

## **California District 63**

### **2026 Interleague Rules**

Unless an allowable option is noted as applicable here, the Official Little League Regulations and Playing Rules for 2026 apply. *Please note that in the Android version of the rulebook app, some references to rule numbers are missing.*

#### **SECTION I: RULE VARIATIONS & OPTIONS**

##### **A. The League:**

1. For the purposes of interleague scheduling and play, District 63 is “the league” (rather than any local league or location of play) and is divided into two regions: North District and South District.
  - a. “North District” is comprised of Local Leagues in Santa Barbara County.
  - b. “South District” is comprised of Local Leagues in Ventura County.

##### **B. Season Format:**

1. Teams may play doubleheaders, games on consecutive days, but no more than 3 (three) games in a week.
2. Upon completion of the regular season, teams will participate in a round robin pool play tournament comprised of two (2) pools culminating in a championship game between the two teams with the best record during pool play, to determine the overall League Champion of each division per region, separately.
3. Seeding for the pool play portion of the tournament will be determined by overall regular season record. If two teams are tied, the following format will be used:
  - 1) Winning % between the two tied teams
  - 2) Least (total) runs allowed in games played between two tied teams
  - 3) Most (total) runs scored in games played between two tied teams
  - 4) Coin flip
4. Determination of the two (2) teams playing in the championship game will be determined by overall record in their pool play. If two teams are tied, the team who won their head to head game shall play in the championship game.
5. It is the individual leagues’ responsibility to provide any form of award for their teams if they choose, not the District’s. The North District Leagues and the South District Leagues will meet at the District Presidents meeting to agree on a specific award. District 63 logo will be included on the award.
6. Umpires for the Division Playoffs will be provided by the designated HOME League, but subject to approval by the District Umpire-in-Chief (UIC)
7. (Junior Division Only) Annually District 63 holds the Roy DeFisher North vs South Game. This game shall be held between the two District Champions on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in June. In odd numbered years the South District Champion shall host, and in even numbered years the North District Champion shall host.

##### **C. Starting Lineup and Batting Order:**

1. Regular Season:

- a. All teams will utilize a Continuous Batting Order (CBO) for all games during the regular season. Refer to rule 4.04.
- b. A team may start and finish the game with Eight (8) rostered players pursuant to rules 4.16 & 4.17. When this occurs for whatever reason, when the 9<sup>th</sup> spot occurs in the lineup, the spot shall be skipped and no penalty shall be imposed.

2. Playoffs:
  - a. All teams will utilize a Continuous Batting Order (CBO) for all games during the playoffs. Refer to rule 4.04.
  - b. A team may start and finish the game with Eight (8) rostered players pursuant to rules 4.16 & 4.17. When this occurs for whatever reason, when the 9<sup>th</sup> spot occurs in the lineup, the spot shall be skipped and no penalty shall be imposed.

**D. Mandatory Play:**

1. All players on teams with 12 or fewer players in their lineup at the start of the game must play at least nine (9) defensive outs. They do not need to be consecutive.
2. All players on teams with 13 or more players in their lineup at the start of the game must play six (6) defensive outs. They do not need to be consecutive.
3. Minimum play for offense per the rule book.

**E. Game Times:**

1. During the Regular Season, no new inning will begin later than 2 hours and 30 minutes after scheduled game start time.
  - a. Ties are permitted if light has expired or game is called for light, weather, etc. Ties will be scored as ½ win & ½ loss.
  - b. Fields with lights: all games on fields with lights shall be considered regulation per Rule 4.10 (c).
  - c. Fields without lights: Through March 31, all games must be played through the 4<sup>th</sup> inning minimum to be counted as regulation (light and weather permitting) or they will need to be continued at a later date to completion.
  - d. Starting April 1, all games shall be considered regulation per Rule 4.10 (c).
2. During the Playoffs:
  - a. There shall be no time limit imposed, nor no new inning rule imposed.
  - b. All postseason games must be played to regulation. Ties are allowed in pool play. However, no championship game shall end in a tie, including the Roy DeFisher North vs South Game.
  - c. If the game is called for light, weather, etc. it will be continued at the earliest possible date both teams are available. If a mutually agreeable date between managers cannot be found, the District shall choose a date for continuation. If either team does not show up for the continuation, that team will forfeit the game.
  - d. If the game is tied after the 7<sup>th</sup> inning: At the beginning of the 8<sup>th</sup> inning and each inning thereafter, the player immediately prior in the lineup to the first batter of the new inning shall be placed at Second Base prior to the first pitch of the inning.
3. Grace Period:

- a. ALL GAMES WILL HAVE A TEN (10) MINUTE GRACE PERIOD. If a team fails to field eight (8) players within that time frame, the game shall be suspended. The District Staff shall then determine whether the game will be rescheduled or if it will be a forfeit.
- b. Teams failing to field a minimum of nine (9) players on more than two occasions are subject to removal from inter-league play. This will include days where postponements are requested regardless of reasoning.

**F. Pitching Verifications:**

1. Both managers must hand their Pitching Eligibility form to the scorekeeper prior to the game. The scorekeeper will update it after the game; both managers will sign both forms after the game and keep their forms in the team binder.
2. The inability of either team to produce proper verification will result in an ineligible pitcher. Any perceived manipulation of this rule shall immediately be reported to the Division's Assistant District Administrator (ADA) for investigation. The penalty for any purposeful manipulation or intentional disregard of the rule is automatic suspension. (The length of the suspension is to be decided by the DA and Local League.)

**G. Umpires:**

1. Umpires will be provided by the **designated HOME league**, regardless of physical location of games.
2. If no umpires are present ten minutes after game start time, it is suggested that each team obtain a parent to act as umpire in the field, one calling balls and strikes from behind the pitching mound, and one to cover the bases.
3. The game is not official without umpires, therefore, the result for not providing umpires shall be a loss for the Home Team.

**H. Player Eligibility:**

1. Junior Division:
  - a. 15-Year-Old Players: Rosters for each team with birth date must be submitted no later than 1 week prior to first game. NO current high school baseball players allowed. Per Regulation IV and applied option of Regulation VI (j), such players shall not pitch. Such players are not All Star eligible for the Junior division.
  - b. 14-Year-Old Players enrolled in high school: May play any position and are all star eligible. NO current high school baseball players allowed.
2. Intermediate Division: Per Regulations I & IV.

**I. Pool Player Selection and Utilization:**

1. Each Local League Division Representative is responsible for keeping a list of their League's players and a record of which players are used. When a team within a League is unable to field a minimum of ten (10) players, that team's manager **MAY** choose to contact their League's assigned Division Player Agent to fairly assign a player from another team within his/her own League on a rotating basis to the team in need.

2. Once a player from another team is used, that player may not fill in again for the team in need for a minimum of eight (8) games.
3. Pool players may play up from a lower division if age appropriate and league bylaws allow it.
4. **Pool players MAY NOT: pitch or catch, and must bat at the bottom of the order.** It is highly recommended that when a pool player is the tenth player on the team in need, he/she plays only the minimum for Pool Players.
5. A maximum of two pool players only may be used per game, unless prior authorization has been given by the Division's Assistant District Administrator (ADA).
6. All pool players must be reported to the home plate umpire prior to the start of the game.
7. All pool players must be reported to the Division's ADA within 24 hours of completion of the game.

**J. Team Responsibilities:**

1. The **HOME** team (the team listed as "home" on the schedule regardless of field location) is responsible for **four (4) new baseballs**.
2. The **VISITING** team (the team listed as "visitor" on the schedule regardless of field location) is responsible for **four (4) new backup baseballs**.
3. **HOST** League is responsible for opening the field and equipment boxes/shed. **HOME** League is responsible for pre-game prep, **VISITING** league or team (if same league) does post-game prep.
4. **Umpires will be provided by the designated home league regardless of the physical location where the game is played.**

**K. Scorekeepers:**

1. It is the **HOME** team's responsibility to provide an official scorebook.
2. It is *required* that the official Scorebook be kept outside of the home team's dugout by a spectator. A team may opt to provide their own non-official scorebook on the field.
3. The official scorebook and pitcher eligibility forms **MUST** be signed by the opposing team's manager, coach or scorekeeper.
4. All scores **must be reported by both teams within 24 hours** on the District's website: [www.cad63llb.org](http://www.cad63llb.org). When reporting scores and pitching eligibility forms, it is required to send them to the designated representative.

**L. Protests:**

1. Amending Little League Rule 4.19(e) & (f) due to inter-league play:
  - a. 4.19(e) Any protest for any reason must be submitted by the Manager (Coach, if Manager not available) to the umpire on the field of play and then in writing to the Division ADA within 24 hours. The Umpire-in-Charge shall also submit a report immediately to the Division ADA.
  - b. (f) A committee composed of the Division ADA, DA, District AUIC, and one other district officer shall hear and resolve any such protest as above, including playing rules. If the protest is allowed, resume the game from the exact point the infraction occurred.

**M. Mercy Rule:** District 63 employs the mercy rule option of Rule 4.10(e). Namely:

1. fifteen (15) runs after four innings (3 ½ innings if home team is ahead); or
2. ten (10) runs after 5 innings (4 ½ innings if home team is ahead); or
3. eight (8) runs after 6 innings (5 ½ innings if home team is ahead)

**N. Stealing Signs:** The stealing and relaying of signs to give advantage to the offensive team (e.g., alerting the batter of pitch selection) or the defensive team (e.g., indicating a steal is on) is unsportsmanlike behavior. Pursuant to Rule 9.01(d)(NOTE) if, in the judgment of the umpire, this behavior is occurring, the team manager and those responsible including any player(s) and/or coach(es) shall be warned after the first offense. Those responsible including any players(s), coach(es), and/or manager shall be ejected from the game for a team's subsequent offense. If, in the judgment of the umpire, spectator(s) are stealing and relaying signs, the umpire shall ask the gamesite coordinator to remove such spectator(s) from the facility.

**O. Team Names:** There shall be no duplicate team names within a division. For example, there shall not be more than one "Dodgers" or "Angels" within a Division, but there may be one in each Interleague Division.

1. Name selection method: 1<sup>st</sup> team to report the name, email, and phone number of their manager AND 2 assistant coaches to the Division ADA shall get 1<sup>st</sup> pick of team name, 2<sup>nd</sup> to report gets second pick, and so forth.

**P. Courtesy Runner:** In accordance with rule 7.14(b), a courtesy runner shall be permitted to run bases for the catcher or pitcher when there are two (2) outs. The courtesy runner shall be the player in the batting order who made the last out.

## **SECTION II: POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

**A. Coaches in Dugout/ Base Coaches (see Rule 4.05):**

1. The offensive team shall station two (2) base coaches on the field during its time at bat, one near first base and one near third base. The base coaches shall not leave their respective dugouts until the pitcher has completed his/her preparatory pitches to the catcher. Base coaches may:
  - a. Be eligible players in the uniform of their team, or a manager and/or coach. Both base coaches may be managers or coaches. If a player is used, THEY MUST wear a batting helmet and pay attention to play on the field.
  - b. Be a manager or coach only if there is at least one other adult manager or coach in the dugout.
  - c. Remain within the base coaches' boxes or dugouts at all times, except as provided in rule 7.11.

**B. Avoiding Unnecessary Delays:**

1. **Preparatory pitches between half innings:** Per Rule 8.03, the pitcher is not to exceed one (1) minute nor eight (8) pitches, whichever comes first, to complete his/her preparatory pitches. Managers shall ensure that every reasonable effort is made to reduce the time between half innings so that playing time can be maximized.

2. **Keeping one foot in the box:** Per Rule 6.02(c), Batters are mandated to keep one foot in the batter's box during their at bat. Managers are encouraged to know the exceptions and guide their players to follow this rule so that playing time can be maximized.
- C. **Intentional Walks:** See Rule 6.08(a)(2): Allows for an intentional walk without pitching, but only one time per batter per game. Unthrown "balls" will count towards the pitch count.
- D. **Player, Manager, and Coach Behavior:**
  1. Any managers not at attendance for the mandatory manager's meeting prior to the start of the season will lose one (1) coach in the dugout for the first three (3) games of the season.
  2. Any players, managers, coaches, or spectators involved in swearing, improper use of equipment, intentionally harmful actions towards others, or any other inappropriate behavior, are subject to immediate ejection.
  3. Said person may not return to the playing field under any circumstances until a review by his/her League's Executive Committee to determine the appropriateness of his/her return.
  4. All ejections must be reported by the game's UIC to the Division's ADA within 24 hours. (See rule 4.06/4.07/4.08.)
  5. A district committee of three to four (3-4) people will be formed for the purpose of implementing additional game suspensions, or game forfeitures if warranted, beyond those handed down by the local league for ejections involving unsportsmanlike behavior, physical violence, verbal abuse or threats of violence (ejection or not) to also include repeat ejections. This is especially true of the purposeful misuse of pool players or mandatory play violations.
  6. Additionally: All managers shall have discretion regarding disciplinary action/suspension of a player for any single game. Managers seeking multiple game disciplinary action/suspension for a player shall get approval from the District 63 Division ADA prior to implementing any discipline/suspension. The District 63 Division ADA shall be notified in writing of ANY disciplinary action/suspension taken against a player. *Suspension = up to and including practice, inning(s) of a game, as well as whole or multiple games.*
  7. **The gamesite coordinator is responsible for monitoring and enforcing sportsmanship amongst spectators, and shall require spectators to leave the premises if they violate the standards of District 63.** This includes but is not limited to obscenities, intoxication, loud and aggressive disapproval of an umpire's judgment, taunting opposing players or fans, and inciting other spectators, coaches, or players into loud disapproval of judgment calls.
    - a) No game shall begin without a gamesite coordinator or responsible board member on duty, and such gamesite coordinator must stay at the site for the entirety of the game.
    - b) The **HOST** league shall provide the gamesite coordinator.

**E. EJECTIONS REMINDER:** (See rule 4.07)

1. Any ejected person will be removed from the playing field and/or stands immediately and will not be in attendance at the next game, regardless of the offense. An ejected person is to have NO influence or contact with the teams.

Only a minor aged player without a parent or guardian present will be allowed to remain at the field, and such minor aged player must remain seated in the dugout until such time as he/she can be picked up by a parent or legal guardian.

2. **PENALTY FOR REPEAT OFFENSES** – For repeated use of illegal bats, misuse of pool players, violations of mandatory play, poor sportsmanship by players, coaches, or spectators, lack of an adult in the dugout, or disrespect of officials, when violated during the game, the manager will be removed immediately. If the manager is not present, the acting manager (coach) will be removed. The manager will not be present at their next game. If the offense is repeated after a suspension, the manager may be removed from the team or in extreme cases be indefinitely suspended from any district activities including but not limited to interleague or All-Stars involvement.

#### **District Contacts: FOR MANAGER USE ONLY, DO NOT DISTRIBUTE**

**Intermediate Division ADA – Bo Nedbailo 805-651-0725 [interleague@cad63llb.org](mailto:interleague@cad63llb.org)**

**Junior Division ADA – Bo Nedbailo 805-651-0725 [interleague@cad63llb.org](mailto:interleague@cad63llb.org)**

**District UIC/Rules Questions – Domiane Forte 805-889-4572 [uic@cad63llb.org](mailto:uic@cad63llb.org)**

**Schedules – Bo Nedbailo 805-651-0725 [interleague@cad63llb.org](mailto:interleague@cad63llb.org)**

- **South District Scores to: Jayson Cohen 310-713-2962 [jayson@foothillbaseball.org](mailto:jayson@foothillbaseball.org)**
- **North District Scores to: Dan Brennan 805-403-8252 [drbruin@hotmail.com](mailto:drbruin@hotmail.com)**

**District Administrator – Jami Stetler 805-722-2526 [ada@cad63llb.org](mailto:ada@cad63llb.org)**



**These rules approved by unanimous vote of the Rules Committee 1/22/26**