

NEW MEXICO DISTRICT 8 LITTLE LEAGUE 2026 INTERLEAGUE PLAYING RULES
LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL

Interleague is governed by a committee composed of the League Presidents within NM District 8. These rules apply to both the Spring and Fall seasons. The host league is defined as the league at whose location the game is being played.

1.	The 2026 Official Rulebook, including all Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Operating Policies, will be followed at all times. Each league must provide at least one rulebook (a digital version is acceptable) to each team, and teams must have access to it at all games. Each team must also possess a signed copy of the 2026 District 8 Interleague Rules.
2.	Each league must provide a current list of manager and coach phone numbers to all leagues with which they participate in interleague play. No exceptions.
3.	The home team will provide the Official Scorekeeper, who must be positioned either in the score booth or in the bleachers near home plate. The official scorekeeper must record all players' first and last names in ink in the scorebook. Managers are responsible for providing a list of players absent for the game, and the scorekeeper will record these names in the official scorebook.
4.	The home team will provide the home plate umpire, and the visiting team will provide the field umpire. The plate umpire will serve as the official timekeeper. Either team may provide a third umpire if available.
5.	Both teams are responsible for cleaning their respective dugouts and policing the bleacher areas on their side of the field.
6.	The home team is responsible for field setup and maintenance. When games are played at a neutral site, both teams share responsibility for field setup and maintenance.
7.	All local league rules must be strictly followed: - No seeds, shelled nuts, or gum are allowed at Cibola Little League, West Mesa Little League, Paradise Hills Little League, or on turf fields at Eastdale Little League. - No pets are allowed at any league facility, with the exception of certified service animals. - Smoking, the use of e-cigarettes, and/or alcohol is not permitted at any Little League function. - No metal spikes/cleats are allowed at Coronado Little League or at any league with turf mounds and/or turf infields and outfields. - Walk-up music is not permitted at Coronado Little League.
8.	All leagues will follow the Little League Baseball Official Rulebook regarding the minimum number of players required to start and finish a game. A fifteen (15) minute grace period is allowed for late arrivals; however, this grace period does not extend or alter the established game time limit. FALL LEAGUE ONLY: In emergency situations where pool players are unavailable, rescheduling or canceling games is discouraged. If a team is short one or two players, NM District 8 encourages teams to "borrow" players from each other to ensure all defensive positions are filled.

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	NM District 8 will not reschedule games for individual teams. If managers choose not to play, it is their responsibility to coordinate any rescheduling with the host league.
9.	Two adult base coaches are permitted, provided that at least one approved adult remains in the dugout at all times. The dugout coach must stay inside the dugout and may not stand or sit outside. No exceptions
10.	Pool players will be allowed in accordance with Little League Regulation V(c) regarding Pool Players. - The league's Player Agent is responsible for creating and managing the pool using players from their respective division. - Players may not be "borrowed" from an opposing team, except during Fall League. Pool players must be assigned by the Player Agent; managers are not permitted to select players from the pool. - Pool players who are called and arrive at the game must play a minimum of nine consecutive defensive outs and bat at least once. - All team players must wear the same league-issued uniform, while pool players must wear their own team uniform. - Pool players may not pitch.
11.	The home team will provide all game balls for interleague play, and they must be returned to the home team at the conclusion of the game.
12.	Umpires will enforce a one-minute time limit between innings and will inform both managers of this requirement during the pre-game meeting to help keep the game moving. - Protests follow Little League Rule 4.19; none are allowed in Fall League. - The plate umpire must report any manager, coach, or player ejection to the league President and NMD8 Interleague Officer.
13.	Little League permits leagues to implement the run rule during the regular season, and District 8 has elected to do so. Under the Little League run rule, a game may end early if one team is leading by: • 15 runs after 3 innings • 10 runs after 4 innings • 8 runs after 5 innings
14.	All leagues will adhere to the pitching rules outlined in Regulation VI – Pitchers of the official rulebook.
15.	Each player must participate in at least nine defensive outs per game. Exception: If an inning ends due to the run limit, it counts as three defensive outs, provided the player was in for the entire inning. No player may sit out more than two consecutive defensive innings.
16.	All players will be included in a continuous batting order, batting in turn regardless of their position in the defensive lineup. Free substitution is allowed.
17.	There will be no on-deck circle, and players may not hold a bat until it is their turn at bat. Once in the batter's box, the batter must keep at least one foot inside the box for the entire at-bat.

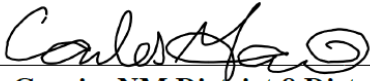
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18.	The league may start and play a game with a minimum of eight players per team. The ninth spot in the batting order is skipped without penalty
19.	A courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher of record is allowed when there are two outs during the regular season.
20.	A weather warning will be issued by the Board of Directors member assigned to the game site. All interleague games will follow a lightning delay guideline of 8 miles per 30 minutes.
21.	Games played on lighted fields must conclude by 10:00 PM. All other games will be halted at the posted time limit or sunset, whichever occurs first.
22.	Weekend games have a two-hour and thirty minute time limit. Games will end at the scheduled stop time, following Little League rules for game completion. NM District 8 stop and start times are final. Any game not completed according to Little League rules, or that is canceled, must be continued or rescheduled at the first available date at the host site.

Any league that violates any of the above rules will be removed from interleague play at the discretion of District staff.

Approved for the 2026 season on January 11, 2026.



Carlos Garcia, NM District 8 District Administrator