



Little League Baseball Clubs of Bergenfield, Inc.

Rules and By-Laws

Bergenfield Little League Executive Board Members

See listing of current Executive Board Members on our website:

<https://bergenfieldlittleleague.org>

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL CLUBS OF BERGENFIELD, INC.

RULES AND BY-LAWS

SECTION A: ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP

AS PER BERGENFIELD LITTLE LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

A-1 ORGANIZATION

1. These are the Rules and By-Laws of Little League Baseball Clubs of Bergenfield, Inc. Incorporated in 1950, (Filed and recorded on January 15, 1951) and is a non-profit organization. Non-profit status was certified by the State of New Jersey Division of Taxation, Certificate number NJ 3-004-899, dated September 8, 1967.
2. One (1) master copy of these Rules and By-Laws is kept by the Recording Secretary. Any changes, revisions, amendments, or additions must be approved by a majority of the members present at any regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose. All changes, revisions, amendments, and additions must be entered immediately in the Recording Secretary's master copy. All changes, revisions, amendments, and additions must be verbally proposed at a member meeting and presented in writing at the next member meeting at which time the proposal will be voted on. Any new changes, corrections, additions, or deletions to these by-laws as of December 1, 2019, shall be listed in section O of these by-laws, stating the current by-law with change, addition, deletion, etc. to be listed with the date of change. With this addition to the current by-law, this shall create section O. This section is to be used as a reference section to note any changes in the rules concerning Bergenfield Little League. Changes shall be listed with date of change.
3. All Rules and By-Laws shall be made with the welfare of the Organization as the foremost consideration. The intent and purpose of the rule, rather than its wording, shall be the deciding factor in any disagreement regarding its meaning and application. This intent and purpose will be decided by the Executive Board. Any reference to a gender shall be interpreted as a reference to either gender.
4. The Organization is known as "Bergenfield Little League". Its purpose is to maintain and conduct annually a national League Baseball of Its purpose is to program known as Little League Baseball and, in doing so, to recognize the authority of the national headquarters, Williamsport, PA, its Officers, Directors and Representatives.
5. The Bergenfield Little League executive board consists of nine (9) members.
 - a. At the annual meeting, the Board candidates that accepted their nominations shall

introduce themselves to the voting membership and provide a statement as to their interest in being elected to the Board. The top nine (9) vote receivers are elected to the Board. In the event of a tie for unfilled Board positions, a run-off vote shall be made for the tied nominees to break the tie.

- b. In the event there are insufficient Board candidates, the executive board shall consist of no fewer than seven (7) members per the league constitution.

A-2 LEAGUES, TEAMS, SPONSORS

- 1. The Organization maintains divisions, as follows:

- a. **Challenger (Little League age 4 to 18)**

- A division specifically for children of special needs, fostering the ability to instruct and play across all children that desire to play for love of the game.

- b. **Kickball (Little League age 4)**

- Often a family's first introduction to Little League®, providing a Kickball experience that is grounded in fun, fitness, and fundamentals; a key to growing a child's love for the game.

- c. **Tee-Ball (Little League age 5 to 6)**

- Often a family's first introduction to Little League®, providing a Tee-Ball experience that is grounded in fun, fitness, and fundamentals; a key to growing a child's love for the game.

- d. **Farm Division (Little League age 7 to 8)**

- The Farm Division is a subset of the Minor Division. The Farm Division is a Coach Pitch and developmental division. No player pitch is allowed at this division.

- Players of league age 6 that meet skill requirements that would pose a safety risk to other players in the Tee-Ball Division are eligible for this Division.

- e. **Minors Division (Little League age 9 to 10)**

- The Minors Division is a player pitch league, and is a competitive division. Players of league age 8 that the Player Agent evaluated highly will be eligible to try-out for this Division if the player's parents/guardians agree. (Those of league age 8 trying-out for this Division doesn't guarantee selection, and would remain in the age-appropriate Division if not selected.) Players of league age 11 that are evaluated to not have the appropriate skill level for the Majors Division and/or are requested by the player's parents/guardian to remain in the Minors Division are eligible for the Minors Division. A formal waiver process must be followed for players of league age 12 to in the Minors Division. Only players of league age 8-11 may pitch in this division, players of league age 12 are prohibited to pitch by rules established by Little League.

- f. **Major Division (Little League age 11 to 12)**

- The Majors Division is a player pitch league, and is the most competitive division in BLL Baseball. All players at this level were evaluated highly by the Player Agent (see Major Division Evaluation & Draft Processes below) and were selected by a Major Division Manager with the possible exception of some players of league age 12 that are mandated as Major Division players by Little League. Players of league age 10 that the Player Agent evaluated highly will be eligible to try-out for this Division if the player's parents/guardians agree. (Those of league age 10 trying-out for the Division doesn't guarantee selection, and would remain in the age-appropriate Division if not selected.) Each team normally has a roster of 12 players. Players remain (with very few exceptions) with the same team from the year drafted through the remainder of their eligibility

- g. **Softball Division (Players of female birth designation only)**

- **8U Coach Pitch (Little League ages 6-8)**

- **10U Player Pitch (Little League ages 9-10)**
- **12U Player Pitch (Little League ages 11-12)**
- **14U Player Pitch (Little League ages 13-14)**
 - 8U Softball: Players of Little League Softball age 6 that have participated in at least one season in the Tee-Ball Division are eligible for this division and must coordinate registration with the league to confirm eligibility by emailing info@bergenfieldlittleleague.org.
 - There is no minimum or maximum composition for rosters, but most leagues have rosters in the 10-12 player range. Competitive divisions of Softball may only have nine or ten players on defense. The diamond has 60-foot base paths and a 35/40/43-foot pitching distance depending on softball age division.
 - Players of league age below a given Division's age group that the Player Agent evaluated highly will be eligible to try-out for higher age Division if the player's parents/guardians agree. (Those of a lesser league age trying-out for a Division of higher age doesn't guarantee selection, and would remain in the age-appropriate Division if not selected.)

2. Administrative rules apply to all Leagues, except as noted. Playing Rules are determined by the individual League committees.

3. Each team shall be sponsored by a reputable service club or business firm, as determined by the Organization.

4. Team sponsor fees are as follows:

(Team sponsorship entails advertising as the team name and displayed on each player uniform)

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| a. Major League Baseball: | \$250.00 |
| b. Minor League Baseball: | \$250.00 |
| c. Softball (All Leagues): | \$250.00 |
| d. Farm: | \$125.00 |
| e. Tee-Ball: | \$125.00 |
| f. Kickball: | \$100.00 |
| g. Challenger: | \$100.00 |

5. Advertising sponsor fees are as follows:

(League/Division sponsorship entails advertising on one sleeve of each player uniform.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| a. Entire League Sponsor: | \$3000.00 |
| b. Entire Division Sponsor: | \$500.00 (Kickball, Tee-Ball, Farm, or 8U)
\$750.00 (Majors, Minors, 10U, 12U, or 14U) |
| c. Field Sign New: | \$425.00 (one field) \$800.00 (both fields) |
| d. Field Sign Renewal: | \$200.00 (each field) |

A-3 MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

1. In order to join the Bergenfield Little League membership, this carries a \$5.00 membership due annually. All dues must be paid by new members at a regularly scheduled meeting or electronically. Members of the league have voting rights on any motions at league meetings. See the Bergenfield Little League Constitution for the classes of membership.

2. All dues are held by the Treasurer in a separate account from the Organization's Treasury to be used for the sole purpose of financing social activities voted by and for the members. Annual dues will be payable at the annual October meeting. Members not paid by the meeting the following February will be carried as delinquent until the opening day of the baseball season. Delinquent members may attend meetings but are not permitted a voice in any discussion or vote on any motion. Also, they may not manage or coach any team. The Treasurer will keep a record of members which will be available at each meeting.

SECTION B: MEETINGS

1. Regular meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at the Bergenfield Elks unless otherwise directed by the President. Meetings during the season will begin at 8:30 P.M. Off-season meetings will begin at 7:30 P.M. On the night of the meeting, no regular season games shall be scheduled after 8:00 P.M. on any field. (Unless deemed necessary by the scheduling coordinator.)
2. The organizational meeting is governed by Robert's Rules of Order, except when in conflict with the League's by-laws.
3. No candidate for any elective office, political or otherwise, is permitted to address any meeting of this organization for any political purpose.
4. Special meetings may be called by the President with a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours' notice given to all members. All members will be notified by email or telephone of all special meetings.
5. One fifth (20 percent) of the members (as defined in Article III - Membership) shall be necessary to constitute a quorum. If a quorum is not present, no business shall be conducted.
6. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice President will assume the title and duties of President. Offer should be made on the basis of seniority in the position. In the event the Vice President are unable or unwilling to assume the duties of President, he/ she shall declare the office of President and Vice President vacant and shall hold elections for these offices no later than the next regular meeting.
7. A manager is permitted to be President. If a dispute arises involving his team, he surrenders the chair to the next highest-ranking officer not involved in the conflict.

SECTION C: ADMINISTRATORS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEES

C-1 ADMINISTRATORS/DIRECTORS

1. The President may appoint administrators/directors as needed. All administrators/directors will submit a written report, when requested by the President, including a financial report, when appropriate.
2. The following coordinator or committees may be appointed by the President each year and serve for one year or for the duration of the project assigned.

- a. Fields and Grounds
- b. Picnic
- c. Concession Stand
- d. Yearbook
- e. Opening Day
- f. Scholarships
- g. Team Pictures
- h. Fundraising
- i. Signs/Advertising
- j. League Committee
 - There shall be four (4) League committees:
 - Majors
 - Minors
 - Farm/Tee-Ball/Kickball
 - Softball
 - Each League Committee consists of all Managers of that League.
 - Each team has one vote. In the Manager's absence, any member of record, appointed by that manager, has the vote.
 - Each committee holds at least one meeting prior to Opening Day and one meeting prior to post season play. Each committee will consider affairs which affect only its League; and will make changes and additions to its method of operation to improve the operation of that League. Additional meetings may be called by each Chairman or the League President as required.
 - Each Chairman will present a verbal report to the membership at each membership meeting. If the proposed additions or changes concern only the internal operation of the individual League and do not affect any other League or violate any Williamsport rule which could jeopardize the Organization's Charter, or violate the Organization's By-laws, they become the method of operation for one (1) baseball season and cannot be changed after the season starts.
 - The following personnel may be present at each annual meeting: President, Umpire(s)- In-Chief, Player Agent and any other personnel associated with the operation of that League. These representatives are invited to express their opinions but cannot vote.
 - Procedures for League Committee meetings:
 - Quorum representation of at least 70% of the teams in that League.
 - Approval by at least majority of the teams present on previously adopted rules and regulations and additions to playing rules, where none are now on record.
 - At all regular organizational meetings, the "title" (Major, Minor, Farm, Tee-Ball, Kickball, Softball) League business is included as a permanent item in the order of business. When called, any manager, coach or member of record may make any suggestions concerning the operation of that League. If the suggestion concerns only that League, the President may refer it to that League Committee for immediate or future

consideration. The President shall announce that all who wish to be heard on the subject should give their names to the Chairman of that committee, who will notify them as to the time place of the meeting.

- Any business or problem of an individual League that cannot be resolved by a majority vote of the teams present shall be referred to the Executive Board.

C-2 PROTEST COMMITTEE

All sections of the protest rule as written in the Official Little League rule book will apply except that the League President will appoint a committee consisting of five (5) members to resolve the protest. The members are selected from the following: President or designee Umpire-in-Chief or designee Major League Manager/Coach Minor League Manager/Coach. A majority vote is necessary on any decision.

C-3 MANAGER REVIEW COMMITTEE

This consists of the Executive Board. With conflict of interest, that member will be replaced by Umpire in Chief or designee. Majority Vote will decide all issues.

SECTION D: BUDGET

D-1 FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Organization begins on October 1st of each year and ends on September 30th of the following year.

D-2 OPERATING BUDGET

The President submits to the membership, no later than a December meeting, a proposed operational budget, which includes all anticipated income and expenses.

D-3 APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET

Expenses created by additions, improvements, expansion, etc., will be based upon the estimated costs as submitted by the Committees assigned to the projects. If the budget is unable to finance all proposed additional expenses, the Executive Board will select those most necessary to the successful operation of the Organization. When the budget has been approved the membership, it becomes the financial method of operation for that fiscal year.

D-4 ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

Additional expenses during that fiscal year must have their own source of income.

EXCEPTION: Expenditures considered by the Executive Board to be of an emergency nature.

SECTION E: SELECTION/REMOVAL OF MANAGERS AND COACHES

E-1 RULES/ REQUIREMENTS

Each team shall have no more than one (1) Manager and three (3) coaches in the dugout or on the playing field. Additional coaches are allowed during practices, providing all eligibility requirements have been met. Any member of the Organization is eligible to be a Manager of a team in any League. It is strongly suggested that he serve as coach for one (1) year. He must make his intentions known to the Recording Secretary and must be the age of nineteen (19) years as of opening day of the current year. The Recording Secretary

will keep a list of such members. When a vacancy occurs, the Executive Board will select a new Manager using the list as a guide. They are not restricted to the list when making the selection.

E-2 ELIGIBILITY

Any adult or associate member is eligible to become a permanent Coach in any League upon his selection by the team Manager. Each manager should submit a list of his/her Coaches to the Player Agent prior to the first scheduled practice.

E-3 SUBSTITUTE MANAGERS/COACHES

If a team is left with only 1 or 2 Manager/Coaches, any Manager or Coach eligible in the league may help coach during that game.

E-4 RESPONSIBILITIES

All Managers, Coaches, Umpires and members, upon their acceptance as such, assume the responsibility of presenting Little League to the spectators in the manner in which it was intended and according to the rules of the National Headquarters with regard to conduct and decorum. If, in the opinion of the League President, any of the above do not serve the best interests of this Organization, he may take the following action:

1. Appoint a Grievance Committee consisting of no more than 5 (five) Executive Board Members and 4 (four) selected members to total nine (9). The 4 four selected members should be 2 Manager/Coaches from each the Major and Minor League Division. He will then hold a meeting and present his case to the committee.
2. If the Committee agrees by the majority vote that the case merits consideration, the Person in question will be called to present his case. The person in question will then leave the meeting, and the Committee will decide immediately by a majority vote what action, if any should be taken. After the decision is reached, if the decision is accepted by the judged party or parties, then the decision will be final and take effect immediately.
3. The person in question will have the right to appeal by requesting a vote by secret ballot of the major league and minor league managers and their league administrators. (Farm and Tee-Ball managers/coaches may be requested to be involved in a vote within their division, as Deemed necessary by the Executive Board) This request must be made within 24 hours of the Decision. A majority vote of the above designated individuals present at the meeting called for this purpose, or at the regular meeting, whichever comes first, will be required to nullify the decision made by the Committee.

E-5 REAPPOINTMENT

Sometime between the end of the playing season and prior to the player tryouts, the Executive Board will meet for the purpose of considering the reappointment of all Managers. The rule of Appeal will apply. (See E-9: Suggested Evaluation Guidelines.)

E-6 WHO CAN MANAGE/COACH

The Manager must select as coaches those members of the organization or who become Members immediately, according to these rules.

E-7 DISMISSAL

Any Manager who replaces another must retain the present coaches if they wish to remain. No Manager will dismiss or replace a Coach without the Coach's consent, except

in the following manner:

1. A Manager who seeks to dismiss and/or replace a Coach will state his reasons in writing to the League President, who will then follow the same procedure as previously stated in this section except that the Manager will present the case to the Grievance Committee instead of The President.
2. Thereafter, the same procedure by the Committee will follow and everything pertaining to it will apply, including the right of appeal by the Coach. A Coach may follow the same procedure to have a Manager removed.

E-8 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

When any situation occurs which requires a member of the Grievance Committee to consider a Case that he is personally involved in, the President will replace that member with another for that meeting.

E-9 SUGGESTED EVALUATION GUIDELINES

1. ADMINISTRATIVE (YES OR NO)

- a. Does the team have the appropriate number of coaches and are the coaches used to the full Advantage for maximum benefit to players?
- b. Is the equipment maintained properly and are the players being taught how to use the equipment properly/safely?
- c. Has any player been injured because of damaged equipment?
- d. Does the team have a sufficient number of practices during preseason and in-season? (SUGGESTED AMOUNTS: minimum of two per week for pre-season and one per week during season - pregame practice not included.)
- e. Does the manager effectively communicate his/her schedule of practices and games to his staff and players, and does he/she show up on time?
- f. Does the Manager attend at least 80% of his practices and games? If conflicts arise, does the manager designate a coach in case of absence?
- g. Does the Manager attend at least 50% of regular Little League meetings? In his absence, does he ensure his team is represented in at least 90% of these meetings?
- h. Is the Manager familiar with the rules regarding Little League behavior and play?
- i. Does the Manager fulfill his/her responsibilities of adequately preparing and maintaining the field before and after all games?
- j. Does the manager designate team parents to keep open the lines of communication between Manager and the team?
- k. Are the field and field house being secured at the end of the last game?
- l. Does the Manager Stress post-game handshakes between teams?
- m. Does the Manager see to it that all administrative duties have been fully carried out as it relates to his individual team? (EXAMPLE - fundraising, refreshment stand and other team responsibilities.)

2. TREATMENT OF, AND RAPPORT WITH, PLAYERS (YES OR NO)

- a. Does the Manager maintain and exemplify utmost, respectful treatment for his/her players at all times?
- b. Does the Manager refrain from using abusive language and profanity in addressing and disciplining his players?
- c. Does the Manager refrain from using physical contact as a means of general discipline?
- d. Is good sportsmanship being exemplified by the Manager and coaches and is this

- attitude being taught to his players?
- e. Does the Manager display a working knowledge of his team as individuals and as a team and does he put this knowledge to good use in working with his team?
 - f. Does the Manager display a working knowledge of when to substitute players so his team and individual players receive maximum benefit?
 - g. Is constructive, not destructive, criticism used to enhance players understanding and improvement of play?
 - h. Does the Manager display exemplary treatment of umpires during games when questioning or legitimately protesting a decision?
 - i. Does the Manager and his coaches refrain from the use of alcohol or drugs when working with youngsters in practice or game situations?
 - j. Is the Manager showing a general dedication to his team and to the Bergenfield Little League?

E-10 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

We strongly encourage an open dialog between players, coaches, managers, volunteers and board members. Often, disagreements and misunderstandings can be dealt with effectively and efficiently when they are articulated in a timely and responsible fashion to the appropriate people.

To the extent any player, parent, volunteer, or umpire wishes to communicate a grievance regarding any player, parent, volunteer, umpire, or league policy, it should be submitted in written form to the league's current president (president@bergenfieldlittleleague.org). If the grievance concerns the league president, it should be submitted to the league's secretary (info@bergenfieldlittleleague.org). No particular form is required for a grievance, but it should provide as much information as possible concerning the relevant issues and the people involved. A written grievance should also state the responsive action or recommendation that is desired. The League President or Secretary will assign the investigation of a grievance within the League Executive Board, whom the assigned shall gather the necessary information in order to present it to the full Board at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. When necessary, a special meeting may be called to consider a grievance. Upon presentation of a grievance to the Board, as appropriate, the Board will either respond to the grievance in writing or communicate that additional investigation or inquiry is necessary. In its discretion, the Board also may consider any oral presentation by interested individuals as part of its consideration of any grievance. In the event the grievance is against a member of the Board, they will not be allowed to observe or participate in the matter, and the League President will appoint a substitute as deemed necessary.

The Board is committed to handling grievances in a timely fashion. Absent extraordinary circumstances, the Board will communicate its decision with respect to a grievance in writing within seven days of the Board's consideration of the grievance.

SECTION F: PLAYER REGISTRATION AND SELECTION

F-1 PLAYER DRAFT

1. It is the responsibility of the President, Player Agent, and the Executive Board to maintain the integrity of the draft, and to avoid the "stacking" of a team at all costs.
2. The Little League International policies for conducting a draft shall be followed.

- a. The player agent, or representative executive board member leading the draft, shall arbitrate any necessary agreements with the managers. (i.e. manager's child or sibling draft round.)
 - b. All siblings shall be drafted on the same team unless otherwise specified by the parent/guardian.
3. Only managers shall attend team drafts, no coaches. In the event a manager can't attend, only a returning coach (from the prior season for the team being drafted) may take the place of the manager.
 - a. A "new" coach for a given team (one that did not coach the specified team of interest in the prior season) shall not be appointed until after the draft.

F-2 TRYOUTS/ EVALUATION

1. The Player Agent announces at a regular meeting, or by any other means at his discretion, the dates of the annual player tryouts. He will schedule the drafts for all Leagues sometime after the regular monthly meeting in October and will supervise the selection of players. There will be only one tryout/evaluation for Baseball & Softball usually the last week of February.
2. The Major Division Evaluation process is based on the method set forth in the Little League Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules. The purpose of the evaluation process is to identify players of league age 10 to 12 (league age 10 upon approval) that are ready to play at the Major Division level. Based on the evaluation scores (see below) a "draft pool" of players that are eligible to be drafted is created. The "draft pool" will consist of enough players to fill open Major Division roster spots, plus enough players to create a "replacement pool" of players to fill roster spots that could open up during the season due to injuries or players moving out of town. A typical "replacement pool" will consist of 5-10 players, and will be made up of players that were eligible to be drafted, but were not select by a Major Division team during the draft. The players in the "draft pool" will be released by the Player Agent to only the following individuals: President, Player Agent, Safety Officer and the Major Division Managers. Major Division Managers may share the list with their coaches to prepare for the draft. This information is not published nor is the entire list disclosed to anyone other than the individuals listed above. However, the President, Vice President, and Player Agent can discuss any player's status with the parent or guardian of a player. This is for the purpose of ensuring that players made available for the draft will play in the Major Division.

F-3 TRYOUT ATTENDANCE

Any applicant MAY not be eligible for selection unless he/she attends the tryouts on the specified dates at the field. (Exceptions may be granted for medical reasons, etc.) Players of Major League age will still be placed into the draft and if not drafted, they may not return to their original Minor League team and may be placed on a "waiting list." No tryouts are required for Tee Ball or Farm Divisions.

F-4 DETRIMENTAL PLAYERS

In no case shall the teams be required to take an applicant who a majority of the Managers of that League judge to be detrimental to himself or to others. If it is determined by a majority vote of the Major League Managers, that during the tryouts a 12 year old player who has shown him/herself to be unqualified to advance to the Major League due to safety considerations, that player shall be allowed to play in the Minor League as a 12

year old.

F-5 ORDER OF DRAFT

1. Draft selections shall be made in inverse order of finish. The order of the draft is based upon the previous season won-lost percentage, which includes regular season play and playoffs. In the event of a tie, head-to-head competition is used. If still tied, a coin toss is used, and the teams alternate every round. (NOTE: losses due to forfeit are classified as wins for this purpose.)
2. Minor League teams select players of league age of 8 to 10 (league age 8 upon approval) and any players of league age 11 to 12 not selected in the Major League draft, using the same guidelines as above.

F-6 PLAYER REJOINING LEAGUE

Any player rejoining the League will be reassigned to his original team. The Manager of said team has the option of:

1. Retaining the player, with no loss of draft pick.
2. Releasing him prior to the draft so he/she may be drafted.

F-7 TRADES

All trades must be approved by a committee consisting of the player agent and all the managers of the League majority vote. No trades will be allowed after opening day.

F-8 Registration Costs

1. Registration Fees are as follows
 - a. Kickball (Player of league age 4): \$50
 - b. Tee-Ball (Players of league age 5 to 6): \$80
 - c. Farm (Players of league age 7 to 8): \$100
 - d. Minors (Players of league age 9 to 10): \$150
 - e. Majors (Players of league age 11 to 12): \$150
 - f. 8U Softball: \$100
 - g. 10U, 12U, & 14U Softball: \$150
 - h. Challenger (Players of league age 4 to 18): \$0 (Free)
 - Special Needs Players Only
2. Discount for parents registering three (3) or more legal dependents: \$50
 - a. For 3rd child only. (Must be on same registration order.)
3. Late fee for players registered after February 1st: \$50

Section G: POSTPONEMENTS

G-1 Procedure

The President or Fields and Grounds Officer have the final authority to cancel games due to inclement weather. Coaches do not make that decision.

G-2 Notification

If the managers of the teams do not receive notice that the game is postponed, those teams must report to the field ready to start the game on time.

G-3 Umpires Judgement

During the game, the umpire has the final decision whether to continue the game or end it due to inclement weather. If the umpire feel the conditions will improve he/she may delay the game until conditions improve.

G-4 Second Game

1. If the 1st game is not postponed and the game is delayed by inclement weather by the umpire, that game must be played before playing the second game.
2. The postponement of the first game will automatically schedule the second game for its regularly scheduled time.

SECTION H: PRE-GAME ACTIVITIES

1. Unless previous arrangements have been made by the Managers, the following field time will be allotted prior to the game, except for second game, when time is not available. The home team will have the field first, visiting team last, and each team will vacate the field as follows: home team twenty-five (25) minutes before game time; visitors ten (10) minutes before game time. Only one team at a time should be on the field for pregame warm-ups, for safety reasons.
2. For second games, field time, if any, is divided evenly between both teams, but all practice must end ten (10) minutes before the scheduled game time.
3. A team, before and after its pre-game practice, must remain in the dugout or outside of the foul line past first or third base.

SECTION I: PLAYER REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT

I-1 PROCEDURE

Any player who develops a disinterested attitude which causes consistent absences from team activities may be released and replaced in the following manner:

1. Manager notifies President or Player Agent, in writing, of the player's actions in full detail.
2. The President or Player Agent will immediately notify the parents of the player's action and advise them of the consequence.
3. If a positive response is received in quick order and indicates, in the opinion of the President or Player Agent, that the player should be given another chance, the player may not be replaced at that time.
4. If no positive response is received in quick order, the President or Player Agent notifies the Manager that he must replace the player. (See I-2)
5. Lack of ability, illness, a month's vacation or less and incidents over which the player has no control, will not be sufficient reason, unless they exceed 50% of the scheduled activities.

6. No player may be replaced or released in any other manner.

I-2 LOSING A PLAYER

If a major league team permanently loses a player during the year, they must replace that player within one week from the Minor League or with a player that the Player Agent has on a waiting list at the time of player loss, in order to bring the roster total back to the number of players they had on the roster at the conclusion of the draft. If the player refuses to play for the Major League team, they forfeit their right to play baseball for the remainder of that season. Note exception in I-3.

I-3 DEADLINE

Managers have the option of not replacing the player if the vacancy occurs within 2 weeks of the start of the playoffs.

I-4 CALLING UP PLAYERS

If a Major or Minor League team is short players for a game, the Player Agent will provide a replacement player from the player pool. A team can only use enough players to bring them to nine players. That player must bat last in the lineup and can only play the outfield. If a player is called up, he must play the minimum number of innings and must not play more than a regular team member. Any player called up can only play for each team one game per season.

SECTION J: CHANGING STANDARD PLAYER RULES

This section is subject to annual change for one baseball season by the individual League Committees. A list of current rules for each league is within Section N of these by-laws.

SECTION K: LEAGUE PLAYOFF RULES

K-1 LEVELS OF PLAY

Levels of play are as follows:

1. Regular season
2. League playoffs
 - a. NOTE: Ties shall be broken by head-to-head competition. If still tied, a flip of the coin will determine standings.

K-2 PLAYOFF RULES

Playoff rules will be reviewed at a meeting prior to the start of the playoffs. Regular Season rules prevail.

K-3 SCHEDULE

1. Playoff for Major Leagues is as follows:
 - a. It is double elimination tournament as outlined in the Little League Operating Guide (the "green book").
 - b. Highest seeded team is home team for first game of round and then alternates.
 - c. Championship will be best of three (3) for Majors.
2. Playoff for Minor League is as follows:
 - a. It is double elimination tournament as outlined in the Little League Operating Guide

- (the "green book").
- b. Highest seeded team is home team for first game of round and then alternates.
- c. Championship will be best of three (3) for Minors.

K-4 LAST DAY OF SEASON

Any rule or by-law which contains the phrase "last day of the season" or "last game of the season" means the last game played in the current year, including the league playoff games.

K-5 DATES OF PLAY

1. In the event of rain postponements, the adjusted schedule must be announced by the President, in the event of a conflict of interest, the Executive Board, led by a Vice President, will announce the adjusted schedule.
2. If one League is seriously plagued by bad weather, adjustments can be made by the President.

SECTION L: ALL-STAR/DISTRICT TEAM SELECTION

L-1 WHEN

All-Star/District Tournament selections will be made at a date designated by Williamsport, usually about three weeks prior to the start of the tournament.

L-2 WHO SELECTS TEAM

The Tournament Team Selection Committee consists of the managers of the players in the target All-Star/District team age group.

L-3 WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Unless previously approved by the board, All-Star/District players will play with their appropriate league age team. All-Star/District players must meet the eligibility requirements to participate per the Little League Operating Guide. (Player's league age, permanent residence, number of regular season games played, etc...)

L-4 HOW IS SELECTION MADE

1. Each Manager nominates players from their respective teams for each applicable age group.
2. All-Star/District teams will consist of twelve (12) players.
3. Managers of players for each applicable age group vote on each player. A manager cannot vote for a player from their respective team. The President or Board Member delegate overseeing the vote then tabulates the lists and reveals all names to the Managers.
 - Should the first round of voting result in a number of players receiving the same number of votes (tied) exceeding the 12 roster spots, a second round of voting will occur including only the players involved in the tie. The managers will vote only for the number of players that will complete the roster. Managers may vote for a player from their own team beyond the first round of voting. (For example, if there are 5 players involved in the tie and there are only 3 roster spots available, managers will each vote for only 3 players in this round of voting.) Additional rounds of voting may occur as needed based on ties.

- Players receiving votes that are not voted into the initial 12 roster spots may be selected as alternates should any player not be able to participate.

L-5 MANAGER

The All-Star/District Manager will be appointed at the end of the regular season by the Executive Board for all league ages. The Manager then must select an individual(s) to assist him from the lists of Managers and Coaches in the organization. Three (3) total coaches are to be selected for a given All-Star/District team.

SECTION M: DEFINITIONS, CURFEW AND OTHER ADDENDA

1. Each League Committee shall make recommendations as to the number of players on each team, subject to a majority approval of that committee.
2. No game will start after 8:30 P.M. and no inning of any game can start after 7:45 P.M. if there is a game to follow. If there is a second game, no inning can start after 10:00 P.M. and we have an 11:00pm stoppage regardless of inning or score. However, game can be continued at a further date if necessary. (Game shall be considered complete if three and a half innings have been completed and the home team is ahead.)
3. Players are not permitted to chew gum during games or practice.
4. Managers must exchange line-ups no later than five (5) minutes before game time. These line-ups may be revised any time until the home team takes the field.
5. No unauthorized person is permitted upstairs in the field house before, during, or after the games. Authorized persons include announcers, scorekeepers, umpires, members and guests of the League authorized by the President or someone designated in his absence.
6. In the event of light failure during a play, it is the umpire's judgment as to whether or not the failure was sufficient to affect play. If so, the entire play is nullified. If, in the umpire's judgment, play was not affected, the result of the play stands.
7. There is to be no posting of player statistics by the League.
8. The Major League schedule is limited to a maximum of twenty-five (25) regular Season games. (Excluding playoffs)
9. The Minor League schedule is limited to a maximum of sixteen (16) regular season games. (Excluding playoffs)
10. No team will be scheduled to play more than three (3) games unless it is to make up a game (rain out) in one calendar week (Monday to Sunday).
11. Only the manager of a team can enter onto the playing field to dispute a call made by an umpire. All coaches must remain in the dugout unless called out by the umpire. Once a final decision is made, no further reference to that call shall be made.
12. If a manager or coach is thrown out of a game, he will be subject to review by the

Grievance Committee and subject to a 1 game suspension.

13. A copy of the by-laws will be available for distribution to each manager, upon request, within a reasonable time period.
14. All players shall only utilize the Bergenfield Little League issued team jersey for all scheduled league games. (Exception: Tournament play may utilize jerseys as sourced for those given teams, which occurs outside of standard league play.)

SECTION N: All Division Ground Rules

The following guidance is provided to all BLL Umpires, Managers and Coaches. "*Little League Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules*" as published by Little League Baseball, Incorporated, Williamsport, PA shall be binding on this league. In addition, the following Local Rules are adopted for play:

N-1 ALL DIVISIONS

1. Two adult base coaches are allowed, however there must be at least one (1) adult in the dugout at all times.
 - a. Any player that coaches either first or third base must wear a helmet.
2. Home team will occupy the 1st base dugout. Home team maintains the scoreboard, puts out and takes in the bases.
3. On Hickey Field, both teams must make a parent available to work the snack stand.
4. A player must slide or avoid contact at all bases when a play is being made on that runner. Only feet first slides are allowed, unless returning to a base.

N-2 Major Division Baseball – Competitive Baseball

1. The Home Team shall provide 3 new game balls for each game. There will be a supply of "Umpire Baseballs" in the Snack Stand in case additional balls are need because of weather conditions.
2. Pitchers:
 - a. A pitcher once removed may not return as a pitcher.
 - b. Pitch count and pitchers rest will be determined by *Little League Baseball Official Regulations VI and VI (d)*.
 - c. Warm up pitches are allowed at the start of a game and when a new pitcher is brought into the game.
 - Normally 5 warm-up pitches are allowed on subsequent innings (Remember rule 8.05 – 1 minute between innings – last out to first pitch of the next inning).
 - d. Coaches may go to the mound to council pitchers. (No team meetings)
 - e. No balks will be called.
3. Mandatory Play:
 - a. Any player arriving late may be added to the end of the lineup as long as the full lineup has not already batted through or after the three (3) innings have elapsed, whichever comes first.
 - b. All players must meet the mandatory play requirement as per *Little League*

Baseball Official Regulation IV.

- c. Any players not meeting the mandatory play because of weather or mercy rule shall start the next game.
- 4. BLL Majors Rules:
 - a. The higher-ranked team is always the home team. (Playoffs only)
 - b. Once an inning is started, it must be completed (half inning if home team is winning), except in a suspended game. (For weather)
 - c. Four (4) innings must be completed to be a regulation game, if ended by bad weather (3.5 innings if home team is winning).
 - d. Mercy rule is ten (10) runs after four (4) innings (3.5 innings if home team is winning).
 - e. Infield fly rule is in effect.
 - f. Dropped third strike rule is in effect.
 - g. No batters swinging outside dugouts between innings or during warm-ups.
 - h. No Players are allowed in the on-deck area at ANY time during the inning – not even the on-deck batter. All of them must be in the dugout.
 - i. If your catcher is on base and there are two outs, he/she may be substituted by the last batted out (the “speed up” rule).
 - j. No coaches/players meeting on field between innings. All players immediately in dugouts.
 - k. Once the pitcher has the ball on the rubber, runners MUST return to previous base. Pitcher does NOT need to be in set position towards catcher. He can be staring at the moon and stars for all we know. We are trying to speed games up and avoid that cat and mouse game that goes on. (Biggest example is a child reaching first on a walk and coaches immediately sending them to 2nd but again... this is umpires discretion.) Ump needs to know if pitcher is actually touching the rubber. Once the pitcher so much as touches the rubber the play is dead and runners return to their base. (No leading)

N-3 Minors Division

- 1. The Home Team shall provide a minimum of 3 new game balls for each game. There will be a supply of “Umpire Baseballs” in the Snack Stand in case additional balls are need because of weather conditions.
- 2. Game Preliminaries:
 - a. There shall be no forfeits. A team will normally field nine (9) defensive players. If a team is unable to field 9 players, the other team will “loan” defensive players for each inning. Players from other Minor Levels league teams may also be used. Any “loaned” or other Minors Level player will only play the outfield. Eight players on defense are allowed, however, at no time will any team play with less than eight defensive players.
- 3. Batters:
 - a. Continuous batting order: All players on a team for a given game will bat in an established order regardless of if they are playing the field or not. Players arriving late will be added to the end of the order (12th spot if the team started the game with 11 players).
 - Players leaving early will be removed from the line-up without penalty. Because of the continuous batting order players can be substituted each inning.

4. Pitchers:
 - a. A pitcher once removed may not return as a pitcher.
 - b. Pitch count and pitchers rest will be determined by *Little League Baseball Official Regulations VI and VI (d)*.
 - c. Warm up pitches are allowed at the start of a game and when a new pitcher is brought into the game.
 - Normally 5 warm-up pitches are allowed on subsequent innings (Remember rule 8.05 – 1 minute between innings – last out to first pitch of the next inning).
 - d. Coaches may go to the mound to council pitchers. (No team meetings)
 - e. No balks will be called.
 - f. Unless there is a runner on third base, the pitcher must stay on the mound (dirt area) when receiving the throw back from the catcher.
5. **BLL Minors Rules:**
 - a. The higher-ranked team is always the home team. (Playoffs only)
 - b. No inning will start AFTER 1:45 of game time. An inning MAY start any time before 1:45, but once started the inning must be completed. (Half-inning if the home team is winning)
 - c. Four innings must be completed to be a regulation game (3.5 innings if home team is winning)
 - d. Mercy rule is ten (10) runs after four (4) innings (3.5 innings if home team is winning)
 - e. Pitchers throwing wild pitches where batters are hit will be subject for removal of pitching at the umpire's discretion.
 - f. Only five (5) runs can be scored per inning, even on a continuous play.
 - g. The umpire shall declare a last inning based on the elapsed game time, at which within that declared last inning, both teams may score unlimited runs.
 - h. Teams are allowed ONE steal attempt of home per inning, whether successful or not. A steal attempt can be defined as the runner exceeding halfway down the basepath, at the umpire's discretion. (When there are no more steal attempts in an inning, a pick-off attempt to third will be deemed a live ball and the runner may advance one base.)
 - i. Bases are stolen ONE AT A TIME, there is no advance if the catcher overthrows the base.
 - j. Once the pitcher has ball within the circular area of the mound you cannot advance. The ball is considered dead and the runner goes back to previous base.
 - k. On ALL return throws from the catcher to the pitcher, the ball is DEAD on an overthrow. Base runners cannot advance.
 - When a live batted ball is overthrown to base, the baserunners **shall** only advance up to one additional base from where they have established.
 - l. No batters can swing outside dugout between innings or during warm ups
 - m. NO PLAYERS are allowed in the on-deck area at any time during the inning-not even the on-deck batter. All of them must be in the dugout.
 - n. If your catcher is on base and there are two outs, he/she may be substituted by the last batted out (The "speed up rule").
 - o. No coaches/players meeting on field between innings. All players immediately in dugouts.
 - p. Infield fly and dropped third strike rules **shall** NOT be in effect.
 - q. For every 3 total walks (not consecutive) in an inning, 1 out will be awarded. The 3rd out **shall** be earned. A hit by pitch is considered a walk for this rule. (This rule is subject to removal within the season if agreed at a managers' rules meeting.)

6. Pitch Count Violations – Minors Division Only

- a. First offense: Manager warning subject to disciplinary review.
- b. Second and more offenses: Manager minimum 1 game suspension subject to disciplinary review

N-4 Farm Division Baseball – Developmental Baseball (Coach Pitch)

1. Smaller Rosters 9/10 max per team – all kids play on defense & hit each inning. Try to play 6 inning games through the week. Play up to time limit on weekdays and weekends.
2. The Home Team shall provide a minimum of 5 game balls for each game, but not necessarily new ones.
3. Game Preliminaries:
 - a. All games played are limited to 1 and ½ hours. No new at bat shall begin after 1 and ½ hours.
 - b. There shall be no forfeits. Teams will play with a maximum of 10 players in the field. If a team is unable to field 9 players, the other team will “loan” defensive players for each inning. Any “loaned” player will play the outfield only. Eight players on defense are allowed. However, at no time will any team play with less than eight defensive players.
 - c. All players shall bat every inning. Managers **shall** rotate the batting order each game (recommend each inning) to ensure that players bat in each spot of the batting order throughout the season. In games where there are uneven amounts of players on both teams, players may be “loaned” to even out the teams as necessary, as agreed by the coach, player and parent.
 - d. Games are conducted with managers or coaches acting as umpires. This league is intended to be a learning environment. The pitching machine will be operated by an adult, who may advise the defense on positioning and defensive strategy. The defensive team may have a player next to the adult. If the machine is not working, an adult will pitch but will not field any live ball.
 - e. Coaches may also be stationed in the outfield and near the catcher, for safety reasons, to ensure they are positioned properly and are ready for the ball being pitched by the coach. One adult must remain in the dugout at all times, if any players are on the bench.
 - f. There are no walks. Each player will be given 5 pitches to put the ball in play. The catcher will give each missed pitch to an adult to hold until the ball is put into play either off the pitch or the Tee. After the fifth pitch the ball shall be hit off the Tee.
 - Strikeouts will be enforced approximately mid-season to introduce that aspect of the game. The details of enforcement will be provided at the manager’s meeting prior to the beginning of the season.
 - g. When three outs are made, any base runners are cleared and the inning continues. Future base runners may score runs. The two newest game balls should be given out to players, one per team, at the end of each game
4. Batters:
 - a. The maximum number of bases on a hit should be based on the number of bases the batter would get at the next level up without errors or overthrows – Minors.
 - Balls in the infield are maximum of one (1) base.
 - Most balls in the outfield will also be one (1) base.

- A ball driven to the gap or down the lines could be a double, two (2) bases.
 - Triples at this level are extremely rare, player should not take three (3) bases based on bad relay throws, errors, etc.
- b. When the final batter comes to the plate, the offensive team must notify the defensive team that this is the final batter. At that point, there are automatically two outs. If a force play is made on the batter at first base, or any forced runner at any other base, the inning ends with no other runners scoring. The play will stop after the batter advances the maximum number of bases based on *Little League Baseball Official Regulations & rules*.
- The intent of this rule is to hold batters and runners to a normal amount of bases on the last at bat of the inning, and to discourage wildly running the bases because it is the 10th batter.
5. Pitchers:
- a. Player may be stationed next to the manager coach. The manager coach must at all times be aware of the players locations related to the pitching mound and protect the player incase a ball is hit near the pitching.
6. Base Running:
- a. Base Stealing is not allowed. Runners may only advance when the ball is hit. Do not take extra bases on overthrows.

N-5 SOFTBALL

1. When participating in other leagues for league play, the playing rules **shall** follow the established playing rules provided by that league.

N-6 UMPIRE INTERACTIONS

We MUST abide by umpires' decisions with no arguing. You may politely ask the umpire why he made that call. Let's all do what is right for the children and the league. We are all volunteers, and the umpires are paid, but remember they are alone and can't see every part of the field at once.

Section O – BY-LAWS REVISION CHANGE CONTROL

Revision November 2022: (edited by: Sean Wendelken)

1. Added Section O to log change control, as instructed per Section A that was to be implemented as of December 1, 2019.
2. Edited general formatting, spelling, and grammar throughout the document.
3. Updated board member listing and positions.
4. Section A-2: Added Kickball and Challenger leagues; Added verbiage that softball is for females only; Updated sponsor fees and listing according to fee structure approved per 2021-2022 league year
5. Section C: Added Kickball
6. Section K-3: Adjusted major league championship round from best of 5 to best of 3.
7. Section M: Adjusted subsection 2 to align with Little League rules. (No new inning after 10:00 P.M.)
8. Section N-2: Removed subsection 3-c. (All players must play 3 full games per season); Removed subsection 4-k. (No new inning after 10:30)
9. Section N-3: Removed subsection 2 being redundant to N-1. (1 adult in dugout);

Removed subsection 3-a being redundant to subsection 5. (1hr 45min no new inning);
Removed subsection 5-f. (out after 3 consecutive walks) Altered subsection 5-g (newly numbered subsection 5-e) from pitcher removal after a given number of hit batters to the umpire's discretion.

10. Section N-4: Removed subsection 3 as being redundant to N-1. (1 adult in dugout)
Altered subsection 4-a (new numbered subsection 3-a) from 2.5hr time limit to 1.5hr time limit and removed inning requirement for complete game.

Revision September 2023: (edited by: Sean Wendelken)

1. Updated logo on cover page of document.
2. Section F-8: Itemized softball divisions: 10U, 12U, and 14U registration increased from \$100 to \$150; Updated late registration fee from \$20 to \$50

Revision December 2023: (edited by: Sean Wendelken)

1. Updated organization name to align with legal naming.
2. Updated board member listing and positions.
3. Section A-2: Clarified league ages according to established local league practice and added verbiage regarding Division eligibility outside of the given league age requirements.
4. Sections F-2, F-5, & F-8: Clarified league ages to align with updated Section A-2.
5. Section K-2: Removed pitching exception and pitching paper rule handout.
6. Sections L-3 & L-5: Expanded upon All-Star requirements.
7. Section L-4: Set All-Star roster size to 12 players and clarified/expanded upon All-Star voting.
8. Section N-2:
 - a. Subsection 2: Aligned pitching verbiage with Minors Division verbiage.
 - b. Subsection 3: Defined late arrival rule and defer mandatory play to Little League Official Regulation.
 - c. Subsection 4: Dropped 3rd strike is in effect.
9. Section N-3: Subsection 4: Updated reference to appropriate official pitching regulation.
10. Section N-4: Subsection f: Added strikeouts approximately mid-season.

Revision November 2024: (edited by: Sean Wendelken)

1. Removed Executive Board of Directors listing on page 2 and replaced with direction to the league website for the current list of executive board members. (So this doesn't have to be updated annually)
2. Section A:
 - a. A-1: Added point 5 to state the target number of executive board members.
 - b. Revised A-3: Renamed section. Added option for electronic payment of dues. Reference constitution for membership classes. Update annual meeting month from November to October, as has been practice.
 - c. Removed Sections A-4, A-5, and A-6 as membership definitions are provided in the league constitution.
 - d. A-2: Subsection g: Expanded 8U Softball age range from 7-8 to 6-8. Added notation that 8U registrants of Little League age 6 must have complete one season of Tee-Ball and coordinate registration with the league.
3. Section C-1:
 - a. Subsection 1: Removed. (itemized administrators)
 - b. Subsection 2: Removed word "additional"
 - c. Subsection 3: Point J: Corrected number of League Committees. (From 3 to 4)
4. Section F-1: Added new subsections 2 and 3.

5. Section F-8 Subsection 2: Clarified that third child discount must be on the same order.
6. Section L: Added "District" notations and made minor clerical clarifications throughout.

Revision October 2025: (edited by: Sean Wendelken)

1. Section A-2:
 - a. Subsection 5a: League Sponsorship price updated from \$2000 to \$3000.
 - b. Subsection 5b: Added 8U to \$500 Division Sponsorship.
 - c. Subsection 5c: Removed "Softball" and added 10U, 12U, and 14U to \$750 Division Sponsorship.
2. Section E-10: Added new subsection E-10 "Grievance Procedure"
3. Section M-15: Added new subsection for use of BLL issued jerseys.
4. Section N-3:
 - a. Subsection 3b: Removed.
 - b. Subsection 5g: Changed to reflect umpire calls for last inning based on elapsed time, where unlimited runs can be scored.
 - c. Subsection 5h: Added verbiage to define a steal attempt and umpires discretion.
 - d. Subsection 5k: Reworded to clarify up to one additional base on a live batted ball overthrow to a base.
 - e. Subsection 5p: Added. (Infield fly and dropped 3rd strike rules are not in effect)
 - f. Subsection 5q: Added. (3 walks = 1 out)
5. Section N-4; Subsection 3c: Reworded to clarify batting lineup rotation.
6. Section N-5: Added new section for "Softball" and renumbered existing Section N-5 as N-6.