# Rosamond Little League By-Laws 2017

## ARTICLE I – NAME

**1.1 :** This organization shall be known as Rosamond Little League (Hereafter referred to as the “Local League”). The Local League shall operate and administer a Little League Baseball and Softball program in accordance with the rules and regulations of and franchised by Little League Baseball and Softball, Incorporated of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, as well as, the Local League Constitution, Bylaws and Local Rules established to operate the league.

## ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVE

* 1. **:** The objective of the Local League shall be to implant firmly in the children of the community the ideas of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and respect for authority, so that they may be well adjusted, stronger, and happier children and will grow to be good, decent, healthy and trustworthy citizens. The Local League shall promote fair play on all levels while learning the dynamics of the game. Participation within the Local League shall focus on the players and their positive experience at all times.
	2. **:** To achieve this objective the Local League will provide a supervised program under the rules and regulations of Little League Baseball and Softball. All directors, officers and members shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skills or the winning of games is secondary, and the molding of future citizens is of prime importance.
	3. **:** In accordance with 501-(c)-(3) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code, the Local Little League shall operate exclusively as a non-profit educational organization providing a supervised program of competitive baseball and softball. No part of the net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual, not be connected with any person or organization in which a substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and which does not participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

## ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

* 1. **:** Eligibility. Any person sincerely interested in active participation to further the objective of this Local League may apply to become a member.
	2. **:** Classes. These shall be the following classes of members
		1. **Player members.** Any player candidate meeting the requirements of Little League Regulation IV, and who resides within the authorized boundaries of the Local League, shall be eligible to compete for participation. Player members shall have no rights, duties or obligations in the management or in the property of the Local League.
		2. **Regular members.** Any adult person actively interested in furthering the objectives of the Local League may apply to become a regular member. Regular members will consist of the

Board of Directors, managers, coaches, team parents, committee members, umpires, any volunteer in Local League, and any other adult aged 18 or older that wishes to become a member, applies for annual membership, and is approved by the Board of Directors.

**(A)** All volunteers within the organization (managers, coaches, team parents, Board of Director members, umpires, and any other person that has regular contact with the players or teams) are required by Little League to fill out a Volunteer Application each year and submit to an annual background check, they are required to enroll as a regular member of the Local League.

* 1. **:** The Secretary will be responsible for maintaining the list of regular members, maintaining the rules of membership, and qualifying regular members to vote at meetings.
	2. **:** Suspensions or Terminations. Any member, whether player or regular, may be suspended and/or terminated by action of the Board of Directors, or by written resignation from said member.
		1. The Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote of all directors then serving at any constituted meeting, shall have the authority to discipline, suspend, or terminate the membership of any member, including players, managers, and coaches, when the conduct of such person is considered detrimental to the best interests of the Local League and/or Little League Baseball and Softball. In accordance with Little League official regulations and rules, the President may designate a subcommittee/disciplinary committee if deemed necessary; such committee will include at least the President and/or Vice President, the Player Agent and the Safety Officer.
		2. The member involved shall be notified of such meeting, informed of the general nature of the charges and given the opportunity to appear at the meeting to answer such charges at least 5 days prior.
		3. The Board of Directors shall, in the case of a player member, give notice to the manager of the team of which the player is a member. Said manager shall appear, in the capacity of an advisor, with the player before the Board of Directors or an appointed committee of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have full power to suspend or revoke such player’s right to future participation by two-thirds vote at any constituted meeting.
		4. In the event that the concerned member is a minor child, notification shall be made to his/her parent(s) or guardian(s). The parent(s) or guardian(s) shall have the opportunity to accompany or represent the minor child at all proceedings.
		5. For any problem(s) and/or behavior related problem(s) that are in violation of any law, rule, or regulation external to the Local League, the member may be responsible for fines and penalties levied by external organizations.
		6. The Local League Board of Directors will have discretion to review each case individually.
		7. Manager/Coach/Player ejected from a game shall **not** be at the game site for the remainder of the game and their next physically played game**, NO EXCEPTIONS*.*** If an ejected Manager or Coach is scheduled to be the Board Member on when their ejection game is to be served, the ejected Board Member shall find another Board Member to assume their duties. Plate Umpire shall report the ejection in writing to the President within 24 hours. The ejected Manager or Coach shall report in writing the circumstances of the ejection to Player
		Agent (PA) within 24 hours.

EJECTION PENALTIES

1st Ejection - 1 game suspension 2nd Ejection - 3 game suspension

3rd Ejection - Permanent removal from team as Manager/Coach/Player/Board Member.

**NOTE: A MANAGER SUSPENDED SHALL NOT HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH ANY TEAM MEMBER PRIOR TO OR DURING THE GAME. THIS INCLUDES WARM-UP DRILLS.**

## ARTICLE IV – REGISTRATION GUIDELINES & PARTICIPATION FEE

* 1. **:** A reasonable league participation fee may be assessed as the parents’ obligation to assure the operational continuity of the Local League.
	2. : Registration shall continue through the final tryout or upon reaching the maximum capacity as defined by the Board of Directors. For players on school Baseball or Softball teams, registration continues until 5 days after their release from the school team.
	3. : All residence documents shall be established by documents, dated or in force between February 1 (previous year) and February 1 (current year). Three proofs of residence or proof of school attended is required at registration. PA is required to view the state birth certificate of each player. No player will be eligible to be drafted to a team or placed on a team without this documentation
	4. : Registration fees may be refunded per the following schedule:
		+ On or before February 5th — Full refund minus $20 administration fee
		+ February 6th through March 10th — Half refund
		+ After March 11th — No refund
		+ ALL refunds are contingent upon the return of the uniform jersey.
		+ Any other requests for refund will be contingent upon a 2/3 majority Board of Directors vote.
	5. At registration, the player shall specify whether trying out for Baseball or Softball.

## ARTICLE V – MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

* 1. **:** Notice of each meeting may be given in such form as may be authorized by the Board of Directors. At a minimum, the regularly scheduled meetings will be placed on the Local League website and/or social media account.
	2. **:** Special meeting of the members may be called by the Board of Directors, the Secretary or the President as they deem necessary. In addition, the President of the Local League shall call a special meeting to discuss a specific subject if such meeting is requested (in writing) by no less than ten (10) regular members. No business other than that subject specified in the notice of the meeting shall be transacted at any special meeting of the regular members. In the event of such a meeting the board must provide 24 hour notice of the special meeting.
	3. **:** A quorum is defined as the number of regular members that must be present at a membership meeting for business to be legally transacted. A quorum refers to the number of regular members present at the meeting, not necessarily the number of voting members (although they can be the same), one-half (1/2) the total number of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
	4. **:** Voting for officers at the annual election may only be done by regular members on the finalized membership list, as provided by the Secretary following Articles 3.02 and 3.03.
		1. **Election Procedures:**
			1. Determine if a quorum is present (as outlined in 5.3);
			2. Appoint an election chairperson (may or may not be the current President);
			3. Ratify the membership list as provided by the Secretary;
			4. Present the nominations (nominations may be by position);
			5. Nominations are opened to the floor. Any member is eligible for nomination (Per Robert’s Rules of Order);
			6. Any nominee for President or Treasurer must have served on the board for no less than two years previously.
			7. Any nominee for Vice President must have served on the board for no less than one year.
			8. Nominations are closed by vote of membership;
			9. Regular members vote for eligible candidates;
			10. Nominees must receive at least 51% of the vote to be elected;
			11. Election results are announced (new Board announced);
			12. Membership votes to accept the result of the election (qualified);
			13. New Board elects officers from among its number.
	5. **:** Proxy votes are not permitted at any time. Absentee ballots are not permitted, except that they may be exercised for the election of members of the Board. Absentee ballots for the election of Board Members must be presented in person to the Secretary in a sealed envelope prior to the election. Failure to provide the absentee ballot in person to the Secretary in a sealed envelope prior to the election will render said ballot null and void.
	6. **:** Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of all meetings, except where same conflicts with the constitution and/or by laws of the Local League. It is emphasized that the Board members act in a professional manner with respect to Board members, regular members, and visitors.

## ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

* 1. **:** The management of the property and affairs of the Local Little League shall be vested in the Board of Directors. The Local Little League shall have a Board of Directors that number shall not be less than seven (7) and not more than thirty (30).
	2. **:** The Local League Board of Directors elected from and by the adult members of the Local League or otherwise duly appointed, is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Local League within the rules, regulations, and policies of Little League Baseball and Softball. This Board does not have the authority to alter, suspend, or change any of the rules, regulations, or policies of Little League except as expressly permitted and stated by Little League in writing.
		1. In order to ensure day-to-day operations of the Local League, at least one Board Member must be present to represent the Local League at each game played at the Local Leagues fields; Board Members will volunteer on a rotating basis to ensure coverage at the fields at all times. Hereafter, this Board Member task will be referred to as “board duty”. Board shifts shall be assigned equally amongst all Local League Board Members throughout the season.
	3. **:** The Board of Directors must at a minimum consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Safety Officer, Information Officer and Player Agent. The directors shall upon election immediately enter upon the performance of their duties and shall continue in office until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified.
1. **The current Board of Directors consists of twenty-eight (28) members.**
	1. One President, Vice President, Player Agent, Assistant Player Agent, Director (Jr.) Baseball, , Director (Major) Baseball, Director (Minor) Baseball, Director (Coach Pitch) Baseball, Director (Farm) Baseball, Director Softball, Director (Challenger) Division, Director T-Ball, Safety Officer, Secretary, Treasurer, Snack Bar Director, Snack Bar Assistant, Fund Raising Coordinator, Equipment Manager, Assistant Equipment Manager, Coaching Coordinator, Head Team Parent, Head Scorekeeper, Field Maintenance Director, Community Building Coordinator, Information Officer, Uniform Director and Umpire in Charge.
	2. **:** Term of Office. There will be no term limits for Board members, provided that elected Board members get re-elected as per the election procedures outlined in these by-laws, and that appointed Board members are duly re-appointed and qualified as outlined in these by-laws.
	3. **:** Vacancies. If any vacancy occurs in the Board of Directors, by death, resignation or otherwise, it may be filled by majority vote of the remaining directors at any regular Board meeting or at any special Board meeting called for that purpose.
	4. **:** One-half (1/2) the total number of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of $100 or more.
	5. **:** The Board of Directors shall have the power to appoint such standing committees as it shall determine and to delegate such powers to them as the Board shall deem advisable and which it may properly delegate.
	6. **:** Attendance: Board members are expected to attend all board meetings and regular membership meetings. However, from time to time, circumstances may prevent attendance. The Board will use caution regarding disciplinary action when a member is unable to attend meetings, action to be taken when Board Members are not doing the duties of their position.
	7. **:** The Board shall have the power by a two-thirds vote of all directors then serving at any regular or special meeting to discipline, suspend or remove any director, officer, or committee member of the Local League in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article 3.4.

## ARTICLE VII - MANAGERS, COACHES AND UMPIRES

* 1. **:** Team managers and coaches can be recommended by anyone on the Board, they will be voted on after mandatory meeting and screening process by the Board, and shall be responsible for the selection of their teams, (with the exception of T-ball) and for their actions on the field.
		1. Must pass a mandatory background check.
		2. The manager selection by the President and Board Approval for each division shall be selected in order of seniority by following these criteria:
			1. Returning managers for same division as previous season.
			2. Returning managers moving up to next division.
			3. Managers returning to a lower division.
			4. Coaches from previous season in same order of preference as for returning Managers.
			5. Board Member
			6. New volunteer with child playing in Division.
			7. All subject to review of previous seasons performance, discipline, etc.…
	2. **:** Managers/Coaches shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board.
	3. **:** The League shall not tolerate physical contact, intimidation, verbal attacks or assaults by any member. If anyone believes inappropriate behavior is being exhibited by anyone either at a practice or game, they shall submit their complaint or allegation in writing to the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee shall conduct a preliminary investigation. If the Executive Committee believes there is sufficient evidence to warrant disciplinary action, the Executive Committee recommendation shall be presented to the Board of Directors for final decision.
		1. Managers and Coaches are expected to be role models for our Local League players, parents and spectators. Managers are expected to control their players at all times. If a manager is deemed to not enforce the guidelines for appropriate conduct within his/her team, the manager will be held liable for the actions of his team and disciplinary action by the Board of Directors will be decided upon.
	4. **:** Manager/Coach/Player ejected from a game shall **not** be at the game site for the remainder of the game and their next physically played game**, NO EXCEPTIONS*.*** If an ejected Manager or Coach is scheduled to be the Board Member on when their ejection game is to be served, the ejected Board Member shall find another Board Member to assume their duties. Plate Umpire shall report the ejection in writing to the President within 24 hours. The ejected Manager or Coach shall report in writing the circumstances of the ejection to PA within 24 hours.

EJECTION PENALTIES

1st Ejection 1 game suspension 2nd Ejection 3 game suspension

3rd Ejection permanent removal from team as Manager/Coach/Player/Board Member

**NOTE: A MANAGER SUSPENDED SHALL NOT HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH ANY TEAM MEMBER PRIOR TO OR DURING THE GAME. THIS INCLUDES WARM-UP DRILLS.**

* 1. **:** Managers of the Minor division and above shall be responsible for supplying at least one umpire per UIC weekly umpire schedule. Failure to supply an umpire to the scheduled or assigned game shall result in a 1 game suspension for the 1st offense. The 2nd offense will result in additional suspensions or possible termination. All missed assignments shall be rescheduled.
		1. **Farm Managers will be responsible for supplying an umpire for their own games.** This can be done from behind the mound or a volunteer with proper umpire attire can call the game from behind the plate. Farm managers are exempt from the responsibility of scheduling and supplying an umpire to upper division games however Farm Managers are required to attend an Umpire Clinic and encouraged to volunteer for upper division umpire assignments.
	2. **:** Umpires shall be comprised of parent volunteers, with the approval of the Board of Directors, and passing of a background check. All umpires shall be responsible for their assignments and for their actions on the field.
		1. Managers and Coaches and all volunteer umpires shall attend 1 Umpire clinic per year.
	3. **:** The UIC shall create the umpire schedule and will manage the availability.
		1. Volunteers can umpire any division but the division that they manager or coach in.
		2. Youth Umpires can be utilized with the following guidelines:
* Junior division and above players only
* May only umpire within gender
* Must umpire with an adult
* Must attend an umpire clinic
* Subject to age restriction, of shall be at least league age 13
* May only umpire divisions below the division they participate in
* Must be 16 to umpire behind the plate and the field umpire must be a responsible adult
	1. **:** Rule interpretation questions shall be referred to the Board Member on duty for clarification within the Little League Baseball/Softball Official Regulations, Playing Rules and Policies book as well as Local League Standing Rules. Rulings are binding. The Board Member on duty shall consult with at least the President, Vice President, UIC and/or the Player Agent.
	2. **:** All protests shall be handled in accordance with the Little League Baseball/Softball Official Regulations, Playing Rules and Policies book. In accordance with this rule book, all protests will be resolved **BEFORE NEXT PITCH in Farm, Minor Baseball and Minor Softball**. Protest Committee for Farm and Minor divisions shall be the Board Member on duty and one parent from each team. If the Board Member on duty is affiliated with either team, they will abstain and call will be placed to UIC to vote in their place. This decision will be **FINAL**.
	3. **:** A dress code will be enforced for any and all managers, coaches, and any other adult assisting during a practice, game, and in the dugout. Provocative clothing and/or lewd graphics on clothing will not be permitted. Please cover-up appropriate body parts that should not be partially or fully exposed to minor children. All footwear must be completely closed (i.e. tennis shoes). The dress code will be enforced, in the areas mentioned above at any Little League, including our own. Remember that you are representing Rosamond Little League. Snack Bar volunteers must adhere to the same dress code regarding footwear as above, as per California’s Health Code statutes.

## ARTICLE VIII – LITTLE LEAGUE AFFILIATION

* 1. **:** Charter. The Local League shall annually apply for a charter from Little League Baseball and Softball, Incorporated, and shall do all action necessary to obtain and maintain such charter.
	2. **:** Rules and Regulations. The official playing rules and regulations as published by Little League Baseball and Softball, Incorporated, Williamsport, Pennsylvania, shall be binding on this Local League.
	3. **:** The local rules, by-laws, and constitution of this Local League, existing as one document, shall be adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting to be held not less than one month previous to the first

scheduled game of the season and shall in no way conflict with the rules and regulations of Little League Baseball and Softball, Incorporated. The local rules shall be approved by a vote of the membership on an annual basis. The local rules of this Local League shall expire at the end of each fiscal year but govern its operation until the following years local rules are approved.

## ARTICLE IX – FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING

* 1. **:** The Board of Directors shall decide all matters pertaining to the finances of the Local League and it shall place all income, including Auxiliary funds, in a common league treasury, directing the expenditure of funds in such a manner as will give no individual or team an advantage over those in competition with such individual or team.
	2. **:** The Board shall not permit the contribution of funds or property to individual teams but shall solicit some for the common treasurer of the Local League, thereby to discourage favoritism among teams and to endeavor to equalize the benefits of the Local League.
	3. **:** The Board shall not permit the solicitation of funds in the name of Little League Baseball and Softball unless all of the funds so raised are placed in the Local League treasury.
	4. **:** The Board shall not permit the disbursement of Local League funds for other than the conduct of little league activities in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of Little League Baseball and Softball, Incorporated.
	5. **:** No director, officer, umpire or member of the Local Little League shall receive, directly or indirectly, any salary, compensation, or enrollment from the Local Little League for services rendered as director, officer, or member. However, the umpire and head scorekeeper will be provided a drink during a game; umpires will receive a meal after the game.

## ARTICLE X – PLAYER DEFINING AGE GROUPS FOR DIVISION OF PLAY

* 1. : **Tee Ball:** 4 to 6 years of age as of August 31, 2017, only. This is the only division that 4 year olds may participate. **(No exceptions)**
		1. T-Ball is a developmental training division, which emphasizes non-competitive play while focusing on the enhancement and development of basic skills as well as having fun.
		2. T-Ball team roster shall be at least 8 players and no more than 10 players. If a team roster goes below 10 players, the team may be assigned an eligible player if possible by the PA.
		3. A T-Ball game shall consist of 1 hour.
		4. The batting tee shall be utilized the entire season; the tee shall be placed in front of home plate, not on it. The Manager/Coach shall be responsible for immediately removing the batting tee from the home plate area once the batter hits the ball.
		5. No stealing of bases. Base runners shall **not** advance on an errant throw from any player to the pitcher. One base on an overthrow per batter. One base no more. Runner can advance at own risk on 1st overthrow.
		6. The Manager and Coach may be on the field instructing the players during defense, but shall avoid interference, assisting players, or touching a ball in play.
		7. A half inning is completed when the offense bats all players in the lineup; continuous batting order.
		8. All players shall play on defense. Players shall be placed in the appropriate infield positions and place the remainder of the players throughout the outfield.
		9. All T-Ball players must wear the uniform. This includes a team shirt, with a number, hat, shoes (non-metal baseball cleats or tennis shoes), pants, and an appropriate baseball glove. Hats shall be worn at all times while on the field for defense. No shorts or open toes shoes shall be worn. If a child loses a uniform, the manager is responsible to inform the league so that a replacement can be secured at the cost of the parent/guardian.
		10. Field Set-Up. **Both managers are required to set up the field prior to each game and to tear down the field if no game is following.**  The lines will be marked prior to the start of each game. No throw down bases are to be use, all bases shall be secured to the ground. Please handle bases with care; each must last through the season and beyond

**10.15 : COACH PITCH** **BASEBALL/SOFTBALL DIVISION**

 **(A)** All rules listed in the Official Little League rulebook shall apply and supersede the following:

* 1. The intent of the Minor B program is to transition 6, 7, 8, and 9-year-old players from Tee-Ball to the Minor Division. A player’s ability to play baseball, through his or her experience, will determine eligibility for this division. This program is strictly an instructional program where players can have fun while learning the game of baseball in a structured safe environment. Parents and spectators **must** not focus on or encourage a competitive spirit at this level of play.

* 1. Games shall run between 2-4 innings and be no more than 1 hour and 15 minutes in length, but not less than 1 hour FROM THEIR SCHEDULED START TIME. It is okay to end a game if only ½ of an inning is completed.
	2. This Division shall have the option to utilize “coach pitching” or pitching machines. The pitching distance shall remain at 46’. The offensive Manager or Coach shall pitch or operate the pitching machine at a safe speed for the batter’s ability. The defensive player occupying the pitching position shall stand beside or near the coach operating the pitching machine. If the pitching machine is being used the following rules must be adhered: It is this coach’s responsibility to protect the player in the pitching position from any balls that may ricochet off the machine. If a ball’s progress is impeded by the pitching machine, the ball is called dead and the batter is awarded first base and all runners are moved forward one base. The speed of the pitching machine will be set at the start of the game and will not be changed between innings.
	3. Each batter will get up to 5 pitches to put the ball in play. If a batter does not put the ball in play, they are sent to their respective dugout and the next player brought up to bat with no out recorded. \*Note- For the first 6 games of the season, pitch #5 may be hit from a Tee.
	4. Each team’s offensive inning ends when all players have batted. Managers are not allowed to compensate for a greater or lesser amount of players during the offensive series. Example – if one team has 12 players and their opponent has 10, then the team with 10 players’ bats 10 and the team with 12 players’ bats 12, no exceptions. A batting line up shall be established at the beginning of the season and rotated one player each game.
	5. The offensive team is allowed 3 adult coaches on the field, one at either 1st or 3rd coaching box and one in proximity of home plate. An adult coach or the Team Parent must be seated in the dugout with the players. Under no circumstances shall any player have a bat in hand until the player is wearing a Little League approved helmet, and adult is immediately present, and it is time for the player to bat. This safety issue is addressed by the removal of the on-deck circle. No player is to leave the dugout without manager or umpires permission.
	6. Each manager shall have a defensive roster established at the beginning of the season in which each player will play in one outfield and one infield position in every game, these positions shall be rotated among the players each game; unless a Safety issue is involved and brought before the Safety Officer for review. Playing ability shall be a factor in making this decision.
	7. The following rules apply:
		+ - * On first overthrow ONLY, a runner may advance ONLY one base. Runners may NOT advance on consecutive over throws. (i.e.- Johnny runs to first but it’s over thrown, so he runs for second, again second is over thrown-Johnny may NOT advance again, the ball is dead.)"
				* No base stealing allowed.
				* One adult coach may be in the outfield to coach the defensive players during each inning. The adult coach shall not touch a player or the ball during play. A penalty of two bases shall be awarded to the batter, no outs recorded and the runners forced.
				* If a runner leaves any base early, then the runner leaving early shall be sent back.
				* Both managers and coaches shall umpire each game. The umpire shall be the offensive coach placed in the proximity of home plate and shall call time, foul balls, players safe or out, negate the pitch (no pitch), and send back any runners that advanced due to the runner leaving early. It is the responsibility of the board member(s) on duty to insure that the parents and spectators refrain from addressing the umpires in a negative manner. The umpire’s call is final and there is no protest.
				* If a runner is put out in their attempt to reach base, they will be sent to their respective dugout.
				* 10 defensive players are allowed on the field, the 10th player being called a rover. This rover is an outfielder only and may not enter the infield until the ball has been hit.
	8. **Only the players on the team’s roster are allowed on the field and or dugout, no siblings, friends etc.**
	9. Both managers are required to set up the field prior to each game and tear down the field if no game is following. See local rule #2. The lines shall be marked prior to the start of the game. Throw down bases are not allowed, all bases shall be secured to the ground. Please handle the bases with care; each must last through the season and beyond.
	10. All Coach Pitch players must wear the uniform. This includes a team shirt with a number, a hat, shoes (non-metal baseball cleats or tennis shoes), pants, and an appropriate baseball glove. Hats shall be worn at all times while on the field for defense (if a player fails to bring a hat or glove to a game check with the Board Member on duty we may have extras that can be borrowed). No shorts or open toe shoes shall be worn. If a child loses a uniform, the manager is responsible to inform the league so that a replacement uniform can be secured at a cost to the parent.
	11. The Easton Incrediball (or an equivalent style approved by the board of directors) is the official ball for the Minor B division.
	12. **There will be no official or unofficial keeping of the score. Winning or losing is not the reason for this division.**

* 1. **: Farm Baseball:** 7 to 9 years of age as of August 31, 2017, only. 6 year olds may try out for this division with 2 years prior experience.
		1. Farm is a training Division (within LL Minor Division) and emphasis shall be placed on the development of the younger players. This division shall play at least 12 games during the season in accordance to LL Minor Division rules. All games shall be played competitively with an Official Scorekeeper from the Home team keeping score at each game. Standings for this division will be determined by Local League Tournament of Champions tournament play after all regular season games are completed.
		2. Up to four coaches including the manager may participate in each game in the Farm Division.
		3. Farm team roster shall be at least 10 players and no more than 12 players. If a team roster goes below 10 players before the last 4 weeks of the season, the team may be assigned a player if possible by the PA. Placement shall be approved by the Board of Directors.
		4. Players pitch to players. On ball four the batter hits off the tee for remaining number of strikes only through game six of the season.
		5. The pitcher’s mound shall be 46 feet from the front of pitching plate to rear of home plate.
		6. Hard balls will be used all season.
		7. Hot Plate for passed balls/ wild pitches from pitcher to the catcher. Cold Plate for balls thrown from catcher to the pitcher. Hot plate if balls are thrown to any other position.
		8. Each Farm Manager will be responsible for supplying an umpire for their own games. This can be done from behind the mound or a volunteer with proper umpire attire can call the game from behind the plate.
		9. Field Set-Up. **Both managers are required to set up the field prior to each game and to tear down the field if no game is following.**  The lines will be marked prior to the start of each game. No throw down bases are to be used, all bases shall be secured to the ground. Please handle bases with care, each must last through the season and beyond
		10. All Farm division players must wear the uniform. This includes a team shirt, with a number, hat, shoes (non-metal baseball cleats or tennis shoes), pants, and an appropriate baseball glove. Hats shall be worn at all times while on the field for defense. No shorts or open toes shoes shall be worn. If a child loses a uniform, the manager is responsible to inform the league so that a replacement can be secured at the cost of the parent/guardian.
	2. **: Minor Baseball/Softball:** 8 to 11 years of age as of August 31, 2017 for baseball; 7 to 11 years of age as of December 31, 2016 for softball.
		1. Minor Baseball/Softball team roster shall be at least 10 players and no more than 12 players. If a team roster goes below 10 players before the last 4 weeks of the season, the team will be assigned a player, if possible, by the PA. Placement shall be approved by the Board of Directors.
		2. Each regular season Local League Board of Directors may elect for Softball divisions to participate in District 51 Interleague or not. If the Local League elects for this division to participate in District 51 Interleague, District 51 Standing Rules shall apply and supersede Local League Bylaws and Standing Rules.
		3. All Minor division players must wear the uniform. This includes a team shirt, with a number, hat, shoes (non-metal baseball cleats or tennis shoes), pants, and an appropriate baseball glove. Hats shall be worn at all times while on the field for defense. No shorts or open toes shoes shall be worn. If a child loses a uniform, the manager is responsible to inform the league so that a replacement can be secured at the cost of the parent/guardian.
		4. Field Set-Up. **Both managers are required to set up the field prior to each game and to tear down the field if no game is following.**  The lines will be marked prior to the start of each game. No throw down bases are to be used, all bases shall be secured to the ground. Please handle bases with care, each must last through the season and beyond
	3. **Major Baseball/ Softball:** 10 to 12 years of age as of August 31, 2017 or April 30, 2016 for baseball; 10 to 12 years of age as of December 31, 2016 for softball.
		1. Major team roster shall be 12 players but no more than 15. If a roster goes below the minimum before the last 4 weeks of the season, the team shall call up a player from Minors. A Major Manager has 10 days to select a player or the PA shall select a player for the team. The player shall be eligible for Majors immediately and shall not appear in a Minor game.
		2. ALL league age 12 year old players must be drafted to a Major team prior to drafting of a 10 or 11 year old; absence of any waiver presented by a parent, Player Agent or Safety Officer which meets the criteria to remain in the Minor division.
		3. Each regular season Local League Board of Directors may elect for Softball divisions to participate in District 51 Interleague or not. If the Local League elects for this division to participate in District 51 Interleague, District 51 Standing Rules shall apply and supersede Local League Bylaws and Standing Rules.
		4. All Major division players must wear the uniform. This includes a team shirt, with a number, hat, shoes (non-metal baseball cleats or tennis shoes), pants, and an appropriate baseball glove. Hats shall be worn at all times while on the field for defense. No shorts or open toes shoes shall be worn. If a child loses a uniform, the manager is responsible to inform the league so that a replacement can be secured at the cost of the parent/guardian.
		5. Field Set-Up. **Both managers are required to set up the field prior to each game and to tear down the field if no game is following.**  The lines will be marked prior to the start of each game. No throw down bases are to be used, all bases shall be secured to the ground. Please handle bases with care, each must last through the season and beyond
	4. **: Junior & Senior Baseball/Softball:** Any player with amateur status who will attain the age of 12 years before May1 and who will not attain the age of 15 years before May 1 of the year in question shall be eligible to compete in the **Junior division**. Any player with amateur status who will attain the age of 13 years before May 1 and who will not attain the age of 17 years before May 1 of the year in question shall be eligible to compete in the **Senior division**.
		1. Junior and Senior team rosters shall be at least 12 players and no more than 15 players. If a team roster goes below 12 players, the team may be assigned a player, if possible, by the PA. Placement shall be approved by the Board of Directors.
		2. Each regular season Local League Board of Directors may elect Junior and Senior divisions to participate in District 51 Interleague or not. If the Local League elects these divisions to participate in District 51 Interleague, District 51 Standing Rules shall apply and supersede Local League Bylaws and Standing Rules.
		3. All Junior and Senior division players must wear the uniform. This includes a team shirt, with a number, hat, shoes (may wear metal baseball cleats or tennis shoes), pants, and an appropriate baseball glove. Hats shall be worn at all times while on the field for defense. No shorts or open toes shoes shall be worn. If a child loses a uniform, the manager is responsible to inform the league so that a replacement can be secured at the cost of the parent/guardian.
		4. Field Set-Up. **Both managers are required to set up the field prior to each game and to tear down the field if no game is following.**  The lines will be marked prior to the start of each game. No throw down bases are to be used, all bases shall be secured to the ground. Please handle bases with care, each must last through the season and beyond

**10.6 :** Any and all waivers presented to the Board of Directors by one or all of the above mentioned authorized Board members will be impartial. If a said player is related to the Player Agent or the

Coaching Coordinator, the Player Agent of a comparable Division or the Coaching Coordinator of a comparable Division will evaluate the player; with no bias. Their recommendation will be brought to the Board of Directors for approval.

**10.7 :** The On Deck circle will be used in Junior division and above for both Baseball and Softball.

## ARTICLE XI: PLAYER SELECTION SYSTEM

* 1. **:** President, Secretary, PA and Managers shall be present at their Division draft**.**
	2. **:** Determination of method of team name selection by managers shall be at the discretion of the Uniform Committee. Managers returning to the SAME DIVISION shall be given first option to RETAIN team name from last season. If they do not wish to retain name, they will draw names with the remaining managers.
	3. **:** Only players that attend at least 1 tryout will be eligible for the draft. Exception for **returning** Major or Junior Division Players not moving up this year. Players that do **not** tryout may be assigned to teams, by the PA, if allowed by Little League Rules, as space becomes available, by the PA with Board of Directors approval based on the date of player registration.
	4. **:** During the draft there may be a 1 minute time limit for choosing a player. Any Manager failing to comply with this time limit may lose his/her turn. The President or Vice President has the authority to change the imposed time limit at the time of the draft if the conditions warrant.

### : Division Eligibility

1. Baseball, all league age 12 year old players shall be drafted to a Major team.

**EXCEPTION**: Player Agents and Safety Officer may recommend an 11 year old be left down in Minors if there is a safety issue regarding that player playing at the Major Level. This recommendation must then be approved by the Executive Board. This exception pertains to Baseball and Softball.

1. Baseball, if all league age 9 and 10 year old players have been drafted to a Minor team and 1 or more Minor teams have less than 12 players; league age 8 year old player(s) may be drafted to a Minor team(s) achieving a total of 12 players per team.
2. Softball, all league age 12 years old players shall be drafted to a Major team.
3. Softball, all returning Major league age 11 year old players shall be drafted to a Major team.
4. Softball, all non-returning league age 11 year old players are eligible to be drafted to a Major team.
5. League age 9 year old players shall **not** be eligible to be drafted to a Major team. 9 year olds will not be permitted to play in the Farm division UNLESS all Minor teams have met the 12 player limit and the player is not drafted to the Minor Division.
6. League age 8 year old or younger players shall **not** be drafted to Minor Baseball except as noted in 11.5 (B).
7. League age 7 year old players may try out for Farm or Minor Softball; based on a review by the PA and Safety Officer or written request by a parent.
8. League age 4 and 5 year old players shall be placed on a T-Ball team by the PA.

### : Draft Option Plan A from the Little League Official Regulations, Playing Rules and Policies will be adopted by the Local League

* + 1. Farm/Minor Baseball and Softball Divisions will be serpentine draw for draft and position; the draft order shall be determined by pulling a number from a hat (no sooner than 15 minutes prior to each Division’s draft) and serpentine after the first pick.
			- **Secrecy**: Players shall never be told the position in which they were drafted.
			- **Bonus Picks**: Each manager requiring eight or more players prior to the draft to complete the roster will be allowed one bonus pick at the completion of round four. If more than one manager is allowed bonus picks under this section, the order of rotation will be identical to that being followed in the draft.

### OPTIONS ON SONS, DAUGHTERS AND SIBLINGS:

An option is an agreement between a manager and the Player Agent covering a special condition. All options must be in writing (except No.1) and be submitted to the Player Agent 48 hours prior to the draft. The options are as follows:

### Brother/Sister in the Draft

When there are two or more siblings in the draft, and the first brother or sister is drafted by a manager, that manager automatically has an option to draft the other brother or sister on the next turn. If the manager does not exercise the option, the second sibling is then available to be drafted by any team.

### Brother/Sister of a Player Currently on a Team

If desired, a manager shall submit an option in writing on a draftee if the player candidate’s brother or sister is a member of that manager’s team. If such an option is submitted, the manager MUST draft the sibling within the first three draft selections.

### Sons/Daughters of Managers

If a manager has sons and/or daughters eligible under Regulation II for the draft and wishes to draft them, he/she must submit the option in writing. If so stated, the parent/manager is required to exercise the option at or before the close of the 4th draft round, depending on the League Age of sons and/or daughters. A parent/manager option takes priority over any other option.

**NOTE:** These provisions also apply for managers having eligible brothers or sisters in the draft.

### Sons/Daughters of Coaches

A NEW coach shall not be appointed nor approved until after the draft to avoid “Red Shirting” of players through selective coaching appointments. A returning coach, through the manager, may exercise an option in writing to the Player Agent provided:

1. The coach has served as a manager or coach in the league (at any level) for the past two years

**AND**,

1. The coach is returning to the same Manager as last year.

**IMPORTANT:** In order for a manager to exercise this option, the coach must qualify under **BOTH** conditions above.

### Draft Rounds

If an option is submitted in writing for the son and/or daughter of a manager or coach, such candidate must be drafted in or before the following round:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Baseball |  |
| Draft Round | Little League | Junior | Senior |
| 5 | 9-10 | 12 | 14 |
| 4 | 11 | 13 | 15 |
| 3 | 12 | 14 | 16 |
| Softball |  |  |  |
| Draft Round | Little League | Junior | Senior |
| 5 | 9-10 | 12 | 14,13 |
| 4 | 11 | 13 | 15 |
| 3 | 12 | 14 | 16 |

### Special Considerations Which Apply

1. If the manager so chooses, the option on son or daughter may be waived.
2. In the event the parent becomes a manager in another league, that parent may not claim the son or daughter.
3. Players are eligible only in the league whose boundaries include the parent/manager’s home residence (as defined by Little League).
4. When a vacancy occurs during the playing season, the player selected to fill the vacancy becomes a permanent member of that team, governed by the same regulations as all members of the team selected in the draft.
5. All players, including sons/daughters of managers and coaches at the Minor League level, are subject to the draft.

(**NOTE:** THE LITTLE LEAGUE DEFINITION OF RESIDENCE IS LOCATED IN THE “LITTLE LEAGUE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS” SECTION OF THE “LITTLE LEAGUE POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES” CHAPTER OF THIS MANUAL, AND IN THE RULEBOOKS.)

### : ALTERNATE METHODS OF OPERATION – The Regular Season

To aid leagues that are having a difficult time getting enough players for their regular season teams the following option is available:

A pool of players from existing regular season teams can be created with players that are willing to participate in extra games during the regular season when teams face a shortage of roster players for a regular season game. Pool players cannot Pitch or Catch. All pool play must be in accordance to Little League Official Guidelines, Playing Rules and Regulations.

* 1. **: Team Expansions:** Expanding by two (2) or more teams, all players are redrafted, through a serpentine draft.

### : TRADES\CALL-UPS (BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL)

* + 1. There shall not be any communications between the Managers, Coaches, or parents about player trades. All communications regarding trades shall be made from the team Manager to the PA. If communications between the Managers, Coaches, or parents occurs, the trade shall not be allowed by the Board of Directors. All trades shall be completed immediately after the draft and trade will be made within the same number of picks in that division. (Example: If the division has 12 picks per round, the players traded must have been picked within 12 picks of each other.)
		2. A player not attending at least 1 tryout may be called up to a Major team if: 1) a Major team has less than 12 players on their roster, 2) Board of Directors approves the call up and 3) the call up does not occur within the last 4 weeks of the regular season. Playoff games are not considered part of the regular season for this rule.
		3. Major team roster shall be 12 players. If a roster goes below the minimum before the last 4 weeks of the season, the team shall call up a player from Minors. A Major Manager has 10 days to select a player or the PA shall select a player for the team. The player shall be eligible for Majors immediately and shall not appear in a Minor game.
		4. If a Minor player refuses the call up to Majors, the player loses eligibility to play for the Local League All Star Tournament team. The player will also lose eligibility to be called up to Majors for the remainder of the season.
		5. Parents of Minor siblings on the same team may refuse the call up to Majors if this creates a family hardship. If the parents refuse call up to Majors, the sibling shall stay on their team, however, the sibling shall not be eligible to be called up to Majors for the remainder of the year.
		6. The Manager’s child is exempt from a call up to Majors. If a Manager agrees to his/her child to be called up to Majors, the Manager shall state this permission in writing to the PA. If a

 Manager declines his/her child to be call up to Majors, the Manager shall state this denial in writing to the PA. Once a Manager declines his/her child to be called up to Majors, the player loses eligibility to be called up to Majors for the remainder of the year.

* + 1. A maximum of two players from any individual team may be called up. No team shall lose a second player until all other teams in that division have also had a player called up from their teams.
		2. Players shall not be called up to Majors within the last 4 weeks of the regular season. Play- offs are not considered regular season for this rule.
		3. League age 9 year old players shall not be called up to a Major team.
		4. Farm players shall not be called up to a Major baseball team. Minor teams are not required to call up from the Farm division if the minimum requirement of 10 players is met.

## ARTICLE XII: ALL STAR SELECTIONS

* 1. **:** All players who have played at least 60% of the season will be eligible for Nomination.
	2. **:** The Eligible players will then be ranked by the Team Manager and Coach then placed on the Voting Ballot by team.
	3. **:** Each Team Manager will then select their top 10 (ten) players.
	4. **:** PA and Asst. PA will tally each player’s votes. The top ten (10) voted players will be placed on the team.
	5. **:** The voted All Star Manager will then have the option to select three additional players to be placed on their team.
	6. **:** Voted Managers and Coaches of All Star Teams will not be notified until Teams have been selected. Managers will then choose their 2nd Coach.

## ARTICLE XIII: PRACTICES AND GAMES

* 1. **:** Teams shall practice only on Board approved practice fields.
	2. **:** All practices shall be conducted under direct supervision of a Board Approved Manager/Coach. Medical releases shall be in possession of Manager/Coach conducting practice.
	3. **:** Allowed practice times per division
		1. **T-Ball** – T-ball shall be allowed to have announced SCHEDULED practices and/or games for a total of no more than 3 hours per week.
		2. **Farm** – Farm shall be allowed to have announced SCHEDULED practices and/or games for a total of no more than 6 hours per week.
		3. **Minor and Major** – Minor and Major teams shall be allowed to have announced SCHEDULED practices and/or games for a total of no more than 4 days per week and no more than 8 total hours. Scheduled practices are interpreted to mean the time a Manager schedules a practice. **There is a two hour time limit for each practice for all levels of play.**
		4. **Junior and Senior** – Junior and Senior division teams may have an optional fifth day of practice. This fifth day must be advertised as optional. All practices shall be scheduled and provided in writing to each team member.

 **THERE IS NO EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE, EXCEPT AS REQUIRED BY ALL-START RULES.** Managers can be suspended for violating this rule after an initial written warning from the President.

* 1. **:** The Home Team shall provide an official score keeper for Farm, Minors, Majors, Junior and Senior divisions. The official scorekeeper shall also keep track of pitch count for both teams.
		1. The official score books will be housed upstairs in the score booth for Farm and Minor divisions. There will be one (1) official book for each division.
		2. The Home Team official score keeper shall obtain the book prior to the start of the game, maintain the book during the game, obtain signatures from both Managers at the end of the game and return the book to the score booth.
		3. The Local League Board of Directors Head Score Keeper will track and maintain all official score books to ensure fair play and official standings of the competitive divisions.
		4. If a division is playing through District 51 Interleague, the Manager is responsible for selecting one volunteer to maintain a score book for the Local League. The Manager is responsible for making this score book available at any time to the Board of Directors Head Score Keeper and PA. The manager is also responsible for reporting all scores of interleague games to the Head Score Keeper within two (2) hours of the end of the game. This Local League score book will be used to determine official standings for the Local League.
		5. The scorekeeper, **as a courtesy**, will announce the pitch count for each pitcher at the end of every half inning, to include the final inning of play. The Manager is responsible to know the teams own pitch count.
	2. **:** Every effort shall be made to start a game on time. The Board Member on shall ensure games start at the scheduled time.
	3. **: Game Time Limits:** The rules in the 2017 Baseball/Softball Official Regulations and Playing Rules must be followed in all aspects.
		1. The 10 run mercy rule is in effect. If both teams desire to continue playing, no score will be kept beyond the mercy point. PITCHING STATS will count. Final score is at time of the mercy.
		2. **FARM:** No new inning after 1 hour and 15 minutes. No new batter after 1 hour 30 minutes. Home plate is open meaning a player can steal home on a passed ball or an attempt by any defensive player to throw out a runner. A player cannot steal home on a throw or over throwback to the pitcher. Farm Managers will umpire their own games.
		3. **MINORS:** No new inning after 1 hour 45 minutes. No new batter after 2 hours. Score will stand or revert to the previous inning in accordance with the Little League rule book.
		4. **MAJORS:** No new inning after 2 hours. No new batter after 2 hours and 15 minutes.

### : POINT SYSTEM FOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

Two (2) points shall be awarded to the winning team of each game. One (1) point shall be awarded to each team for a tie. The team with the most accumulated points at the end of the regular season shall be awarded 1st place. In the event there is a tie for points at the end of the regular season, the tie breaker shall be as follows:

1. Most wins
2. Head to Head
3. Runs allowed (head to head total for the season)
4. Runs Scored (head to head total for the season)

Note: If a game has been determined complete by either time, or innings played, and the game is still tied, the game is **COMPLETE/OVER**. Instead each team shall be awarded 1 point toward the final standings.

* 1. **:** Games tied after 6 innings (7 for JR/SR) can go into extra innings if there is time left on the clock. Games tied once time expires shall not be replayed or continued and each team shall be awarded 1 point.
	2. **:** Majors and Higher Divisions, games tied after 4 complete innings (5 for JR/SR) and have been called due to time or weather constraints shall not be replayed or continued, each team is awarded 1 point.
	3. **:** Weather/Time Suspended games (not regulation) shall be rescheduled within 14 days after the suspension and shall be made up in the order of suspension. Suspended games shall not be scheduled on Easter/Memorial weekends and Mother’s Day.

### GAMES SHALL NOT BE RESCHEDULED FOR ANY REASON. ONLY EXCEPTIONS ARE SAFE PLAYING CONDITION OF THE FIELD OR INCLEMENT WEATHER.

* 1. **:** Any player missing 7 or more consecutive days shall be reported to the PA by the team Manager. The PA shall notify the parents and VP.
	2. **:** Any player injured (practice, game, home, etc.) shall be reported to the Safety Officer by the team Manager and shall require a note from a medical provider in order to return to practice or game.
	3. **:** Pool play shall be allowed in Farm/Minor Baseball and all Softball Divisions only in strict accordance with the Guidelines of the Little League rule book. Pool players playing for a team other than their own shall not pitch or catch in those games and shall be placed at the end of the batting order.
		1. If a Manager has less than 9 players for a game and the PA has set up a pool players list, the Manager must contact the PA for the division and request the number of players needed to make 9. Once the PA has confirmation a pool player is going to the game, the PA is to call the Manager and advise who the player is. A pool player’s minimum playing time is 9 defensive outs and 1 at bat. If one of the regular season players shows up, they must enter the game and meet the minimum play time. Opposing Managers/Coaches and Umpires must be notified of the pool player’s attendance prior to the start of the game.
	4. **:** Drop third strike shall be in effect for the following divisions: Majors and above for Baseball and Softball

* 1. **:** Local Tournament of Champions will be 1st and 2nd placed teams, both baseball and softball in regular season. Games will be determined prior to last 2 regular season games
	2. **: Tournament Play/City Series Tournament of Champions:** The 1st and 2nd place regular season teams for all divisions, excluding T-Ball, may be participating in City Series Tournament of Champions (TOC) Tournament Play. Pitching restrictions carry from regular season to playoffs to TOC regarding pitch counts/innings and days of rest.
		1. Teams shall not be able to pick up a player for TOC if they lose a player. There will be no pool play allowed in TOC. If a team cannot field a team due to a shortage of players, the 3rd place team may be sent in their place.
		2. District 51 District Administrator shall determine the number of City Series Tournament teams from each Little League. District 51 will also supply a Standing Rules for the TOC play that must be adhered to.

# ARTICLE XIV – CHALLENGER DIVISION

# 14.1 : The Challenger Division of Little League Baseball and Softball is a program for mentally and physically disabled youth to enjoy the full benefits of participation in an athletic environment structured to their abilities. There are more than just the skills of baseball that are learned through the experience of participating in the Challenger Division. The benefits to each player include: strengthening the player’s self-esteem, the opportunity to mainstream into other divisions of play, the discipline of teamwork, citizenship and fair play, as well as, the therapeutic benefits received and the social skills learned. These guidelines have been established to help keep the Challenger Division structured and uniform but they are only guidelines and can be altered to meet the needs of each player and team with the Division Director’s approval.

# 14.2 : The 11” Incrediball should be the ball of choice for the Challenger Division.

# 14.3 : Games shall run between 2 to 4 innings and be no more than 1 hour and 30 minutes in length (this can be adjusted accordingly due to weather elements, tiring of team, etc.)

# 14.4 : Players are encouraged to wear the uniform shirt, hat, sweats or uniform pants, cleats (recommended but optional). No open toed shoes.

# 14.5 : When participation numbers allow, levels of play will be based upon player’s size, age, and skill level.

# 14.6 : Batting line-up to be rotated each game. The Challenger offense bats through the entire line-up. If the visitors are not a Challenger team they will bat until 3 outs are made or once through the line-up.

# 14.7 : Buddies (no more than one per Challenger player) will be assigned as needed.

# 14.8 : Each batter receives 5 pitches to put the ball in play. If the batter doesn’t put the ball in play the tee will be brought out and they will hit from the tee.

# 14.9 : At the Manager’s/Coach’s discretion, runners will be removed from base if an out is made against them. Said runners that are out and stay on base will not score a run.

# 14.10 : Challenger pitchers will use the softball pitching mound or some proximity.

# 14.11 : One base on an overthrow, try not to encourage aggressive base running or too many homeruns.

# 14.12 : Use of an umpire is not needed though, it is recommended. No official scorekeeping. Using the scoreboard is required. Record runs accordingly in order to keep the games close in score.

# 14.13 : Rotate outfield positions, keeping in mind any safety issues. Each player should play an infield position at least once per game.