



AUSTRALIAN LITTLE LEAGUE RULE VARIATIONS



AUSTRALIAN LITTLE LEAGUE MISSION STATEMENT

TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE JUNIOR PROGRAM THAT DELIVERS GUIDANCE AND LEADERSHIP ASSISTING OUR YOUTH TO ASPIRE TO STRIVE WITH A GOAL IN DEVELOPMENT, DISCIPLINE, TEAMWORK AND FAIR PLAY.

ESPOUSING RESPECT FOR TEAMMATES, THE IMPORTANCE OF TREATING ALL EQUALLY, VALUES SKILL AND DEVELOPMENT OVER A WINNING APPROACH. EMBRACING OUR MOTTO COURAGE, CHARACTER AND LOYALTY.

HAVE A SENSE OF DUTY IN PRIDE, FUN, COOPERATION, A FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT
WITH AN EVERLASTING BOND BETWEEN ALL AND DEVELOP INTO CREDIBLE ADULTS.

SECTION 1: AUSTRALIAN TOURNAMENT RULE VARIATIONS

The following variations to the rules contained in the LLI rule book have been approved by Williamsport for exclusive usage in Australia:

Junior League Tournament Play

- Shall be played on an 80-foot diamond (54-foot pitching distance)

National Championship field requirements

- Usage of portable mounds is permitted at any National Championship tournament subject to Baseball Australia Approval.

Tournament coach eligibility

- Coaches must be a member of a club from within the tournament team's charter. This membership should take the form of a coach, parent or player.
- All coaches must comply with the national coaching accreditation standards set by Baseball Australia.

Role	LL, IL, JL and SL	LL Minor & LLG
Charter Coaches	Baseball Australia accreditation	Baseball Australia accreditation
Head Coaches	Certification C (Coursework and practical assessment).	Certification B or working towards (online content completed)
Assistant Coaches	Certification B	Certification B or working towards (online content completed)

- Child Protection Legislation - it is the responsibility of all teams to ensure that all team personnel comply with Child Protection Legislation.

Sponsorship on uniforms

- Sponsorship logos are allowed to be displayed on team uniforms. At all times this must be compliant with Baseball Australia's and Little League International relevant policies.

DA's Pick (if applicable)

- Where Baseball Australia deems appropriate, teams meeting eligibility requirements can be invited to participate in a national qualifier tournament regardless of any qualification via state or sectional tournaments.

Tournament Organisation – Schedules - Number of double headers allowed during Little League Tournaments

- Baseball Australia has been granted a waiver that in Little League minors and majors tournaments two double headers can be scheduled in the original schedule rather than one.

Double bases – rule 7.15

- Baseball Australia will be implementing double bases at its National events in 2027 for the first time.

Tournament Play – Mandatory Play (except Senior League)

Defensive Outs Requirement

- All players in a line up must complete 3 consecutive Defensive Outs in all games including games shortened due to run rule, bad weather or light (or other similar issues) or the end of a time limit game
- Defensive Outs is defined as: a player enters the field in one of the nine defensive positions when his/her team is on defence and occupies a defensive position while three (3) outs are made.

Management of a Defensive Outs breach will be the Tournament Directors role, with the following penalties:

Players:

- The player/s involved shall start the next scheduled game, play any previous requirement not completed and the requirement for this game before being removed

Manager (Head Coach):

- First Offence* – 1 game suspension
- Subsequent Offence/s* – 2 game Suspension for each occurrence
- Subsequent Offence/s* – the state/territory to provide feedback to BA on team manager's continued role, i.e. head to Nationals or World Series.
- Any Subsequent breach is to be noted on the Affidavit.
- * Each player who does not meet the defensive out requirement is considered one offence

Requirements for all adults participating in World Series level Tournaments

1. All adult volunteers that participate on a team that qualifies for World Series play must have a background check completed before traveling to the World Series.
2. A copy of a current passport must be sent via email following completion of the Regional Tournament. This is for Adult Volunteers ONLY. All passports to be provided to Baseball Australia.
3. Little League International will complete the background check. There is NO fee for these checks, LLI will cover that.
4. **No exceptions will be provided.**

Senior League age division

- 12 year olds are not permitted to play in a Senior League ITP team.

SECTION 2: AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE STRUCTURES AND TOURNAMENT TEAM RULES AND VARIATIONS

The following variations to the rules contained in the LLI rule book have been approved by Williamsport for exclusive usage in Australia:

League Structures

- League Age is calculated using 31 August of the tournament year as outlined in the LLI rules.
- Local leagues can be named and run on a different age range to the above but tournament teams must be selected based on League Ages.
- Competitions can be operated on a tiered system (multiple divisions eg D1, D2 etc) for all local competitions.
- This should be done due to the number of teams in an age group to allow for the best experience for the participants.
- No regular season team can participate intact as a tournament team in a local competition without the prior written approval of the Charter committee in Williamsport.
- All players and teams irrespective of division must be counted in the number of teams and all players will be eligible to trial for their Charter team.
- This will need to be documented and provided to the state and BA

League Age and Divisions

Division	Age Range
Minor (Min)	7-12
Major (LL)	10-12
Intermediate (IL)	11-13
Junior (JL)	13-14 (exception for 12 year olds in line with Regulation IV(a))
Senior (SL)	13-16 (local league may allow 12 year old to participate or dual roster in SL)

Little League Divisions

- Leagues can run competitions in the Little League-Major and/or Little League-Minor divisions as defined by LLI.
- Players cannot play in these divisions if they are not age eligible based on League Age (age brackets specific to Major and Minor play apply)
- EXCEPTION 1: if a player outside the League Age of the age division is deemed to be worthy of dispensation to play in the age division, an application supported by the State DA can be submitted to the National DA for review prior to sending to Williamsport for approval.
- EXCEPTION 2: 12yo wishing to play in the Minor division shall complete the Reg V(a) form requiring parent, local league president and State DA sign-off.

Teenage Divisions

- Leagues can run competitions in one of two formats (1) individual competitions at each of the age division levels being Intermediate League, Junior League and Senior League OR (2) Senior League only.
- Where format (1) is used, the League Age ranges of each division shall apply. No dispensations to play outside these age ranges can be applied for.

- Where format (2) is used, all players of League Age 12 through 16 are eligible. Leagues shall have the ability to run more than one "grade" of competition with players allocated to teams/grades based on where the league believes players are best suited based on abilities and experience. Grades shall be denoted with the grade names per the table below with the corresponding regular season rules applying.

Grade Name Notation....	SL90	SL80	SL70
Equivalent Regular Season rules....	Senior League	Junior League	Intermediate League

Team Eligibility

- Where Leagues use regular season format (2), the team calculation is done in line with the equivalent age division (eg 4 x SL70 teams shall be recorded at 4 x IL teams)
- LLI allows Australian teams to be selected and named from 1 February each year. Teams may be selected but no team members can be advised or publicly named prior to this date. Coaches may be selected and named prior to this date.
- Where Leagues seek to field a combined team in any age division, the Leagues and State DA shall complete the required form and submit to the National DA along with reasoning for requiring a combined team and how this will assist with recruitment and development of the Leagues. This information is submitted to LLI for approval who are the only body who can approve.

Team Selection process for leagues fielding more than one tournament team in an age division

- When a league is required to field more than one tournament team in an age division due to having more than 10 teams in the regular season competition or they choose to put in multiple teams, any of the approved methods to select teams as outlined in the LLI rule book can be used
- When the Draft method is used, the State DA's should oversee the draft
- LLI have approved that a new draft from the full player pool may be conducted each year for Leagues fielding more than 1 tournament team for Intermediate, Junior and Senior League teams. Ie. If a player was in Team Blue in Intermediate they do not need to stay in Team Blue for Junior League. The rule is in place for both Leagues who must put in 2 or more teams or choose to put in 2 or more teams.
- Naming of multiple teams should be done by colour or mascot but not have Team A, Team B or development team in the name.
- Once a player is named in a tournament team they cannot be transferred to another team in the same age division at any time for that year.
- Events must be run in accordance with the LLI rules meaning the pool selection is done randomly, this could result in multiple teams from a charter being in one pool.

SECTION 3: LITTLE LEAGUE GIRLS TOURNAMENT PLAY

Girls

- Each state / territory has the option to field teams in the Girls event.

NOTE 1: The Girls event is not expected to be a pseudo national championship of state teams so growth beyond one team per state is expected.

State Tournaments

- Expectation that states run a state based girls event for teams to qualify for nationals. This will become mandatory for 2028. The event must have a minimum 1 more team than is attending nationals. Selection of teams is based on charter team selection rules which can be combined teams.

Regulation Game Rules

- No new inning shall commence after two (2) hours of play timed from the first pitch – all rules that apply to the final inning of an untimed game shall apply to the inning in progress. If the home team is batting and leading at the expiry of time, the game shall finish at that point and the score at the time shall be the final score.
- Mandatory Play - 3 DO's
- A maximum of six (6) runs may be scored in an inning of play – more than six runs may score as a result of additional runs scoring on the final play of the inning but only six runs will count for scoring purposes, except for an over the fence home run when all runs will count.
- Any inning shortened due to the 6-run rule shall be considered 3 defensive outs (DO), for mandatory play purposes.
- A regulation game will be 4 innings.
- Games can finish with a tied score. (Except finals)
- If games are tied after 6 completed innings and the two-hour time limit is not reached, extra innings can be played up until the time is reached.
- During finals if games are tied and the two-hour time limit has been reached irrespective of how many innings have been played the tie breaker rule will come into effect.
- All other Little League rules apply.