is leading by 10 or more runs, the game shall be declared over. The official score is the score at the time the Mercy Rule takes effect, even if the coaches choose to play out the game as exhibition or practice.

27. **Lineup Size:** (see Rules 4.16 and 4.17, **page 64 of the 2009** green book).

There will be no maximum number of players allowed per game, so all players on the roster may be dressed for a game. We do make a change to allow for teams to play with as few as 8 players.

- A coach must never ask a healthy player to miss a game for any reason.
- INTERLOCK, in the interest of preventing forfeits, has decided to override rule 4.16 and allow an 8 player minimum. A team must have eight (8) players dressed to play the game.
- There will be no automatic out for a 9th player when playing with an 8 player lineup.
- Less than 8 players present results in a game forfeiture.
- If, during the game, an injury or ejection causes the number of available players to fall to 8 players, the remaining eight (8) players dressed will continue to play the game. There will be no automatic out for a 9th player no longer in the game due to the injury or ejection.
- If, during the game, an injury or ejection causes the number of available players to fall below 8, this will result in a forfeit regardless of the point in the game or the score at the time.

28. **Mound visits:** (see Rule 8.06(d), **page 83 of the 2009** green book)

For the INTERLOCK season, the defensive coach or manager shall be permitted to visit **only** with the battery (pitcher & catcher) to discuss strategy.

Rationale: This is done to prevent the use of player visits as a "stalling" tactic, by having, for example, an outfielder come in for a visit.

APPENDIX A: Little League Canada Lightning Protocol

Tournament directors are responsible for ensuring that the organizing committee and volunteers are aware of the Little League Canada Lightning Protocol, and what to do when lightning threatens a tournament site.

This protocol is based upon Environment Canada standards. Each situation is different, and local knowledge of weather patterns, and access to local forecasters is the key to safety. These are general guidelines to follow when lightning threatens.

1. Watch for Severe Weather. Keep an eye on the sky. Observe what direction the storm appears to be traveling. Lightning can strike several kilometres from the storm. Environment Canada maintains a warning system on their website with local information, so if possible, access to the Internet should be available at the tournament site. Alternately, have the local phone number for Environment Canada available for consultations. The website warning system is at:
http://weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/warnings/warnings_e.html
2. Observe the 30-30 rule. If thunder is heard 30 seconds or less after lightning is observed, the storm is less than 10 kilometres away. Precautions should be taken. Do not resume play until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike in the area.
3. Have a Lightning Safety Plan. Find a safe place where you can wait out the storm, preferably in a building or a vehicle. Keep a cell phone for emergencies. Download and print a copy of the Lightning Safety Tips from Environment Canada's web site:
http://www.msc.ec.gc.ca/education/lightning/index_e.html

An action plan should be established in advance for all persons involved. The tournament safety officer, or a designated person, should monitor the weather to initiate the evacuation process when appropriate. Monitoring should begin days and even hours ahead of an event. Safer sites must be identified beforehand, along with a means to route the people to these locations.

4. You know your area of the country the best. In Canada, lightning is most frequent in southern Ontario, southern Saskatchewan and the foothills of Alberta. In northern Canada and most of British Columbia, lightning is less common.

For further information on what to do when lightning is a threat, particularly in those areas of the country where summer storms are common, check out the Lightning Safety Tips for the Public at:

http://www.msc.ec.gc.ca/education/lightning/safetypublic_e.html

DISTRICT 6 BIG LEAGUE RULES

NOTE: All the Official Regulations and Playing Rules of the BIG LEAGUE Division of Little League Baseball are in effect, except as modified by the following:

1. Any changes in scheduled games for rainouts must be agreed upon by the coaches involved and made up as soon as possible. Changes must be communicated to the convenor within twenty-four hours. Any game not completed by the end of the season is subject to Article 11c) of the constitution (Note: Article 11c states that... 'At the end of the schedule, any game not completed, will be considered a loss to both teams. Under certain circumstances, this is subject to a ruling by the Chairperson/DA District 6').
2. Home team coaches are to notify the convenor and the visiting team's manager if their game cannot be played due to field or weather conditions. The umpire shall be the sole judge as to when and whether a game must be suspended due to unsuitable weather conditions or the unfit condition of the playing field. Waiting periods are outlined in the Rule book. The **HOME** team will supply the game balls for each home game.
3. Any player or coach ejected from a game must serve a mandatory one-game suspension. A disciplinary hearing may be convened by the BIG LEAGUE Chairperson/DA District 6 and further action may be taken. Ejection of players and or coaches from a game will be reported to the District 6 BIG LEAGUE convenor and the Chairperson/DA District 6 immediately following the game. Reporting will be the responsibility of the home plate umpire or the umpire crew chief of that game AND also the manager of the affected team. The District 6 BIG LEAGUE Discipline Code will be used as the basis for consequences.
4. A team with fewer than eight players dressed fifteen minutes past the published game start time shall forfeit the game. The score will be entered in the records as 7-0. If the team has exactly eight players, there will NOT be an automatic out for the missing ninth player.
5. In order to prevent injuries, contact between players must be avoided. Failure to do so may result in the offending player being ejected from the game. Any intentional contact or attempt at intentional contact will result in immediate ejection from the game and the offending player will be subject to rule 3 above.
6. Any player warming up a pitcher must wear a Little League Regulation face mask and helmet. Only a player may warm up a pitcher.
7. A game is considered valid when five innings have been completed (four and one-half if the home team is ahead). If a game must be abandoned due to darkness or bad weather, and less than five complete innings have been played (less than four and one-half if the home team is ahead), the game shall be resumed at the exact point at which it was abandoned and played to completion. If the home team is ahead and more than four and one-half but less than five complete innings have been played, the score in effect at the time of abandonment will stand. If five or more innings have been completed, then the provisions of Schedule "A" will apply.
8. A game which ends in a tie will stand as a tie. The two teams will be awarded one point each in the standings.

9. A new inning cannot be started after two hours and fifteen minutes (2 hrs & 15 mins) of play, or after 11:00pm (10:45pm at Heritage Park or Kinsmen #1), whichever comes first.
10. There is free substitution at all positions. (Change for 2004: Rule 3.03 b) and c) will apply.)
11. All players dressed for the game will be in the batting order. This will include play-off games.
12. Protested games will only be considered when based on a violation or interpretation of a playing rule or use of an ineligible player. No protests will be considered based on an umpire's judgment call.
13. 16 year old players may be used in BIG LEAGUE. A 16 year old player who is part of the regular BIG LEAGUE team roster is eligible to pitch. However, a 16 year old player who is called up (from a SENIOR team) is not eligible to pitch in a BIG LEAGUE game to which he/she has been called up. As well, each 16 year old player who is called up must play a defensive position for a minimum of nine consecutive outs and bat once. NOTE: See the 'Guidelines' on page 33 of the 2005 LL Rule Book for more information on the use of call-up players. It is the responsibility of each league to identify a contact (Player Agent) to co-ordinate the movement of call-up players from their SENIOR team(s) to the BIG LEAGUE team.
14. For the 2007 season, each team in the league may have up to three (3) 19 year old players (that is, players who will be 19 years old on or before April 30, 2007 - one year above the BIG LEAGUE age limit) on the player roster. All 19 year old players on a BIG LEAGUE team roster are NOT eligible to pitch in any game. All over-age players shall be designated and listed on the BIG LEAGUE team rosters that are sent to the Chairperson/DA and Convenor of the District 6 BIG LEAGUE committee.
15. Team standings will be determined on the basis of winning percentages. A tie breaker will be determined by the team with the highest number of wins.
16. Games not played as scheduled are to be made up as soon as conveniently possible for the two teams. If an agreement cannot be achieved on the time and location, the Chairperson/DA District 6 is to be notified by the teams involved, and will establish a time and location.
17. At the end of each game, the coaches are to compare and verify each other's score and pitching records. BOTH teams must then call in or e-mail the District 6 BIG LEAGUE convenor within twenty-four hours of each game, with the score and the pitching records. It is important to communicate the score as soon as possible. This information will be used to produce up-to-date standings for newspaper publication as well as your own knowledge. The game results and pitching records will be provided to Homer who will post this information on the website.
18. Schedule "A" below is for use during regular season play (when necessary) to determine the end of a game and the final score. Teams should consult the District 6 BIG LEAGUE convenor about the playoff format(s).

Schedule "A" amended April 21, 1998 - approved for 2007 season

SCHEDULE "A"

GAMES ABANDONED AFTER 5 OR MORE INNINGS FOR DARKNESS OR BAD WEATHER

SCORE AT END OF LAST COMPLETED INNING	SITUATION WHEN GAME ABANDONED	OUTCOME
HOME TEAM AHEAD	Away team at bat, regardless of additional scoring	Score reverts to last completed inning
HOME TEAM AHEAD	Home team at bat, regardless of additional scoring	Score stands as per time of abandonment (Home Team wins)
AWAY TEAM AHEAD	Away team at bat, regardless of additional scoring	Score reverts to last completed inning
AWAY TEAM AHEAD	Home team at bat, still behind in score	Score reverts to last completed inning
AWAY TEAM AHEAD	Home team at bat, scored enough runs to tie game	Score stands as per time of abandonment (tie)
AWAY TEAM AHEAD	Home team at bat, scored enough runs to go ahead in the score	Score stands as per time of abandonment (Home Team wins)
TIE	Away team at bat, regardless of additional scoring	Score reverts to last completed inning (tie)
TIE	Home team at bat, score still tied	Score stands as tie
TIE	Home team at bat, scored at least one run to go ahead in the score	Score stands as per time of abandonment (Home Team wins)