

Bethlehem Little League

Bylaws



ARTICLE 1 – GENERAL LEAGUE POLICY

A. Financial Fiscal Year

- The financial fiscal year of Bethlehem Little League shall begin on October 1 of the current year and shall end on September 30 of the following year.

B. Registration Process

- Bethlehem Little League offers two options for registration: online and in-person. In-person dates are announced on the league website and on social media pages.
- The Board of Directors (“BOD”) shall vote on prices for registration in a general membership meeting before the intended season.

C. Schedule Structure/Process

- Bethlehem Little League forms schedules based on the number of teams registered for that season. The *league scheduler* shall present a schedule to the BOD before the season starts for approval.
- The league shall attempt to allot time for a minimum of 13 games in the spring season and 10 games for the fall season.
- The team managers, in conjunction with the *league scheduler*, shall work together to reschedule any games that are canceled due to inclement weather or for any other unexpected reasons.

D. Selection, Appointment, and Acknowledgement of Team Managers & Coaches

- Any manager choosing to coach at Bethlehem Little League shall be approved through the BOD, in conjunction with the *coaching coordinator*.
- All members of the coaching staff shall be required to meet the following standards:
 - Understanding of the disciplinary section in the local league’s Constitution
 - Annual completion of Little League® Baseball and Softball’s Abuse Awareness Training Course
 - Annual submission and passing of the local league’s background check
- The local league reserves the right to withhold a manager or coach based on inability to perform duties associated with the position.

E. Playing Equipment

- The use, dimensions and other specifications of all other equipment used must conform to those set forth in the Little League® Baseball and Softball rule book.

F. Facilities:

- Bethlehem Little League works closely and in conjunction with Henrico County Parks and Recreation for field space, field maintenance, and filed permits.
- Field permits are posted to all members of the league, as well as insurance information, and made available to any person requesting such documents.

G. Required Background Checks

- All managers, coaches, umpires, team parents, and any volunteers with repetitive access to the players shall submit to an annual background check as required.

H. Player Registration

- All players registered to participate in the Little League® Baseball and Softball program must be confirmed (through an established verification process) as eligible to play in the local league.
- Eligibility is determined in accordance with the Little League® Baseball and Softball residency requirements or school enrollment form, along with proof of age (birth certificate, or other accepted government-issued identification).

ARTICLE 2 – PLAYERS

A. Drafted Divisions

- A draft of eligible players shall occur at the following divisions each season:
 - Coach Pitch Baseball (ages 6-8)
 - Coach Pitch Softball (ages 6-8)
 - Minors Baseball (ages 8-10)
 - Minors Softball (ages 8-10)
 - Majors Baseball (ages 10-12); players and coaches in this division shall have the option to retain the same team the player was drafted to every year throughout the majors division
 - Majors Softball (ages 10-12); players and coaches in this division shall have the option to retain the same team the player was drafted to every year throughout the majors division
 - Seniors Baseball (ages 13-16)
 - Seniors Softball (ages 13-16)

B. Selected Divisions

- Teams shall be formed by the *league commissioner* and *player agent* in the following division each season:
 - Tee Ball Co-ed (ages 4-5)

C. Draft Procedures

- Non-Majors
 - Coach Pitch (ages 6-8), Minors (ages 8-10), and Seniors (ages 13-16): The draft selection order is determined by a random number drawn from a hat. The draft then proceeds in a “snake” format.

- Majors
 - Majors (ages 10-12): The draft order is determined by the prior season's final regular season standings. The team that finished last in the standings the prior season shall have the first pick of the draft the following season. The draft then proceeds in a traditional draft format.
- Parent/Sibling Requests
 - Players with immediate siblings in the same division shall be kept together.
 - Parents shall have the option to request a specific manager or to be put on a team with a friend in any division.
 - Requests are not guaranteed, as the managers and the BOD have the right to keep teams even and fair for play.
- Skills Evaluation
 - There shall be a pre-draft player skills evaluation in the following divisions: Coach Pitch (ages 6-8), Minors (ages 8-10), Majors (ages 10-12), and Seniors (ages 13-16).
- Coach Pitch and Minor Baseball & Softball Placement Process
 - After the skills evaluations for the Coach Pitch (ages 6-8) and Minors (ages 8-10) divisions, the managers shall draft all players.
 - Players that do not attend a skills evaluation shall be randomly drafted or assigned to a team.
- Majors Placement Process
 - There shall be two skills evaluation opportunities.
 - All non-returning Majors (ages 10-12) division players must attend at least one skills evaluation.
 - Players that do not attend an evaluation shall automatically be placed in the Minors Division (except league-age players that are 11-12 years old).
 - An individual make-up skills evaluation may be arranged by the *president, vice president, player agent* and/or *commissioner*.
 - Majors division managers shall draft their teams following the player evaluation. All 12-year-olds shall automatically be drafted to a Majors team.
 - Any player not drafted to a Majors team (ages 10-12) will be put in the Minors (ages 8-10) player pool to be drafted by the Minors managers, which is usually held on the same day after the Majors draft.

D. Baseball Play-Up Opportunity

- Age 8-Year-Old Players
 - A player who is league-age 8 may be drafted to the Minors (8-10) division team if he or she attends at least one skills evaluation for the applicable division, and the BOD determines that there is roster space for such player in the higher division. Except as otherwise provided in this procedure, a player may not play up a division.
- Tee Ball Players

- A baseball or softball player who is league-age 6 and has played at least one spring season of tee ball may play in the Coach Pitch (ages 6-8) division. Except as otherwise provided in this procedure, a player may not play up a division.

E. Baseball Play-Down Determination

- Any Divisions
 - A player may play down in a lower division only if the *player agent* determines, in his or her sole discretion, that doing so is necessary for the player's safety.

ARTICLE 3 – GAMES OPERATIONS

A. Ground Rules

- Weather Delay
 - If thunder is heard, all teams must clear the field immediately and wait in dugouts for five minutes following the last thunder.
 - If lightning is seen, everyone in attendance must take shelter in their vehicles for 30 minutes following the last sight of lightning.

B. Game Limits

- Length of Play
 - Each Coach Pitch game shall be allotted 1 hour and 30 minutes per suggestion of Little League® Baseball and Softball, but time may be reduced for reasons determined by the *president* and *league scheduler*.
 - Each Minors, Majors, and Seniors game shall be allotted 1 hour and 45 minutes per suggestion of Little League® Baseball and Softball, but time may be reduced for reasons determined by the *president* and *league scheduler*.
 - There is no time requirement for Tee Ball, but rather a game is concluded after every player on each team has batted 3 times.

ARTICLE 4 – AWARDS

A. Spring Season

- Nominations
 - All team managers shall have the opportunity to submit player coach nominations in conjunction with the BOD.
 - The BOD shall have a meeting to discuss the nominations and determine which individual will be awarded based on a non-biased vote.
 - No board member nominated for an award shall be permitted to participate in the voting process.
 - Awards shall be presented annually at the end of the spring season during the closing ceremony.

B. Fall Season

- No Nominations
 - No award will be given at the conclusion of the fall season, as Bethlehem Little League formats its training and coaching to concentrate specifically on player development.

ARTICLE 5 – TOURNAMENT PLAY

A. Post-Season

- Players' Intent to Participate
 - Bethlehem Little League shall provide an all-star registration online portal to the membership, which shall detail information on the season and include a commitment policy outlined in a "Commitment Form."
 - The *player agent* shall review interested registered players to ensure eligibility and required skill level for post-season play.
- Fees
 - District 5 Tournament Teams: Fees shall be announced closer to the season and made available to families upon receipt of information.
 - Invitational Tournament Teams: Fees shall be announced closer to the season and made available to families upon receipt of information.
 - Fees may be adjusted by the BOD for each season.

B. Player Selection Process (District 5 Teams/Invitational Teams)

- Player Selection by Vote
 - Eligibility: Players must be the appropriate league age for the team in accordance with the Little League rulebook.
 - Voting: All managers shall submit 5 players from their team and 5 players from the division in which they coach. Each vote will count as one vote for that player. The voting process will be administered and overseen by the *president*, *vice president*, and *player agent*. If any of those directors have a child on the ballot, that person may not be involved in overseeing the voting process. The top 8 in total votes automatically make the team. The manager assigned to the all-star team in conjunction with the *president*, *vice president*, and *player agent* will then review the rest of the nominations and select the best-fit candidates. Voting shall take place at such time as announced by the BOD.
- Player Selection by Manager:
 - District 5 all-star teams are selected by a tryout. Players must be the appropriate league age for the team in accordance with the Little League rulebook. Failure to attend a tryout could disqualify a player from being selected for the team. Each team shall conduct at least one tryout, weather permitting.

- Multiple Teams: A player who is placed on the ballot for and/or tries out for more than one team shall be placed on the team in the oldest age group for which he or she was placed on the ballot or tries out. For example, a player who tries out for the 8/9/10 team and the 9/10/11 team and is selected for the 9/10/11 team shall be placed on the 9/10/11 team roster.

C. Final Rosters

- Manager Selection Process for District 5/Invitational Tournaments
 - Interested individuals must submit their names to the *president*.
 - The *president* shall present the submitted names to the BOD at an official membership meeting. Each candidate will be discussed at length.
 - After reviewing all candidates, the BOD will go to a vote. If the manager being voted on is on the BOD, he/she will not be permitted to take part in the voting process.
 - The candidate with the most votes will be named manager.
- Coach(es) Selection Process District 5/Invitational Tournaments
 - Any manager or rostered coach from each league as of May 1st is eligible to be coach of an all-star team for their respective league-age level.
 - Coach selection may not occur before the team roster is selected.
 - The selected manager of the all-star team will submit a list of names for the coaching position to the *coaching coordinator* for review and approval.

D. District and State Tournament Travel Expenses

- Bethlehem Little League's Assistance
 - Fundraising efforts shall be implemented to offset costs exclusively for hotel stays for the team managers, rostered coaches, and team players when the state tournament is located over 60 miles from Bethlehem Little League.
 - Hotel stays shall cover all participating individuals as of the night of the tournament's report date through the night before the tournament's final games or the night of the day the team is eliminated from the tournament, whichever occurs first.
 - Team players and parents that willingly submit to a District 5 tournament understand that all expenses shall be fully their responsibility (i.e. meals, gas, mileage, equipment, etc.).

E. Invitational Tournaments

- Number of Teams
 - Bethlehem Little League will attempt to field as many invitational teams as possible as determined by the BOD.

- District 5 all-star players may only be utilized to complete minimum roster requirements on invitational teams. Each invitational team shall have a minimum of 12 players.
- The *player agent* shall contact District 5 all-star managers to determine players interested in playing on the invitational team. Up to five District 5 players may be placed on an invitational roster at the manager's discretion.
- Additional District 5 players shall be allowed on an invitational team if there are no other interested non-District 5 players, to the extent allowed by invitational tournament rules.

F. All-Star Committee

- Appointment
 - Membership shall have the opportunity to submit interest in joining.
 - All positions within the committee shall be approved by the BOD.
- Duties
 - Review of current all-star policies and procedures at a time suitable for the local league for the upcoming season to determine if any changes should be recommended to the BOD.
 - Such policies shall include determination of whether absences from tournament games and/or practices are excused and if consequences are implemented.
 - Coordinate volunteers for the District 5 and invitational tournaments.

ARTICLE 6 – ROLE OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. 2026 Season

- Names and Positions
 - Matt Cole, President
 - Joe Traylor, Vice President
 - Nikki Brown, Secretary
 - Kevin Corbett, Treasurer
 - Ryan Traylor, Player Agent
 - Jacob Lafoon, Coaching Coordinator
 - Mike Lucius, Umpire-in-Chief
 - Stacey Richman, Safety Officer
 - Katy Little, Softball Director
 - Matt Walsh, Fields Manager
 - Michaella White, Sponsorship/Fundraising Coordinator
 - Nathan Crossley, Dumbarton Complex Director
- All positions and roles are specified in Bethlehem Little League's Constitution.

The Bethlehem Little League Bylaws have been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors on _____ and have been submitted to Little League International for approval.

President's Printed Name

President's Signature

Bethlehem Little League
5600 Bethlehem Road
Henrico, Virginia 23230

Charter No.: 346-05-04