

Interlock Rules – Major Baseball - 2026

Little League Victoria (District 7 BC)

****Please have all coaches carry these rules and post them in your clubhouse for reference****

1 – All teams playing an interlocking schedule must abide by these rules. “House rules” that leagues might observe for games within their park do not apply to interlock games.

2 – All coaches, and managers & umpires must review the safety rules for Little League Baseball & abide by them.

3- If a team shows up to the park with less than 9 players (or a player is hurt during a game, leaving a team short) then the opposing team MAY lend a player or players as necessary to play. The Little League rulebook ALSO allows for the game to proceed with 8 players on a team. In this case, it can be agreed upon ahead of time by coaches/umpire at the plate whether the 9 spot in the batting order is skipped over OR an out is called.

4 – Teams that would otherwise be short can pick up players from other house teams in their league. Pick up players must wear the uniform of their rostered regular season team and cannot pitch.

5 – Continuous batting order will be used.

6 - Shorts and open – toed shoes or sandals are **not permitted on the field.**

7 – A pitch count affidavit will be carried by all teams and signed by the plate umpire at the end of the game. This will include interlocking, exhibition and games played at the local league level.

8 – The umpire’s discretion of the fitness of equipment and field conditions (once the game starts) is final.

9 – The home team is responsible for the grounds, supplying umpires, and game sheets.

10 – **Scorekeeping – Must be done from the score booth. The umpire needs to have immediate access to the scorekeepers and not be searching the stands for them. The scorekeeper is the official pitch counter of the game and therefore needs to always be available to the umpire.**

11 – **The mercy rule is in effect. (Invoked when a team is ahead by 15 runs after 3 innings, or 10 runs after 4 innings). If both teams’ coaches agree, the scoreboard can be shut off and teams continue to play.**

12 – There is a 4-run limit per inning. The declared final inning will be an open inning for both teams.

13 – There must always be a coach in the dugout **with the players.** This includes in between innings.

14 - Only the manager may approach the umpires.

15 – There is no specified time limit for majors baseball games.

16 – All games will be played in accordance with the rules of Little League Baseball, except those noted above.