

RIVIERA LITTLE LEAGUE

2026 INTERNATIONAL DIVISION RULES

A. Philosophy

The International Division is an *instructional* division. There is no All–Star team, no standings are kept, and there is no post-season. It is the responsibility of the coaches to teach the fundamentals of baseball and to make the game enjoyable so that the children will continue playing baseball and participate in athletics in general.

B. Rules

1. Pitching –

- a. The pitching distance will be 40 feet (at flat section of the mound) from the pitching machine to home plate.
- b. The source of all pitching will be the machine. No player/kid-pitch will be allowed at this level. The act of machine pitching is referred to as machine pitch.
- c. The batter is up until:
 - i. the ball has been put into play,
 - ii. three (3) swings and misses have been recorded (Out), or,
 - iii. in the case of machine pitch, **5 competitive pitches** have been thrown. Note: Additional pitches may be awarded if the batter hits a foul ball on the last pitch.
 - iv. The pitching machine and operator shall be treated as part of the field.
- d. **Intra-seasonal rules:**
 - i. **For the first four (4) games:**
 1. Five (5) competitive pitches MAXIMUM.
 2. There will be NO strikeouts or walks.
 3. If the ball is not placed into play after the five pitches, the batting tee will be utilized.
 - ii. **For all remaining games through the end of the season:**



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1. No batting tee will be utilized.
2. If the ball is not put into play, the batter is out.
2. **Catching** – Every team must have a properly equipped catcher, while playing defense. Catchers are to be positioned in the correct squatting stance so as to become familiar with this vital baseball skill. A coach from the team playing defense may assist the catcher.
3. **Batting** – The entire team will bat in rotation until three (3) outs are made, or the entire lineup has an at bat.
4. **Fielders** – All players are permitted to play defense each inning. There is no maximum number of defenders.
5. **Bunting** – Bunting is **NOT** allowed.
6. **Base Running** – Runners may advance one additional base on balls hit past base level depth. Runners will advance at their own risk.
7. **Base Coaches** – The team at bat must have an adult coach as the First Base Coach and Third Base Coach.
8. **Coaches** - A team shall have no more than four adults allowed on the field once the game starts (behind the players). There must be one adult coach in the dugout at all times. All adults in direct contact with players either in game or practice must be background checked by Riviera Little League. Violations of this rule will result in a coaching suspension and/or removal at the discretion of the President.
9. **Infield Fly Rule** – Not in effect.
10. **Forfeit** – Since there are no league standings, the forfeit rule will not be in effect. In an effort to play the game, if one team is missing players, managers should balance the available players to field two teams.
11. **Substitution** – there is free substitution.
12. **Protests** – No protests will be allowed at the international level.
13. **Safety** – Do not allow players to play with bats while in the dugout. Put a stop to “horseplay” before someone gets hurt.



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a. The coach is required to have the player medical release forms for his team at all practices and games.

14. Injuries – any player leaving a game as result of an injury **MUST** have an incident and injury report filed with RLL's Safety Officer. The player's coach will be responsible to oversee that this happens at the conclusion of that game.

15. Game Length – The game length will be **90 minutes drop-dead**.

Updated 11/2/25

