Washington Youth Baseball League 2026 Bylaws

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Version History

Version	Date	Description
1.0	2/27/2026	Initial Draft
1.1	3/9/2026	Incorporated suggested edits
1.2	3/11/2026	Added League Funds and Privacy Policy sections.

Section 1 – Purpose of the Bylaws

A. The purpose of these Bylaws is to define the procedures, responsibilities, and operational standards that govern the daily functioning of the Washington Youth Baseball League, hereafter referred to as "the League". These Bylaws serve as the primary reference for how the league is operated on a routine basis, including but not limited to, the organization of teams, scheduling and conduct of practices and games, roles and duties of coaches and volunteers, player registration and participation, use of facilities and equipment, and enforcement of league rules and policies.
B. These Bylaws are intended to promote efficient operations, fairness, safety, and accountability, and to ensure that the league is administered in a consistent and organized manner. All league officials, volunteers, participants, and families are expected to comply with these Bylaws in carrying out the regular activities of the league.

Section 2 – Review, Adoption, and Amendment of the Bylaws

A. The Bylaws of the League shall be reviewed annually by the league's Board of Directors, prior to the beginning of registration for the spring season, to ensure they remain current, effective, and aligned with the operational needs of the league. Following review, the Board shall formally adopt the Bylaws, including any revisions, prior to the start of each year unless otherwise determined by the Board. The Board retains the right to review and modify, by majority vote, these Bylaws, if it is determined mid-season a modification would be in the best interest of the league.
B. Proposed amendments to these Bylaws may be submitted by any member of the Board of Directors or as otherwise authorized by the Board. All proposed amendments shall be presented in writing and distributed to the Board in advance of consideration.
C. Amendments to the Bylaws shall require approval by a majority vote of the Board of Directors present at the next regularly scheduled meeting at which a quorum is established. Upon approval, amendments shall take effect immediately unless otherwise specified by the Board.
D. The most current version of the Bylaws shall be maintained as the official governing document of the league and made available to league officials and members as appropriate.

Section 3 – Nondiscrimination Statement

A. The League maintains a strict policy of non-discrimination and is committed to ensuring equal opportunity in all league programs, activities, and operations. The league does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, or any other status protected by applicable federal, state, or local law.
B. This policy applies to all participants, including players, coaches, managers, volunteers, officials, parents, guardians, and spectators. All individuals affiliated with the league are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the league's commitment to fairness, dignity, respect, and sportsmanship.

Section 4 – League Website

A. The League shall maintain a website to serve as a registration platform as well as to house important information regarding League operations.
B. Information that will be available on the website shall include, but not be limited to:
    1. League contact information
    2. A current listing of League Officers and Directors
    3. The League Constitution and Bylaws
    4. A description of programs offered by the League
    5. Registration information for players and volunteers
    6. A current listing of League Sponsors
    7. Posted schedules, game results, and standings
C. The League shall regularly update the website to reflect current information.

Section 5 – Media Policy

A. The purpose of this Media Policy is to establish guidelines for the creation, use, and distribution of photographs, video, audio recordings, and other media involving participants in the League. The League recognizes the value of media in promoting youth baseball while prioritizing the safety, privacy, and well-being of its players.
B. By registering a player in the League, a parent or legal guardian grants permission for the League to photograph, record, and use the player's image, likeness, name, and/or voice in league-related media, including but not limited to websites, social media platforms, promotional materials, broadcasts, and publications.
C. All media content must:
    1. Be respectful and age-appropriate

    2. Reflect positively on the league, its participants, and the sport of baseball
    3. Avoid disclosure of personal or sensitive information, including but not limited to full names paired with contact information, home addresses, or schedules beyond publicly posted game information
    4. Not be altered or used in a manner that is misleading, exploitative, or inappropriate.
D. Only individuals authorized by the League may post or distribute official league media on league-managed platforms. The league reserves the right to remove any content that violates this policy or is deemed inconsistent with league values.
E. Parents, guardians, and spectators may take photos or videos for personal use, provided such activity does not interfere with gameplay, disrupt participants, or violate the privacy or safety of any player. The league strongly discourages the posting of media that identifies players by full name, jersey number, or team in a manner that could compromise safety.
F. The following are strictly prohibited:
    1. Recording or photographing players in locker rooms, restrooms, or other private areas
    2. Use of media to harass, ridicule, intimidate, or demean any participant, official, or volunteer
    3. Commercial use of league-related media without prior written approval from the league
G. Parents or guardians may request that specific media featuring their child be removed from league platforms. The league will make reasonable efforts to comply with such requests in a timely manner.
H. Violation of this Media Policy may result in disciplinary action, including removal of media privileges, suspension, or other actions deemed appropriate by the league's governing body.

Section 6 – Privacy Policy

A. We are committed to protecting the privacy and security of the personal information we collect from players, parents, volunteers, and coaches. This privacy policy outlines the types of personal data we collect, how it is used, and how we protect it. By participating in our programs, you agree to the collection and use of information in accordance with this policy.
B. Information We Collect
    1. We collect the following types of personal information from participants and their families:

a. Personal Information: Name, address, phone number, email address, date of birth, and gender of players and their parents or guardians.
b. Social Security Number: Collected from registered volunteers
c. Health Information: Medical conditions or allergies of players (if provided).
d. Payment Information: Credit card or payment details for registration and event fees.
e. Photos/Videos: Photographs or videos taken during games, practices, or events for promotional purposes.

2. How We Use Your Information
    a. We use the personal information we collect for the following purposes:
        i. To Register Participants: To enroll players in our programs and keep track of team assignments, schedules, and rosters.
        ii. Communication: To send updates, schedules, league announcements, and other relevant information.
        iii. Health and Safety: To address any medical needs or allergies that may arise during participation.
        iv. Payments: To process registration fees and other payments related to our programs.
        v. Marketing and Promotion: To post photos or videos of participants in promotional materials, social media, or our website. Removal of such content can be requested.
3. Sharing Your Information
    a. We may share personal information in the following ways:
        i. With Coaches and Volunteers: To facilitate team organization, practices, and communication.
        ii. With Service Providers: We may share data with trusted third-party vendors (e.g., registration systems, payment processors, or communications platforms) who help us operate our programs.
        iii. Legal Requirements: If required by law, we may disclose personal information to comply with legal obligations or in response to lawful requests by public authorities.
    b. We will only share participant registration information or make changes to a participant's registration with the expressed consent of the participant's account owner.

4. Data Retention
    a. We retain personal information indefinitely.
5. Security of Your Information
    a. We take reasonable steps to protect the personal information we collect from unauthorized access, use, or disclosure. This includes using secure methods of data storage and limiting access to authorized personnel only.
6. Your Rights
    a. You have the right to:
        i. Access the personal information we hold about you or your child.
        ii. Request corrections to any inaccuracies in your personal information.
        iii. Request deletion of your personal information (subject to any legal obligations to retain it).
        iv. To exercise these rights, please contact us at contact.wybl@gmail.com.
7. Changes to This Privacy Policy
    a. We may update this privacy policy from time to time to reflect changes in our practices or for other operational, legal, or regulatory reasons. We will notify you of any significant changes by posting the new policy on our website.

Section 7 – Code of Conduct

A. The League is committed to providing a positive, safe, and respectful environment for all participants. Good sportsmanship is expected from players, coaches, parents/guardians, spectators, and officials at all league-sanctioned events.
B. At all times, players, coaches, and other volunteers shall:
    1. Represent themselves, their teams, and the League in a positive manner.
    2. Demonstrate respect for teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, and spectators.
    3. Refrain from using abusive language or profanity, taunting, unsportsmanlike conduct, or physical intimidation.
    4. Accept the decisions of officials without argument or misconduct.
    5. Promote fair play, teamwork, and enjoyment of the game above winning.
    6. Refrain from fighting or arguing with other participants.
C. Parents/guardians and spectators shall:

1. Display and instill in all players, the principles of good sportsmanship and team play.
2. Not ridicule, taunt, humiliate, or demean players, coaches, or officials.
3. Treat all players, coaches, and officials fairly and with respect.
4. Respect opponents and avoid confrontation with opposing players, spectators, and coaches.
5. Comply with the decisions of League officials and observe all rules, policies, and procedures as established by the League.
6. Be tobacco, drug, and alcohol free while attending League events.
7. Refrain from bringing guns, knives, or other potential weapons to League events.

D. Behavior contrary to this Code of Conduct, by any participant or spectator, may result in disciplinary action, including warnings, ejection, suspension, or removal from league activities, as determined by the League.

Section 8 – League Funds

A. The League's Board of Directors authorizes the League's officers to make purchases of equipment considered out of the ordinary to normal League operations not to exceed $300.00 without approval of the Board as a whole.

B. The League's Board of Directors authorizes the League's officers to make payments to game officials based on the following schedule:

Division	Position	Per Game Amount
6U	Umpire	$40.00
8U	Umpire	$45.00
10U	Plate Umpire	$60.00
10U	Base Umpire	$60.00
12U	Plate Umpire	$60.00
12U	Base Umpire	$60.00
15U	Plate Umpire	$80.00
15U	Base Umpire	$80.00
6U-15U	Umpire Scheduler	$5.00

6U-8U	Official Scorekeeper	$25.00
10U-15U	Official Scorekeeper	$35.00

C. The League shall provide reimbursements to officers and Directors for reasonable purchases made for League purposes.
    1. Reimbursement requests shall include a receipt showing the amount paid for the item(s) purchased.
    2. The reimbursement shall be for the purchase price plus the applicable tax.
    3. Reimbursements in excess of $300.00 shall be approved by the Board.

Section 9 – Concessions

A. The League, in conjunction with the Washington Girls Fastpitch Softball League, operates a concession stand at the Susiegray McConnell Sports Complex as an amenity for players and fans.
B. Player snacks shall be offered at a rate determined prior to the season. This rate shall be posted at the concession stand.
C. The League shall assign Concessions Coordinator(s) to manage the League's concessions responsibilities to include staffing and opening/closing duties.
D. The Concessions Coordinator(s) shall develop a schedule detailing teams that are responsible for providing concession stand staffing during assigned periods and shall notify Head Coaches of their assigned timeslots.
E. Head Coaches shall be responsible for making sure that their assigned timeslots will be staffed by volunteers for their team.
F. Head Coaches must notify the Concessions Coordinator(s) of any anticipated difficulty in filling the assigned timeslots.
G. Failure to participate in the assigned concessions duty will result in a two(2) point deduction off the team's standings.

Section 10 – Refund Policy

A. The League will refund a player's registration fee, minus the $3.00 service charge, up until the date of player evaluations during the spring season or team assignments during the fall season.
B. After player evaluations no refunds will be available regardless of the reason.

Section 11 – Severe Weather

A. The League will follow City of Washington regulations regarding lightning.
    1. When the lightning alarm goes off, everyone at the sports complex shall immediately return to their vehicles.
    2. Once a period of thirty (30) minutes passes with no additional lightning strikes detected, an all-clear will be given and play can resume.
    3. If additional lighting strikes are detected within the thirty (30) minute period, the timer shall reset.
B. The League shall monitor available weather reports to determine if play will be able to continue and shall make an announcement as soon as possible by posting on the League's social media pages and communicating with coaches and Affiliated League officials.
C. Affiliated Leagues are encouraged to adopt and publish an official policy regarding severe weather to be in effect for events held at their facilities.

Section 12 – Affiliated Leagues

A. Historically, the League has served as an "umbrella organization" for other local youth baseball leagues in and around Beaufort County that wish to participate in expanded league play, hereafter referred to as "affiliated leagues".
B. Affiliated leagues will be responsible for providing their own insurance coverage, registration process, team sponsorships, adequate playing fields, scheduling and payment of game officials for games at their locations, and concessions as desired.
C. Each affiliated league will manage their own finances and there will be no financial ties between leagues.
D. The League shall communicate with all Affiliated Leagues in a timely and effective manner.
    1. It is the Affiliated Leagues' responsibility to maintain communications with their coaches and participating families.
E. Each affiliated league shall abide by eligibility requirements and gameplay rules as adopted by the League.
F. The League will develop the game schedule for all affiliated leagues, in coordination with affiliated league leadership.
G. Affiliated leagues shall provide, by a predetermined date, the number of teams, team names, and coach contact information to be used to develop the game schedules.

    1. Failure to provide this information by the scheduled date may result in teams not being included in the schedule.
    2. Changes made to teams after the scheduled date may not be able to be accommodated.

H. Affiliated leagues may field their own All-Star team(s) for postseason play and shall determine their own All-Star selection process.

I. Affiliated Leagues are expected to participate in the Pre-Season Coaches Meeting and the League's Postseason Tournament.

Section 13 – Governing Rules

A. The League operates in accordance with the official rules, regulations, and policies adopted by Tar Heel Leagues, Inc. All games, practices, and league activities shall be conducted under these rules, as approved by the league's Board of Directors. Current Tar Heel League rules may be found at www.thlstate.com.

B. The League may adopt modifications to address age, skill level, safety considerations, local requirements, or other topics as necessary. In the event of a conflict between the affiliated organization rules and league-adopted bylaws, the league-adopted bylaws shall govern during League play.

C. The league reserves the right to interpret, enforce, and amend its bylaws as necessary to ensure fair play, participant safety, and the orderly administration of league operations. All participants, including players, coaches, managers, officials, parents, and guardians, are expected to be familiar with and comply with all governing rules and policies of the league.

Section 14 – Division Representatives

A. The League shall annually appoint Division Representatives to serve as liaisons between the League and each division's coaches.

B. Division Representatives are not required to be current members of the Board of Directors.

C. Division Representatives shall:
    1. Relay communication from the League to their respective division's Head Coaches and vice versa.
    2. Regularly obtain game results and update the League website to reflect current standings.
    3. Serve as a resource to division Head Coaches rule clarifications, equipment requests, etc.

Section 15 – Coaches

A. All coaches and team staff must be at least eighteen (18) years old.
B. Head and assistant coaches must register through the League's online registration system. Individuals will only be allowed to coach once all required information has been submitted and the Board of Directors has completed and received an approved background check.
C. Coaches are responsible for the following:
    1. Follow all League and Tar Heel League bylaws, rules, and regulations.
    2. Obey all facility rules.
    3. Treat all players fairly.
    4. Select up to three (3) Assistant Coaches.
    5. Participate in the player evaluation and draft processes.
    6. Attend the pre-season coach's meeting.
    7. Relay communication from the League to team contacts.
    8. Checkout, maintain, and return in good condition all League equipment.
    9. Supervise or delegate supervision responsibilities for all team activities.
    10. Ensure appropriate conduct of team coaches, players, parents, fans, etc.
    11. Report to the League instances of inappropriate conduct that the coach is unable to handle.
    12. Perform or delegate concession stand duty.
    13. Report game scores to Division Rep.
    14. Maintain the team scorebook or delegate to another person.
    15. Maintain appropriate statistics for use during All-Star selection (8U-15U).
    16. Ensure that dugouts, batting cages, etc. are left in good condition after use and no team items have been left behind.

Section 16 – Umpires

A. Umpires shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
B. Umpires shall be familiar with the League's governing rules and local rules.
C. The League shall obtain umpires for all Spring Season games. The Fall Season will not utilize umpires.
    1. 6U & 8U – One umpire
    2. 10U, 12U, and 15U – Two umpires
D. The League shall pay predetermined rates to each umpire on a per game basis, as referenced in Section 8B.

1. Umpire payments will be processed every two weeks and checks will be available for pickup by the umpires in the concession stand.
2. An umpire will not be paid if the umpire fails to work a scheduled game or removes himself from a game for any reason other than injury or illness.

E. In the event of rain after the start of a game, the home plate umpire, in conjunction with the League, shall determine if field conditions are playable and if the game should be temporarily stopped or suspended.
F. Umpires are authorized to eject players, coaches, or spectators from a game for any violation of the League's Code of Conduct.
G. Umpires shall report any acts of unsportsmanlike conduct by players, coaches, or spectators to the League immediately following the game where such an event occurs.

Section 17 – Protests

A. Protests may only be filed regarding a misapplication/misinterpretation of a rule or the use of an ineligible player.
B. The protesting coach must notify the umpire of the protest prior to the next pitch. The umpire shall announce that the game is being played under protest.
C. Protests shall be placed in writing and submitted to the League within twenty-four (24) hours after the rule infraction occurs.
D. The League shall rule on the protest within two (2) days.

Section 18 – Equipment

A. The League shall provide:
    1. Jerseys/Hats
        a. All players and coaches are required to wear the uniform jerseys and hats issued by the League during all games.
    2. Catcher's Gear
        a. The League shall issue catchers' gear, to include a helmet/mask, chest protector, and shin guards to all League teams in the 8U-15U divisions, as needed, understanding that participants may have their own personal catcher's gear.
    3. Additional League Supplied Equipment
        a. The League shall supply game baseballs, batting tees, and other equipment as deemed necessary by the League.

4. Coaches shall care for equipment in their possession and report damaged equipment needing repair or replacement to the League.
    a. Damaged equipment should not be used and should be repaired or discarded.
5. Equipment issued by the League shall be returned to the League within 15 days after the end of the season.

B. Players shall provide:
    1. Pants, Belts, and Socks
        a. The color of these items worn during games shall be determined at the discretion of the Head Coach at the beginning of the season.
    2. Footwear
        a. Shoes with molded rubber cleats or tennis shoes are permitted in all divisions.
        b. Metal cleats are prohibited, with the exception of the 15U division.
    3. Batting Helmet
        a. All players are responsible for providing and wearing an appropriate helmet as defined in Tar Heel League rules.
        b. While not required, the League recommends using a type of face protection.
    4. Bat
        a. Players shall provide their own bat that meets Tar Heel League requirements.
    5. Gloves
        a. Players shall provide their own fielding and batting gloves.

C. Participants that need assistance meeting equipment requirements may contact the League to request assistance.

D. Players shall not wear any jewelry made of metal or any other material that is at risk of cutting any player.

Section 19 – Divisions

A. The following division structure shall be in place when the number of available players supports it:
    1. 4U Instructional/Tee-Ball (~3 ½ - 4 years old)
    2. 6U Coach Pitch/Tee-Ball (5 – 6 years old)
    3. 8U Coach Pitch (7 – 8 years old)
    4. 10U Kid Pitch (9 – 10 years old)
    5. 12U Kid Pitch (11 – 12 years old)

6. 15U Kid Pitch (13 - 15 years old)

B. The Board of Directors reserves the right to change the structure to suit the needs of the League.

Section 20 – Player Eligibility

A. Prior to the start of registration for the spring season, the Board shall determine and publicize player eligibility criteria for the upcoming calendar year on the League website.

B. Eligibility shall be determined based on the participant's age as of May 1st of a year's spring season.

C. Players that participate in a fall season will register for the division they would play in during the following spring season.

D. Upon request and approval by the League, players may be registered in a division where they are younger than the division's age range, other than the 4U Division.

E. Players may not register in a division where they are older than the division's age range, unless there are special circumstances leading to concerns for the player's safety.
   1. The League must approve of all such requests.
   2. Approved players will be ineligible for All-Star selection.
   3. Exception: If the division a player is moving into for the following spring season is not offered during a fall season, the player may register for the division they are aging out of.

F. A birth certificate for each participant shall be submitted in the first season the participant plays for the League. A copy of the participant's birth certificate may be requested by the League at any time.
   1. When documents such as the birth certificate are not available, the League shall forward to the Tar Heel Leagues, Inc. District Director as much documentary evidence as possible. If the District Director determines that such evidence is satisfactory, a statement to that effect will be sent to the League which shall be acceptable in lieu of other records.

G. A player who wishes to change leagues from one season to another must file a "release form" to the League. If approved by the League, the form must be forwarded to the Tar Heel Leagues District Director and if approved by all parties, forwarded to the State President of the Tar Heel Leagues.

Section 21 – Registration

A. Registration periods shall be established and publicized by the Board of Directors prior to the start of each season. The Board reserves the right to adjust registration periods as needed.
B. Registration shall be completed using the League's website. The Board of Directors may accept written registration forms, but all information will be input into the League's system.
C. Registration will be advertised by multiple means, including bulk email, social media, signage, etc. and shall be ongoing prior to and during the open registration period.
D. Availability of late registration is not guaranteed but will be accepted when possible. A late registration fee will be charged unless waived by the Board of Directors.
E. Registration fees shall be approved by the Board of Directors prior to the opening of a registration period.
    1. Registration fees for the current year shall be:

Spring		
Division	City of Washington Resident	Non-City of Washington Resident
4U	$50	$60
6U	$60	$70
8U	$65	$75
10U	$75	$85
12U	$85	$95
15U	$90	$100
Fall		
Division	City of Washington Resident	Non-City of Washington Resident
4U	TBD	TBD
6U	TBD	TBD
8U	TBD	TBD
10U	TBD	TBD

12U	TBD	TBD
15U	TBD	TBD

2. Registration fees shall be paid at the time of registration unless:
    a. The participant is placed on a waitlist. The fee shall be paid if/when the participant is activated from the waitlist.
    b. The registrant has received approval from the Board of Directors for an alternate payment plan.
3. Failure to pay registration fees by Spring Season evaluations/Fall Season team assignments or arrange alternate payment plans with the League, will result in cancellation of the participant's registration and the participant being unable to continue activities with the League.

Section 22 – Team Selection

A. Spring Season
    1. Participants in the 4U division shall be assigned to teams by the League with every effort made to keep the number of players for each team below ten (10).
    2. Participants in the 6U through 15U divisions shall be subject to a player draft conducted by the coaches of each team following the player evaluation process.
B. Fall Season
    1. Following registration for any fall season, the League shall attempt to evenly distribute players based on skill and experience among teams, if there is enough interest to field multiple teams. The League, at its discretion, may seek advice from coaches, parents, etc. to best determine a player's skill and experience level.
C. The number of players on a team roster should be sufficient to withstand losses of players due to injury, illness, absence, etc. if the number of registered players allows.

Section 23 – Spring Season Player Evaluations

A. For each spring season, a player evaluation process shall be conducted to determine the skill level of each participant. The 4U division does not participate in the player evaluation process.
B. The League shall utilize drills to assess the throwing, fielding, hitting, and base-running abilities of participants.
C. Head coaches, and up to one assistant coach, shall attend player evaluations and use a method of their own choosing to rate a participant's skill level. These ratings shall be used by the coaches during the draft process.
D. A list of all registered players shall be sent to all head coaches prior to evaluations.
E. Players are not required to participate in the evaluation process to be placed on a team, however participation is highly encouraged.

Section 24 – Spring Season Draft Procedures

A. With the exception of the 4U division, the League shall utilize a draft process for the selection of teams.
B. The purpose of the draft process is to fairly distribute players based on their perceived talent exhibited during player evaluations.
C. Teams shall be re-drafted every year.
D. All players that meet the eligibility criteria shall be distributed in the player draft with the following exceptions:
    1. If applicable, the child(ren) of the Head Coach shall be automatically assigned to the team coached by the parent and shall not be included in the draft process.
    2. The Head Coach may select one Assistant Coach prior to evaluations. The child(ren) of the Assistant Coach shall be automatically assigned to the team and shall not be included in the draft process.
        a. If a Head Coach has not selected an assistant coach prior to evaluations, that Head Coach will be presented with a list of registered Assistant Coaches, and will be able to select their Assistant Coach, subject to approval of the Assistant Coach chosen.
E. All players registered in a division, except for the child(ren) of the Head and pre-selected Assistant Coach, shall be placed into the draft pool. There will be no division of players based on age or any other factor. No special draft status shall be

assigned to any player other than that of siblings or any other special circumstance as ruled upon by the League President(s) or Board of Directors.

1. Siblings shall be drafted using back-to-back draft picks by the same team.

F. Coaches in the 10U, 12U, and 15U divisions shall discuss the pitching and catching prospects of the respective divisions prior to beginning the draft process. Once a consensus is reached on pitching and catching prospects each team will draft these players as evenly as possible via the player draft process.

G. G. The draft order shall be determined by a random draw of numbers from a hat. The coach that draws the number "1" shall have the first pick of the draft.

H. H. The draft shall be conducted using a snake draft format. The following example is a guide to how the snake draft should occur in a division that has five teams:

Round 1: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Round 2: 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
Round 3: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5…

I. In the event of a Head or Assistant Coach entering the draft with no children or multiple children causing the initial team assignments to be uneven, the Draft Coordinator will award supplemental draft picks to the teams with fewer players to even out the teams. The timing of these supplemental picks will be decided before the draft selections begin and shall be subject to consensus of the Draft Coordinator and the Head Coaches to fairly distribute the available talent.

J. The draft shall continue in this manner until all players in the draft pool have been drafted to a team.

K. The draft process shall be supervised by the President of Baseball Operations and/or his designee(s) acting as Draft Coordinator. The Draft Coordinator shall ensure that all processes are carried out in a manner that fairly distributes available talent among the teams.

L. Any disputes or clarifications during the draft process shall be ruled upon by the President of Baseball Operations.

Section 25 – Spring Season Practices, Games, and Postseason Tournament

A. Practices

1. The League shall establish the official practice schedule for each team. Head coaches may schedule additional practices subject to field availability. Practices cancelled due to inclement weather will not be rescheduled by the League.

        a. 4U-10U team practices will begin the first week of March, subject to adequate field conditions.
        b. 12U-15U team practices will begin the last week of April.

B. Regular season games
    1. The League shall establish the official game schedule including all teams registered with the League and any teams participating from Affiliated Leagues.
        a. 4U-10U regular season games shall begin on the date scheduled for Opening Day, typically in mid- to late-March, and shall end in mid-May.
        b. 12U-15U regular season games shall begin in early-May and shall end in early-June.
    2. An Opening Day ceremony will take place on the first Saturday of season games.
    3. Games are typically scheduled for weeknights; however, Saturday games may be scheduled as well.
    4. The minimum numbers of games played will be determined based on the number of teams, however the 8U through 15U division teams shall play no less than eight (8) regular season games due to All-Star eligibility requirements.
        a. Shortened double-headers may be used, as necessary, to meet the eight (8) game minimum threshold.
    5. The League shall schedule each team for no more than two (2) games in a week, with the following possible exceptions:
        a. Rescheduled game due to weather cancellation, not to exceed a third game in a week
        b. Special events where games are held on the weekend, not to exceed a third game in a week
        c. Postseason tournaments
    6. No team shall play more than two games in one day.
    7. The League will make every attempt to build days into the schedule to allow for makeup days for weather cancellations.
        a. Any game(s) that are cancelled due to weather shall typically be rescheduled for the Wednesday of the following week. Additional cancelled games, unable to be rescheduled for the open date, shall be rescheduled for the earliest possible makeup day.
        b. A rained out or suspended game remaining at the end of the season will not be played unless its outcome would affect the standings and

playoff positions or reduces the season to less than eight games for one of the teams.

c. Teams will not be penalized for players that are unable to play in a resumed suspended game. The player's spot in the batting order shall be skipped without recording an out.

8. Postseason Tournaments
    a. In any division with more than one (1) team competing, a postseason tournament will be held, with the exception of the 4U division.
        i. Postseason Tournament games shall begin as soon as possible following the end of the regular season schedule and shall be played until a Postseason Tournament Champion has been determined.
        ii. Postseason Tournament games cannot end in a tie and play shall continue until a winner is determined.
            a. In the event of a tied postseason game continuing well past the allotted time or innings, the League reserves the right to alter the Local rules in Section 31 to more quickly resolve the game.
    b. An awards ceremony shall be conducted immediately following the conclusion of the Championship game of each division.

Section 26 – League Standings

A. During spring seasons, the League shall maintain accurate standings in the 6U-15U divisions based on a team's win/loss record. Standings are not maintained for the 4U division.
B. Regular season games that are tied at the end of the allotted time or innings limit shall be recorded as a tie. No extra time or innings shall be played.
C. Tournament Seeding
    1. The Higher seed in a postseason tournament shall be the Home team.
    2. Should two or more teams be tied entering the Postseason Tournament, their seedings shall be determined with the tiebreakers in the following order:
        a. Head-to-head record
        b. Run differential in head-to-head games
        c. Coin flip

Section 27 – Spring Season Awards

A. The League shall provide awards for the Regular Season and Tournament Champions and the Regular Season and Tournament Runners-Up in the 6U-15U Divisions whether the team is registered with the League or an Affiliated League.
B. The League shall provide participation awards for all players registered with the League in the 4U and 6U Divisions.
C. The types of awards shall be annually determined by the League.
D. Awards shall be purchased using League funds.

Section 28 – Fall Season

A. The League may conduct a fall season if there is perceived to be enough interest.
B. The fall season will typically operate during the months of September and October.
C. The fall season is a developmental baseball program where:
    1. Players shall participate in the division they will be eligible for the following spring season with the exception as outlined in Section 21(D)(3).
    2. No official score or records are kept.
    3. No umpires are present. Coaches shall act as umpires to the best of their ability.

Section 29 – Local Playing Field Requirements

A. 4U
    1. There shall be no official playing field requirements for the 4U Division and any available field may be used for scheduling of games.
B. 6U
    1. The distance between all bases must be sixty (60) feet.
    2. The distance from the point of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber must be forty (40) feet. A pitching mound is not necessary.
    3. A mark shall be placed between home plate and the pitching rubber, twenty-five (25) feet from the point of home plate.
    4. An arc shall be marked from foul line to foul line fifteen (15) feet from the point of home plate.
    5. An eight (8) foot radius semicircle shall be marked from the center of the pitching rubber, with the ends of the semicircle even with the pitching rubber and the arc of the semicircle behind pitching rubber. A line shall be marked to connect the ends of the semicircle to the pitching rubber.

6. A hash mark shall be marked halfway between first and second base.

C. 8U

1. The 8U playing field shall be marked per Tar Heel League rules with the following exception:
    a. An eight (8) foot radius semicircle shall be marked from the center of the pitching rubber, with the ends of the semicircle even with the pitching rubber and the arc of the semicircle behind pitching rubber. A line shall be marked to connect the ends of the semicircle to the pitching rubber.

D. 10U – 15U shall be per Tar Heel League rules.

Section 30 – Local Rules

A. Local rules are modifications to Tar Heel League rules that are to be utilized in local league play and postseason tournament play. Local rules DO NOT apply to All-Star play, regardless of tournament location.

B. Rules affecting all or multiple divisions:

1. Double First Base
    a. To enhance the safety of its participants, the League shall utilize, where applicable, a double first base during the 2026 Spring/Fall seasons. The use of the double first base has been implemented for 2026 in expectation of Tar Heel Leagues adopting the use for 2027.
    b. The following rules shall not be strictly enforced during the 2026 season(s), but coaches should begin instructing players in the proper rules.
    c. The double base may be used for first base only.
    d. The longer sides shall face toward home plate and the right field corner.
    e. Half the base shall be white (entirely over fair territory) and half shall be a contrasting solid color (entirely over foul territory). There shall be no space between the two portions of the base.
    f. When using the double first base, the following rules must be observed:
        i. A batted ball that hits or bounds over the white section of the double base shall be declared fair. A batted ball that hits or bounds over the colored section without first touching or bounding over the white section shall be declared foul.

ii. The batter-runner should use the colored base on an initial play at first base unless a fielder is drawn into foul territory to receive a dropped third strike, in which case, the batter-runner would use the white portion of the base. Once the batter-runner reaches first base, the batter-runner must always return to the white base, including when leading off, returning on a pick-off attempt or tagging up on a fly ball.

iii. A batter-runner may use either side of first base on a base-on-balls or on an extra-base hit to the outfield when there is no chance of a play to be made at first base.

iv. Interference shall be called on batter-runners if they only touch the white portion on a force play at first and collide with the fielder.

v. Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner, the defense must use the white section of the double first base.

vi. Obstruction shall be called if a defensive player only touches the colored portion of the base and collides with the batter-runner.

2. Official Games

a. A regular season game is considered an official game if:

i. The game reached the end of the allotted time, regardless of score; or

ii. The game reached the end of the allotted number of innings, regardless of score; or

iii. At least four (4) innings have been played during a game called due to weather; or

iv. A team becomes mathematically eliminated; or

v. A run rule is in effect per Tar Heel League rules.

b. If a game has been completed prior to the end of the allotted time, it shall be an official game, and the score shall be officially recorded. Upon agreement of both Head Coaches, unofficial play may continue until the end of the allotted time to allow players to have additional competitive repetitions. If play is continued for this purpose, play shall stop at the end of the allotted time regardless of game situation.

c. If a game is called before it becomes an official game, it must be replayed from the exact point of interruption.

3. Minimum Players

a. A team must have a minimum of eight (8) players to begin a game. The team that does not have the minimum number of players at the start time of the game shall forfeit the game.
b. Coaches may use Pickup Players, subject to Section 32 of the bylaws.

C. 4U Division

1. The primary focus of the division is to provide foundational level instruction in the fundamentals of baseball, including fielding, throwing, batting, and baserunning.
2. Games will be scheduled to last forty-five (45) minutes with no limitation on the number of innings played. An inning in progress when the time limit is reached may be finished, however no new inning may begin after forty-five (45) minutes.
3. Defense
    a. All players shall be distributed around the field. Coaches shall reposition players occasionally to allow different players an opportunity to field a batted ball.
    b. No player may be located closer than the pitching rubber prior to a ball being hit.
    c. Players that field a batted ball shall attempt to record an "out" by performing an appropriate baseball play of throwing the ball to a base, tagging a base, or tagging a runner.
    d. No player shall be placed in the position of catcher at any time.
    e. Four coaches are permitted on the field to assist the team with defensive plays.
4. Offense
    a. A batting tee will be placed on home plate for the batter to hit off. At no time shall players attempt to hit a pitched ball.
    b. The entire lineup will hit each inning, regardless of the number of outs.
    c. Players will be allowed to continue running the bases even if the result of a play is an out.
    d. Players shall advance one base at a time until the final batter.
    e. The final batter and all baserunners in the inning shall be allowed to advance through all the bases on the final hit.
    f. Four coaches are allowed on the field to assist the batter and baserunners. An additional coach or parent must be present in the dugout to help with the batting order and ensure player safety.

5. Players may be added or removed from the field at any time between plays. A coach shall call time to stop gameplay to add or remove a player.
6. No win/loss standings shall be maintained, and coaches or parents shall not keep score. Emphasis shall be placed on safety, instruction, and recreation.
7. Coaches shall pay particular attention to player safety.
    a. Players must not swing bats when in the dugout.
    b. Coaches must also work with players to learn not to throw a bat after hitting the ball.
    c. Should a player continue to exhibit unsafe behavior after being addressed by the Coach, the player must be removed from the game to their parent/guardian for the remainder of the game.

D. 6U Division

1. Games will be scheduled to last one (1) hour or six (6) innings, whichever comes first.
2. An inning in progress when the time limit is reached may be finished, however no new inning may begin after fifty-five (55) minutes.
3. There are no re-entry rules or position player substitution rules in this division.
4. Each half inning will be complete once the batting team scores five (5) runs or the defensive team records three (3) outs.
5. Defense
    a. Up to eleven (11) players are allowed on the field, consisting of up to four (4) outfielders, one catcher, one first baseman, one second baseman, one third baseman, one shortstop, and up to two pitchers.
    b. Outfielders must take a position with both feet in the outfield grass.
    c. A catcher in this division shall not take part in any play and shall only help gather balls behind home plate and return them to the coach that is pitching. The catcher shall, at a minimum, wear a full catcher's helmet/mask. The catcher shall stand away from home plate until any play is dead.
    d. A defensive player(s) at the position of pitcher must keep both feet inside the marked semicircle until the batter makes contact with the ball.
    e. The defensive team shall have a maximum of three (3) coaches on the field at any time. One (1) can be located between the pitching mound and second base and the other two (2) coaches shall be located in the outfield grass to assist the defense. No Coach is

allowed to touch or assist a player in making a play; they are only permitted to instruct as to where the play is to occur.

6. Offense
    a. This is a "bat all" division. All players available and eligible for the game shall bat per a batting order submitted prior to the game. If a player is unavailable when their spot in the order is at bat, the player shall be skipped with no penalty. Any players arriving late may be added to the end of the batting order.
    b. All batters must wear protective gear as stated in Section 19.
    c. A coach for the hitting team will pitch from a spot between the twenty-five (25) foot mark and the pitching rubber. Pitching from one (1) knee is permitted. The pitching coach is REQUIRED to pitch the ball overhand to the batter.
    d. If a batted ball does not cross the fifteen (15) foot arc, it shall be called a foul ball and treated in the same manner as any other batted foul ball.
    e. If the batter does not put the ball in play after three (3) pitches, the ball is placed on a tee for the batter. The only exception is if the batter fouls off the third pitch, the batter will receive a fourth pitch, and so on, before placing the ball on a tee. A player may have as many tries as necessary to hit the ball off the tee past the fifteen (15) foot arc.
    f. No intentional bunting is allowed. Attempted bunting will constitute a strike.
    g. No walks are allowed. A batter that is hit by a pitch is not awarded first base. In the event the batter cannot continue playing in the game, there will be no penalty, and the next batter in the order will come to bat.
    h. If a batted ball goes into the outfield, the play shall be called dead once the ball returns to the infield dirt. This is to teach the outfielders to get the ball into the infield as quickly as possible. Once the ball reaches the infield dirt, any baserunner at least halfway to the next base will be awarded the base. If any baserunner is not at least halfway to the next base, the baserunner will be returned to the previous base. This is umpire discretion.
    i. In addition to the Pitching Coach, the offensive team is allowed to have a first base coach, third base coach, and a coach assisting the batter behind the plate, if necessary.

7. This is a teaching division, and the domination rule shall be in effect. The domination rule has no specific definition and is managed in the discretion of the head umpire; however, there are numerous examples of domination plays that would be affected by this rule:
    a. A player playing the pitching position shall not field a ball and run to tag any base except home plate.
    b. No player shall roll or intentionally throw the ball into the ground towards any base to make a force out. The player fielding the ball must attempt to throw the ball in the air to the player covering the base to record the out. Coaches must teach fielders to make the best throw possible to any base without intentionally teaching them to roll or bounce the ball to the base to achieve an out.
    c. A first baseman shall not run and tag any other base than first, second baseman and shortstop follow the same rule for second, and the third baseman follows the same rule for third base.
    d. A pitcher shall not tag a runner running from home to first unless, in the discretion of the umpire, his momentum is carrying him immediately in the direction of that runner.
    e. A pitcher shall not, under any circumstances, tag base runners running between first and second, and second and third.
    f. This is not an exhaustive list of examples.
    g. The umpire shall clearly communicate to each head coach the domination ruling, the result of the call, and the reason for the domination rule call.
8. In the discretion of the umpire, over-throws to first base that pass the foul line shall become dead balls and no runners shall advance. The same rule applies to over-throws at third base and at home.

E. 8U Division
1. 8U play shall follow Tar Heel League rules with the following exception:
    a. A defensive player at the position of pitcher must keep both feet inside the marked semicircle until the batter makes contact with the ball.

F. 10U – 15U Divisions
1. Play shall follow Tar Heel League rules.

Section 31 – Pickup Players

A. The League allows the use of pickup players for the sole purpose of ensuring a team has enough players to play.
B. A team may only select up to the number of pickup players necessary to meet the maximum number of players allowed on the field while on defense, however no team shall select more than three (3) pickup players.
    a. Teams that do not meet the minimum number of players required to start a game after selecting three (3) pickup players shall forfeit the game.
C. Pickup players must be currently registered with the League or an Affiliated League in one age division down from where the pickup player is needed.
D. Under no circumstance shall a player be allowed to play as a pickup player in a lower age division, even if the player is eligible for that division based on birthdate.
E. Pickup players may only play in the outfield and must bat last in the batting order.
F. Pickup players must wear the uniform of their original team.
G. Players in the 4U Division are not eligible to be pickup players in the 6U division. 6U teams may select players from their own division to field a team.
H. Coaches must declare pickup players to the opposing coach and umpire and mark the player as such on their lineup card.
I. If a player on the team roster arrives after the start of the game, the player must be substituted in the lineup for the pickup player. Once the team has enough rostered players to play the game, the pickup player shall no longer take part in the game.
J. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to find any necessary pickup players.
K. Failure to abide by these rules shall result in forfeiture of the game and the Head Coach being prohibited from utilizing pickup players for the remainder of the season.

Section 32 – All Stars

(Reserved for future use)