

**Bangkok Christmas Classic: 20-22 December, 2019**  
**15 & Under Rules**

- **Tournament Format:** TBD
- **Tie Breaker for Playoff Seedings:** In the event two or more teams have the same record after their round robin games conclude, the order of finish will be based on (a) head-to-head record(s) among the tied teams; (b) and, if still tied, the team with the best run differential; (c) and, if still tied, cumulative fewest runs allowed in the tournament to date.
- **Innings in fair weather:** We will attempt to complete 6 innings in less than an hour and forty minutes. No new inning will be started after 1:30. If the game is tied at that point, please see "*Tie Breaker*" below.
- **Pace of Play:** Umpires, Managers, Coaches, Players and Scorekeepers are all responsible for the speed of play. It is the intent to play full 6 inning games. Catchers should be ready for inning change overs; managers, coaches and players should assist in quick change overs and substitutions.
- **Minimum regulation game:** Four full innings (3½ if the home team is ahead) constitute a regulation game. Should less than a regulation game be played due to weather and the game cannot be restarted at a time and place convenient to both coaches and tournament officials, then for round robin and playoff standings determination (a) the game will be judged a tie; (b) runs scored and allowed will be tallied and counted as of the last complete full inning; (c) *all pitches thrown in the game*, including those thrown in incomplete innings, will count towards daily and tournament cumulative pitch counts.
- **Championship Game:** The final game on Sunday will be a full 6 innings and not subject to a time limit or mercy rules. If the game is tied after a regulation 6 innings, then extra inning(s) will be played. In that instance, the last batter from the previous inning starts from 2<sup>nd</sup> base with no outs. There is no sudden death, as both teams come to bat until a winner emerges.
- **Special rules governing weather delays:** If a game already played to regulation-length is subsequently delayed due to poor weather, then the game *will not be resumed* if (when the umpires determine the field has become playable again), fewer than fifteen minutes remain before the scheduled start of the next game. Note runs scored in partial innings pre-suspension will not count; the score that existed at the end of the last completed inning becomes the final score for a regulation game. All pitches thrown in a regulation game, even those in an incomplete inning, are counted towards a pitcher's daily and cumulative limits.
- **Tie Breaker for Games:** If at the end of a tied regulation 6 innings game, the time is under 1:30 then a 7<sup>th</sup> inning is played (and so forth until a complete inning ends after the 1:30 mark). In that instance, the last batter from the previous inning starts from 2<sup>nd</sup> base with one out. There is no sudden death, as both teams come to bat until a winner emerges.
- **Nine Run Rule:** Once a team has scored nine runs in an inning, that half inning shall be deemed over, even if three outs are not recorded (except in the last inning, which features unlimited runs). No team may score more than six runs in an inning unless it is the last inning of the game.

- **Mercy Rule:** At the end of 3½ (if the home team is ahead) or 4 innings, any game in which one team leads by 15 or more runs will be declared over by the umpire. At the end of 4½ (if the home team is ahead) or 5 innings, any game in which one team leads by 10 or more runs will be declared over by the umpire.
- **Distances:** ~~Pitch from 60' on a standard pitching mound; bases at 90 feet.~~ Fences are at approximately 260-300 feet. Moved to U14 distances of 54' Pitching Mound and 80' base paths for the 2019 tournament.
- **Ball:** All games will be played with standard leather balls, as approved by Little League rules.
- **Bats:** The bat must meet the USABat standard as adopted by Little League, OR the BBCOR standard. It shall be a smooth, rounded stick that is made of wood or of material and color tested and acceptable to USABat or BBCOR. It shall not be more than 34 inches in length; nor more than 2⅝ inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than 15/16 inch in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30 inches) at its smallest part.
- **Age Cut-Off:** Players must not turn 16 before December 23, 2019. Exceptions may be provided if it's fair to the other teams participating i.e., overage players are not exceptionally skilled as determined by the Tournament Director. Managers must receive from the Tournament Director an approved waiver in writing before the tournament begins. All eligible players must also submit official passport or birth certificate copies to the Tournament Director prior to starting the tourney.
- **Shoes:** No metal spikes allowed. We also suggest tennis or turf shoes for pitchers on the mound, to avoid slipping. This will be strictly enforced.
- **Warm-ups:** On field warm-ups will be allowed prior to the start of games *only at the home plate umpire's discretion*. **Games must start on time, even if one team doesn't receive the same on-field warm-up time as the other.** Coaches need to work with the umpire to cooperate and ensure that any available warm-up time is shared evenly. Between innings, any delay in the pitcher/ catcher taking the field may result in home plate umpire's curtailing or canceling the warm-up pitches.
- **Game Rules**
  - Maximum 15 players per team. Both teams can decide independently at the beginning of each game whether to bat only nine players (Little League rules) or bat more players up to a maximum of 12 on the lineup card in the same order throughout the game.
  - Infield fly rule will apply per Umpire's discretion.
  - When a substitute enters a game, he/she must play at least 3 defensive outs and bat before being removed from the game. If a team has chosen to bat the entire lineup card in the same order throughout the game, then the team can implement free substitutions of starters and substitute players as long as each player plays three defensive outs each time they enter the game. If a team chooses to bat 9 players (Little League rules) then starters can re-enter the game anywhere in the lineup and only starters can re-enter the game.
  - Pitch Count for 15U:

- A pitcher may pitch as many innings as the coach allows, but not more than 95 pitches per day. Once the pitcher is removed from pitching, he/she cannot pitch later in the same game.
  - If a pitcher pitches more than 50 pitches in one day, he/she cannot pitch the following day.
  - There is a 190 maximum cumulative pitch count limit per player for the Tournament.
  - The balk rule is in effect with no first warning. Regardless of whether a runner is on base and a balk is called, it counts as a ball and a pitch.
- Pitch counts will be made by the official scorer, or his/ her designated assistant. Pitch counts for each game will be posted at the tournament information center. *Nevertheless, the Manager of the team concerned has the sole responsibility to ensure cumulative pitch counts do not exceed 95 pitches per day for a pitcher and 190 pitches for the tournament.*
  - Pitchers are allowed a maximum of five warm-up pitches between innings. New pitchers are allowed a maximum of seven pitches. It is the umpire's discretion to the number or warm up pitches allowed.
  - Coaches may visit the mound but if twice in the same inning or three times in a game for the same pitcher, the pitcher must be removed; the pitcher does not have to leave the game.
  - The on-deck position is allowed *provided* that the on deck batter positions himself in the on-deck circle located *behind* the back of the batter.
  - Players and coaches are reminded that, in order for a batter hit by a pitched ball to be awarded first base, the player may not move their body towards the pitch in an attempt to be hit. However, if a pitch is headed towards a batter and he stands his ground, then he will be awarded first base. Umpires will watch carefully for players who lean into pitches. Players hit under such circumstances will *not* be awarded first base. The Umpire will make a "ball" or "strike" call and the at bat will continue.
  - Please note, a "slash bunt" will be recognized as a legal play at the 15u level. Therefore, a player may show that he is bunting and then pull his bat back to perform a full swing after.
  - Courtesy runners are encouraged for the catchers when there are two outs, and optional otherwise. No other courtesy runners are allowed. The courtesy runner is the player who made the previous out prior to the catchers at bat.
  - Any runner is out when he/she does not slide or attempt to get around a fielder with the ball attempting to tag or waiting to receive the ball attempting to tag the runner out. A fielder without the ball must yield the right of way to the runner or be subject to an obstruction call. It is the runners responsibility to avoid a collision by either sliding or getting around the fielder with a ball or receiving a ball for a tag. The umpire using his/her best judgment guided by the actual circumstances will determine if the fielder has the ball waiting to make a tag, is waiting to receive the ball and can attempt a tag or does not have the ball and cannot make the tag thus is obstructing.
  - Head First sliding is permitted.

- Any player (runner or fielder) who in the umpire's judgment intentionally causes a dangerous collision will be ejected from the game and may be ejected from the tournament based on the umpire and Tournament Director's decision.
- No bags, catcher's gear, bats, helmets or balls are allowed outside the dugout.
- Tournament pitch counters and the scorekeepers are volunteers and may not be aware of the cumulative total pitches thrown in the tournament or on the day prior to the game in question. Therefore, for the avoidance of doubt the Tournament Director urges both managers to confer with the official scorer prior to the game and collectively refer to the official pitch count statistics (posted at the tournament information center) to ensure that everyone is aware of the cumulative pitches thrown by each pitcher tournament-to-date.
- Violation of the tournament cumulative pitch count rule is grounds for disqualification of the pitcher (as a player and not just as a pitcher), the manager and/ or the entire team at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director.
- Managers or coaches may warm up pitchers between innings. Players warming up pitchers *must* wear a face mask
- Parents may view the game from behind the backstop. Coaches may not, and no coaching advice (irrespective of the source) may be offered to players from behind the backstop.
- There are no prohibitions on catchers then pitching, or pitchers then catching in the same game or multiple games in a day.
- A minimum of *eight* players must be in uniform and able to take the field or bat at the scheduled start of the game or the home plate umpire's readiness to start the game. Fielding fewer than eight players results in a forfeited game, by a score of 6-0. A team with only eight players has until the end of the second inning to field a ninth player, or else the game is a forfeit.
- No appeal may be made on a judgment call. The right of appeal to the home plate umpire is limited to rules interpretations. Only the Manager (to be identified to the home plate umpire before the game starts) may lodge an appeal. **No other appeals will be heard, and the home plate umpire's decision is final.** The Tournament Director and/ or the Head Umpires may (or may not) be on site to assist the home plate umpire with rules-based calls.

*Unless specified in the above tournament rules, the tournament will be conducted according to Little League Tournament rules.*

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<p><b>Coaches, parents and players must embody good sportsmanship. Umpires need to be treated with respect, right or wrong. The Tournament Director <i>will</i> suspend coaches, parents and players who exhibit poor sportsmanship. Repeat offenders will be banned for the remainder of the tournament.</b></p>
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Tournament Director:      Zack Wade

