

Highlands Little League

Local League Rules



These Local League Rules were voted on and approved by the Highlands Little League Board of Directors on December 15, 2019

Bylaws, Local Rules and Ground Rules

Each local Little League Board of directors should adopt its own bylaws, local rules or ground rules (the terms are interchangeable). This document expires annually at the end of the fiscal year and must be renewed annually.

The bylaws, local rules or ground rules are to be distinguished from the local Little League's 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 local Little League board of directors must make a copy of the bylaws, local rules or ground rules available to any member of the local Little League for review and inspection if requested.

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Highlands Little League

1.0 General Policy

It is the intent of Highlands Little League to accommodate any player who wants to play baseball or softball, lives or attends school within the Highlands Little League boundaries (established by Little League Inc.) and meets registration requirements established by Little League Inc. No player will be turned away except for severe disciplinary reasons or restrictions.

Highlands Little League follows the rules as set forth in the Official Regulations and Playing Rules for each chartered division for the current year. Highlands Little League has adopted supplemental rules (Local League Rules) that augment the Official Regulations and Playing Rules.

Managers and coaches (and players and parents) are responsible to know these Supplemental Rules as well as the Official Regulations and Playing Rules authorized and published by Little League Baseball, Inc. Games played by teams in an "interleague" format, regardless of their opponent, will be governed by the interleague rules.

Highlands Little League shall enforce the age and residence rules during registration in compliance with Little League, Inc.

Managers, coaches, players, parents, spectators, etc., shall not consume alcohol or tobacco products at any Highlands Little League function.

1.1 Player's League Age

A player's league age for the current season of baseball and softball is his/her age based on the official League age charts below. See Little League Baseball Proof of Age Requirements document for details on acceptable proof of age documents that **must** be submitted at registration (<http://www.littleleague.org/learn/forms.htm>).

2021 Little League® Age Chart FOR BASEBALL DIVISION ONLY

Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. League age indicated at right.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AGE
2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2016	2016	2016	2016	4
2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	5
2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2014	2014	2014	2014	6
2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2013	2013	2013	2013	7
2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012	2012	8
2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2011	2011	2011	2011	9
2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2010	2010	2010	2010	10
2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2009	2009	2009	2009	11
2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2008	2008	2008	2008	12
2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007	2007	13
2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2006	2006	2006	2006	14
2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2005	2005	2005	2005	15
2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2004	2004	2004	2004	16

NOTE: This age chart is for BASEBALL DIVISIONS ONLY, and only for 2021.

2021 Little League® Age Chart FOR SOFTBALL DIVISION ONLY

Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. League age indicated at right.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AGE
2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	4
2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	5
2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	6
2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	7
2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	8
2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	9
2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	10
2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	11
2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	12
2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	13
2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	14
2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	15
2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	16

NOTE: This age chart is for SOFTBALL DIVISIONS ONLY, and only for 2021.

1.2 Player Residence Location

1.2.1 The player lives continuously within the Highlands Little League boundary, OR the location of the school where the player attends is located inside Highland Little Leagues boundary that is approved by Little League Baseball, Inc. OR has submitted Regulation II (d) waiver and approval granted by Little League Baseball Inc. See Little League Baseball Proof of Residency Requirements document for details on acceptable proof of residency documents that must be submitted at registration (<http://www.littleleague.org/learn/forms.htm>).

1.2.1 Players who moved outside of Highlands Little League boundaries may continue to play for Highlands Little League provided a Regulation II (d) waiver has been submitted and approved by Little League, Inc.

1.2.2 The proofs of residency shall be kept with the waiver until the player no longer plays for Highlands Little League.

1.2.3 Per Little League rules, if a player playing under a Regulation II(d) waiver does not play the following year, that player is not eligible to play for Highlands Little League unless that player establishes residency again within the Highlands Little League boundaries.

1.2.4 Highlands Little League strives to provide the safest playing environment possible.

1.2.5 Highlands Little League provides training for managers, coaches, and volunteers to be able to handle most accidental injuries.

1.2.6 Our facilities are periodically surveyed and maintained to the highest standards to prevent injuries and mishaps.

1.2.7 No player shall be subjected to abusive language, harassment, severe or injurious discipline, anger of the coaches, teammates, etc.

1.3 Background Check

Highlands Little League is required to have all board members, managers, coaches, and other volunteers or hired workers who provide regular service to the league and/or who have repetitive access to, or contact with players or teams fill out the official Little League® Volunteer Application. Additionally the league has been and is required to conduct a background check on each of these individuals. **Little League Regulation I (c) 9 has been revised to state that all leagues in the United States, are required to conduct background checks that utilize JDP Background Screening, or another provider that is comparable to JDP in accessing background check records for sex offender registry data and criminal records.**

Each volunteer or hired personnel is required to complete and submit a Little League® Volunteer Application (either paper or electronically) to the President, Vice President, or Chief Player Agent/Registrar.

1.3.1 No one will be allowed to participate in any manner, whose background check reveals a conviction or guilty plea for any crime involving or against a minor.

1.3.2 Highlands Little League may also prohibit any individual from participating as a volunteer if the individual is deemed unfit to work with minors.

- The President shall name one or more Highlands Little League Board of Directors to perform background checks under the direction of the President.
- The President shall review the results of any background check that returns information that warrants further investigation.

If the background check returns information, or Highlands Little League subsequently becomes aware of information, by any means whatsoever, that an individual, including, but not limited to, volunteers and players, has been convicted of or pled guilty to any crime involving or against a minor, the President must contact the applicable government agency to confirm the accuracy of the information. The President or designee(s) shall also notify the individual of the action that is being taken so that the individual can offer any response or comment to the President and the Highlands Little League Board of Directors. Upon confirmation of a conviction for, or guilty plea to, a crime against or involving a minor, Highlands Little League shall not permit the individual to participate in any manner. That person shall be dismissed immediately.

If the background check reveals that the individual, including, but not limited to, volunteers and players, has been convicted of or pled guilty to any other type of crime not involving a minor, the President must contact the applicable government agency to confirm the accuracy of the information. The President or designee(s) shall present the findings to the Executive Committee. The individual shall have the opportunity to present his or her side of the case to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall provide a recommendation to the Board of Directors whether or not the individual will be able to continue participating in Highlands Little League.

Any felony involving physical harm to an individual is reason for immediate dismissal.

Any felony not involving physical harm to an individual (for example, extortion, theft) shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. However, the individual cannot hold a board position, manage, or coach.

Any misdemeanors will be reviewed by the Executive Committee on a case-by-case basis.

All decisions by the President and Highlands Little League Board of Directors are final.

All forms submitted for and created as a result of the background check shall remain in the possession of the President or designee(s) until the end of the fiscal year. Except as required by law, no other person shall have access to or see the forms.

1.4 Registration and Safety Evaluations

To register a child for the upcoming spring season of baseball/softball, a parent/guardian must register their child(ren) online at www.highlandsl.org and provide required paperwork. Required paperwork may be submitted online during the registration process or at one of the available in-person registration dates. Dates, times, and location of the registration dates will be made available upon the opening of registration on the website.

As per section 1.2 of these bylaws, refer to Little League Baseball Proof of Residency Requirements document for details on acceptable proof of residency documents that must be submitted at registration (<http://www.littleleague.org/learn/forms.htm>). These documents may be uploaded to the website upon registration or brought to one of the in-person registration dates for verification.

Highlands Little League will hold two safety evaluation dates prior to the start of the season. Attendance on one of these dates are required for those registered and planning on playing in the pee-wee division and above in both baseball and softball. The primary purpose of the safety evaluation is used in determining whether a child has the adequate skill and knowledge to play at the registered division safely. If the Highlands Little League Board of Directors feels that there is a safety concern with the child and their registered division, the President (or his/her designee) will discuss the options with the parent(s) regarding the concern.

During the safety evaluations, each child is scored based on different skill abilities. In addition to using this in determining safety, managers use these scores during the draft process in the selection of their team.

If a player is unable to attend one of the safety evaluations, they will not be drafted nor eligible to participate in all-stars. For the pee-wee and minor divisions, the player will be placed on a team at the end of the draft in order starting with the manager who would have selected next. If there are multiple players to be placed for being absent from the safety evaluations, they will be placed in order starting in order of initial registration date. For the major division and above, a player will be ineligible to participate in the upcoming season if he/she misses the safety evaluation requirements. A parent/guardian may provide a written explanation to the Highlands Little League Board of Directors explaining the circumstance that lead to the player not participating in the safety evaluation for determination of season eligibility.

1.5 Refund Policy

SPRING SEASON

Because expenses are incurred by Highlands Little League based upon the number of players that register and the disruption that can happen to a team because a player leaves, it is necessary to have an established refund policy. The following dates and refund amounts are as follows for all divisions:

- 1 – 100% refund up to (but not including) the day of the draft
- 2 – 50% refund from the date of the draft up to (and including) the last day of February
- 3 – 0% refund beginning March 1st

Under extraordinary circumstances the Highlands LL Board may approve a full or partial refund, at their discretion, after written notice by the parent/guardian requesting a refund. Extraordinary circumstances may include, but not limited to, a child injury, moving, etc. It DOES NOT include circumstances such as a player changing their mind not to play, resigning due to not being drafted to the players/parents preferred team, etc.

FALL SEASON

- 1 – 100% refund up to and including the last day of August
- 2 – Starting September 1st, 100% refund minus the cost of hat and jersey.

2.0 Seasons

Highlands Little League offers three seasons of baseball and softball:

Spring Season	Open to all youth who properly register and meet age and residency requirements per Section 1.0.
Tournament Season	Reserved for players selected from the Spring Season to play on All-star teams and represent Highlands Little League in district, state, region, and world series tournaments.
Fall Season	Open to all youth who properly register and meet age and residency requirements per Section 1.0 and is intended for skill development and improvement.

3.0 Divisions

Highlands Little League offers the following baseball and softball divisions. The number of teams in the chart below is subject to change due to the number of registered players. There are circumstances where younger players may play up or older players may play down with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Division	Gender	Ages
Tee Ball	Boys & Girls	4,5,6
Baseball Pee-Wee	Boys & Girls	7,8
Baseball Minors	Boys & Girls	9,10
Baseball Majors	Boys & Girls	11,12
Baseball 50/70	Boys & Girls	11,12,13
Baseball Juniors	Boys & Girls	14,15,16
Softball Pee-Wee	Girls	7,8
Softball Minors	Girls	9,10
Softball Majors	Girls	11,12,13
Softball Juniors	Girls	14,15,16

4.0 Code of Conduct

All Team Managers, Coaches, and assistants must sign a "Code of Conduct Agreement" approved by the Board of Directors. Whenever practical, in enforcing the Code of Conduct and Agreement adopted by the Board, written notice will be provided in advance to individual managers, coaches, or assistants about any conduct which is considered by the Board of Directors to be in violation of the Code of Conduct and Agreement. Should any substantial violation of the Code of Conduct Agreement occur the offending individual will be subject to penalties ranging from written and/or oral warning, probation, or suspension, to expulsion from the league depending on the severity of the offense or uncorrected behavior as judged by the Board of Directors.

After notification of the nature of the offence, the accused offender will be given an opportunity to respond to the allegations in person or in writing. However, if the gravity of the alleged offense or the safety of players or integrity of the Little League program warrants the immediate suspension of the accused, the President may implement a suspension or other corrective measures prior to any hearing.

5.0 Managers and Coaches

5.1 Manager Selections

All Manager and Coaching positions are selected annually. All appointments to serve as Manager or Coach expire annually on October 31st. No Manager or Coach has any tenure, whatsoever, regardless of years of service to Highlands Little League. The process for Manager selection is as follows:

1. Interested applicants must complete the Manager Application Form and Little League Volunteer Application and return them to the President.
2. The President will review applications, or the President may appoint a Selection Committee to provide advice. The President or Selection Committee may contact candidates for a phone interview and may contact references listed on the Manager Application Form for additional candidate information. The President and Selection Committee will use the Manager Selection Criteria in evaluating candidates and preparing the recommendation to the Board of Directors.
3. The President will prepare a slate of recommended Managers and present the recommendation to the Board of Directors prior to the player assessment. The Board of Directors will consider the recommendation of the President and approve the Managers at a regular Board meeting.

The appointment by the President, and subsequent approval by the Board of Directors, shall be based on an evaluation of the individual using the following as guidelines:

1. Demonstrated commitment to Little League Baseball and Highlands Little League
2. Support of and participation in League activities, including but not limited to:
 - a. Conduct with their team both on and off the field;
 - b. Cooperation with the Divisional Player Agent, President, and the rest of the Board of Directors
 - c. Fundraising
 - d. Maintenance of facilities and equipment
 - e. Active participation in umpiring of games, whether within or outside of their managed division
 - f. Active participation on League committees
 - g. Cooperation with the Umpire in Chief and umpire staff
 - h. Home and visitor team Manager duties as specified in the local rules
 - i. Adhere to Three Strikes Policy

5.2 Coach Selection

Each Manager shall select up to two coaches and must declare their coaches in writing to the Divisional Player Agent prior to their first regular season game. The coaches will follow the same approval process by the President and Highlands Little League Board of Directors as the selection of the Manager.

5.3 Manager Training

Every manager shall attend the classroom and field training classes as directed by the President. This includes Coaching Fundamentals and League updates and expectations. Failure to attend these classes may result in dismissal of that manager from Highlands Little League at the discretion of the Highlands Little League Board of Directors.

5.4 Manager /Coach Responsibilities

Managers are responsible for the following:

- Strive to ensure the physical and emotional safety of all players on their team.
- Strive to ensure the proper moral and ethical conduct of players, coaches, players' parents.
- Know, teach, and follow all rules and regulations as set forth by Little League and Highlands Little League.
- Strive to ensure that volunteers are obtained from among the team's parents to assist in, but not limited to, the following activities:
 - Field maintenance
 - Umpiring
 - Fundraising
 - Concession
- Minor divisions and above, umpire behind the plate or on the bases at least one game outside of their own games.
- Accept all decisions of Highlands Little League Board of Directors and/or President as final.
- Look for ways to improve Highlands Little League and convey them to the Highlands Little League Board of Directors
- A detailed list of requirements for the manager and his/her team will be outlined within the manager application. These requirements will include a minimum number of games that the team will be responsible for providing an umpire for and time commitment to help manage the concessions.

5.5 Manager /Coach Discipline

- Failure to follow Little League rules and/or Highlands Little League Bylaws and/or failure to manage/coach in the spirit of Little League may result in a reprimand, suspension or dismissal by the Highlands Little League Board of Directors following a thorough investigation into alleged infractions and/or failings.
- Investigations will be conducted by the Executive Committee and present their findings and recommendation to the Highlands Little League Board of Directors for final decision.
- Infractions include, but are not limited to:
 - Foul language.
 - Yelling at or intimidating a player or umpire.
 - Following umpire off the field.
 - Use of tobacco products at a practice and/or game.
 - Drinking alcohol at or before a practice and/or a game - includes having the odor of alcohol on the person or breath.
 - Failure to follow Highland Little League Bylaws.
 - Any inappropriate behavior not already listed.

5.6 Manager Requirements to Manage

Managers shall not be allowed to manage any regular season games for their team until the following requirements have been met:

- A completed manager application is on file with division director.
- A completed volunteer application form for the manager for the current year is on file with the President or designee.
- A completed volunteer application form for all coaches for the current year is on file with the President of designee.
- Makes sure that their completed team responsibility sign-up sheet is on file with the Volunteer Coordinator.
- Makes sure that a completed volunteer application form for each parent listed on the parent volunteer sign-up sheet is on file with the President or designee.
- Attended the manager training classes.
- Complete a Little League approved abuse awareness training.

Any manager who has not met ALL of the above requirements shall not be allowed to manage their team until they have met those requirements or obtained a waiver from Highlands Little League. Conditions for receiving a waiver are:

- The manager was selected after the class(s) was held.
- Job requirements prevented attendance at required class(s).
- Illness prevented attendance at required class(s).

6.0 Parents

6.1 Parent Involvement

Highlands Little League is a volunteer organization and strives to keep registration fees and other costs as minimal as possible. It cannot be effective if only the board of directors and a few other parents do all the work. It is critical that each parent be involved with the operation of Highlands Little League. Parent involvement helps ALL of the kids playing in the league. Therefore, ALL parents shall be accountable for one of the areas of responsibility on their child's team. Each parent shall have something to do that will foster team spirit and take burdens off the managers' shoulders.

Areas where team parents should help include, **but are not limited to**, the following:

- Coaching
- Uniforms
- Fundraisers
- Pre-game field preparation and post-game field repair.
- Field Maintenance
- Team Parent
- Concessions
- Umpiring

The team manager will be provided with a parent volunteer form listing the areas where volunteers are needed for his/her team. The manager is highly encouraged to have parents select an area to volunteer for prior to the beginning of the season.

6.2 Parent Conduct

Parents must exhibit good sportsmanship at all times, especially from the stands. Coaching from the stands is not allowed, but encouraging players is. Negative comments **will not** be tolerated. The board member on duty will have the right to remove any spectator from the fields if they are a disruption to the game in any fashion. Refusal to leave the premise after being asked to do so by the board member on duty will be grounds for expulsion from Highlands Little League functions for a minimum of the remainder of the season.

7.0 Team Formations

The most important consideration in assigning players to teams is the assignment of players to the level of play they are best suited for. Additional considerations are to distribute the available player talent so that all teams in all divisions of Highlands Little League are competitive.

7.1 Tee Ball

Tee Ball division teams are established by the Divisional Player Agent based on a number of factors. Players in these divisions can request to play with certain players and /or a certain Managers. Other factors include:

- Equal distribution of age
- Neighborhood school residence
- Geographic location

NOTE: Registration numbers and age distribution may require that players living in the same neighborhood play on different teams. There are no evaluations, tryouts, or draft for these divisions.

7.2 Pee-Wee

The Pee-Wee division teams are formed using a draft. This division shall hold safety evaluations each year. Safety Evaluations are conducted to determine level of skill in basic playing fundamentals to help assist in deciding the players appropriate division level. The President or Vice President, and the Chief Player Agent/Registrar should also be at the draft to assist the Divisional Player Agent and to record and verify the final results.

7.3 Baseball Minors, Softball Minors

The Baseball Minors and Softball Minors division teams are formed using a draft. This division shall hold safety evaluations each year. Safety Evaluations are conducted to determine level of skill in basic playing fundamentals to help assist in deciding the players appropriate division level. The President or Vice President, and the Chief Player Agent/Registrar should also be at the draft to assist the Divisional Player Agent and to record and verify the final results.

7.4 Baseball/Softball Majors, 50/70, and Juniors

The Baseball / Softball Majors, 50/70, and Junior division teams are formed using a draft. These divisions shall hold safety evaluations each year. Safety Evaluations are

conducted to determine level of skill in basic playing fundamentals to help assist in deciding the players appropriate division level. The President or Vice President, and the Chief Player Agent/Registrar should also be at the draft to assist the Divisional Player Agent and to record and verify the final results.

The Highlands Little League Board of Directors, through the Chief Player Agent/Registrar reserves the right to continue any player who has a residence change (e.g., moved outside of the Highlands Little League boundaries) after becoming a member of Highlands Little League as provided in the official rules (following proper completion and submission of appropriate Little League waiver forms). However, the Highlands Little League Board of Directors shall take into account the interests of the player in exercising this right.

8.0 Draft Plan

Highlands Little League will use draft "Plan B- Redraft" per Little League International guidelines. This is the redraft option whereby all teams are redrafted in entirety every year. Managers are allowed a "manager's exception" in that they may draft their own son/daughter but must do it by a certain round based on the player's age. All other players will be "unprotected" and can be drafted by any manager, with all players combined into one pool to draft from. If a manager's exception has a brother or sister in the same division, the manager has the right to have that player "earmarked" for selection in the appropriate round. While the manager will draft their team and be allowed the "managers exception", no "coaches exception" will be allowed prior to the draft. Please see the full description in the Little League international handbook – Draft Rules.

8.1 Trading Players

All player trades shall be made through the Divisional Player Agent. Player Trades must be completed within 14 days after the first scheduled game. All trades must stay within the same division and be player for player only. Trades for future draft choices are not permitted. All trades must be for a justifiable reason and approved by the Board and the Divisional Player Agent. If not approved, the trade is vetoed.

8.2 Player Draft Re-entry

The spirit of the player draft re-entry is to protect the relationship between the player, parent, and manager/coach. When a problem exists between a player and manager/coach, or parent and manager/coach, the following steps must be taken, in the order listed:

- Discuss the situation with the player's team coaching staff.
- If no resolution is reached, the manager and parent(s) shall notify the Divisional Player Agent.

- If the Divisional Player Agent is unable to resolve the situation, the Divisional Player Agent shall notify the Highlands Executive Committee who will provide a recommended resolution to the Highlands Little League Board of Directors
- The Highlands Little League Board of Directors shall grant or deny requests for re-entry into a draft based on how well the previous conditions were met. All considerations for the best interest of the player will be given.

8.3 Player Vacancy

If a vacancy on a Majors division team occurs, the Replacement procedure shall be as follows:

The manager of the team losing a player shall promptly advise the Division Player Agent when a player is lost to a team during the playing season for any of the following reasons:

- He/she moves to another city or state too distant to commute for practice and play;
- He/she is injured (does not matter how, where, or when the injury occurred) and it is a season-ending injury;
- He/she has, for personal reasons, decided to terminate his/her association with the team;
- Any other justifiable reason reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.

The Divisional Player Agent shall advise the President and the Highlands Little League Board of Directors. If the loss of the player is approved, the President will send a letter of release to the player and the parents stating that the player is released from the team (except for injury) and the league for a justifiable reason. This action creates a legal opening for a replacement on the team roster. If the vacancy occurs before May 1st, the manager shall review the available player list (players on a Minors team who attended tryouts) with the Divisional Player Agent and shall select a replacement. The Divisional Player Agent and President will discuss with the parents of the selected player, the possibility of their child moving into the Majors Division. If the parents and player agree, the replacement player becomes a member of the team.

Players who quit are to be treated as move-outs. A player who misses three consecutive unexcused regularly scheduled games will be considered to have quit. This will be subject to the judgment of the Board and Divisional Player Agent who will consult with the player's parents.

All movements of players must be handled by and through the Divisional Player Agent. The Divisional Player Agent, parents, and player must approve all movements of players to and between Major Teams.

9.0 Safety

Highlands Little League will provide the safest playing environment possible. Our facilities are periodically surveyed and always maintained to the highest standards to prevent injuries and mishaps. Each Manager will receive a Safety Manual, which is included in the Manager's League Information Book.

- ALL male players MUST wear an athletic supporter to prevent injury that could occur from a hit or thrown ball at all games and practices. It is recommended that female catchers also wear a protective cup. See the Little League Safety Code for more information.
- The player catching balls for a coach/manager hitting infield practice or fly balls MUST wear a catcher's helmet during games and practices.
- Plate umpires MUST wear the same protective equipment as required for catchers, including a helmet for all umpires under age 18. No exceptions are allowed.
- Managers shall check the playing facilities for safety prior to starting practices. Umpires and managers shall check the playing facilities for safety prior to starting games. All problems must be reported to the Field Manager, Board Member on Duty or Safety Officer.
- Each incident or accident must be documented and reported to the Safety Officer within 24 hours of its occurrence.
- Each manager MUST have a Highlands Little League supplied first aid kit at all practices and games. Managers MUST check supply levels prior to practices and games and replenish as required.
- When there is lightning and/or thunder, all practices and games must stop immediately and everyone must go to a safe location.
- Managers and parents will utilize safety and security policies as they pertain to dropping-off and picking-up of players at all practice and game fields.
- Equipment shall be stored in an orderly manner in the dugouts to prevent hazards.
- Guests are NOT allowed in the dugout area or on the field during games.
- Each manager must inspect equipment for wear and tear before each practice or game and repair or replace defective equipment (contact Highlands Little League Equipment Manager for replacement equipment). Ensure that all player-supplied equipment meets Little League regulations and requirements.
- All batters, base runners, and youth base coaches shall wear a batting helmet.
- Arrangements shall be made to ensure a mobile phone is available at each practice and game for emergencies.
- During games, managers will ensure that players not currently participating in the game remain in the dugout.
- On-deck batters are not allowed in the Baseball/Softball Pee-Wee, Minors and Majors divisions.
- Breakaway bases or throw-down bases must be used on all fields for all divisions for practices and games.

- One adult must be present in the dugout at all times.

10.0 Official Regulations and Playing Rules

Highlands Little League will adhere to the official regulations and playing rules set forth by Little League International in accordance to any updates. Each team will be issued an updated Little League Rule Book and shall carry it with them to reference. A manager and coach may purchase and carry an electronic version of the rule book with them as an alternative to the paper edition.

Highlands Little League will also participate in interleague play with other leagues. Each year, the District Presidents will adopt a set of interleague rules. These rules will be adhered to in both interleague games as well as games between two Highlands teams. A copy of the interleague rules will be posted in each dugout and the manager shall carry a copy of the rules with them for reference.

11.0 Equipment

- Highlands Little League issued equipment (catchers gear, batting helmets, first aid kit, etc.) are the property of Highlands Little League and must be returned at the conclusion of the season.
- Each Manager will be assigned an equipment gear bag for his/her team.
- Managers are responsible for maintaining the provided equipment and notifying the Equipment Manager when gear needs to be replaced.
- Managers are responsible for returning gear that was checked out at the beginning of the season.

12.0 Interleague Playing Rules

Interleague rules are reviewed and approved by all Presidents within the district on a yearly basis. These rules will be adhered to during all games, both interleague games as well as games between two Highlands LL teams. These rules will be posted within each dugout, but it is advisable that each manager have his or her own copy with them.

13.0 General Rules

This section is applicable to all Highlands Little League divisions except as noted.

- The home team shall occupy the third base dugout.
- The manager, coach, or designated parent (who must have been approved after completing a volunteer application) will be physically in the dugout during the game whenever there are players in the dugout.

- The home team shall provide two new baseballs/softballs to the umpire prior to the start of each game. Additional game balls must be on hand should they be required.

13.1 Scorekeeping

A manager, coach or designee must be the scorekeeper on all drafted teams.

Scorekeeper responsibilities include:

- Keep accurate records of games, including pitch count (in applicable divisions) of each pitcher appearing in the game. This can be in hardcopy form or via “Game Changer.”
- The home scorekeeper shall record the game start time as stated by the plate umpire in the home scorebook.

13.2 Game Definitions

- Scheduled game: A game as it appears on the game schedule.
- Regulation game: See Official Regulations and Playing Rules.
- Called game: A game that did not start at its scheduled time.
- Suspended game: A game that started but did not become a regulation game.
- Makeup game: A called or suspended game that has been rescheduled.

13.3 Calling and Suspending games

Only the managers of the two teams scheduled to play make the decision to start or call a game. The Umpire-in-chief (plate umpire) makes the decision to suspend a game after the game has begun (reference Official Regulations and Playing Rules).

Reasons for called and suspended games include, but not limited to:

- When a field is too wet to play safely
- When there is insufficient light to safely play
- When a team does not have nine players
- When there are no umpires

NOTE: The parents of players unable to be at a game because of a school or other event shall notify their Divisional Player Agent via email no less than 72 hours before the scheduled game start time.

Managers will call games when appropriate and within the guidelines set annually in the district interleague rules.

Every reasonable effort must be made to make fields playable when they are scheduled. Rescheduled games must be agreed upon with each manager and the Divisional Player Agent must be contacted to verify that the agreed upon rescheduled date does not conflict with pre-scheduled fields or games.

13.4 Forfeits

Forfeits are allowed for refusing to play. Reference the Official Little League Regulations and Playing Rules.

13.5 Run Rules

- Interleague rules are to be used during interleague games as well as game between two Highlands teams.
- Managers will adhere to the maximum run differential limit [10 runs or greater after 4 innings (five innings for Intermediate 50-70) or 15 runs or greater after three innings (4 innings for Intermediate 50-70)] as set by Little League. If these limits are reached, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent.
- For the Pee Wee division in both baseball and softball, the maximum amount of runs a team can score in an inning is five, including the last inning.
- For the Minor division in both baseball and softball, the maximum amount of runs a team can score in an inning is five. There is no run limit in the sixth inning.
- The minimum player playing time rule is not enforced when a game is conceded.
- Pitching regulations are clearly defined within the Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules. Managers must ensure they keep track of and can make available all pitching records to Umpires, Opposing Manager and League Officials, if requested.

Highlands Little League Board of Directors reserve the right to audit pitching records and take appropriate action to ensure regulations are being followed. The disciplinary action for the manager for not following the pitch count rules (including days of rest) are as follows:

- 1st offense: 1 game suspension.
- 2nd offense: may result in a permanent suspension for the rest of the season.

NOTE 1: Pitch count violations are grounds for protest.

NOTE 2: If a game is suspended before the completion of the first inning, the partial inning is negated and the game is restarted when it is rescheduled. The inning in this instance does not count toward the pitching limitations.

13.6 Protests

- Protests shall be made in accordance with Official Regulations and Playing Rules. Reference Official Playing Rule: 4.19.
- Protests against violations or interpretations of the playing rules or the use of an ineligible player are to be submitted to the President within 24 hours.
- No protests shall be considered involving an umpire's judgment.
- Pitch count violations are grounds for protest.

14.0 Field Maintenance

It is important to maintain the fields in order to keep them in a playable condition and ensure the safety of players, the coaching staff, umpires, and spectators. This section will identify the minimum needed to make this possible.

14.1 Games

The home team will be responsible for the preparation and end of game maintenance which includes the following:

- Walking the field and immediate outside areas for safety concerns. If any are found, it is to be brought to the board member on duty's attention immediately.
- Raking the field before and after the game
- Chalking foul lines on the infield and the batter boxes
- For fields with portable mounds, ensuring the distance from the pitching mound to home plate is accurate
- Looking for, and filling, any gaps around the base of the portable pitching mound and ground
- Putting rakes, chalk, and any other field equipment back in the shed immediately after use.
- Clean up any garbage in and around the dugouts and spectator stands.
- If no games follow, put bases back in the shed.
- At the conclusion of the last game on a Saturday, the home team is responsible for emptying the field garbage into the dumpster.
- Ensure the shed is locked

14.2 Practice

At the conclusion of practice, the following, at a minimum, is to be completed:

- Rake the field
- Put the bases back into the shed
- Pick up any garbage in and around the dugouts and rest of field
- Place the "L" Screen in the bullpen and ensure it is locked
- Lock the shed
- Lock the batting cages

15.0 Tournament Team Process

As a league, Highlands Little League strives to make sure that the regular season offers as much opportunity to play and experience baseball and softball as possible. The League implements numerous local rules to make for a more enjoyable playing experience for ALL players. Our League has many different playing levels, each geared to accommodate players based on their age and ability of play.

15.1 Selection Policy and Basic Overview

The All-Star Season is a completely separate season from the regular season. It is an opportunity for a significantly higher level of play within the regional Little League system. Players will have a significantly higher level of commitment and will receive a higher level instruction and to compete against other All-Star teams.

When it comes to All-Star teams, it is the intent of Highlands Little League to field teams that will **best represent our league in competition and character**. Highlands Little League believes that it is important to include the players themselves in the selection process and that the process be transparent and fair to all kids. All of the baseball and softball players need to have an opportunity to make the team regardless of popularity, school affiliation, parental influence, or manager prejudice. For those that are not selected for the team the details regarding their candidacy shall be held in the strictest of confidence and remain private.

All selection decisions regarding All-Star teams need to be made with these deals in mind. Several characteristics permeate our selection process for players and managers for the All Stars team:

- Skill-level and ability to compete
- Attitude, hustle, team spirit, team leadership, and
- Overall character, integrity, and sportsmanship.

Winning is fun, but it is very important that we remember that Little League is a Child Development Program and that we are about teaching life lessons, building and demonstrating the positive ideals and characteristics that we hope for all our children.

15.2 General Selection Process and Procedure

Timing

The All-Star team selection process will begin approximately two weeks prior to June 1. The All-Star teams CANNOT be announced any earlier than the date established by Little League Rules, which is commonly June 1st. Practices may also begin anytime on or after June 1st. The practice schedule will be set by the All Star manager and his/her coaches.

Player and Parent Commitments

The player and parent commitment to All-Stars must be a solid commitment. Tournament Players must bear in mind that their first commitment is to the Highlands LL team before any other Non-Little League team or to any other sports camps or sports teams during the All-Star Season.

Number of Players

Each All-Star team representing the Highlands Little League will consist of a minimum of 12 players. In Highlands Little League, the All Star Manager has the discretion of choosing a 14th player which is eligible for the team. Teams with 13 or 14 players may have 3 adults (one Manager and two Coaches). Additionally, the All-Star Manager shall appoint a new player should the team need to replace a player due to injury, lack of commitment, ineligibility, or other unforeseen circumstance. This appointment will be approved by the Highlands Little League Board of Directors. Per Little League rules, some players may be eligible for multiple teams however; an individual may only be selected or be allowed to practice with one All Star team.

15.3 Teams, Age Groups, and Eligibility

To be eligible for tournament play, Highlands Little League will adhere to the minimum regular season scheduled and played games of 12 (per team). This does not prevent additional games to be scheduled and played. The list below is the available divisions for the All Star Tournament. At the discretion of the Highlands Little League Board of Directors, only some of the teams may be formed to participate in the tournament.

Baseball teams and eligibility

8-10 year old team

Any player League Age 8, 9, or 10 who has participated as an eligible player in 60% of the regular season games by the start of the tournament play.

9-11 year old team

Any player League Age 9, 10, or 11 who has participated as an eligible player in 60% of the regular season games by the start of the tournament play.

Little League (Major) Team

The Little League (Major) All-Star team will be made up of players who are league age 10, 11 or 12 years old who has participated as an eligible player in 60% of the regular season games by the start of the tournament play.

Intermediate (50-70) Team

Any player League Age 11, 12, or 13 who has participated as an eligible player in 60% of the regular season games in the Intermediate (50-70) division by the start of the tournament play.

Softball teams and eligibility

8-10 year old team

Any player League Age 8, 9, or 10 who has participated as an eligible player in 60% of the regular season games by the start of the tournament play.

9-11 year old team

Any player League Age 9, 10, or 11 who has participated as an eligible player in 60% of the regular season games by the start of the tournament play.

Little League (Major) Team

The Little League (Major) All-Star team will be made up of players who are league age 10, 11, 12, and 13 years old who has participated as an eligible player in 60% of the regular season games by the start of the tournament play.

15.4 All Star Manager & Coach Selection Process

Managers and coaches may come from the following divisions:

- 8-10 All Star Team – Manager or coach from the minor or major division.
- 9-11 All Star Team – Manager or coach from the minor or major division.
- 10-12 All Star Team – Manager or coach from the major division
- Intermediate (50-70) Team – Manager or coach from the Intermediate (50-70) division

The Divisional Player Agent for their respective division will collect submissions and a signed Confidentiality Agreement by candidates that want to manage an All-Star team. The Divisional Player Agent will provide documentation to the President. The President will present the candidates for each division to the Board for a majority vote. The Board may request manager candidates to present themselves in front of the board, prior to the vote. Any All-Star manager candidate, who is a member of the Board, will excuse themselves from the vote for the All Star manager position in which they are requesting.

The Board will then vote for one manager for each team to be fielded. The applicant with the most votes is then passed to the President for appointment and from there to the board for approval. In the case of a tie, a run-off vote between the tied applicants will be done by the board or selection committee as appropriate. The successful candidates selected as Managers will be notified by the President.

The All-star Coaches for each division will be selected by the Manager. Only Coaches who served as regular season Coaches may be selected.

All coaches must be approved by a majority vote of the Board. The managers will be selected based on the following traits:

- Attitude
- Fairness
- Teamwork
- Sportsmanship
- Coaching and Organizational Ability
- Overall demonstration of qualities that best represent Highlands Little League and its values

15.5 All-Star Player Selection Process

The process for selecting All-Star teams will involve several steps. As in years past, the players will make some of the selection for the All Star teams and the Managers shall complete the remainder of the recommended team which is then approved by the Highlands Little League Board of Directors.

Balloting

Any players who have indicated interest in being considered for All-Star voting shall be placed on the ballot as a Candidate. During the month of May, every manager will solicit all of the players on their team to identify those that are interested in having their name considered for the All-Stars Tournament ballots. The manager will then provide that information to the Divisional Player Agent.

Voting

All regular season Little League players are allowed 8 votes for the Candidates on their divisional ballot. Managers or Parents may not assist in the vote. Player voting is an independent and anonymous activity which is conducted on the field. Players may vote for themselves and must vote only once per Candidate.

Vote Tally and Initial Player Selections

The first 5 players for a team, by top vote getters for each division, will be placed on the All Star Team and unanimously approved by the Managers (or their designee) within that division. If the vote is not unanimous, all managers must write down the name of the player(s) who they feel should not make the team. If all managers agree on the player(s) which should be stricken from the list, the player(s) will return to the original list of candidates.

Final Team Configurations

A mandatory managers meeting will be conducted for each division that will have a team in the All Star tournament. During this meeting, the confirmation and approval of the 5 players selected by the popular vote will occur.

Additionally, the All Star manager and his/her coaches, will select the remaining players for the team with input from the rest of the managers from within that division.

- OR -

Players 6-10 will be selected by the managers within that division, who will vote by confidential ballot.

Once players 1 – 10 are selected and approved, the remaining players for the All Star team will be selected, with the help and input from the other managers within the division, by the All Star Manager.

Selection of the players shall be evaluated on multiple criteria including, but not limited to: Player's performance, attitude, sportsmanship and teamwork. The team is completed on the basis of these criteria and on the needs of the All-Star team (i.e. are there adequate catchers and pitchers, and other key positions represented). Once the managers have completed their deliberations and the final recommended slate of players for each team is submitted to the Board and President for final approval. The President shall be involved in the manager deliberations and shall make the final decision to accept the manager recommended roster on behalf of the Highlands Little League Board, unless the President feels that there is sufficient reason to call for a Board meeting to resolve an issue.

Confidentiality and Oversight

The process and meetings are facilitated by the President and assisted by the Divisional Player Agent. The selection results (number of votes, selection order, etc.) and Manager Deliberations about the prospective players are strictly confidential.

Player Notification

The All Star team manager is asked to notify all team members as soon as possible but no earlier than June 1st.

Managers of players not chosen will notify those players as soon as possible.

All-Star Announcement

The All-Star teams will be announced at Closing Ceremonies, as long as Closing Ceremonies will be on or after June 1st. Additional announcements will be made on the Highlands Little League website and other social media platforms.