

# WINDSOR LITTLE LEAGUE

Bylaws/Local Rules/Ground Rules  
SOFTBALL PROGRAM

2020

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

This document expires at the end of the calendar year and must be renewed annually. It includes the Windsor Little League Board of Directors' specific ground rules for the various divisions and procedures for selection of Tournament Teams (All Stars).

Because each local Little League Board of Directors has authority to change local procedures, this document requires only Board of Directors consent, without general membership approval. No part of this document can conflict with or supersede any Little League rule, regulation, or policy.

The by-laws, local rules or ground rules are to be distinguished from the Little League Constitution. The Constitution spells out the duties and responsibilities of the officers of the board, definition of membership, election procedures, meeting requirements such as quorum, etc.

The various items in this document contain information that is pertinent to the Managers, Coaches, Players, and Parents. It is the Manager's responsibility that his/her Players and Coaches are aware of them. The Vice President and the Directors of each division will oversee the softball program.

### 1. SPORTSMANSHIP

- A. Players should be taught to maintain the will to win, however, they must be taught to accept losses graciously.
- B. It is the expectation that all Players and Coaches conduct themselves in a mature and respectful manner throughout the course of each game.
- C. Win or lose, the Manager, Coaches and Players will congratulate their opponents at home plate for a good effort following each game.
- D. The Manager, Coaches and Players shall make an extra effort to thank the umpires at the end of each game.

### 2. RULES OF PLAY

The Official Regulations and Playing Rules for Little League Softball (A.K.A. Little League (LL) Rulebook), as established by Little League Inc. of Williamsport, PA will be followed, except as modified in this document, or as prescribed by local league rules.

- A. W.L.L. exercises the option of not utilizing rule 4.10 (e) of the 201 Official Regulations and Playing Rules, commonly known as the Mercy Rule. The league reserves the right to review the election not to use rule 4.10(e) for the AAA level.

### 3. REGISTRATION & RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

In order to be registered, Players must meet Residence Eligibility Requirements as set forth in the Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules for Little League. (NOTE: The geographic boundaries of Windsor Little League are specifically described in the League Charter)

- A. No child will be allowed, under any condition, to participate within the league's program until a parent or legal guardian registers her. Approval of registration will be by the President and/or Registrar (or assigned delegate). Signature other than the above is not acceptable.
- B. Registration is considered closed upon the commencement of the draft at each Baseball

Division. Late registrations may be accepted into the League and is dependent on available space. Every effort will be made to accommodate all late Tee Ball registrations. (NOTE: a Late Registration Fee may be applicable.)

- C. Former Major League Players who register after the Major League draft has been completed will be assigned to a team by the Player Agent.

#### **4. MANAGERS, COACHES AND UMPIRES**

All teams shall have assigned with the league one (1) manager and a minimum of two (2) coaches. In accordance with Little League rules each team must have an adult (a person of the age 18 years or older) managing the team. It is recommended that one of the coaches also be an adult (a person of the age 18 years or older) to be eligible to fill in as temporary manager for times when unexpected absences by the manager occur. If a person under the age of 18 years is to be listed as a coach, this person cannot assume the role of manager at any time.

Appointment of Managers: The Director of each division of play shall nominate Managers of regular season teams. The Director shall submit his or her Manager nominations to the Vice President who shall appoint them, at the final discretion of the President. All Managers must be Local League members in good standing. In order to receive or keep an appointment, every Manager must satisfy such requirements as may be established by the Board of Directors from time to time. All appointments shall expire at the end of the team's playing season, unless sooner terminated at the discretion of the President or the Vice President. Managers of teams shall be responsible for the selection and training of their teams and for the actions of the Playing Members and Coaches during all games.

If a manager or a coach is managing or coaching at the AAU level it is up to the President and Vice President to determine if they are eligible to manage or coach in Windsor Little League and able to meet the expectations of the position.

No person shall manage more than one team within all levels of Windsor Little League Baseball or Softball, unless approved by the League Director, Vice President and President. A Manager may be a Coach on another team, but that team must be at a different league level. The President shall not allow this second coaching position to have a detrimental effect on either team, and shall notify the Board of Directors of concerns.

Appointment of Coaches: The Manager of the said team, subject to the approval of the Vice President shall nominate the Coaches of each regular season team. Coaches will be selected by Managers following completion of the Draft process for that League, thus avoiding the pre-selection of Players through selective coaching appointments. In order to receive or keep an appointment, every Coach must satisfy such requirements as may be established by the Board of Directors from time to time. All appointments shall expire at the end of the team's playing season, unless sooner terminated at the discretion of the President or the Vice President. Coaches shall assist their Managers in team training/practices, conduct and games.

Limitations on Managers and Coaches: While holding such office, the President shall neither manage nor coach a special, post season team, such as a tournament team or All-Star team (inter-league and intra-league).

However, the President may coach, but not manage, a regular season team.

Protests – Managers, Coaches & Umpires: Each Coach and Manager has a Moral Obligation to help prevent protests, and work together for the success of the League. It is the responsibility of all adults coaching during a game to eliminate a possible protest. Remember that the Umpires will make many honest judgment errors during the season. Managers and Coaches should accept them as honest judgment errors and will not intimidate the Umpire about them.

Appointment, Training and Scheduling of Umpires (Softball): Little League rule: All games must be officiated by at least one adult (a person of the age 18 years or older). This adult may have a second umpire under the age of 18 years, but the adult will be considered the chief umpire regardless of knowledge or experience. The adult umpire need not be the plate umpire.

Players of league age 12 to 18 years are authorized to umpire games at least a level below their own playing level, but only as field umpires. High school players are eligible to umpire games, as either a field umpire or the umpire behind the plate. The game coordinator rule applies. See L.L. rule 9.03 (d).

Prior to the beginning of each regular season, the Director of each Division shall provide the President with a written list of those persons who are recommended by to serve as officials at league games and shall designate the level of play at which such persons are qualified to officiate. The President may, at his or her discretion, appoint any Umpire so recommended by the Division Directors and such appointment may be conditioned upon the person nominated satisfying such other and further requirements as the Board of Directors may determine, from time to time. Before and during the playing season, the Director of Umpire Training shall train, schedule, observe and evaluate all Umpires for their respective leagues.

The Division Directors shall be responsible for the actions of all Umpires on the playing field. The appointment of any Umpire may be revoked at any time by the President or Vice President.

## 5. EVALUATIONS

- A. The Player Agent will work closely with the Vice President to coordinate, manage and ensure the fairness of the Evaluations.
- B. Confidentiality: *The Player Agent will maintain all documents pertaining to the scores of the Evaluations in strict confidence. Under no condition are Players or parents to be told any score results.*
- C. The Vice President and Player Agent shall determine the persons that may participate in the Evaluation rating process.
- D. The Rating System: for evaluations will be determined by the Player Agent. A Player will receive a rating for the following categories: Fielding, Throwing, Catching, and Hitting. Running skills may also be measured, but will not impact a players overall rating.
- E. League age 7 year olds are encouraged, but are not required to, participate in Evaluations. The Minors Director in consultation with AA Managers will assign these Players directly to a Minor AA or A team.
- F. All league age 8 year olds and 9 years olds must be evaluated prior to the AAA draft. These candidates can play in AAA if selected in the AAA draft. Otherwise, they will be assigned to a Minor AA team. Those who do not participate in Evaluations will not be eligible for the AAA Draft and will subsequently be assigned to a Minor AA team.
- G. All Non-Major 10 year olds, 11 year olds and 12 year olds must be evaluated(or submit an acceptable written excuse to the Player Agent) prior to being considered for the Major League draft. Any 10, 11 or 12 year old not currently assigned to a Major League team, who does not participate in Evaluations (or is unexcused), will be ineligible for the Major League Draft and will

subsequently be considered as a candidate for the AAA draft. Excused candidates should not be drafted until they have been assigned an Evaluation rating by the Player Agent. The process of assigning an Evaluation rating for excused Players should be coordinated by the Player Agent and the Vice President (and be based on the knowledge of the Team Managers/Coaches attending the draft).

- H. All returning 11 year-old or 12 year-old Majors Division players are encouraged to participate in Evaluations. These returning players may decide to be excused from Evaluations. In such cases returning players wanting to be excused may do so by submitting an acceptable written notice to the Player Agent prior to the draft. The process of assigning an Evaluation rating for excused Players should be coordinated by the Player Agent and the Vice President (and be based on the knowledge of the Team Managers/Coaches attending the draft).
- I. Evaluations will not be held during Easter weekend.

## 6. DRAFTS

- A. The Player Agent is responsible for the overall management and fairness of the draft. Under no condition may any draft commence unless the Player Agent and Vice President (or an approved replacement) are in attendance to oversee the draft. Should the draft proceed without the Player Agent and/or Vice President, the Draft shall be deemed as invalid by the President.
- B. The Vice President, Player Agent, and Directors shall determine the persons that may attend the draft for AAA and Majors.
- C. Big League, Senior League, Junior League and Major League: These drafts should be scheduled as soon as possible following Evaluations.
- D. AAA: This draft must be scheduled following the completion of the Major League draft. Typically, this draft will immediately follow the Major league draft.
- E. Candidates refusing to be drafted to a Major League team must obtain the approval of the Player Agent and Vice President.
- F. Special Consideration: League age 12 year olds are required play in the Major Leagues, unless the league receives the Parent's request/permission to have the candidate participate in the AAA program. Typically, this determination should be driven by safety issues and would require the approval of the Player Agent, Vice President, Director of Major League and the Director of Minor League.
- G. Sibling Rule: For the purposes of the draft, it will be assumed, unless otherwise requested by Parents/Guardians, that siblings playing at the same level will play on the same team. Parents/Guardians may request siblings to play on different teams within the same level. This request must be in writing to the Player Agent and/or Vice President and must be received no later than 48 hours prior the draft.  
League age 9 year olds will not be allowed to play in the Major League Division. On an exception basis, a league age 9 year old may be drafted/assigned to a Major league team upon receipt of parent/guardian request/permission and approval from the Player Agent and Vice President. League age 9 year olds must attend Evaluations to be considered for the Major League Division.
- H. To assure a competitive balance within each division, the preferred Softball method for the drafting process is the Re-Draft, consistent with the Little League Operating manual, plan B. In general, the Draft Order will be the "reverse-order" of the standings at the end of the previous regular season i.e., the last place team will draft first, the second to last place team will draft second, etc. The last place team will draft first in each draft round. This procedure may be amended prior to the start of the draft based on changes unanimously agreed to by the Player Agent, Vice President and all Managers.
- I. Protected Players: A protected Player is defined as a Player that may only be drafted by a designated team. A Player can only be protected if approved as such by the Player Agent. Protected

Players shall tryout and be rated in accordance with rating system afforded all other players. Typically, a Player should be protected if:

- 1) a Manager is the parent or legal guardian,
- 2) the Player is a sibling of a Player that is currently on a team, or
- 3) the player has requested placement with a player that is a neighbor or family friend and therefore will be treated as a sibling.

A team that has a protected Player for purposes of the draft may not:

- 1) select a Player that received a lower rating in the tryouts prior to selecting the protected player, or
- 2) select a Player that received a higher rating if that selection forces a team to have to select a lower rated Player than the protected Player within the same round, (i.e., within the same draft round as the protected Player based on the ratings of the tryouts prior to selecting the protected Player).

- J. Player Trades: In seasons where Majors teams are not reassigned, Players may be traded prior to Notification/Assignment, subject to the approval of the Player Agent and remaining team Managers in that Division. Player trades shall not occur after Notification/Assignment unless approved by the Vice President and the Player Agent.
- K. Notifications/Assignment: *It is critically important that all Players are notified of their assignment at essentially the same time.* The Player Agent will advise the proper procedure for Player notification. All Managers and Coaches are expected to adhere to this rule. Note: Any Manager or Coach that does not comply with this rule is subject to removal as Manager or Coach, as determined by the Vice President in consultation with the President.
- L. Prior League Players not registered by draft day lose their rights of retention. Managers/Coaches should contact these Players prior to the draft, and their status should be fully explained. The Player Agent will be primarily responsible for resolving the situation prior to the draft. Player Agent should check League rosters against registration, and contact anyone that was previously on a League team who has not signed-up to clarify status and inform about not registering by draft day.
- M. Minor AA and A Players will be assigned by the Director and the Minor AA and A Managers. Team balance should be maintained.

## 7. ROSTERS

- A. See L.L. Rulebook
- B. The Player Agent, Vice President and Director of the applicable league shall maintain equal Rosters.
- C. The Player Agent and Directors have the discretion to have only ten Players drafted to each team. However, an eleventh and twelfth Player must be added to each team, prior to the start of the regular season (through late sign-ups and/or promotions), unless otherwise approved by the Vice President prior to the start of the season. In all cases, at the Major, and AAA level, the Directors will strive to have full rosters defined as 12 players per team.
- D. Minor AAA Player Call-up to Majors: Call-up of Minor AAA Players by Major League teams is required in order to maintain a full roster for the season. Major League managers will call up AAA players in accordance with Little League Rules, Section III – The Teams part (d). In conjunction with this rule the manager has five (5) days to make his selection. The Player Agent will consult with the AAA managers and obtain a list of players from those managers they feel are prepared to play in the Majors Division. The Majors manager in need of a player may use this list as a guide during the decision making process. The Player Agent will contact the Minor AAA managers of the player selected and will advise the player's parents of her promotion to the Major League. The player need not accept the promotion. Call-ups during the final two weeks of the regular season are

- optional.
- E. Minor AA Player Call-up to Minor AAA: Call-up of Minor AA Players by Minor AAA teams is required in order to maintain a full roster for the season. Minor AAA managers will call up AA players in accordance with Little League Rules, Section III – The Teams part (d). In conjunction with this rule the manager has five (5) days to make his selection. The Player Agent will consult with the AA managers and obtain a list of players from those managers they feel are prepared to play in the Minor AAA Division. The Minor AAA manager in need of a player may use this list as a guide during the decision making process. The Player Agent will contact the Minor AA managers of the player selected and will advise the player's parents of her promotion to the Minor AAA Division. The player need not accept the promotion. Call-ups during the final two weeks of the regular season are optional.
- F. If a team needs to fill a roster spot(s) to field a team for a game the Manager shall reach out to the Manager(s) of the other teams at the same level to see if there are any interested players. If there are no other teams or interested players at the same level than the Manager shall follow the procedures listed in parts d and e of this section for promoting a player from a lower level.
- A. Any player that fills a roster spot under 6.f will be subject to the following playing rules:
- The temporary player shall not pitch.
  - The temporary player shall bat in the last spot in the line-up.
  - All permanent members of the team shall have priority playing in the field except that the temporary player shall play the minimum per applicable league rules.
- G. Any dismissal or termination of any Player from the League must be in writing. The memorandum should be provided to the Player Agent, Vice President, applicable league Director, and the President. It should include: Name of team, Player and reason for termination/dismissal. Any termination/dismissal that is disciplinary in nature requires the approval of the Board of Directors/Disciplinary Committee.

## **8. TEAM ASSIGNMENT (Late Players)**

- A. Late sign-ups may be accepted into the League, on or after the draft, based solely on roster availability.
- B. Late sign-ups must submit to the Player Agent's tryout (if required) and will be assigned to a team by the Player Agent, after consultation with the applicable Division Director and as approved by the Vice President
- C. Former Major League Players who sign up after the drafts will be assigned to a team by the Player Agent, after consultation with the Vice President.
- D. Regardless of age, there is no guarantee of assignment to a Minor AAA, Major, Junior or Senior team.

## **9. DISCIPLINE OF TEAM PERSONNEL – ALL DISCIPLINARY ACTION REQUIRES THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS/Disciplinary Committee**

- A. If a Manager, Coach or Player is removed from the game for disciplinary action by the Umpire, he/she must leave the field. The Manager or adult Coach must not sit on the bench or in the stands and may not be re-called. If a Player is removed from the game, the Team Manager is responsible for ensuring that the matter is handled appropriately. See L.L. Rule 9.05.
- B. Players may be benched for behavior unbecoming to the Windsor Little League program. The opposing Manager or Coach and Head Umpire shall be advised prior to the start of the game (or during the game, if applicable) of any action being taken and for what reason. The Player Agent must be made aware within 24 hours of the incident. Proposed reasons for this discipline are:

1. Fighting
2. Insubordination
3. Cursing
4. Stealing articles in the park
5. Abuse/harassment towards Coaches/Umpire/fellow Players
6. Improper dress
7. Unsportsmanlike conduct
8. Destruction of League Equipment

Parents of Players are held to a similar standard as the Managers, Coaches and Players and will be asked to leave the field if a Coach or Umpire deems their behavior as disrespectful or disruptive to any other attendees.

## **10. SCHEDULED GAMES/PRACTICES**

- A. The League will not schedule games or require practices on Memorial Day or the Fourth of July or **Shad Derby Day (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of May)**
- B. All teams should practice a minimum of one time per week during the regular season.
- C. Once the season's schedule is issued, no games may be rescheduled without the approval of the Scheduling Director.
- D. Games will be scheduled and played on Sundays, including Mother's Day and Father's Day. Managers will not reschedule or cancel these games.
- E. Managers, Coaches and Players are responsible for turning on/off lights and locking the Major League shed, Minor League shed, batting cage, Bradley shed and the bathrooms. NOTE: Be careful when turning off the lights so that you don't accidentally turn off the baseball field lights. Being a public park, Windsor Little League is responsible to secure/police up after all practices/games or other functions. Following the last game/practice of the day, the field should be policed and secured (to include turning off the lights and locking the sheds and bathrooms).

## **11. RAINOUTS/POSTPONMENTS**

- A. On game day, prior to the first pitch being thrown, The Directors of Buildings and Grounds, with input from Managers of each team will evaluate and determine playing conditions of the field. In the event the Directors of Buildings and Grounds are unavailable, the League Director, in conjunction with the team Managers will determine playability. Once the first pitch is thrown, field conditions fall under the jurisdiction of the umpire.
- B. It is strongly suggested that all rained-out or postponed games be played on the next open date on the schedule. An open date is not considered open if it forces one of the teams to play four games in a calendar week. During the last couple of weeks in the schedule, make-up games can be played at a Saturday practice. In general, Managers should ensure that these games are made-up within one week.
- C. The first game canceled will have first priority and be played per "A".
- D. The scheduled home team Manager will notify the applicable Director with sufficient notice to allow the scheduling of an umpire to cover the rescheduled game.
- E. Every effort must be made by the Managers to reschedule and play all scheduled games during the regular season. Teams that fail to play a scheduled game shall be subject to receiving a forfeit, as determined by the Vice President.

## **12. LEAGUE EQUIPMENT/UNIFORMS**

- A. Care must be taken to prevent misuse of League equipment by Players.
- B. Any throwing of helmets or intentional flinging of bats, under any condition, will be cause for disciplinary action listed below.
  - First Offense = Warning.
  - Second Offense = One Game Suspension
  - Third Offense = TBD by Disciplinary Committee
- C. Upon the conclusion of each Player's last game of the season or playoffs, Managers are responsible for the collection of team uniforms and equipment that is league property. This includes "All-Star" uniforms. Managers are responsible for the coordination of the return of uniforms/equipment with the Equipment Manager or League Director (within two weeks of the last game).
- D. Current season softball uniforms will only be worn on the following occasions: Opening Day, participation in parades, Collection Day, scheduled games (not practice) or at other times that are approved by Windsor Little League
- E. All equipment provided by the League are the sole property of Windsor Little League. Uniform t-shirts, socks, hats (other than All-Stars) shall be the property of the player.
- F. Facemasks are required for AAA and Majors and recommended for all other levels of softball.
- G. Keys to the sheds will be under the control of the appointed Board Member. The following volunteers will have access to keys:
  - Board members
  - Directors
  - Major league managers
  - AAA managers
  - AA mangers
  - A managers

All volunteers are required to sign for their serialized key and return it at the end of regular season. Any manager of a tournament team will return their key at the end of the tournament.

### **13. SAFETY DURING GAME**

- A. See Safety Code in Little League Rulebook and Windsor Little League Safety Manual.
- B. If the alarm indicating lightning sounds, or if lightning or thunder is observed by the umpire (or League Official for lower levels), all players shall wait in cars for a minimum of 30 minutes after the last lightning/thunder indication. The game will be ended/suspended if the wait time exceeds 45 minutes, or if the umpire (or League Official at lower levels) calls the game at an earlier time. Games will be suspended and resumed from the point when stopped. The pitcher of record may continue to pitch up to the total maximum allowed for both combined days. All personnel will leave the facilities as soon as possible.
- C. Food **or gum** is not allowed in the dugouts or on the field of play. **There are no exceptions.** This will be enforced by the Umpires and Managers.
- D. **Jewelry may not be worn during games.**

### **14. SCOREKEEPERS**

Big League, Senior, Junior, Major and Minor AAA teams must keep a scorebook during the game. The home team maintains the official scorebook.

**15. GAME PREPARATIONS, GAME COMPLETION, SECURING AND POLICING OF ALL FIELDS (CRITICAL)**

- A. Home team responsibilities:
1. Confirm that an Umpire is scheduled
  2. Umpire's equipment will be provided if needed. (Assigned Minor A or Major League equipment only)
  3. Make sure that the assigned parent is in concession stand. **Note that if this rule is not complied with, the game cannot begin.**
  4. Check that bases are properly installed and subsequently removed and stored after games (safety concern)
  5. Make sure the bathrooms are unlocked prior to games, then locked after games.
- B. Home and Visiting Team Joint Responsibilities: **(excluding out of town teams)**  
Check the entire field from a safety perspective
1. Rake dirt section of infield, if necessary
  2. Mark baselines; foul line in outfield, and batter's box
  3. Get two batting helmets for each team
  4. Return all helmets and umpire equipment to the proper place after the game
  5. Managers, Coaches and Players are responsible for turning on/off lights and locking the Major League shed, Minor League shed, batting cage, Bradley shed and the bathrooms. NOTE: Be careful when turning off the lights so that you don't accidentally turn off the baseball field lights. Being a public park, Windsor Little League is responsible to secure/police up after all practices/games or other functions. Following the last game/practice of the day, the field should be policed and secured. This includes the total area internally and around the bleachers, bike racks, concession stand, dugouts, benches, lights turned off, bathrooms locked and equipment sheds neat and locked.

**16. GAME TIME/FINISH TIMES**

- A. For consecutive games on the same field, the next game will start thirty (30) minutes, after the previous game ends.
- B. On School night games an inning will not start after 8:00. School nights are Sundays through Thursdays.
- C. For regular season games, no inning shall start more than two (2) hours after the first pitch.

**17. INNING START UP**

- A. Managers/Coaches and Umpires should have all players hustle on and off the field to keep the game moving along.
- B. Excessive stepping out of the batter's box must be discouraged: (Umpires should assist in moving the games along).
- C. Regular Season Games: no inning shall be started more than 2 hours after the game began.

**18. GROUND RULES AND PRE-GAME DISCUSSION**

- A. Prior to each game both Managers and the Umpires will meet at Home Plate to discuss ground

rules.

- B. At the same time, the Managers will discuss and agree to Pitcher eligibility for that game. Scorebooks should be kept up-to-date in case a question arises concerning the last games during the current week. Player's shirt numbers must be noted in all score books for all games.

## 19. PITCHING

- A. Follow L.L. Rulebook  
 B. Players refusing promotion to the Majors will not be allowed to pitch.  
 C. Minor AA will utilize The following procedure for pitching:
- After four balls have been thrown, a coach from the batting team will pitch to finish that batter.
  - The strike count carries over. The batter can strike out, but may not walk.

## 20. CATCHERS

- A. Twelve (12) year olds in the Minors are not permitted to catch.  
 B. Players refusing promotion to the Majors will not be allowed to catch.  
 C. Players warming up pitchers must wear face and head gear.

## 21. MINOR AA BATTING/RUNNERS

- A. No base stealing is permitted.

## 22. INDIVIDUAL PLAYING TIME – Windsor Little League RULE

To insure a reasonable amount of playing time for each player, the following rules will be in effect.

- A. Big League & Senior: Follow L.L. Rulebook  
 B. Juniors and Majors: Follow L.L. Rulebook or Alternate: the batting order will be a continuous rotation that is made-up of each and every Player on the team (that attends the game). Managers should strive to have each Player play an equal number of innings in the field in a given game. At a minimum, all Players will play at least two (2) innings, six (6) outs in the field. It is strongly encouraged that each player will play three (3) innings.

*NOTE: The only exceptions to this rule are situations where a player is being disciplined for misconduct, or because the player has an injury which prevents her from playing.*

- C. Minor AAA & Minor AA – rotation of defensive positions: Managers and coaches are strongly encouraged to play all Players in each infield and each outfield position to facilitate player development, excluding pitching and catching. Players should play at least half of each game.  
 D. Minor AAA & Minor AA: The batting order will be a continuous rotation that is made-up of each and every Player on the team (that attends the game). Managers and coaches are strongly encouraged to have each Player play an equal number of innings in the field in a given game to facilitate player development. At a minimum, all Players will play at least two (2) innings, six (6) outs in the field.

*NOTE: The only exceptions to this rule are situations where a player is being disciplined for misconduct, or because the player has an injury which prevents her from playing.*

### **23. PLAYER SUBSTITUTION**

- A. Big League, Seniors, Juniors or Majors – Follow L.L. Rulebook
- B. MINORS – defensive Players may be substituted at any time during a game that the ball is dead. However, all Players must complete the minimum of two innings in the field.

### **24. PLAYOFF GAMES**

- A. All playoff games for either position or championship will be played after all regular season games are completed (end of season) for Junior, Major and Minor AAA Divisions. Ideally, the playoffs should be scheduled to commence immediately after the regular season. The regular season pitching rules shall apply.
- B. The Playoff format shall be single elimination or Round Robin as agreed to by all Managers in the Division prior to the start of the tournament.
- C. The ten run rule "mercy rule" will apply to all playoff games.

### **25. AWARDS (TROPHIES)**

- A. Trophies will be awarded to each Player on the Playoff Championship Team.

### **26. TOURNAMENT AND ALL-STAR TEAM SELECTION**

Tournament teams permitted by the Board of Directors shall be selected using one of the three authorized methods detailed below, as determined annually by the Vice President in consultation with the Directors of each applicable Division. The Player Agent-Softball shall be in attendance at all selection meetings and/or tryouts conducted.

**Method 1**-On or before the next to last week of the regular season, on a date established not less than seven (7) days in advance by the Vice President, the Vice President, the Major League Director and the regular season Managers of each Major League team shall meet for the purpose of selecting the Tournament team. The Vice President, each Manager and the Director shall have one vote\* in the selection of the Player Members for that team. Player Members shall be selected for the All Star tournament team by majority vote. In the event any Manager cannot attend said selection meeting, said Manager shall so notify the Vice President and shall designate in writing a Coach from his/her team to attend said meeting in his/her behalf. Any Coach so designated shall enjoy all of the rights and privileges of the team's Manager, as if said Manager was in attendance.

At the conclusion of the selection of the Tournament team, the Vice President, the said Managers, the Major Director and the Minor Director shall vote to populate the 9/10 year old tournament teams from among the remaining Player Members in the Major, and Minor AAA divisions, employing the same procedure for voting as described above.

*\* Should the Vice President and/or Director also be a Manager, then that individual shall have only one vote.*

**Method 2**-Tournament team Player Members for each Division shall be selected based on the results of a

tryout conducted by the selected tournament team Manager and Coaches in accordance with procedures approved in advance of the tryout by the Vice President and the Player Agent-Softball.

**Method 3**-Tournament team Player Members for each Division shall be selected based on the results of a balloting process conducted in accordance with procedures approved in advance of the voting by the Vice President and the Player Agent-Softball in consultation with the Directors of each Division. Players will be placed on the voting ballot through a self-nomination process.

*Method 3 and Method 2 can be combined to select a team as determined by the Vice President in consultation with the Player Agent.*

The number of players on the all-star team shall be 12, with an option for 13. The option is to be exercised by a majority of the selection committee.

## **27. ALL-STAR MANAGER AND COACHES SELECTION**

- A. Any Manager or Coach of a Big League, Senior, Junior, Major League or Minor AAA team, who has participated on that team for the regular season, is eligible to manage or Coach the team. Each Manager or Coach who desires to Manage the All-Star Tournament team for that Division will self-nominate to the Vice President.
- B. The Vice President shall coordinate/facilitate a meeting between the Director of each Division to discuss and agree upon the selection of All-Star Managers and Coaches. Based on this discussion, the Vice President shall appoint the Managers/Coaches of All-Star teams, **with approval of the league President.**

## **Appendix 1**

### **Divisional Guidelines and Player Eligibility Chart**

#### **I. Definitions:**

League age: for each participant league age is determined by the player's age on December 31st of the preceding Calendar year, not current age.  
(See Little League age chart)

Single A: This Division is designed for league age 7-8 year-old players with limited or no experience. It is also the next step for girls who played Tee Ball the year prior.  
(See Divisional Placement Table)

There are generally 8-10 players on a team with the number of teams depending on registration. This entry level uses a RIF (Reduced Injury Factor) 10" softball. It is a purely instructional level and focuses on basic skills and rules. All players are placed in the field each defensive inning, thus the advantage of the smaller teams. The coaches pitch the entire season, but a player is placed in the infield to field the position of the pitcher. Toward the end of the season, the coaches may begin to work with those who express an interest in pitching. All players will be placed in the batting order each game and will remain constant for that game. Coaches will change this lineup from game to game to be fair to all players. The offensive team will bat until there are three outs or the entire lineup bats once. No score will be kept.

Double A: This Division is designed for league age 7-9 year-old players who are more experienced. (See Divisional Placement Table)

There are generally 10-12 players on a team with the number of teams depending on registration. This level uses a Little League approved 11" softball or in some instances a RIF (Reduced Injury Factor) 11" softball. More traditional rules are used at this level and player-pitching is introduced. All players will be placed in the batting order each game and will remain constant for that game. It is recommended for coaches to change this lineup from game to game to be fair to all players.

Triple A: This Division is designed for league age 9-11 year-old players. Tryouts are required to be eligible to play at this level. 8 year-old players are eligible for AAA but must participate in tryouts to be considered. (See Divisional Placement Table).

There are generally 10-12 players on a team with the number of teams depending on registration. This level uses a Little League approved 11" softball. At this level, players pitch and traditional pitching rules will apply. All players will be placed in the batting order each game and will remain constant for that game. It is recommended for coaches to change this lineup from game to game to be fair to all players.

Majors: This Division is designed for league age 10-12 years-old players. Tryouts are required to be eligible to play at this level. 9 year-old players are eligible for Majors but must comply with Section 6-H of the Softball By-Laws and must also participate in tryouts to be considered. (See Divisional Placement Table)

There are generally 10-12 players on a team with the number of teams depending on registration. This level uses a Little League approved 12" softball. All players will be placed in the batting order each game and will remain constant for that game. It is recommended for coaches to change this lineup from game to game to be fair to all players.

Juniors/Seniors: This Division is designed for league age 13-16-years-old players. Tryouts may be required at this level. (See Divisional Placement Table)

There are generally 12 players on a team with the number of teams depending on registration. This level uses a Little League approved 12" softball. All players will be placed in the batting order each game and will remain constant for that game. It is recommended for coaches to change this lineup from game to game to be fair to all players.

### Divisional Placement Table

<u>Division/ League Age</u>	<u>T-Ball</u>	<u>Single A (A)</u>	<u>Double A (AA)</u>	<u>Triple A (AAA)</u>	<u>Little League (Majors)</u>
5	A	-	-	-	-
6	A	-	-	-	-
7	-	A	A	-	-
8	-	A	A	B	-
9	-	-	A	A	B
10	-	-	-	A	A
11	-	-	-	A	A
12	-	-	-	B	A

Key

- (\*): Tryouts are required to be eligible for these divisions.
- (-): Player Candidate cannot be placed in this division, no exceptions.
- (A): Player Candidate is eligible to play in one of these divisions.
- (B): See Tryouts and Drafts for exceptions.