



Lodi Area Youth Baseball & Softball

LAYBS Player Substitution Policy

Revision: January 2026

Purpose

To establish clear and fair guidelines for temporarily adding non-roster players to a team's game-day lineup to ensure games can proceed safely and competitively when a team is short on players or missing key position players.

Policy Overview

From time to time, teams in our youth baseball and softball program may encounter situations where their regular roster is unable to field a complete team or cover essential positions (e.g., pitcher, catcher) due to illness, injury, vacation, or other unforeseen absences. This policy allows for temporary player additions to avoid cancellations, maintain safety, and support fair play. (Note: This policy does not supersede league rules. League rules shall be always followed as per their rostering policy.)

Eligibility for Player Additions

A team may temporarily add players to its game-day lineup if it meets one or both of the following conditions:

1. Roster Shortage

- The team has fewer than 9 available players (or 10 available players based on league rules for allowed field game play) for a scheduled game.
- Additional players may be added only to bring the total number of players to **a maximum of 9 (or 10 if the league rule allows for 10 active players on the field)** for that game.

2. Critical Position Shortage

- The team has enough players (9 or more), but is lacking players capable of covering **key positions**, specifically:
 - **Pitcher**
 - **Catcher**
 - Or other essential roles not adequately covered
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Rules for Temporary Players

- **Source of Players:**
 - Substitution players must be from the same age division or a lower division, if deemed appropriate by the LAYBS Board of Directors.
 - They must be registered and insured within the youth baseball and softball program.
- **Lineup Placement:**
 - All added players **must be placed as the last batter of the batting order.**
- **Defensive Assignment:**
 - Added players may only play **positions that the regular roster is unable to cover**, such as catcher or pitcher (only if no rostered players are capable or available)
 - Sub players should not displace regular rostered players from their usual defensive positions.
- **Uniform and Conduct:**
 - All added players must wear a team-appropriate uniform and adhere to league rules and code of conduct.

Notification & Approval Process

- Coaches must notify the LAYBS Softball or Baseball Director **prior to the game** when intending to add any temporary/sub players.
- The name(s), team affiliation, and reason for addition must be shared.
- **Failure to notify** may result in game forfeiture or other disciplinary action.

Additional Notes

- This policy is intended to be used **in good faith** to promote the continuation of scheduled games, not to gain a competitive advantage.
- Abuse or manipulation of this policy may result in sanctions including forfeiture, suspension of the Coach, or removal of player eligibility.