

# 2017 Rule Changes & Clarifications

## RULES & REGULATIONS UPDATES



At its annual fall meeting this November, the Little League® International Board of Directors approved new updates to the Little League Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Policies that will take effect starting in the 2017 season. On this page, you will find a full breakdown of all the changes to the rules and regulations, including a summary of each and where it is located in the Little League Rulebooks.

## RESIDENCY AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

### Residency Requirements [Baseball, Softball, Challenger]-

**Divisions:** All Baseball, Softball, and Challenger Divisions

*Modifies the residency document requirements into three categories in order to prove “residence.”*

*Additionally, this removes the school report card as a School Enrollment Eligibility document. (Pages 18-19 in Baseball and Softball; 23-24 in Challenger).*

**Summary:**

Residence shall be established and supported by documents containing the full residence which includes parent(s) or guardian(s) name, street address, city, state and zip code information, dated or in force between February 1, 2016 (previous year) and February 1, 2017 (current year), from one or more documents from each of the three Groups outlined in the 2017 Rulebook. Starting in 2017, a school report card may no longer be used as a School Enrollment Eligibility document. Players who established “residence” or “school attendance” for regular season and/or tournament prior to the 2016-2017 season using the Player Verification Form, and can produce the form with proper proofs and signatures, will be grandfathered and will NOT need to complete a new Player Verification Form.

## REGULATIONS AND PLAYING RULES:

### Regulation I(a)(3) Note 2 and Regulation IV – The League and The Players [Baseball, Softball]+

**Divisions:** Major/Intermediate (50/70)/Junior/Senior League Baseball; Major/Junior/Senior League Softball Divisions

*Allows a local Little League Board to roster players, in the Major Division and above, on up to two teams in two different divisions. (Pages 24 and 36-38 in Baseball; 24 and 38-39 in Softball).*

**Summary:**

An age appropriate player, in the Major Division and above, AND who is otherwise eligible under all conditions, would be eligible for selection to a team in two regular season divisions. A local Little League's Board of Directors determines age structure and may limit player selection and participation to one regular season team/division. A player who is otherwise eligible under all conditions could be eligible for selection to multiple tournament teams; however, a player may only be selected to and participate on one (1) tournament team. Player tournament eligibility is governed by Player Eligibility in the Tournament Rules and Guidelines. Any player who is league age 12 must be permitted to play in the Major Division. The local league cannot force any player who is league age 12 to play in the Intermediate (50-70) Division [Baseball] or Junior Division if the league offers the Major Division. **NOTE:** Players in Tee Ball/Minor Divisions shall not be rostered on more than one team nor in more than one division.

### Regulation I(b) – The League [Baseball, Softball] +

**Divisions:** All Baseball and Softball Divisions

*Allows a League President to be eligible for selection as a Tournament team coach or manager with written approval from their respective District Administrator. (Page 25).*

**Summary:**

The president of record or anyone who assumes the position or duties of president, on or after January 1 of the current year, may be eligible for selection by the local league Board of Directors as tournament team manager or coach with approval from their respective District Administrator.

### Regulation I(c)(6) and 1.11 (a)(2) – The League and Objectives of the Game [Baseball, Softball]; Rule 1.11 (a) [Challenger]+

**Divisions:** All Baseball, Softball, and Challenger Divisions

*Clarifies that leagues may not screen-print or sublimate patches on uniforms. (Pages 25 and 66 in Baseball; 25 and 63 in Softball; 50 in Challenger).*

**Summary:**

The Little League Official Shoulder Patch must be affixed to the upper left sleeve or left chest of the uniform shirt. Patches shall be placed centered on the left shoulder sleeve; or, centered on the left chest for sleeveless style. The patch may not be screen-printed or sublimated.

### Regulation I(c)(9) - The League [Baseball, Softball]; Regulation I(d)(7) [Challenger]+

**Divisions:** All Baseball, Softball, and Challenger Divisions

*Updates leagues that Nationwide background checks must now include criminal records in addition to sex offender registry data and leagues must use First Advantage or another provider that is comparable to First Advantage. (Pages 26-27 in Baseball and Softball; 30-31 in Challenger).*

**Summary:**

A local league within the United States must conduct a nationwide background check utilizing First Advantage or another provider that is comparable to First Advantage in accessing background check records for sex offender registry data and other criminal records. Each year, Little League International provides each local league located within the United States one hundred twenty-five (125) free criminal background checks

administered through First Advantage. First Advantage can be accessed at [LittleLeague.org/Background](http://LittleLeague.org/Background). Further information on how to utilize First Advantage, as well as how to conduct background checks, can be found at [LittleLeague.org/ChildProtectionProgram](http://LittleLeague.org/ChildProtectionProgram). Local leagues located outside the United States must conduct a comprehensive criminal background check, including checks in the relevant country, as well as that country's provinces/states and municipalities unless otherwise prohibited by the laws of the country of which the local league is located. No local league shall permit any person to participate in any manner whose background check reveals a conviction, guilty plea, no contest plea, or admission to any crime involving or against a minor or minors. All local leagues must take into consideration criminal records when making the determination whether the individual is unfit to participate in any manner in the league.

For additional information on the change to background checks view [Little League® Regulations Change to Require Completion of National Criminal Background Check](#).

#### Regulation I(g) – The League [Baseball, Softball]+

**Divisions:** All Baseball and Softball Divisions

*Provides additional clarification regarding a local league's limitations with non-Little League individuals, teams, events, and/or programs. (Page 28 in Baseball; 27-28 in Softball).*

**Summary:**

A local Little League is not permitted to sponsor, administer, underwrite, advertise, pay any fees, or otherwise support in any manner, any team or teams, any individual or group of individuals, for the purpose of participating in a non-Little League Baseball or Softball program, event or game. Any violation of this regulation by the local Little League may result in revocation of charter and/or suspension of tournament privileges. While Little League does not recommend or endorse participation in more than one baseball program, this does not prohibit an individual who plays in a chartered Little League, or a group of such individuals, from participation in a non-Little League program, event, or game, subject to the provisions of this Regulation, Regulation IV(a) Note 2, and the provisions of the Tournament Rules and Guidelines regarding "player participation in other programs;" however, such participation may not take place in uniforms by the local Little League, with equipment provided by the local Little League, or as a representative of the local Little League.

#### Regulation II(a) – League Boundaries [Baseball, Softball, Challenger]+

**Divisions:** All Baseball, Softball, and Challenger Divisions

*Provides additional details concerning the league boundary map. (Page 32 in Baseball and Challenger; 33 in Softball).*

**Summary:**

The league boundaries as detailed on the boundary map must be a physical structure (such as a road), or a geographic feature (such as a river). The boundary line will be considered to be in the center of such structures or features, unless noted otherwise. The boundaries must not encroach on the territory of any other chartered Little League's boundaries [except as noted in Regulation I(h) in Softball].

#### Regulation VI(c), 3.03(c), Tournament Rule 4, and Tournament Rule 10 – Pitchers [Softball]+

**Divisions:** Junior and Senior League Softball

*Allows players in the Junior and Senior Division to be replaced on the pitcher's plate and return to pitch, even if removed from the game, provided it abides by the substitution, player visitation, and mandatory play rule(s). (Pages 45; 74; 129; and 131).*

**Summary:**

In Junior and Senior League Softball Divisions, a pitcher may be withdrawn from the game, offensively or defensively, and return as pitcher once per inning provided the return does not violate the substitution, visits per pitcher, or mandatory play rule(s).

#### Regulation IX(f) – Special Games [Baseball, Softball]+

**Divisions:** All Baseball and Softball Divisions

*Allows Tournament teams to participate in Special Games beginning June 1. (Page 48 in Baseball; 49 in Softball).*

#### Regulation XIII(f) – Commercialization [Baseball, Softball, Challenger]+

**Divisions:** All Baseball, Softball and Challenger Divisions

*Revises wording regarding the trademarks of Little League International. (Page 52 in Baseball; 53 in Softball; 41 in Challenger).*

**Summary:**

A local Little League may permit a Regular Season Team and/or Tournament Team to include the name of a team sponsor on the uniform, and the local league may receive a fee for such sponsorships, provided the sponsorship does not conflict with any Little League Rule, Regulation, and/or Policy. Such sponsor shall have no authority with regard to the composition or operation of the league, the team, or its manager and/ or coaches. A district, league, or team may not permit a local sponsor of a district, league, or team to use any trademarks of the Little League International at any time. For the sake of clarity, the words Little League in any form or combination, including in a league’s name, and the Little League uniform patch are trademarks of Little League International. Please refer to the Little League Policies for detailed guidelines including information on solicitation of funds, such as local league sponsorship, as a charitable organization. **NOTE:** Once a Tournament Team plays its first game in the International Tournament, a reference to a company, product, or service (including, but not limited to, a slogan or logo) may not be added to, included on, or appear on any Tournament Team uniform, apparel, or equipment.

#### Regulation XIV(e) – Field Decorum [Baseball, Softball]; Regulation XIV(d) [Challenger]+

**Divisions:** All Baseball, Softball and Challenger Divisions

*Revises language to disallow controlled substances on a field. (Page 53 in Baseball; 54 in Softball; 42 in Challenger).*

**Summary:**

The possession and/or use of firearms, tobacco products, cigarettes (including e-cigarettes and vapors), controlled substances, and alcoholic beverages in any form is prohibited on the playing field, benches, or dugouts. Alcohol is prohibited at the game site.

#### Playing Rule 6.02(c) – The Batter [Baseball, Softball]+

**Divisions:** All Baseball and Softball Divisions

*Allows a local league the option to mandate batters keep one foot in the batter’s box during their at-bat. (Page 92 in Baseball; 89 in Softball).*

**Summary:**

Local League Option: After entering the batter’s box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat.

**Exceptions:**

1. On a swing, slap, or check swing.
2. When forced out of the box by a pitch.
3. When the batter attempts a “drag bunt” in Baseball [or attempts a “slap” or “slap bunt” in Softball]
4. When the catcher does not catch the pitched ball.
5. When a play has been attempted.
6. When time has been called.

7. **BASEBALL:** When the pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher's plate after receiving the ball or the catcher leaves the catcher's box.  
**SOFTBALL:** When the pitcher leaves the eight foot circle or the catcher leaves the catcher's box.
8. On a three ball count pitch that is a strike that the batter thinks is a ball.

**Penalty:**

If the batter leaves the batter's box or delays play and none of the exceptions apply, the umpire shall warn the batter. After one warning on a batter, the umpire shall call a strike. Any number of strikes can be called on each batter.

**Minor/Major Division Baseball and All Softball Divisions:** No pitch has to be thrown, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior Baseball Divisions:** No pitch has to be thrown and ball is live.

**NOTE:** The batter may return their position in the batter's box and assume the new count at any time during the at-bat, unless such enforced penalty is the third strike.

**Playing Rule 6.08(a)(2) – The Batter [Baseball]+**

**Divisions:** Minor and Major Baseball Divisions

*Allows a defensive team to intentionally walk a batter in Minor and Major Divisions. (Page 97).*

**Summary:**

Prior to a pitch being thrown, the defense elects to "Intentionally Walk" the batter by announcing such decision to the plate umpire.

**NOTE 1:** Such notification must be made by the defensive manager. The manager must request and be granted "time" by the umpire and then inform the umpire of the defense's intent to walk the batter.

**NOTE 2:** The ball is dead and no other runners may advance unless forced by the batter's award. Four (4) pitches will be added to the pitch count.

**Playing Rule 8.06(b) NOTE – The Pitcher [Baseball, Softball] - (updated 1/11/2017)+**

**Divisions:** Intermediate (50/70)/Junior/Senior League Baseball; Junior/Senior League Softball Divisions

*Clarifies that a pitcher removed and returning to the mound would retain his/her number of visits. (Page 113 in Baseball; 108 in Softball).*

**Summary:**

In accordance with Regulation VI, a pitcher moving to a different position and returning as the pitcher of record shall retain the number of visits from their previous appearance as pitcher. To calculate the number of visits for a pitcher, all visits, regardless of the pitcher being removed and returned to the pitcher's position, shall be applied.

**Playing Rule 9.01(d) NOTE – The Umpire [Baseball, Softball]; Playing Rule 9.01(e) NOTE [Challenger]+**

**Divisions:** All Baseball, Softball, and Challenger Divisions

*Provides umpires guidance regarding unsportsmanlike behavior. Additionally, clarifies that the local league may determine if stealing and relaying of pitch selection and location is considered unsportsmanlike. (Page 115 in Baseball; 110 in Softball; 76 in Challenger).*

**Summary:**

Each umpire has authority to disqualify any player, coach, manager, or substitute for objecting to decisions or for unsportsmanlike conduct or language and to eject such disqualified person from the playing field. If an umpire disqualifies a player while a play is in progress, the disqualification shall not take effect until no further action is possible in that play.



**NOTE:** The local league has the option to adopt this rule application. The stealing and relaying of signs to alert the batter of pitch selection and/or location is unsportsmanlike behavior. If, in the judgment of the umpire, this behavior is occurring, both the player and the manager may be ejected from the game.

#### Playing Rule 9.01(e)– The Umpire [Baseball, Softball]; Playing Rule 9.01(f) [Challenger]+

**Divisions:** All Baseball, Softball, and Challenger Divisions

*Provides umpires guidance regarding fights and physical altercations. (Page 115 in Baseball; 110 in Softball; 76 in Challenger).*

**Summary:**

A manager, coach, or player shall not leave their position in the field or bench area during a fight or physical confrontation; a manager or coach who attempts to prevent a fight or restore order, in the umpire’s judgment, is not in violation of this rule.

**Penalty:**

The umpire shall eject the offender(s) from the game immediately. Failure to comply with the ejection may result in the umpire suspending the game and referring it to the Board of Directors for further action.

## TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES:

#### Managers and Coaches [Baseball, Softball]+

**Divisions:** All Baseball and Softball Divisions

*Allows a League President to be eligible for selection as a Tournament team coach or manager with written approval from their respective District Administrator. (Page 121 in Baseball; 116 in Softball).*

**Summary:**

The District Administrator or District Staff shall not serve as manager or coach. The league president may be eligible for selection by the local league Board of Directors to coach or manage with written approval from their respective District Administrator.

#### Tournament Eligibility Affidavit [Baseball, Softball]+

**Divisions:** All Baseball and Softball Divisions

*Requires tournament teams to complete and carry a Tournament Verification Form for every player. (Page 122 in Baseball; 117 in Softball).*

**Summary:**

Once the District Administrator certifies the Eligibility Affidavit, the tournament team will be required to have in its possession: a tournament verification form for each player;

**NOTE:** Players who established “residence” or “school attendance” for regular season and/or tournament prior to the 2016-2017 season using the Player Verification Form, and can produce the form with proper proofs and signatures, will be grandfathered and will NOT need to complete a new Player Verification Form.

#### Release of Names [Baseball, Softball]+

**Divisions:** All Baseball and Softball Divisions

*Allows local leagues to select their Tournament teams as early as June 1. (Page 123 in Baseball; 118 in Softball).*

**Summary:**

The release of names of players selected for the tournament team shall not be made before June 1, and not until the availability and eligibility of all prospective team members have been established. (The Little League group accident insurance program underwritten by an AIG member company for tournament teams will not go into effect until June 1, or the date of the release of the names of Tournament team members, whichever is earlier).

**Divisions:** All Baseball and Softball Divisions

*Allows players league age 8, 9, and 10 to have additional year of Tournament eligibility. (Page 124 in Baseball; 118-119 in Softball); Mandates that players have 60% Regular Season participation prior to the start of Tournament to be eligible for Tournament selection and participation. (Page 124 in Baseball; 118-119 in Softball).*

**Summary:**

Players are eligible for Tournament Play, provided they meet the criteria established by the Little League “Residency and School Attendance Player Eligibility Requirement,” “Player Participation In Other Programs,” and the following:

**8- to 10-Year-Old Division** - Any player League Age 8, 9, or 10, with amateur status, who has participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the school baseball/softball season, on a:

1. Little League Baseball/Softball (Major) Division team, or;
2. Minor League Baseball/Softball team.

**9- and 11-Year-Old Division** - Any player League Age 9, 10, or 11, with amateur status, who has participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the school baseball/softball season, on a:

1. Little League Baseball/Softball (Major) Division team, or;
2. Minor League Baseball/Softball team.

**Little League (Major) Division** - Any player League Age 10, 11, or 12, with amateur status, who has participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District on a Little League (Major) Division team, with the exception of the school baseball/softball season.

**Intermediate (50-70) Division [BASEBALL ONLY]** – Any player League Age 11, 12, or 13, with amateur status, who has participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games (Special Games may be counted toward this requirement - See Regulation IX) in the Intermediate (50-70) Division by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the school baseball season.

**Junior League** - Any player League Age 12, 13, or 14, with amateur status, who has participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games (Special Games may be counted toward this requirement - See Regulation IX) by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the middle school, junior high school or high school baseball/softball season, on a:

1. Senior League Baseball/Softball Team, or;
2. Junior League Baseball/Softball Team.

**Senior League** - Any player League Age 13, 14, 15, or 16, with amateur status, who has participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games (Special Games may be counted toward this requirement - See Regulation IX) by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the middle school, junior high school or high school baseball/softball season, on a:

1. Senior League Baseball/Softball Team, or;
2. Junior League Baseball/Softball Team.

**EXCEPTION:** The local league Board of Directors may permit a player to be eligible for selection, who does not meet the 60 percent (60%) requirement, if they provide a physician’s note documenting an injury or illness prior to or during the current season prohibiting his/her participation and such note releases the player for the balance of the Regular Season and/or Tournament Play.

#### Schedules [Baseball, Softball]+

**Divisions:** All Baseball and Softball Divisions

*Requires District Administrators to finalize tournament schedules by June 1 or the start of the Tournament (whichever is earlier). Additionally, mandates Tournament Directors receive permission to alter Tournament schedules from the Tournament Committee after it starts. (Page 126 in Baseball; 121 in Softball).*

**Summary:**

Each District Administrator must finalize tournament schedules prior to the start of the tournament or June 1 (whichever is earliest). Schedules for each level (District, Section, Division, State, Regional) must utilize Little League International approved single elimination brackets, double elimination brackets, or pool play format with pool play tie breaker format as noted in this section. All other tournament formats must be approved by the Tournament Committee. **NOTE:** Schedules shall not be altered once a tournament starts without Tournament Committee approval.

#### Tournament Team Practice [Baseball, Softball]+

**Divisions:** All Baseball and Softball Divisions

*Allows local leagues to conduct Tournament team try-outs and practices beginning June 1. (Page 127 in Baseball; 121-122 in Softball).*

**Summary:**

Try-outs, practices, or Special Games by tournament teams shall not be held before June 1. Tournament team practice may only take place against other Little League teams within the same or contiguous districts in the same division, providing such practice is done out of uniform. Tournament team practice with a non-Little League program and/ or participation in any non-Little League program, event, or game is subject to the specific provisions of Regulation I(g) and Regulation IX. (The Little League group accident insurance program underwritten by an AIG member company for tournament teams will not go into effect until June 1, or the date of the release of the names of tournament team members, whichever is earlier.)

#### Tournament Rule 3(a) – Playing Rules [Baseball, Softball]+

**Divisions:** All Baseball and Softball Divisions

*Mandates batters keep one foot in the batter’s box during their at-bat. (Page 131 in Baseball; 126 in Softball).*

**Summary:**

After entering the batter’s box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat.

**Exceptions:**

1. On a swing, slap, or check swing.
2. When forced out of the box by a pitch.
3. When the batter attempts a “drag bunt” in Baseball [or attempts a “slap” or “slap bunt” in Softball]
4. When the catcher does not catch the pitched ball.
5. When a play has been attempted.
6. When time has been called.
7. **BASEBALL:** When the pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher’s plate after receiving the ball or the catcher leaves the catcher’s box.  
**SOFTBALL:** When the pitcher leaves the eight foot circle or the catcher leaves the catcher’s box.
8. On a three ball count pitch that is a strike that the batter thinks is a ball.



**Penalty:**

If the batter leaves the batter's box or delays play and none of the exceptions apply, the umpire shall warn the batter. After one warning on a batter, the umpire shall call a strike. Any number of strikes can be called on each batter.

**Minor/Major Division Baseball and All Softball Divisions:** No pitch has to be thrown, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

**Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior Baseball Divisions:** No pitch has to be thrown and ball is live.

**NOTE:** The batter may return their position in the batter's box and assume the new count at any time during the at-bat, unless such enforced penalty is the third strike.

**Tournament Rule 3(d) – Playing Rules [Baseball]; Tournament Rule 3(e) [Softball]+**

**Divisions:** All Baseball and Softball Divisions

*Modifies the number of times a team may use a Special Pinch Runner. (Page 132 in Baseball; 127 in Softball).*

**Summary:**

Twice a game but not more than one time per inning, a team may utilize a player who is not in the batting order as a special pinch-runner for any offensive player. A player may only be removed for a special pinch-runner one time during a game. The player for whom the pinch-runner runs is not subject to removal from the lineup. If the pinch-runner remains in the game as a substitute defensive or offensive player, the player may not be used again as a pinch-runner while in the batting order. However, if removed for another substitute that player or any player not in the line-up, is again eligible to be used as a pinch-runner.

**Tournament Rule 3(e) – Playing Rules [Baseball]; Tournament Rule 3(f) [Softball]+**

**Divisions:** All Baseball and Softball Divisions

*Determines the stealing and relaying of pitch selection and location is considered unsportsmanlike. (Page 132 in Baseball; 127 in Softball).*

**Summary:**

Each umpire has authority to disqualify any player, coach, manager, or substitute for objecting to decisions or for unsportsmanlike conduct or language and to eject such disqualified person from the playing field. If an umpire disqualifies a player while a play is in progress, the disqualification shall not take effect until no further action is possible in that play. The stealing and relaying of signs to alert the batter of pitch selection and/or location is unsportsmanlike behavior. If, in the judgment of the umpire, this behavior is occurring, both the player and the manager may be ejected from the game.

**Tournament Rule 10 – Substitutions/Re-Entry [Baseball, Softball]+**

**Divisions:** All Baseball and Softball Divisions

*Clarifies when a substitute batter may be used for a starting pitcher. (Pages 137-138 in Baseball; 131 in Softball).*

**Summary:**

If a team has thirteen (13) or more players in uniform at the start of a game and is the visiting team, they may substitute a batter for the starting pitcher listed in the line-up prior to the pitcher facing a batter without violating Rule 3.03(c) provided that the pitcher of record pitches to the first batter in the bottom of the first inning in accordance with Rule 3.05. All other rules governing the pitcher are still in effect.

**Tournament Rule 16 – Altercations [Baseball, Softball]+**

**Divisions:** All Baseball and Softball Divisions

*Provides umpires guidance regarding fights and physical altercations during Tournament. (Page 139 in Baseball; 132 in Softball).*

### **Summary:**

A manager, coach, or player shall not leave their position in the field or bench area during a fight or physical confrontation; a manager or coach who attempts to prevent a fight or restore order, in the umpire's judgment, is not in violation of this rule.

### **Penalty:**

The umpire shall eject the offender(s) from the game immediately. Failure to comply with the ejection may result in the umpire suspending the game. The Tournament Director shall refer all incidents to the Tournament Committee who may impose additional penalties and/or actions towards individuals and/or teams up to and including forfeiture of a game, further suspension and/or disqualification.

## **International Tournament Pool Play Format [Baseball, Softball]+**

### **Divisions:** All Baseball and Softball Divisions

*Modifies the Tiebreaker Procedures and how to calculate the Runs-Allowed Ratio. (Pages 147-149 in Baseball; 140-142 in Softball).*

### **Summary:**

For each team involved in a tie in which head-to-head results cannot be used (because no team defeated each of the other teams in the tie each time they played, or because no team has defeated all of the other teams involved in the tie in every one of the pool play games played between those teams, or because the teams involved in the tie did not play one another an equal number of times during pool play), the tournament director will calculate: The total number of runs given up in all pool play games played by that team, divided by 6 innings for **Little League and below** (7 innings for **Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League**). This provides the Runs-Allowed Ratio. The Runs-Allowed Ratio is used to advance ALL teams after it is determined that head-to-head cannot be used.

If, after computing the Runs-Allowed Ratio using results of all pool play games played by the teams involved in the tie: one team has the lowest Runs-Allowed Ratio, that team advances. After one team has advanced using the Runs-Allowed Ratio, each subsequent team needed to advance is determined by the Runs-Allowed Ratio until all teams are determined and seeded.

Two or more teams remain tied with the same runs-Allowed Ratio, and the methods detailed in Section III – Tiebreaker Procedures cannot be used (because no team defeated each of the other teams in the tie each time they played, or because no team has defeated all of the other teams involved in the tie in every one of the pool play games played between those teams, or because the teams involved in the tie did not play one another an equal number of times during pool play), then the Runs-Allowed Ratio must be recomputed using statistics only from the pool play games played between the teams involved in the tie. The results are used to advance ONE team, and any other ties must revert to the Runs-Allowed Ratio using all remaining teams.

### **Major Differences:**

#### **Current and Future Seasons**

- Runs given up divided by 6 innings for Little League and below (7 innings for Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior League).
- Runs-allowed ratio used to advance all remaining teams

#### **Previous Seasons**

- Runs given up divided by number of half innings played on defense in pool play games by that team
- Runs-allowed ratio used to advance one team. Remaining teams advanced based on head-to-head results.