**South Whidbey Little League Local Rules**

**1. Applicable Rules**

The official rules, regulations and operating procedures of Little League Baseball Inc., the constitution of South Whidbey Little League Inc., hereafter "SWLL" or the "Organization” and these Local Rules shall govern the organization and operation of South Whidbey Little League.

**2. Principals of Communication**

* 1. General: SWLL includes and involves a diverse and large group of volunteers, parents and children. It is the goal of the organization to provide opportunities and methods for efficient communication of ideas, information and concerns.
	2. Channels of Communication: Ideas, questions and concerns should be addressed between persons at the immediately preceding (succeeding) levels of the SWLL organization. (E.g. players/parents to their managers, managers to their directors and so on.)

* 1. Effective Communication

2.3.1 Anonymous communication will not be accepted.

* + 1. Communication should be specific and well researched.
		2. Issues should be brought forth within three (3) days of occurrence and resolved within ten (10) days of notification, so all involved are aware of the decision or action taken as a result of the communication.

2.4 Only the President or his/her authorized designee shall communicate with the media and organization sponsors regarding SWLL business and affairs.

**3. Property and Equipment**

* 1. Volunteers, players and parents who are issued equipment are responsible for their return at the end of each season in good condition, except for normal wear and tear. Persons who fail to return equipment or return them in a damaged condition, beyond normal wear and tear, will be assessed the cost of repair or replacement.

* 1. Only the President, Vice Presidents, Uniform Coordinator or the Equipment Manager may remove equipment or uniforms from the organization's storage facility.
	2. Team Managers should address equipment or uniform needs directly **to** the Equipment Manager or Uniform Coordinator.

**4. Safety**

* 1. General: Refer to the Safety Code for Little League Baseball and Softball Inc. and to the SWLL Safety Plan.

**5. Practice Field Assignments**

5.1 Practice field assignments will be approved by the appropriate Vice President**/**President.

-They must send all practice/game times and field assignments to the Parks and Recreation board for approval.

5.2 A team must practice only at their regularly assigned field. Teams may practice at another field with the approval of the appropriate Vice President/Director responsible for that team.

5.3 Managers must immediately report fields requiring maintenance to their Vice President. The Vice President should then immediately report the situation to the Parks and Recreation for a resolution.

**6. Field Preparation/Pre-Game and Post Game Procedures**

6.1 Before each game it is the responsibility of both teams to walk the field and to remove all rocks and trash.

6.2 Home team Coaches and Managers are responsible to prepare the fields for games. They will insure the fields are lined and ready for play. It is the responsibility of BOTH teams to report any problems with the fields to the appropriate SWLL Board member.

6.3 After each game it is the responsibility of the HOME team to smooth the playing surface. **It is the responsibility of BOTH teams to pick up the trash in the dugouts and bleacher area and deposit the trash in the trash containers.**

**7. League Organization**

7.1 SWLL shall be organized into the following leagues for baseball and softball.

 7.1.1 Baseball

 Divisional Organization League Ages

 Tee Ball 4\*,5, 6 and 7\*

 Rookie 5\*\*,6\*\*,7, 8 and 9\* Minor 8\***,** 9, 10, 11 and 12

 Major 10\*, 11 and 12

 Intermediate 12 and 13

 Junior 13 and 14

 Senior 14, 15 and16

 Big League 16, 17 and18

 7.1.2 Softball

 Divisional Organization League Ages

 Minor 6\*,7\*,8, 9, 10, 11 and 12

 Major 10, 11 and 12

 Junior 12,13 and 14 Senior 13, 14, 15 and 16

 Big League 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18

 **\*** With Player Agent approval

 \*\* With 1 year of Tee ball played.

8. Tryouts

* 1. The following divisions will hold tryouts: Minor, Major, Junior, Senior and Big League Baseball and Minor, Major, Junior, Senior and Big League Softball. Tryouts shall be designed to display the appropriate skills and shall be conducted in a manner determined by the Board of Directors.

8.1.1 At least two (2) tryout dates will be scheduled, One Saturday and One Sunday. Players must attend at least one and have the option of attending both.

8.1.2 All players, league age 7-15, are eligible to try out for, and possibly be drafted by, a League team.

**9. Player Selection/Draft**

* 1. T-Ball, Rookie League players will not be drafted. The Vice President of T-Ball/Rookies will make individual team assignments, with the assistance of the Player Agent, if required. The teams will be balanced by player age and/or ability. Every effort to accommodate parent requests will be made, however only siblings (if skills are comparable) and the children of the Manager are guaranteed placement on the same team.
	2. Draft procedures for the Minor, Major, Junior, Senior and Big Leagues (Baseball and Softball) will be followed in accordance with the **Plan B** draft option in the Little League Operating Manual.
	3. Only one Manager from each team, or his/her designee in the absence of the Manager, the League President, Player Agent, and Vice President concerned will be in attendance at the player draft. NO EXCEPTIONS!
	4. Draft shall be held the Sunday after tryouts. No Team information will be given out to anyone but those present at the Draft. Monday parents will be notified that the Draft has taken place and have until Wednesday night to make any requests based on placement. They need to make all requests to the swllpresident@gmail.com , any requests made through 3rd party people will not be excepted. Thursday team selections will be announced to the players and their parents, no changes are to be made after the announcements are made.

9.4 When a player is needed from a Minor team to fill an opening in the roster of a Major team the procedures outlined in the operations manual shall be followed. A player asked to move to a Major team who refuses to do so when asked shall automatically be moved to another Minor team. Parents of the player who refuses to move may appeal this decision to the Board of Directors of South Whidbey Little League but must understand that the Minor Division is designed to be the developmental division that supplies players to the Major league as needed. Any player of suitable age and skill level may be asked to move at any time during the season. All Board decisions on an appeal are final. Any Minor division Manager or Coach who councils a player to refuse a request to move to the Major division shall immediately be removed from his/her coaching position. A player who refuses such a move will be ineligible for Major division play for the remainder of that years regular season.

**10. Umpires/Managers/Coaches**

* 1. Umpires
		1. Home Plate Umpires must be 16 years of age or older.

10.1.2 Minors, Major, Junior, Senior and Big League Baseball and Softball must have at least one league-approved umpire for each game. In the event a league approved umpire is not available the game will be rescheduled.

* + 1. Umpire assignments for Baseball and Softball games are based upon a priority system, i.e. Big League, Senior, Junior and Major.
		2. All Umpires are expected to attend all umpire meetings and clinics throughout the year as called by the Umpire in Chief.
	1. Managers/Coaches

10.2.1 Dress code for Managers/Coaches is as follows: They are not allowed to wear cut offs, tank tops, or ragged clothing. No articles of clothing will be permitted that advertise drugs, beer, hard liquor or cigarettes. Shoes with metal cleats, sandals, **flip-flops** or bare feet are **NOT** permitted. The Umpire will make any decision on acceptable attire. They are not allowed to wear the teams Jersey.

* + 1. No player is to be left alone waiting for a ride after practice or a game. An adult must remain with the player until he/she is picked up. If it is a male player and female adult, then there must be another adult present. Same as a female player left and a male coach, there needs to be another adult present.
		2. Managers/Coaches will not use tobacco products in the presence of players at any time or leave the game area to use tobacco products. If either of these occurs, they will face an automatic suspension for the next physicallyplayed gameand a disciplinary review by the Board of Directors.
		3. Managers/Coaches are highly encouraged to attend umpire meetings and clinics.
		4. Managers/Coaches: Upon a second or subsequent ejection, the automatic suspension will apply along with a board hearing to determine if further disciplinary action will be taken.
		5. Managers will be required to sign a manager agreement each year. All Managers/coaches will sign a volunteer code of conduct each season.
		6. Managers/Coaches who have been issued a warning about behavior may not be eligible to coach or manage All-stars that year or asked back to coach the next year. If a second warning in the same season is given they will not be asked back the next year and will not be eligible to coach or manage the All-star team.

**11. Official Scorekeeper**

* 1. The HOME team shall furnish a qualified official scorekeeper for each game. The scorekeeper is considered to work solely for the plate umpire of the game
	2. Baseball: The VISITING team shall furnish a qualified scorekeeper for each game for the purpose of keeping the pitch count and assisting the Official scorekeeper. Each pitch delivered to a batter shall be counted. (Exception: A pitch declared “no pitch” will not be charged to that pitcher.)
1. The official scorekeeper’s record of the pitch count shall be the official record.
2. The total pitches for each pitcher must be entered in the official scorebook. The scorebook will be used to determine the pitching eligibility in a subsequent game or games. Pitch count is only for Baseball not Softball since there is not pitch count.
3. When requested by the Manager through the Plate Umpire, the scorekeeper must provide current information on the pitch count for a pitcher currently in the game. Only the Manager can request the information.
4. The scorekeeper must inform the umpire-in-chief (plate umpire) and manager when the maximum number of pitches has been delivered by a particular pitcher, pursuant to the pitcher’s league age. The failure of the scorekeeper to notify the umpire-in-chief (plate umpire) and manager does not relieve the manager of the responsibility to remove a pitcher when the limit is reached.
	1. At the conclusion of the game, the scorekeeper shall make entries in the official scorebook and the plate umpire and/or managers must certify the pitchers in each game, the number of innings pitched (softball) or pitch count (baseball) by each pitcher and the final score.

11.4 Pitch count records will be signed by the Manager and Home Plate Umpire and kept for 3 weeks. In addition they must be made available for inspection if a problem occurs. It is the responsibility of the Manager to monitor playing time and pitch count (baseball) or innings pitched (softball**)** to insure that each player is receiving the minimum playing time and that pitchers are not pitching more than the maximum allowed. This will be monitored by the Vice President of Baseball/Softball.

11.5 Only the official scorekeeper(s), scoreboard operator, announcer, umpires or any member of the SWLL Board of Directors will be allowed in the scorer's booth once a game has begun if a booth is available.

* 1. After the start of the game, only umpires may confer with the official scorekeeper. If a parent approaches the Home Book or the Visiting Book they will get a warning, if it happens a second time they will be escorted from the game.

**12. Team Practices**

12.1 It is the responsibility of the team manager to coordinate and conduct team practices.

12.2 Tee Ball shall not meet more than two (2) times a week, including games. Tuesday and Thursday 5:30 to 6:30 for practices and games. Rookies shall not meet more than three (3) times a week. Monday, Wednesday and Fridays for practice 5:30-6:30, with games Wednesdays and Fridays 5:30 to 7. All other divisions shall not participate in more than five (5) practices and games combined per week.

12.3 Tee Ball practices shall not exceed 1-½ hours in duration. All other divisions shall not exceed 2 ½ hours in duration.

**13. Trophies and Awards**

Trophies and awards are left to the discretion of each team.

**14. Team Parent**

Each Manager will appoint a Team Parent. The person so appointed will be identified to the League Director prior to game schedule assignment. The responsibilities of the Team Parent shall include, but not be limited to, establishing a team phone tree, coordinating team volunteers to work in the concession stand on the dates assigned to each team and/or coordinating the League’s fundraising effort at the team level, coordinating the team's photo sessions, if applicable, and coordinating snack responsibilities.

**15. Volunteers**

All volunteers are required to have a **“Volunteer Application”** on file each year. All applications expire September 30th of that year.

**16. Special Tee Ball, Rookie and Minor Baseball Rules**

* 1. All players are to be included in the batting rotation.

16.2 No pitchers will be used in Tee Ball. Coaches may pitch in Rookie and in the last half of the season players my start pitching but only if safe to do so.

* 1. Tee Ball: All members of a team will play defensively. A maximum of seven (7) players will be allowed in the infield. There will be no catcher. The balance of the team will be positioned in the outfield. Players should rotate positions with every member of the team required to play in the outfield for at least one (1) inning.

16.4 Four (4) outfielders may be used at the discretion of the Manager.

16.5 An offensive coach is permitted in each coaching box and at home plate. A maximum of two (2) coaches will be allowed on the defensive field during games in order to provide instruction. Coaches are not permitted to touch a live ball.

16.6 Rookie: When the pitching machine is used, there will be no walks issued. The batter will be out after seven (7) balls are pitched, unless the 7th ball is a foul, or after three (3) swinging strikes (on May 1st the pitch count will be reduced to 5). Balls and strikes will be called during games. Both teams will take down and clean the field after the game.

* + 1. No inning shall start more than two (2) hours after the starting time of the game, which shall be determined by the managers. An inning shall be deemed started immediately upon conclusion of the prior inning.
	1. No protests shall be allowed under any circumstances.
	2. Tee Ball: The official schedule will be made available through the Manager of the team, if a game is canceled, regardless of the reason, the Tee Ball Director will be notified by the Managers immediately. Games will not be rescheduled or made up. Managers will not change the schedule without specific consent from the Tee Ball Director.
	3. Minimum Play Rule for Minors and below: No player shall sit out two consecutive innings. It shall be the manager’s responsibility to keep the official scorekeeper informed of ALL substitutions. Exceptions are (1) games shortened by the umpire: (2) by managers/coaches due to parent requests: (3) disciplinary reasons: (4) lack of uniform: (5) illness: (6) injury: (7) weather or field conditions: (8) darkness: (9) the ten run rule: (10) any other reason approved by the board. Reason(s) for noncompliance with the minimum play rule shall be noted in the team scorebook. If a player shows up for a game in proper attire, other than for the reasons above, they are subject to the minimum play rule. A late arriving player must be placed at the bottom of the batting roster. Courtesy pinch runners are not allowed. However, if a player is injured or cannot run, the designated pinch runner shall be the player who made the most recent out. **This rule does not apply in inter-league play.**

**17. All Stars**

* 1. The All Star Managers will be selected by the President and approved by the Board of Directors in accordance with procedures established by SWLL. All Star Managers and coaches will be required to meet the same participation requirements as the players. This will require them to actively participate as a coach or manager during at least 60% of the regular season games and practices. The manager may select up to two (2) coaches with the approval of the President and the Board of Directors.
	2. The All Star Player selection procedure shall be determined by the Board of Directors and implemented by the Player Agent.
	3. Parents of all-star players will be required provide a check for a uniform deposit. The deposit check will be returned upon return of the all-star uniform within 15 days of the end of the player’s final all-star game. Should the all-star uniform not be returned within 15 days of the end of the player’s final all-star game the deposit check will be cashed. The Board of Directors will determine the deposit amount on an annual basis.
	4. The first six (6) players of each 9-10,10-11,11-12, Junior, Senior and Big League baseball or softball team will be selected by a combined vote of the players. The final 6 players will be selected by a committee made up of the managers for that division.
		1. Managers will canvas their teams two (2) weeks prior to the end of the regular season, for players that have plans that would preclude them from participating on the All Star team if selected. That information will be given to the Player Agent and those players’ names will be left off the ballot.
		2. Ballots will be produced by the Player Agent consisting of all players eligible for participation on the affected All Star team. The Player Agent will be in charge of distributing and collecting the ballots. Players will vote for 6 of the players on the ballot.
		3. All Star Team members will be announced not earlier than 15 June.

**18. Public Relations**

Sponsorship or solicitations of any kind shall not be made or accepted by individual teams unless authorized by the Board of Directors.

**19. General**

* 1. Any player who desires a refund prior to the season starting date, may do so by making a written request to the Board of Directors. The Player Agent will remove the player's Registration form from the files and route it to the Treasurer for issue of the refund money.

19.1.1 After the season starts all requests for refund must be submitted in writing prior to May 1**st** to the Board of Directors and will be approved on a case-by-case basis (i.e. refund due to injury, transfer etc). Refund levels will be pro-rated as determined by the Board of Directors with no refund being available after May 1st.

* 1. Signs: All signs posted on the outfield fences or dugouts will be paid for each year at the charge approved by the Board of Directors.
	2. Returned NSF checks will be assessed according to Washington State Law, RCW 62A.103, a fee of $20.
	3. Refund Policy: The participation fee will be refunded according to the following schedule: Up to the first team practice 100%, up to the first regularly scheduled league game 50% and 0% after the first regularly scheduled league game.
	4. No alcohol or smoking is allowed on any field or premise used by South Whidbey Little League teams.
	5. No player or coach shall leave the field without specific permission from the umpire. This means no going to the concession stand. Players may use the restrooms when asking their manager or coach if they are not in the batting lineup. **Managers and coaches are allowed on the field in Tee Ball and Rookie games.**
	6. The hat, shirt, socks, and where applicable pants constitute the official Little League Uniform. Failure to wear the entire uniform means a player does not play. Manager and coach attire must be neat and clean.
	7. No player shall be allowed to practice or play in a game until a Registration, Medical History, Consent to Treatment, and Agreements form is fully completed and submitted to the league.
	8. The following safety rules are in effect at all times:

Long hair shall be in a pony tail for safety and visibility. Forehead hair shall be cut above eyebrow level or held back by means other than tucking under a cap. Players are not allowed to wear shorts of any type at practices or games. All shirt-tails shall be tucked in. No kicking holes into the field or adjoining areas. This is very dangerous to fielders, runners, umpires and parents. All glasses must have a safety strap to keep them on. Pop-up or flip-up sunglasses are not allowed. Players are permitted to wear jackets: SWLL has elected to permit players to wear non-uniform jackets (zipped or buttoned) on the field during periods of inclement weather. This is to protect the health of the players. The umpire shall judge whether conditions warrant non-uniform clothing. They are not allowed in tournament play.

**20. Amendments to Rules**

These local rules may be altered, amended or repealed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, if at least 14 days notice is given to each Board Member, setting forth the specific proposed change(s) and the date of the meeting at which the change(s) are to be considered. Notice may be waived in writing, signed by the person(s) entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein. Any such waiver shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.