

# Lewis River Little League Local Rules

## *Lewis River Little League Objective*

To implant firmly in the youth of the community the ideals 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 decent, healthy, and trustworthy adults.

Bear in mind that stressing exceptional athletic skills or winning of the game is secondary.

The following rules were revised  
Approved by the LRLI Board – January 2019

The League is governed by an elected board of volunteer directors.

### **1. VOLUNTEERS**

All LRLI volunteers must complete a volunteer application and satisfactorily complete Little League's required background check process.

### **2. LEAGUE BOUNDARIES**

See attached map to include the following:

- A. Woodland
- B. Ariel and Yale
- C. Cougar
- D. Green Mountain

### **3. DIVISION ALIGNMENT:**

- A. Tee Ball Baseball (boys and girls): league age 4-6  
Exception: with concurrence of the parents, player and Player Agent, those 6-year olds who played Tee Ball last season may be moved up to Pacific Coast League.

- B. Pacific Coast League “Coach Pitch”: league age 7-8
- C. Minor League Baseball and Softball: league age 9-10, 8 based on only if there is availability on teams and based on tryout/previous Manager’s recommendation.
- D. Major League Baseball and Softball: league age 11-12
- E. Intermediate Baseball: league age 12-13
- F. Junior League Baseball: league age 13-14
- G. Junior League Softball: league age 12-14
- H. Senior League Baseball and Softball: league age 13-16

Coaches or Managers cannot move a player down because they feel he or she does not have appropriate ability. Managers are to contact the Player Agent and Safety Officer about this prior to the start of regular season play. The Player Agent and Safety Officer will observe or help out in a team practice to discreetly judge ability with players’ safety in mind. The Player Agent and Safety officer will determine if the player should be moved. If those two officers disagree, then the Vice President should be involved in helping reach a decision. Player Agent needs to communicate with the parent(s) before Draft and in a timely manner after. If there is a concern then the Player Agent will discuss the situation with the player’s parents. No player moves are allowed without parent discussion. If the player stays on the team, the manager is to do his or her best to put the child in a position to improve and succeed. Moves up are also based on size of teams –

- i.e. Fill 50/70 team with 13 year olds, then fill in with 12 year olds. Fill Majors with 11-12 year olds, then 10 year olds, etc.
- Manager’s will fill out at the end of the year who could/should play in divisions.
- Try out data and the previous year’s Manager’s recommendation will be used to back up the Player Agent’s decision.

#### **4. ASSIGNMENT/SELECTION OF PLAYERS**

- A. (The previous year’s teams will stay together even when there is a different number of teams in the division than the previous year unless there are over 12 returning players.
- B. It is possible for parents to request their child be removed from a team and placed back into the draft; parents need to notify their Player Agent or Information Officer during Registration.
- C. Lewis River Little League realizes the positive nature that managers and coaches can have on players and that includes groups of parents who enjoy coaching together. Each approved manager is allowed to appoint up to 2 assistant coaches prior to each draft.
  1. Candidates for Tee Ball will be assigned to various teams by the Tee Ball Player Agent.
  2. Coach Pitch/PacCoast teams may be determined by player agents or draft. The board will decide prior to each draft day what method is best. Coach Pitch/PacCoast parents are allowed to make team requests.

3. With the exception of local rules noted in Section 4 Assignment/Selection of Players in the LRLL bylaws, Minors and Majors divisions will utilize the provisions of Plan A from the Little League Operating Manual. An appropriate player evaluation try-out will be conducted for the Minors and Majors division.
4. The High School Prep baseball divisions (50/70, Juniors, Seniors) may or may not draft in any given year. Depending on the age levels of the players, the objectives of each team (acknowledging that some teams and players at this level may play in more than one affiliation or division of play), and the number of players, the board will determine and approve each year whether teams will be formed via:
  - a. Age and Division
  - b. Skill, or
  - c. Draft

## 5. REGISTRATION FEES

A reasonable Little League participation fee will be assessed as a parent's obligation to assure the operational continuity of LRLL.

- A. Players may only participate in one fundraising event.
  1. Participation fees for 2019 are:
    - a. \$75 for Tee Ball
    - b. \$100 for Pac-Coast
    - c. \$125 for Minor/Major/ Baseball and Softball
    - d. \$125 for Junior Softball
    - e. \$125 for 50/70 and Junior Baseball
  2. Parents will have an option to Opt-Out of their players participation in the Hit-A-Thon for \$20 for the entire season. This will be an option during Registration.
  3. No refunds will be given after Jamboree.
- B. If a parent/guardian is not able to pay the participation fee, they will be asked to volunteer additional time to help the leagues operational continuity as determined by the Board of Directors. All Scholarship applicants will fill out a Scholarship Application and volunteer a minimum of 8 hours.

## 6. PITCHERS

- A. Tee Ball must utilize the "batting tee"
- B. Pacific Coast Division, see rules in Pacific Coast Division
- C. All other Divisions utilize player pitch. Rules for each division will be found in the appropriate rule book and must be followed.

## **7. STATISTICS**

- A. Stats will be kept for Minors League divisions and above. Official record books will be kept with the Managers of the team. Official score book and pitch count must be available at all times whenever requested. This is required to be eligible for regular season games and All Stars.

## **8. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

- A. All managers must attend a workshop/meeting sponsored by LRLI Board of Directors, prior to the start of the season.
- B. Managers are required to carry their Managers Binder which has a copy of each player's registration form to every game. In the event of an injury or accident, the registration form of the injured player should be readily available to give to any emergency medical personnel to assist in the quick and proper treatment of the player.

## **9. EACH TEAMS RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE LEAGUE**

LRLI is an all volunteer organization. Everyone needs to work together to have a successful season. The managers are not required/expected to complete each, but are asked to organize the tasks within their teams and make sure they are getting done. Each team needs to provide the following.

### **A. PRE SEASON LABOR**

- 1. Each team will provide a minimum of 3 hours of labor at a pre-season field preparation day.
- 2. Practice time will not be allowed until the field assigned to that division is 100% game ready.

### **B. SET UP AND TEAR DOWN OF FIELDS**

- 1. The home team will set up and tear down the field for each game (this includes bases, rakes, and other field equipment).
- 2. The visiting team is expected to help the home team prep and take down the field.
- 3. All trash must be removed from dugouts, bleacher areas, and garbage cans dumped after each game.
- 4. All pitching mounds must be tarped after every game and practice, unless there is a game/practice immediately following.

### **C. CONCESSIONS CREW**

- 1. Each team will work in the snack shack as scheduled by the Board.
- 2. Pre-approval by the Board is required before anyone under the age of 14 will be allowed to work in the snack shack. No more than two people under the age of 14 will be allowed to work in the snack shack during the same shift.
- 3. People under the age of 16 will not be allowed to handle cash or work in the hot food area.

4. Each crew will have a minimum of 2 adults unless released by the PIC (person in charge).

#### **10. UMPIRE**

Umpires will be assigned by the Umpire in Chief. Each Coach Pitch and above Manager and Coaching staff will be responsible to provide umpires for some games. These umpiring duties can be delegated to a knowledgeable individual who has complete a background check.

#### **11. NO PROFANITY ALLOWED.**

The actions of players, managers, coaches, umpires and league officials must be above reproach; therefore, no leniency will be offered.

#### **12. TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE PROHIBITED**

The use of alcoholic beverages in any form is prohibited in all areas of the ball park complex. The use of tobacco in any form is prohibited on the playing field, benches, dugouts, bleachers, and snack shack area.

### **TEE-BALL PLAYING RULES**

#### **LEAGUE/PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

Tee Ball is an extension of the local Little League to accommodate participants that are 4-6 years old as determined by the league age guidelines. NOTE: 7-8 years old play in Pacific Coast League; they *may not* participate in Tee Ball in our local structure; ability is not a determining factor.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

Tee Ball is a game between two teams, under direction of a manager and two (2) coaches, where participants hit a ball off a prescribed batting tee situated on home plate.

#### **GAME RULES**

No score shall be kept in Tee Ball. There shall be no protests or forfeits in Tee Ball. All players take the field on defense. There may be no more than six (6) players on the infield, including the catcher; any remaining players become outfielders. No player will be closer than 35 feet to home plate with the exception of the catcher. (Make sure the catcher is far enough from home plate so he or she does not get hit with the bat.) The on-deck position is not permitted. The pitcher is not allowed to run down the batter on the way to first base.

The manager, coach may assist the batter in setting the tee at the right height once the batter is in the batter's box. The ball must be hit past the 15' circle into fair territory. The ball is considered foul if it does not travel 15' in fair territory or if it falls from the tee due to the batter hitting the tee with the bat. The batter must not throw the bat. The plate coach must remove the batting tee from home plate after each batter hits whenever third base is occupied with a runner. The manager must notify the opposing team and the plate coach of the last batter. Players should now be instructed to make the final out by tagging the runner or throwing the ball to the proper base. This would now

complete an inning. If the last out is not made, bases will be cleared upon the final runner touching home plate. Opposing team then takes its' turn at bat. Game time shall not exceed one and one-half (1 ½) hours or 3 completed innings (whichever comes first.) The complete roster is used for batting order regardless of the number of outs. All games cease when the concession stand light comes on.

### **FIELD REQUIREMENTS/TEE-BALL EQUIPMENT**

The ball and bat must meet Little League specifications for Tee-Ball. The catcher in Tee Ball does not need a catcher's mitt. Traditional batting donuts are not permissible. Shoes with metal cleats are not permitted. Players' shoes with molded cleats may be worn. Uniforms shall be provided for the players by the league. Players must not wear watches, rings, pins, jewelry or other metallic items. All male players must wear athletic supporters. Catchers must wear a metal, fiber, or plastic cup.

### **PACIFIC COAST SOFTBALL RULES**

Interleague rules apply  
General Game Rules/Guidelines

### **PACIFIC COAST BASEBALL RULES**

Below is a summary of rules presented by Lewis River Little League. In addition to the stated rules below, regulations from the Little League Manual and Little League Rules and Regulations apply.

Pac Coast is a non-competitive, instructional level of baseball. Standings will not be kept, however home and visiting teams will keep score during the season for experience in scorekeeping and confirmation of minimum play. Managers or coaches from other Pac-Coast teams will help ump games they are not playing in for experience in umpiring games. Divisions will be organized into teams with primarily 7 year-olds and 8 year-olds (6 year-olds can play if they have one year of tee-ball and approved by the board). Unless specified below, rules in Little League Rule Book apply.

#### **First 4 Games:**

1. All players bat in order. The entire line-up bats each inning.
2. Outs are recorded and bases are cleared after 3 outs, but the inning continues until all players have batted.
3. Each batter gets 5 swings to hit the ball. If they foul the ball on their 5<sup>th</sup> swing the at bat continues until they miss or put the ball in play.
4. No score is kept.
5. Maximum of 1 base on an overthrow.
6. Last batter advances only as far as is reasonable. They do not attempt to get a "homerun" unless their hit merits such an effort.
7. Games last 1 hour and 45 minutes or 5 innings.
8. Pitching machines are permissible if interleague rules allow.
9. ONLY managers or coaches are allowed to pitch live.

**Games 5 to end of season:**

1. Ideal roster size is 9 to 12 players. Smaller roster sizes create a better teaching/learning environment and more playing time.
2. Level 5 safety ball is used.
3. Ten defensive players on the field at one time, regular infield and four outfielders.
4. Pac Coast will use a continuous batting order, such that all players in attendance shall be in the batting order.
5. If a batted ball hits the coach, the ball is dead and the batter and other runners shall advance one base only.
6. No stealing or bunting
7. Sliding is not allowed, except at home plate feet first only.
8. If a batter is hit with a pitch, he has the option of takin<sup>g</sup> 1st base or continuing to bat with current balls and strikes count.
9. Half inning is over when the fielding team completes three outs, or offensive team scores five runs.
10. Games last five innings, but no new inning can be started after 1 hour and 45 minutes of play (the start of an inning officially begins when the third out of the previous inning is recorded).
11. Defensive playing time should be equal. Defensive players should rotate between infield and outfield every inning and unless an extreme safety risk, all players should get equal play at all infield positions. Players shall not be on the bench for more than one inning per game.
12. Pac Coast managers MAY NOT reduce playing time below the minimum requirement for disciplinary or any other reasons without approval of the League Player Agent. Abuse of player rotation and/or minimum playing time will be subject to review and could result in the manager being suspended.
13. First rainout will not be made up. All others will be attempted to be rescheduled based on field and time availability.
14. Pac-Coast is an introduction to player pitch.
  - A. Balls and strikes are called. Three strikes batter is out.
  - B. After four called balls are thrown by the pitcher, the coach comes into pitch. The coach inherits the count or gets a maximum of 3 pitches.
  - C. If the batter fails to hit ball in fair territory after three pitches from the coach, the batter is out. The batter remains at bat if final coach pitch continues to be fouled off (only exception to maximum 3 pitches).
  - D. When the coach comes in to pitch, player pitchers must be within 3 ft. of the coach pitching, even with, or behind the mound, not any closer to the plate.
  - E. Coaches should pitch from the pitching rubber.
  - F. Coaches have the option to stand in the field to instruct defensive players, especially if there is a safety issue.
  - G. Home team is required to provide the home plate umpire or an umpire behind the mound. All umpires behind the plate must wear proper umpire gear.
  - H. Each team manager is responsible for recording the pitch count of all pitchers in the official league Pitch Count Book.

15. Pac-Coast players may have the opportunity to participate in a season ending tournament. If held, the tournament format and details are up to the League Commissioner as well as the availability of time and fields.
16. Team Selection and Rosters
  - A. Each team will keep same roster as year before that are in the Pac-Coast league, unless a parent wants their child on a different team. As a result, the child be put back in to the draft.
  - B. The remainder of the team will be filled by a draft. Each team will consist of 12 players.
  - C. If the player is attempting to play up they will also participate in a safety evaluation.
  - D. The draft order will be set by a random draw and be conducted by the league baseball player agent and will be conducted in a serpentine.
17. Pitching machine rules
  - A. Pitching machine speed is to set at 30 mph.
  - B. Yellow soft plex balls are to be used.
  - C. Catchers must wear a cup if they are going to be behind the plate.
  - D. Each player will be pitched 5 balls, the 3 strike rule applies. If the 5th pitch is a foul ball, the player will be pitched another ball.
  - E. Home team is responsible for setting up and tearing down the machine, and insuring it is in good working order prior to the game.
  - F. The player assuming the position of pitcher is to stay behind the machine until the ball is in play.
  - G. If the machine causes interference the ball is still live.

### **MINORS, MAJOR, JUNIOR, AND SENIOR, RULES**

All rules pertaining to game play, field requirements, equipment, etc. for these divisions can be found in the Official Rule and Regulations handbooks & Interleague division rules.

### **TOURNAMENT PLAY** **(ALL STARS)**

LEWIS RIVER LITTLE LEAGUE commits to sending teams to tournaments in the following divisions. Minor, Major, Junior, 50/70, Senior. It is the goal of LRLLE to have a minimum of 12 players on the team, with preference of 13. Lewis River Little League is a fairly small league and thus one of the primary objectives is to have a minimum of 24 players participate in the Minor and Major all-star tournaments. If the league is able to field 3 teams in the youth divisions (9-10, 10-11, and 11-12), then the board will consider allowing less than 12 players per team.

- MINORS – 8 -10 year old division.
- 11 YEAR OLD TEAM – 10 and 11 year old division  
(If there are 3 or more Major Teams or enough interested eligible players and managers, after Minor and Major Teams have been selected.)
- MAJORS – 11 and 12 year old division

- All Star teams are formed and notified in the following order: 11-12 year old team, 8-10 year old team, and if enough eligible players and coaches are available, a 10-11 year old team.
- High School Prep Divisions (50/70, Juniors, Seniors)
- The priority for our High School Prep program will be Juniors and Seniors (high school field dimensions). Those teams will be selected and notified first. If enough players and coaches are interested after the selection of those teams, we will field a 50/70 all-star team.

Once committed, a league will play and advance until eliminated. Winning teams advance through district, state, and regional play to establish the field for the \*WORLD SERIES. This is an international tournament and teams come from around the world to compete. Dates, times, and places, will be available.

LEWIS RIVER LITTLE LEAGUE is prepared to help offset some of the traveling expenses for teams advancing to locations farther than 75 miles (One way).

Playing rules for the tournament vary slightly from local league rules.

### **ALL-STAR PLAYER SELECTION**

Player Eligibility – Only eligible candidates will be included on the All-Star ballot. Eligible Players are those who have met the requirements for tournament play listed in the rule book

Voting – **All players will sign their ballots.** Players within the division will be allowed to vote for 12 players in their division. Players’ votes will be counted and the top FIVE (5) will make the All-Star team. The votes will be counted by a Board member who has no tie to the team – cannot be a coach, manager, parent or grandparent.

Managers and the head coach within the division will be allowed to vote for 12 players. Managers’ and the head coaches’ votes will be counted and the next FIVE (5), (excluding the FIVE (5) already on the team), will make the All-Star team.

The Major Team will be selected first, the Minor Team second, and the 11 year old Team last. Players and Managers selected to more than one team will be notified by the Player Agent and allowed to choose (immediate response required) what team they would like to join, but **cannot change teams** once a choice has been made (by a parent committing/telling the board/player agent) or the teams have been announced.

### **ALL-STAR MANAGER SELECTION**

Players within the division will vote for whom they believe would make the best All-Star Manager.

After the 10 All-Star players (herein referred to as the All-Star Team) have been selected according to the **PLAYER SELECTION RULES**, the All-Star team’s ballots will be used to determine the All-Star Manager.

Depending on who the elected All-Star Manager is (by player vote count), the first choice for All-Star Coach would then be the next manager with the highest placing in league play. The third coach would be selected at the discretion of the All-Star Manager. *Example:* If the elected All-Star Manager *finishes* 2<sup>nd</sup> in league play, the 1<sup>st</sup> place Manager in league play becomes Coach #1, and Coach #2 is chosen by the elected All-Star Manager. (They should be managers or coaches from teams within their division.) Managers must be able to attend practices and games; and must continue until eliminated from tournament play.

**Note:** The Board has the ability to disapprove any All-Star Manager and Coach selection if they find it so necessary. Any manager up for All-star Manager or Coach that holds any position or relation to a child in that division on the board shall not be any part of the discussion or vote.

**All-Star Player Notification** – Managers will not be told which FIVE (5) picks were voted on by the players. The last two (2) or three (3) players will be chosen by the All-Star Manager. The All-Star Manager will notify the players on or after an approved date set by the Board.

### **RULES GOVERNING PLAYER DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

There are, on occasion, disruptive player behavior patterns that require a disciplinary procedure that is firm and concise. We hope that you will not have problems on your team, but if you should, please remember that we expect you to follow certain guidelines in order to resolve the situation:

At the beginning of the season you will be given a code of conduct that has a list of rules of conduct for the player. You should take 10 minutes to go over the rules listed together with your team at the first practice. Have players sign contracts and return to you. Keep these with you. If you notice a behavioral problem developing, sit down with the player and go over the contract that he/she signed and discuss the ways you would like to see him/her alter their conduct.

If a player continues disruptive behavior, speak to the parent/guardian about the situation and ask for their help in dealing with the issue.

If a player continues to disrupt the team or show unsportsmanlike conduct: *1.) after being warned by the manager or coach, and 2.) after the parent or guardian has been informed of the situation*, the manager shall contact League President in order to call together the Board for a closed meeting. The Board shall meet with the Manager and such player and his/her parents or guardian to review the situation and go over the contract signed by the player at the beginning of the year. If behavior conditions are not met following the Board meeting, the player will be suspended for the remainder of the season (including tournament play).

### **EJECTION FROM A GAME – LEAGUE ADOPTED RULES 1997**

Due to the difficulty in getting umpires, as well as the disrespect to Little League Officials by players, managers, and coaches, the Lewis River Little League Board, with support from District #6, will impose the following disciplinary actions for being ejected from any game. If a player is

ejected, for any reason, that player and their manager will be called before the Board to explain themselves.

In addition to the above, the player will sit on the bench for the next complete game, and will not take part in the game in any form, i.e. keeping score, base coach, etc.

If the same player is ejected again, that player will be subject to sitting two (2) games in a row. The third ejection, the player will be removed from the league for the remainder of the year.

If a manager/coach is ejected, that person will be called before the Board and the Board will impose what disciplinary action they deem necessary, up to and including asking for their resignation. Disciplinary action by the Board of Directors may affect eligibility for All-Star and postseason participation.

Note: Please read rule 9.00d and 9.05c in the Softball Rule Book, and rule 9.01d and 9.05c in the Baseball Rule Book.

## **LRLI BOARD MEMBER EXPECTATIONS**

### **1. BOARD MEMBER CONDUCT**

Board Members are voted in positions and Members are expected to uphold the rules of LRLI and Little League International. Members are expected to respect other Members of the Board, players and parents. Board Members can be removed with a majority vote by the Board. After three unexcused Board Meeting absences the Board can vote off a Member. The top four positions (President, VP, Secretary and Treasurer) cannot be husband and wife or siblings. Social media conduct – no Board business discussed on Social Media and respect the other members of the Board.

### **2. BOARD ESCALATIONS**

- A. Board members may from time to time disagree with decision or league direction. It is acknowledged that this is a normal part of managing any profit or non-profit organization. Escalations should be handled in the following manner:
1. Review with President or Vice President, or if they are already involved, with another board member.
  2. Call for a special board meeting to discuss. Any board member is able to call for a special meeting and other board members should honor the request. This should be a board only meeting with no visitors.
  3. The special meeting will allow all board members the opportunity to openly and honestly discuss the topic with each other.
  4. A vote to confirm or change the topic in question should be presented to the board during the special meeting.
  5. Refrain from discussing escalations with parents, coaches, or others, either in person or on social media.
  6. All board members are subject to discipline, suspension and removal according to league and Little League International rules.

### **3. CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS**

- A. All purchases on the card will be strictly LRLI related. No personal items can be purchased with the credit or debit cards.
- B. Purchase receipts need to be turned into the Treasurer within 48 hours of the purchase. If the original is not possible a picture/scan/fax must be sent in within that time frame.
- C. All purchases must have prior approval. Examples:
  - 1. Fields – within the budget that is approved at the beginning of the season.
  - 2. Snack Shack – food purchases only. Cleaning supplies, carpets, etc. should not be purchased using the Snack Shack card.
  - 3. Registration - Flyers
- D. All major expenditure (greater than \$100) not previously approved requires either President approval or the approval of at least 3 board members (non-family members). Failure to comply with these rules may result in termination of card access.

### **MANAGER AND COACH SELECTION**

- 1. Volunteers intending to manage or coach a team must submit a manager or coach request along with a fully completed volunteer background check. Manager and coaching positions are not guaranteed each year.
- 2. Manager and Coach Requests are reviewed by the LRLI Board prior to Draft. Managers and Coaches are assigned to teams by the President or Vice President upon passing a nationwide background check.
- 3. A quorum (33%) of the LRLI Board must be present in order for the manager and coach approval process to be valid. Any person applying to manage or coach that receives objections from 33% or more of the voting LRLI Board will not receive the requested manager/coaching position within LRLI.
- 4. Managers and coaches will be appointed based on the following criteria:
  - A. Completion of required clinics/certifications and nationwide background check.
  - B. Evaluations, recommendations and references.
  - C. Conduct with players, parents, and league volunteers.
  - D. Adherence to rules.
  - E. Care and return of LRLI equipment and uniforms.
  - F. Years managed or coached
- 5. Managers and coaches can be removed at any time from positions for inappropriate conduct, gross non-adherence to league rules, and other reasons by recommendation from the President and approval of the LRLI Board.

## **MANAGER AND COACH CONDUCT**

- A. Managers and coaches are responsible for their conduct and conduct of their team and fans. Obscene and foul language gestures from players, fans, coaches and managers will not be tolerated.
- B. Managers who come to practices or games under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be sent home and immediately suspended pending board review.
- C. Manager and Coaches are expected to be positive about the League, players and parents on Social Media.