



LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

DISTRICT 2, OHIO

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Little League International Mission Statement

*Little League believes in the power of youth baseball and softball
to teach life lessons that build stronger individuals and communities.*

2024 Ohio State Softball Tournament Guide

July 5-8, 2024: Junior (age 12-14) Division

Manager's Meeting: 3:00 PM, Friday July 5th at McCune Field, Canfield Little League

July 11-16, 2024: Minor (age 8-10 and 9-11) and Major (age 10-12) Divisions

Manager's Meeting: 12:00 PM, Thursday July 11th at Field of Dreams, Boardman Little League

Welcome to the 2024 Ohio State Softball Tournament! I am very pleased to help facilitate a competitive environment for our youth, but more importantly my fervent wish is that all persons involved find the tournament to be a positive experience in accord with the values representative of Little League – Community, Fun, Inclusion, Integrity, and Teamwork.

This guide has been compiled to cover various aspects of the tournament, not just how it will be operated, but what players, coaches, and fans should expect from the tournament as well as what is expected of them. The contents contained herein mimic much of what is found in the tournament guides for softball play at the state, regional, and world series levels. As such, this guide provides consistency found across all levels of play.

Also, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the wonderful folks of Boardman Community Baseball and Canfield Baseball Club for hosting the different tournament divisions. They have worked ever so diligently to be sure the games are a positive experience for everyone involved. Please be sure to show them your appreciation. Moreover, please be respectful of all facilities and recognize the inherent restrictions (e.g., no tobacco products, no alcohol, no vaping, etc.).

I wish for all the teams involved in the tournament the best of luck.

Chet Cooper

Tournament Director

District Administrator, Ohio District 2, Little League Baseball and Softball

Director, State of Ohio Little League Baseball and Softball

Tournament Organization:

The following persons have been designated as tournament officials:

- Tournament Director: Chet Cooper (District Administrator, District 2, Ohio; Email, chet.d2oh@gmail.com; Voice/Text, 330.518.3977)
- Assistant Tournament Directors:
 - Minor and Major Divisions (at Boardman's Field of Dreams): John Walsh (Assistant District Administrator; Email, jwalsh@zoominternet.com; Voice/Text, 330.507.5510)
 - Junior and Senior Divisions (at Canfield's McCune Field): Rich Randall (Assistant District Administrator and District Umpire Consultant; Email, reddevil7588@yahoo.com; Voice/Text, 330.717.2998)

Tournament Locations/Dates:

- The Junior (age 12-14) Division will play its tournament games at McCune Field (Canfield Baseball Club, 5327 Shields Rd, Canfield, OH 44406; <https://www.canfieldbaseballclub.com/>). The tournament is scheduled to begin the afternoon of Friday, July 5th and end on Sunday, July 7th with July 8th reserved as a rain date. The dates are weather dependent.

NOTE: Canfield Village is notorious for enforcing speed limits and traffic regulations. Pay very strict attention to the posted speed limits in the village and drive in an appropriate manner.

- The Minor (age 8-10 and 9-11) and Major (age 10-12) Divisions will play their tournament games at the Field of Dreams (Boardman Community Baseball, 410 McClurg Rd, Youngstown, OH 44512; <https://www.boardmanbaseball.com/>). The tournament is scheduled to begin the afternoon of Thursday, July 11th and end on Monday, July 15th, possibly Tuesday, July 16th. The dates are weather dependent.

Pre-Tournament Managers/Coaches Meeting:

A mandatory meeting of tournament team managers shall take place as follows:

- Junior (age 12-14) and Senior (age 12-16) Divisions: 3:00 PM, Friday, July 5th in the Clubhouse at McCune Field, Canfield
- Minor (age 8-10 and 9-11) and Major (age 10-12) Divisions: 12:00 PM, Thursday, July 11th in the Clubhouse at Field of Dreams, Boardman

Though this meeting is mandatory, if a team manager cannot make this meeting for good reason, one of the team coaches must attend and act for the manager. This person should be so designated to the Tournament Director, Chet Cooper (chet.d2oh@gmail.com), before the meeting. The absence of the team manager does not relieve him/her of all expected responsibilities as covered by Little League tournament rules/regulations or matters covered during the meeting. District and league officials are welcome to attend the meeting as are the two adult coaches listed on a tournament team's affidavit.

Tournament Affidavits:

Completed and signed affidavits, to include the tournament form/roster, player eligibility/school attendance forms, supporting documentation, player residence map, and any other required materials

(e.g., waivers, Diamond Leader certificates, Concussion safety certificates, etc.), must be submitted at the managers meeting. **DO NOT INCLUDE BIRTH CERTIFICATES!**

The affidavit should have been reviewed and **approved** by each team's District Administrator prior to the first game played in their respective district tournament. The District 2, Ohio staff shall again review the affidavits and approve them for state play. Teams should also be prepared to provide additional materials as requested (e.g., scorebooks).

Tournament Format and Dates:

The tournament will be played in a double-elimination format (see attached bracket for dates and times of games). The tournament play dates are scheduled as noted assuming no changes due to weather or other unanticipated events. Teams need to be aware of potentially playing double headers. In the Junior Division, prior to the Championship game, there is a double header scheduled for Day 2 in the loser's bracket. In the Major Division, prior to the Championship game, there is a double header scheduled for Day 3 in the loser's bracket.

The championship game pits the team coming out of the winner's bracket from the team coming out of the loser's bracket. If the team from the loser's bracket wins that game, a final "if game" to determine the state champion will be played approximately 30 minutes following the completion of the first game. (In the Major Division, see the note on the bracket regarding the "if" game.)

IMPORTANT NOTE: All games will be played at the day and time as scheduled and in the order scheduled. Unforeseen circumstances (e.g., weather) may cause a change to the schedule. Teams need to be prepared to play multiple games in a day. All schedule changes are solely at the discretion of the Tournament Director and Little League Baseball and Softball.

Streaming of Games:

All tournament games are currently scheduled to be live streamed by YSNLive (<https://ysnlive.com/>). Unforeseen circumstances may subject the suspension of streaming games.

NOTE: Due to our contractual obligations with YSNLive, no video capture equipment will be permitted on the backstops or on the dugout fences of each field. Please inform your parents and other fans of this restriction.

Tournament Rules:

The Ohio State Softball tournament shall be played in strict accordance with all applicable Little League Rules and Regulations. No deviations from these rules/regulations are permitted without the explicit approval of Little League Baseball and Softball, Incorporated.

Managers, coaches, and umpires are expected to know Little League rules and regulations, including those rules and regulations established for the international tournament. Not knowing the rules/regulations is not an excuse for the abeyance of penalties due to violations. Moreover, what may have been practiced during the regular season that was not in keeping with the official Little League rules and regulations certainly will not be acceptable during tournament play.

These Tournament Rules and Guidelines are published in the official rule book. However, a PDF of the tournament rules for both softball and baseball can be accessed at the following URL:

<https://www.littleleague.org/tournament-resources/>

In addition, the following URL will provide a tournament rules summary that is published annually by a Little League umpire. This is NOT an official Little League document, but it does provide a quick reference to a number of important tournament rules.

https://www.llumpires.com/files/2024_tournament_rules_chart_sb.pdf

Below, several notable tournament rules/regulations are summarized. Please note, your local league president through the tournament affidavit has certified that the team's manager and coaches are knowledgeable of tournament rules and in full agreement with them. Hence, not knowing the rules/regulations is not an excuse for the abeyance of penalties due to violations.

Brief Overview of Selected Tournament Rules:

Managers/Coaches in Dugout: Tournament rules permit three (3) adults in the dugout during a game – the manager and two coaches – regardless of the number of players present. In addition, the following conditions must be met:

- The three adults must be named on the affidavit or must be authorized temporary replacements as noted on the affidavit. There will be no substitutions permitted during pre-game warm-ups or throughout a game. That is, the “subbing in and out” of an adult coach during pre-game or in game activities is NOT permitted.
- No other adult is permitted in the dugout or on the field at any time (pre-game or in-game activities) for any reason other than medical necessity (e.g., player injury or illness) and then only with the permission of the Tournament Director or umpire.
- A fourth adult acting as a score keeper is NOT permitted in the dugout.
- Managers/coaches may communicate with the scorekeeper but ONLY regrading scorekeeping matters, e.g., line ups, scores, etc.
- If used, the “fourth adult” score keeper is NOT permitted to coach whatsoever. Doing so subjects that person to removal from the game and the complex. In addition, the manager may be removed from the game for violation of this rule.
- Adults are not permitted to warm-up pitchers anywhere on the complex, before or during a game, throughout the tournament.
- During the game, one adult must always be present in the dugout to supervise player behavior and safety.
- During competition, only the manager of a team is permitted to request permission to enter the field of play to discuss a matter with an umpire. However, this does not preclude casual conversation or inquiries from coaches.

Number of Players. Unless pre-tournament approval has been granted by a league's District Administrator, teams must have rostered twelve (12) or more eligible players. It is expected that a minimum of 12 eligible players on a team be present in uniform at the game site at the start of a game. If less than 12 players are present, the game shall still be played, with no penalty for the “missing” batter, but it is expected that teams present the Tournament Director a reason for the absence of an eligible player or players.

NOTE: There is no penalty for a player not in the batting order due to injury or ejection.

Mandatory Play. The following is taken from the Little League Rule Book (page 188) requiring a continuous batting order for all divisions of tournament play except for the Senior Division.

“All Tournament Teams must adopt a policy of a continuous batting order that will include all players on the team affidavit present at the start of the game, to appear in the batting order. Each player is required to bat in his/her respective spot in the batting order.”

Again, there is no penalty if a team has less than 12 players in the batting order.

DO NOT COMPLAIN TO THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR OR TOURNAMENT STAFF REGARDING THE ABSENCE OF A PENALTY. This is a policy that is mandated by Little League Baseball and Softball. The responsibility of the tournament staff is to comply with this policy. However, teams that inappropriately exploit this policy shall be referred to Little League authorities.

Courtesy Runner:

- A tournament team may permit a “courtesy runner” for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are two (2) outs. The courtesy runner must be the player in the batting order who made the last out.

Approved Ruling: The courtesy runner must always be the player in the batting order who made the last out. If a team chooses to use a courtesy runner and the player who made the last out is the pitcher or catcher of record, that pitcher or catcher of record must be used as the courtesy runner. A team may not skip the pitcher or catcher of record if that pitcher or catcher of record made the last out and is therefore due to be the courtesy runner.

Visits to Pitchers:

- 9- to 11-Year-Old Division, Little League, and Junior League: A manager or coach may come out once in one inning to visit with the pitcher, but the second time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. The manager or coach may come out twice in a game to visit with the pitcher, but the third time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. The rule applies to each pitcher who enters a game.
- 8- to 10-Year-Old Division: A manager or coach may come out twice in one inning to visit with the pitcher, but the third time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. The manager or coach may come out three times in a game to visit with the pitcher, but the fourth time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. The rule applies to each pitcher who enters a game.

Stealing Signs: 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, 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 player(s), coach(es), and/or manager shall be ejected from the game for a team’s subsequent offense.

Run Rule: If at the end of three (3) innings (Junior League: four innings), two and one-half innings (Junior League: three and one-half innings) if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to

the opponent. If at the end of a regulation game one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent.

Tie Game: When the completion of six innings (Junior League: seven innings) and the score is tied, the following tie-breaker will be played to determine a winning team:

- The seventh inning (Junior League: eighth inning) will be played as normal.
- Starting in the top of the eighth inning (Junior League: ninth inning), and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base.

Rule/Regulation Reminders:

- a) Regulation I/Rule 1.11(a)(2) - All player uniforms must have the official Little League patch properly affixed. Older versions of the patch may be used for 2024.
- b) Rule 1.11a(3) – Arm Bands. The use of play calling bands by players is permitted under the following conditions:
 - The equipment must be worn as the manufacturer intended (i.e., on either the wrist or forearm).
 - The play calling band MAY NOT be attached to the belt or any other location on the player's person.
 - Pitchers are permitted to wear a play calling band on their non-pitching (glove) arm, provided it is a solid color and not white, gray, or optic yellow. If the umpire considers it distracting to the batter, he/she may have it removed.
- c) Rule 3.17 - The use of electronic communication equipment during the game is restricted. No team shall use electronic communication equipment, including walkie-talkies, cellular telephones, etc., for any communication with on-field personnel including those in the dugout, bullpen, or field.

Exception: A cell phone/tablet may be used to access the Little League Rule Book app and Game Changer. No other usage is permitted.

IMPORTANT: Due to our contract with YSNLive, devices that transmit or record game action shall not be permitted on the backstops or surrounding area near home plate. In addition, electronic devices shall NEVER be used to influence the decision of an umpire. The latter action is subject to removal from the game and/or complex.

- d) Rule 3.09 - Players, managers and coaches of participating teams shall not address or mingle with spectators, nor sit in the stands during a game in which they are engaged. This includes the use of signs to a pitcher or other player from a spectator sitting in the stands. Violation of this rule is grounds for ejection and/or removal of the spectator from the tournament site.

Required Diamond Leader Training:

As a condition of eligibility for selection as a tournament team manager/coach, the manager and coaches must have completed the Little League Diamond Leader Training Program (<https://www.littleleague.org/DiamondLeader/>). This program should have been completed prior to the individual being named a tournament team manager/coach and before participating in any

practices or games. Tournament Team managers/coaches who have completed the program must produce the Little League Diamond Leader completion certificate and include it in the tournament affidavit. Persons who have not completed the program shall NOT be permitted to participate in the tournament until a certificate of completion has been presented.

Abuse Awareness Training:

By selection of an adult as a manager or coach of a tournament team, the local league verifies that each individual has successfully completed the Abuse Awareness training required by Little League Baseball and Softball. If this is not true, managers and coaches should immediately complete an Abuse Awareness Training (see <https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/child-protection-program/safesport-resources-parents/>).

Concussion Training:

All managers, coaches, and umpires will be expected to abide by Ohio's Return-to-Play Law. This is a state law!!!! It is mandatory that all youth league managers, coaches, and umpires possess this certificate!!! It is best practice for all managers and coaches to carry their certificate on their person or in the affidavit binder.

The concussion training course is simple and short, and best of all – free. The certificate is valid for three years from the date the course is passed. Go to the following link for online testing sites:

<https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/child-injury-prevention/resources/onlineconcussiontraining>

Decorum – Managers, Coaches, Players, and Fans:

The following policy has been approved and adopted by the State of Ohio Little League District Administrators. This policy shall be strictly enforced. Please share this information with your parents and other fans.

It is expected that the behavior of all participants, as well as fans, must be above reproach. You are representing yourselves, your leagues, your communities, and the Little League program. *Exemplary behavior of all participants and fans is expected.* Profanity and unsportsmanlike conduct will NOT be tolerated from participants and fans.

In particular, Little League Regulation XIV: Field Decorum states the following:

“The actions, on or off the field, of players, managers, coaches, umpires, and league officials must be above reproach. Any player, manager, coach, umpire, or league representative who is involved in a verbal or physical altercation, or an incident of unsportsmanlike conduct, at the game site or any other Little League activity including through online or social media, is subject to disciplinary action by the local league Board of Directors.”

In this tournament, the Tournament Director serves as the ultimate Board of Directors. Proper behavior is expected of ALL persons in attendance, including fans. Inappropriate behavior shall subject an individual to removal from the game and the tournament premises, possibly for the entire tournament. In addition, other sanctions are possible.

Please take note of the following points of emphasis:

- Caution should be employed regarding the use of social media by persons associated with a team. The improper use of social media (e.g., demeaning opponents) has been, and will continue to be, penalized by Little League up to and including removal from the tournament.

Please be sure to inform your players and fans to restrain from making any derogatory remarks via social media.

In addition, for privacy and safety concerns, caution should be exerted when posting information on social media regarding a player.

- Managers and coaches need to inform their fans that inappropriate behavior (e.g., taunting or verbal abuse of opposing teams, umpires, etc.) shall not be tolerated whatsoever. *Such behavior shall subject an individual to removal from the facility, possibly for the entire tournament, in addition to possible future sanctions.*

Encourage your fans to cheer positively not just for your team, but also for good play and sportsmanship of opposing players.

- Noise makers (horns, whistles, vuvuzelas, and any like item) are prohibited. The removal of the items, and possibly the fan(s) from the premises, is at the discretion of the Tournament Director and Assistant Directors.
- No one except the players, manager, coach(es), tournament officials, or umpires shall enter/occupy the bench or dugout prior to or during a game. This includes parents and fans.
- Smoking or vaping is not permitted by any person on the premises of McCune Field (Canfield) or the Field of Dreams (Boardman). Those who do so shall be removed from the park premises.

Batting Helmets:

All batting helmets must meet the criteria established in Rule 1.16. No helmet shall be altered in a manner that is in conflict with this rule.

Catcher's Equipment:

All catchers must wear equipment that meets the criteria established in Rule 1.17.

Softball Bats:

All bats must meet the criteria set forth in Rule 1.10. Non-wood bats shall be printed with a BPF (bat performance factor) of 1.20.

Illegal Bats:

Managers are responsible for assuring that illegal bats are not used for play or are present in the dugout during a game. IF THERE IS ANY QUESTION REGARDING THE LEGALITY OF A BAT, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MANAGER TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE THAT THE BAT IS APPROVED FOR USE BY LITTLE LEAGUE. However, the final arbiter of the legality of a bat resides with the umpires.

Penalty for Illegal bats: The penalty for use of an illegal bat, if discovered before the next player enters the batter's box following the turn at bat of the player who used an illegal bat, is:

- The batter is out. The ball is dead and runners must return if they advanced on the play (NOTE: The manager of the defense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline this portion of the penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play), and;
- The manager of the team will be ejected from the game, the batter who violated the rule will be ejected from the game, and the offensive team will lose one eligible adult base coach for the duration of the game.
- Regardless if the opposing manager elects the result of the play,
 - The batter using the illegal bat is ejected from the game;
 - The manager of the batter using the illegal bat is ejected from the game; and
 - The offensive team shall be restricted to one adult base coach.

Dugouts:

For all games on all fields, the home team (previously determined by a coin toss) shall occupy the first base dugout. The visiting team shall occupy the third base dugout.

- Minor and Major Divisions: Only the first batter of each inning is permitted to be outside the dugout prior to entering the batter's box and must be stationed near the entrance to their team's dugout. No other player is permitted outside the dugout between innings.
- Junior Division: On-deck batters are permitted. The on-deck batter MUST be stationed outside their own dugout. On-deck batters are NEVER permitted to occupy a position near the opponent's dugout. Also, when waiting to bat, the next batter MAY NOT BE CLOSER than 20 feet of the home plate area.
- No fans are permitted to interact with players in the dugout during a game other than to provide drinks, ice, towels, etc., but they are NOT permitted to enter the dugout.
- Should a member of the team (adult or player) need to use the restroom facilities, first seek the permission of the umpire to leave the dugout. Except in an emergency, team personnel shall not leave the dugout without the umpire's permission.

Pre-Game Activities:

- Only the team manager, eligible coaches, and players in uniform, collectively whose names are listed on the eligibility affidavit, are allowed in the dugout during a game or on the playing field during a warm-up. No practice coaches or helpers are permitted on the field or in the dugout, or in the bullpen area regardless if the latter is inside the fence or outside the field of play.
- Immediately following the specified warm-up time on the field for a team, have all bats, helmets, and catcher's equipment placed in front of the dugout for umpires to inspect. This includes all equipment (e.g., bats, gloves, helmets, etc.) in player bags. Any equipment removed from the game will be marked, kept in the tournament director's office and returned at the end of the tournament.

- Players who are catching for a coach during infield/outfield practice before a game and players who are warming up a pitcher at any time must wear the approved helmet/face mask with dangling-style throat protector. Violations of this rule during the pre-game period or during a game may subject the manager to ejection.

- No adult is permitted to warm up a pitcher *before or during the game*.

NOTE: adults can play 'catch' in pre-game, but not 'catcher'; adults are not allowed to play 'catch'/'catcher" during a game.

- Managers are required to attend the plate meeting with the umpires. Team captains may attend the plate meeting.

NOTE: No players are to be out of their dugouts during the plate meeting.

- The tournament director will provide line up cards/sheets for all games. For uncommon names, please provide a phonic pronunciation.
- Line ups for the day's games must be handed in to the assigned score keeper in the scorer's booth at least 30 minutes before the game is scheduled to start. Line ups do not become official until verified to the umpire at the plate meeting.
- Please complete and submit the line-up form provided by the official score keeper being sure to provide a phonetic pronunciation for each player's name.
- Field access and pre-game warm-up shall abide by a schedule to be distributed at the mandatory pre-tournament meeting.

In-Game Activities:

- *Sportsmanship.* Good sportsmanship is always expected and that if there is a question regarding a rule application or interpretation, then ONLY the manager may approach an umpire after receiving "time out" to come onto the field of play; all calls involving judgment will not be permitted to be questioned. There shall be **ZERO TOLERANCE** for **ANY** un-sportsman like conduct. Managers are ultimately responsible for the behavior of their coaches and players.

NOTE: Coaches and players may ask casual questions of an umpire, but neither is permitted to approach or openly criticize an umpire regarding his/her decision.

- *Appeal.* Rule 2.00: "An appeal is an act of a fielder in claiming a violation of the rules by the offensive team." It is the responsibility of the manager (not coaches), or a player, to request and appeal on a violation (or misinterpretation) of a rule AND to do so using the proper procedure. Judgement calls are NOT subject to an appeal.
- *Base Coaches.* Adult base coaches must remain inside or by the dugout until between inning warm-ups are completed. Player base coaches need to remain *inside* dugout until between inning warm-ups are completed.
- *Live Ball Play.* Except for base coaches and the batter, during live ball play adults must remain within the dugout or the opening of the dugout (not outside of dugout and not sitting on buckets outside dugout), whereas players must stay entirely inside the dugout.

- *Between Innings.* The “one minute between innings” rule **will be enforced** (starting/new pitcher, 8 warm-up pitches; subsequent innings, 3-4 warm-up pitches or one minute, whichever comes first). **HAVE A PLAYER READY WITH A MASK TO WARM-UP PITCHER BETWEEN INNINGS.**
- *Ejections.* A manager or coach ejected from the game MUST leave the complex. Players MUST leave the complex only if parents/guardians are present to take charge of them. If none are present, the player MUST sit quietly on the bench with their team.
- *Retrieving Bats.* A player should retrieve bats between batters and **must** wear a helmet. Such players must not interfere with any play in progress.
- *Manager and Coaches Hats/Visors.* Managers and coaches must be properly attired. Shabbily dressed persons shall not be permitted on the field. No substitutes will be allowed for an inappropriately attired manager or coach. Khaki style pants or shorts preferred – NO GYM SHORTS OR WARM-UP PANTS. Also preferred is a polo style shirt or tasteful T-shirt that is team specific. Shoes must be worn; sandals are not permitted. If a hat is worn, it must be a conventional baseball hat. An appropriate visor may be worn. The hat/visor may not be worn backwards. Coaches and players shirts must be tucked in at all times when on the field.
- *Eye Black.* Eye black may be worn by players. However, it should be worn in a conservative manner, i.e., a single streak beneath the eye. Eye black that is worn in excess is not acceptable. No images/patterns within or drawn in eye black shall be permitted. Additionally, no names or branding of any nature may be printed on the eye black. Players wearing unacceptable eye black shall be required to remove it.



In the above composite picture, the left image depicts acceptable wearing of eye black, whereas the center and right image depict unacceptable wearing of eye black.

- *Walk-up Music.* This is not permitted from the dugout or the stands.
- *Reporting Line-Up Changes.* Any line-up changes shall be reported initially by the manager to the home plate umpire, who will accompany the manager to the score booth to make changes with the official scorer.
- *Hints to Speed Up the Game.* Consider assigning players not currently batting to warm-up the warm-up pitcher between half innings (must wear mask) and/or to be the bat retriever (must wear helmet).

Other important items include the following:

- Any complaints regarding a tournament official or umpire needs to be reported to the Tournament Director by the team manager or league president.
- NEVER criticize an umpire or another manager/coach/player in public. if you have an issue, contact Chet Cooper (District Administrator/Tournament Director).

Tournament Brackets and Determination of Home Team:

IMPORTANT NOTE: All games will be played at the day and time as scheduled and in the order scheduled. Unforeseen circumstances (e.g., weather) may cause a change to the schedule. However, unless directed by Little League Baseball and Softball, participation in a non-Little League event shall never be considered a reason to alter the tournament schedule. All schedule changes are solely at the discretion of the Tournament Director or Little League Baseball and Softball.

- 1) *Home and Visitor Teams - Opening Round:* For the opening round of games, except for those with bye games, the determination of the HOME team shall take place by a coin toss conducted by the Tournament Director, or an individual designated by the Tournament Director. The manager from the two competing teams whose team is from the league furthest from District 2, Ohio has the option to declare “heads” or “tails” prior to the coin flip. The manager could defer this declaration to the opposing manager. If the coin flip results in the calling manager’s choice, then he/she can choose to be either the HOME team or the VISITING team. If the coin flip does not result in the calling manager’s choice, then the opposing manager can choose to be either the HOME team or the VISITING team.
- 2) *Home and Visitor Teams - Subsequent Rounds:* For games following the opening round, including any initial bye games, the HOME and VISITOR team designation shall be determined by a coin toss conducted by the Tournament Director, or an individual designated by the Tournament Director, in the presence of both team managers or his/her designee. Coin flips will be conducted no later than 15 minutes after the two competing teams have been determined.

The manager whose team is from the league furthest from District 2, Ohio has the option to declare “heads” or “tails” prior to the coin flip. The manager could defer this declaration to the opposing manager. If the coin flip results in the calling manager’s choice, then he/she can choose to be either the HOME team or the VISITING team. If the coin flip does not result in the calling manager’s choice, then the opposing manager can choose to be either the HOME team or the VISITING team.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If for any reason, a team decides not to participate in the tournament after the draw, but prior to the first game of the tournament being played, the Tournament Director, available Assistant Tournament Directors, and/or others designated by the Tournament Director, shall meet at the earliest opportunity and re-draw the bracket *in its entirety*. Only this group of individuals shall be involved in the actual re-draw of the bracket. No team personnel shall be permitted to participate. Should this occur, all managers of teams remaining in the tournament shall be notified as soon as practical. Managers should be aware that opponents, times, and dates of games are likely to be changed in the re-drawn bracket. There shall be no appeal to re-drawing a bracket should the above situation occur.

Should a team remaining in the tournament after the first game is played then decide not to continue participating, the Tournament Director shall contact the Little League Baseball and Softball for direction. Teams cannot be declared to have forfeited a game, nor can they be removed from the tournament after the first game has been played, without the approval of the Little League Baseball and Softball.

Tournament Program

Tournament programs will be available at both the Boardman and Canfield locations for \$5.00 each. Proceeds will help defray the cost of banners and other tournament expenses that support the players. There is a program flyer included with this guide that gives businesses or individuals in your districts an opportunity to support your state tournament team.

If you are sending a team to the tournament, we are asking that you secure at least one half-page ad space from your district. Ad spaces are limited, so it will be on a first-come basis. One ad from each district will cover a large portion of the costs of production. We can use ads that are created by your local business or we will create one for them. Please contact Jeff Wilson (OhioDistrict2LL@gmail.com) if you have questions or to reserve ad space.

Concessions and Tournament T-shirts:

At the time that this guide is being prepared, it is anticipated that concessions will be provided at the playing fields.

Also, we anticipate that a local company will be on site during the weekend to sell Tournament T-shirts.

Hotels and Restaurants:

Hotels in Boardman. For those teams playing at Boardman's Field of Dreams, there are numerous hotels of varying styles and costs around Route 224 and nearby South Avenue. Listing them and their contact information would take up a number of pages in this tournament guide. Hence, it would be best to "google" the term "Boardman hotels" and work from there to secure lodging. Most of these hotels are less than 3 miles from the Field of Dreams on McClurg Road.

Hotels Canfield. For teams playing in the Junior and Senior division tournaments, there are fewer hotels in Canfield, but these are of generally high quality. Several hotels are located near Route 224 about 3 miles from McCune Field. There are additional hotels located about 5.5 miles north of McCune Field near the intersection of Route 46 and Interstate 80. These, too, vary in style and cost. Again, it would be best to "google" the term "Canfield hotels" or "Austintown hotels" and work from there to secure lodging.

Restaurants in Boardman, Canfield, and Austintown. If there is one thing we do exceedingly well in the Mahoning Valley is eat! There are an incredible number of eating establishments between Boardman and Canfield all along Route 224 as well as near the hotels. The same goes for the hotels in Austintown. Fast food, simple food, bar and grills, fancy restaurants, pizza, Italian, deli, whatever you enjoy can be found in the greater Youngstown area. In the Boardman area near the hotels it may be helpful to make reservations for large groups during the early dinner time, especially weekends. For those of you requiring Morning Joe, there are several traditional coffee shops (Starbucks, Dunkins, etc.) nearby as well as smaller coffee cafes (e.g., Stone Fruit, Mocha House, etc.). You

could “google” to find restaurants near the playing fields and hotels, but the advice we would give you is to ask a local where the best places are to dine or to grab some caffeine.

Entertainment:

Besides softball, we hope you will take advantage of the time your team may have to explore and enjoy the greater Youngstown area. There are a number of things that families and teams can do during their down time. Not all things can be listed here. Therefore, we suggest that you go to the following web site to look for suggestions: <https://youngstownlive.com/attractions/>.

In addition to activities presented at the above web page, one favorite place to go in Canfield is Amron Lanes, a bowling center located close to the playing fields (492 West Main Street). The lanes are closed on Mondays, but open until 10:00 PM or later on most other days. We also recommend Camelot Lanes in Boardman (628 Boardman-Canfield Road). These lanes are open Noon to 10:00 PM most days of the week.

There are several movie theaters nearby: one in the Austintown area (Golden Star Theaters) and three others in Boardman (Cinemark Tinseltown; Boardman Movies 8; and Regal Cinema South). We recommend internet searching for current shows and show times.

Another popular source of entertainment place is Boardman Sports World located at 8249 South Avenue. This venue has Go Karts, Batting Cages, Miniature Golf, and other activities. For additional information, including coupons, go to the Boardman Sports World web page: <https://www.boardmansportsworld.com/>.

If you are still looking for something special to do, ask one of the local folks. We are glad to help in any way.

State of Ohio Softball Tournament Team/Manager/Coach Information Sheet

Please complete and email a copy to Chet Cooper (chet.d2oh@gmail.com) by the beginning of the tournament. If this is not possible, bring a completed copy to the Manager's meeting.

Level of Play (check one)

Minor (10U) _____ Minor (11U) _____ Major (12U) _____ Junior (14U) _____

Please PRINT the following requested information

District Number: _____ **League Name:** _____

Team Manager: _____

Email Address: _____

Text/Cell Number: _____

Coach 1: _____

Email Address: _____

Text/Cell Number: _____

Coach 2: _____

Email Address: _____

Text/Cell Number: _____

2024 Ohio Little League State Softball Tournament

Ohio Little League State Softball Tournament 2024

Proudly hosted by



Boardman Community Baseball
Canfield Baseball Club



Tournament Program Advertising Options

Support your local district team as they compete in this year's Ohio State Tournament. These teams are representing their local leagues and communities from across the state.

Limited spaces available.



A Variety of Options are Available:

- Full page - \$400
- 1/2 page - \$225
- 1/4 page - \$150
- 1/8 page - \$75
- Team Page Strip Ad - \$50

**Color positions are available on the inside of the front and back covers as well as the back cover. The remaining positions are black and white. Submit your own ad or we can build it for you.



To reserve your ad space, email size desired and ad location to OhioDistrict2LL@gmail.com. We will contact you for ad and payment info.



Minor and Major Divisions

[age 8–10 = 10 U; age 9–11 = 11U; age 10–12 = 12U]

The following games will be played in Boardman, Ohio

July 11 (Thursday) Day 1

Time	Field	Games	Participants
3:00 PM	S1	Minor 10U - Game 1	District 1 vs. District 2
	S2	Minor 10U - Game 2	District 9 vs. District 6
5:00 PM	S1	Minor 11U - Game 1	District 1 vs. District 11
	S2	Majors - Game 1	District 6 vs. District 9
7:00 PM	S2	Majors - Game 2	District 11 vs. District 2

July 12 (Friday) Day 2

Time	Field	Games	Participants
3:00 PM	S1	Minor 10U - Game 3	District 11 vs. Game 1 Winner
	S2	Minor 10U - Game 4	Game 1 Loser vs. Game 2 Loser
5:00 PM	S1	Minor 11U - Game 2	District 2 vs. Game 1 Winner
	S2	Majors - Game 3	District 1 vs. Game 1 Winner
7:00 PM	S2	Majors - Game 4	District 7 vs. Game 2 Winner

July 13 (Saturday) Day 3

Time	Field	Games	Participants
10:00 AM	S1	Minor 10U - Game 5	Game 2 Winner vs. Game 3 Winner
	S2	Minor 10U - Game 6	Game 4 Winner vs. Game 3 Loser
12:00 PM	S1	Majors - Game 5	Game 1 Loser vs. Game 4 Loser
	S2	Majors - Game 6	Game 2 Loser vs. Game 3 Loser
2:00 PM	S1	Majors - Game 8 (double header for both teams)	Game 5 Winner vs. Game 6 Winner
	S2	Majors - Game 7	Game 3 Winner vs. Game 4 Winner
4:00 PM	S2	Minor 11U - Game 3	Game 1 Loser vs. Game 2 Loser

July 14 (Sunday) Day 4

Time	Field	Games	Participants
10:00 AM	S1	Minor 11U - Game 4*	Championship Game: Game 2 Winner vs. Game 3 Winner
	S2	Minor 10U - Game 7	Game 5 Loser vs. Game 6 Winner
12:00 PM	S1	Minor 11U - Game 5**	"If" Game: Game 4 Winner vs. Game 4 Loser
	S2	Majors - Game 9	Game 8 Winner vs. Game 7 Loser

*Championship Game; **"If" Game begins 30 minutes after Game 4

July 15 (Monday) Day 5

Time	Field	Games	Participants
10:00 AM	S1	Minor 10U - Game 8*	Championship Game: Game 5 Winner vs. Game 7 Winner
	S2	Majors - Game 10*	Championship Game: Game 7 Winner vs. Game 9 Winner
12:00 PM	S1	Minor 10U - Game 9**	"If" Game: Game 8 Winner vs. Game 8 Loser
	S2	Majors - Game 11###	"If" Game: Game 10 Winner vs. Game 10 Loser

*Championship Game; **"If" Game begins 30 minutes after Game 10

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING GAME 11

- If the winner of Game 10 was the loser of Game 7, the "If" game begins on Field S2 30 minutes after Game 10
- If the winner of Game 10 was the winner of Game 6, the "If" game will be played on 7/16 at 10:00 AM on Field S2

July 16 (Tuesday) – Rain Day, if needed

SEE SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING GAME 11 ABOVE

Junior Division

[age 12-14 = 14U]

The following games will be played in Canfield, Ohio

July 5 (Friday) Day 1

Time	Field	Games	Participants
5:00 PM	Field 1	Junior (14U) – Game 1	District 9 vs. District 11
7:00 PM	Field 1	Junior (14U) – Game 2	District 1 vs. District 2

July 6 (Saturday) Day 2

Time	Field	Games	Participants
10:00 AM	Field 1	Junior (14U) – Game 3	Game 1 Winner vs. Game 2 Winner
12:00 PM	Field 1	Junior (14U) – Game 4	Game 1 Loser vs. Game 2 Loser
2:00 PM	Field 1	Junior (14U) – Game 5 (double header for both teams involved)	Game 4 Winner vs. Game 3 Loser

July 7 (Sunday) Day 3

Time	Field	Games	Participants
12:00 PM	Field 1	Junior (14U) – Game 6	Championship Game: Game 3 Winner vs. Game 5 Winner
2:00 PM	Field 1	Junior (14U) – Game 7 (begins 30 minutes after Game 6)	“If” Game: Game 6 Winner vs. Game 6 Loser

July 8 (Monday) Day 4 – Rain Day, if needed