

# **Louisa Little League 2025-2026 Bylaws**

## **I. OVERVIEW**

Louisa Little League abides by all rules and regulations as governed by Little League Baseball, Inc. and by the Louisa Little League Constitution. The following policy establishes the operating guidelines for Louisa Little League, per Article X, Section 3 of the constitution. These bylaws may be revised at any time throughout the year by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at any meeting whereas such alteration is included in that meeting's agenda. This document expires at the end of the fiscal/operational year and must be renewed annually. Attendance is mandatory to be on the Board. A Board member cannot be absent for more than three (3) of the 12 regularly scheduled meetings unless those absences are due to a life event.

## **II. REGISTRATION**

All children that are interested in playing Little League must register to play for the upcoming season and must be registered prior to their respective league's evaluations. For spring season, early-registration opens electronically on November 15<sup>th</sup> – January 1<sup>st</sup> with a \$10.00 discount for each player registered. After January 1<sup>st</sup> regular registration closes the day before the first evaluation date for its respective league. There will be scheduled walk-in registrations prior to evaluations. Registration fee is \$88 per player or a cap of \$200 for families with 3 or more players. There will be no late sign-ups after the last day of evaluations. Eligibility documents must be brought in at walk-in registration or on evaluation dates so that all players can be verified prior to the draft. Eligibility documents include original birth certificate and proof of residency (acceptable documents list can be found at [www.littleleague.org](http://www.littleleague.org)). All players must provide these proofs. School enrollment form is the preferred proof of residency.

Registration fee must be paid in full as well as all past balances prior to evaluations. If there is a financial hardship, parents/guardian must contact league President in writing prior to evaluation. Non-payment and no communication attempt will deem child ineligible to play.

If there is a hardship, parents must apply through the TMobile Little League Call-Up Grant Program.

All volunteers must complete a paper copy of the volunteer form and provide a copy of driver's license.

Registration fee will only be reimbursed if uniforms have not been ordered.

### **III. MANAGERS/COACHES/UMPIRES**

A coaching interest form must be completed by all prospective managers for the upcoming season. Only those persons who are Regular Members of the local league in good standing (as defined by Article III, Section 2(b) of the Louisa Little League Constitution) shall be eligible for appointment to a Manager or Coach position. Only one manager and two coaches shall be in the dugout/on the field per team for minors and above. Only one manager and three coaches shall be in the dugout/on the field per team for Peeewees with the exception for players with medical needs.

#### **A. Managers**

The Vice President of each division will make recommendations of managers for regular season teams to the President. The President will discuss any concerns or insights with the VPs and then present a manager list to the Board of Directors for approval in February's meeting. All appointments shall expire at the end of the team's playing season, unless sooner, by a majority vote of the Board.

No person may manage more than one team; unless discussed and voted on by the Board of Directors. A manager may be a coach on another team, but that team must be in a different division.

All managers are required to attend a manager's meeting that will be scheduled prior to evaluations. All managers are also required to attend all board meetings during the season they are managing. If a manager is unable to attend a meeting, a coach shall be present to represent team. If meetings aren't attended as required, then the manager may be ineligible to manage in future seasons.

All managers are required to attend all evaluations for their respective divisions and assess the players' skills. Managers are to assist with the evaluation process (hitting, grounders, etc.).

All trainings must be completed by all managers prior to evaluations.

#### **B. Coaches**

Managers will nominate coaches to their league vice president at the completion of the draft process. The President will discuss any concerns or insights with the VPs and then present a coaches list to the Board of Directors for approval in March's meeting. Coaches may be nominated before the draft if they have coached in the league for two years and the same team for one year.

All manager nominations for the MAJOR league baseball division should have at least one season of previous experience as a MAJOR league coach or MAJOR league manager within Louisa Little League.

A coach may coach multiple teams but in different divisions.

All trainings must be completed by all coaches prior to first practice.

### C. Umpires

A prospective umpire list will be submitted to the league President by the Umpire-in-Chief. The President will discuss any concerns or insights with the Umpire-in-Chief and then present an umpires list to the Board of Directors for approval in March's meeting. Background checks must be run for all Umpires age 16 and older.

Anyone age 13 & up can umpire games.

Age 13 & up – minors – under 18 with a game manager

Age 16 & up – majors – under 18 with a game manager

Age 18 & up - seniors

Managers/Coaches that doesn't meet their umpiring quota for games will not be eligible for All-Stars.

Umpire's decision is final. No video evidence will be allowed or considered.

## IV. EVALUATIONS

Evaluations will be scheduled at location to be determined for two non-consecutive evaluations. Weather will determine the actual location. All players must attend 50% of evaluations, except for "property players" which are players already assigned to a major league team and do not have to attend an evaluation. Major, minor, and pee wee evaluations will be broken into age groups: 6-8, 9-10, and 11-12.

## V. DRAFT

Draft will be held following the last evaluation date.

The player agent oversees the draft of all divisions (baseball and softball) and only the managers, league president, division vice president, and anyone the league president appoints are allowed inside the draft room. Managers will be allowed to pre-select ONE returning assistant coach to attend the draft with them.

A. Major Draft: Louisa Little League will follow Plan A – Conventional Draft Plan per Little League rule book. Draft order is determined by the previous season's standings, in the event of a tie the team with the most runs allowed will pick first. (Last place team picks first, first place team picks last). Twelve-year-olds will be equally divided among teams. If there are more (or less) twelve-year-olds than number of teams, then the teams with the fewest returning twelve-year-olds will draft the remaining twelve-year-olds. Property players are not redrafted, and the managers will draft

according to draft order until their roster is filled. Managers will be allowed to pre-select ONE returning assistant coach to attend the draft with them. Softball should redraft each season.

- B. Minor Draft: Minors will be drafted immediately following the majors draft. There are no property players and all players, regardless if played in the league in previous seasons, are drafted. Managers will draw numbers to determine draft order and will follow a serpentine draft (the last manager to draft in the first round will draft first in the second round). This pattern will be used until rosters are filled. Managers will be allowed to pre-select ONE assistant coach prior to the draft. All manager and assistant coaches' player(s) shall be drafted prior to any other available players in the draft.
- C. Pee Wee Draft: Pee wees will draft immediately following the minors draft and will adhere to the same format as the minor division.
- D. Senior Draft: Seniors will draw numbers to determine draft order and will follow a serpentine draft.
- E. Protected players: Refer to Little League rule book's Operating Policies "Process to Obtain Waivers of Rules and Regulations."
- F. All players will be notified of their team assignment within 48 hours following the draft.
- G. If a player has played previously (spring league), that player must be drafted in the same division as previously played or above. Example, if an 8-yr old played minors the previous spring, then that player must be drafted to the minors again and cannot be drafted in the peewee league.

## **VI. DIVISIONS**

- A. Pee Wee Baseball: Ages 6-8. 5-year-olds may be considered only after evaluations and approval by board. 7- and 8-year-olds may be drafted to minors based on skill level.
  - 1. Coach pitch. All pitches thrown by coach must be thrown from inside the pitching circle.
  - 2. The defensive player at the pitcher's position must be in the pitching circle even with the pitching rubber.
  - 3. Teams will play 10 positions on the field (4 outfielders).
  - 4. Teams will bat roster.
  - 5. No new inning to start after 1.5 hours. New inning commences as soon as 3<sup>rd</sup> out made in previous inning. Refer to rule book for specifics regarding nightly curfews.
  - 6. All batters will receive five pitches, unless 5<sup>th</sup> pitch is fouled.
  - 7. There are no walks allowed; hit-by-pitch will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base.

8. Five-run rule – no more than five runs scored per inning. This rule is void during the 6<sup>th</sup> inning only.
9. One base on overthrow.
10. No stealing allowed.
11. Parents/Spectators will provide umpiring duties (background check required).
12. Keeping score is not required.
13. All other Little League rules apply and can't be changed with gentlemen's agreement.
14. There will be approximately a 8-game season.

B. Minors Baseball and Softball: Ages 7-11

1. At the board's discretion, the first half of the season will be Kid/Coach Pitch: There is no base on balls. Once four balls are reached by kid pitcher, the coach will pitch, assuming the count on the batter. All pitches thrown by coach must be thrown from inside the pitching circle at the pitching rubber. Batter can strike out by a called strike (no swing).
2. The second half of the season will be kid pitch only.
3. Hit-by-Pitch (by kid pitcher) will result in batter being awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base.
4. Teams will play 9 positions on the field.
5. Teams will bat roster.
6. Stealing is allowed up to third base during kid pitch.
  - A. No stealing of home for first half of season.
  - B. Second half of season kids may steal home.
7. No stealing when coach is pitching.
8. Five-run rule – no more than five runs scored per inning. This rule is void during the 6<sup>th</sup> inning only. One base on an overthrow.
9. No new inning to start after 2 hours. New inning commences as soon as 3<sup>rd</sup> out made in previous inning. 6 innings or time limit determines game. Refer to rule book for specifics regarding nightly curfews.
10. Umpires will be provided by the Umpire Coordinator.
11. There will be approximately a 12-game season.
12. All other Little League rules apply and can't be changed with gentlemen's agreement.

C. Majors Baseball and Softball: Ages 9-12

1. Majors will play strictly according to rule book.
2. When a player quits the Division, the Player Agent must be notified. The Manager will have two weeks from the official release date of the player to select another player from the Minor Division or a player will be selected for them by or approved by the player agent.
3. No player will be called up from a Minor League team in the last two weeks of the regular season, unless to fill in for a single game.
4. If a player quits a team and returns the following year that player is assigned to the team he or she left unless they are released in accordance with the Little League rule book, Section III (e).

5. The Major Division Baseball will play approximately a 15-game season and will recognize a split-season schedule. The league champion will be decided by a playoff between the winners of the first and second halves. Should there be a tie during either half, a playoff game will be played to determine the half winner. In the event of a three-way tie during a season half, fewest runs allowed will be used to determine the two teams playing in the tie breaker game.
6. The Major Division Softball will not have a split season.
7. Ten-run rule – Little League rule book ruling 4.10(e) will be used.
8. Umpires will be provided by Umpire Coordinator.
9. Softball will bat the roster and not lineup.

D. Seniors Baseball and Softball: Ages 13-16

1. Seniors will play strictly according to the rule book.
2. Ten-run rule – Little League rule book ruling 4.10(e) will be used.
3. Split-season schedule will be determined by managers prior to the season dependent on participation.

## **VII. LEAGUE RESPONSIBILITIES**

A. Equipment: The league supplies catcher's gear, and balls to all teams. Equipment manager is responsible for cataloging all equipment, purchasing new equipment, evaluating and ridding unsafe equipment, and signing out equipment to managers prior to season's start and collecting all equipment after the season's end. All equipment must be collected within two weeks of the season's end. Failure to return equipment to the league will result in disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.

B. Uniforms: The league will provide jerseys and hats to all baseball players and jerseys and socks to all softball players. Jerseys will be numbered 1-12 (or through the number on roster) to prevent any conflict. #5 will be excluded from league use unless worn by a family member of Chase Luck. Managers must hand out jerseys by size ordered first and then by desired number if that number is on the size requested.

C. Scheduling:

1. Scheduler shall provide managers a practice schedule by draft day and a game schedule a week prior to Opening Day.
2. Once the season's schedule is issued, games may only be rescheduled by the scheduler upon the vice president's approval.
3. Scheduler will reschedule all rain out games.
4. Rescheduled games will take place as soon as possible after the cancelled game.

D. Safety:

1. One present adult from each team will maintain the WeatherBug App while at the field and will notify the manager when inclement weather

is approaching. Fields are to be vacated when lightning is within 10 miles. Everyone should seek shelter in their vehicles. During times of lightning delay, players are still the responsibility of Louisa Little League and must adhere to league's lightning policy and seek safe shelter until they are released to the care of their parents.

2. Face Masks for Softball: Face masks are required in order to play infield softball.
  3. Refer to ASAP (Safety) manual.
  4. The league will provide a master first aid kit for each field, and each manager will get a personal first aid kit.
- E. Field Closures: Managers are responsible for assessing the field conditions. In inclement weather, both managers must meet at the field prior to game time to determine if field is playable. All reasonable efforts shall be made to make the field playable for each game prior to cancelling due to unplayable conditions. No WEEKDAY game start time shall be delayed by more than one hour for field repair during a rain event.
- F. Awards: The league does not provide participation trophies; however, a regular season championship trophy is awarded for the major baseball and softball divisions only. The championship trophy is to be returned at the start of each season year by the previous year's winning manager.

## **VIII. TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Home team occupies first base dugout; visiting team occupies third base dugout. The official scorebook will be kept by the home team.
- B. Visiting Team is responsible for preparing and lining the field. At the conclusion of the game dug out trash cans should be emptied in the dumpster behind the concession stand in Mineral or in the trash receptacles behind first base dugout in Louisa.
- C. Home team is responsible for dragging the field, replacing the field tarps, and turning off lights at end of game. Home team should ensure stands, bathrooms, and equipment sheds are cleaned, closed, and locked.
- D. Home team is responsible for staffing the concessions stand and opening bathrooms where applicable. Home team manager is responsible for ensuring the deposit envelope is placed in the night drop box in each concession stand. If manager is found negligent in performing duties, disciplinary action will be set by Executive Board.
- E. Home team manager is responsible for sending game scores to the league officer at the conclusion of the game.
- F. Umpires: If the league doesn't have enough umpires, each team will be responsible for umpiring games.

## **IX. FINANCES**

- A. Returned check fee: Checks returned for insufficient funds will be addressed by the Executive Board and any fees incurred will be charged back to check writer. Check writing privileges will be revoked for repeat offenders.
- B. Any purchase greater than \$250 need the Board's approval. At least three bids must be obtained and submitted to board before purchase can be made if over \$1,000.
- C. Reimbursement: League may reimburse individuals that made purchases on behalf of the league upon submission of completed reimbursement form with attached receipt(s) and the approval by two Executive Board members. Request must be made of purchased expense within ten (10) days by email or delivery. The approval and reimbursement within thirty (30) days.
- D. All monies received shall be counted by a minimum of two Board members and documented on paper signed/dated by the counters. This paper shall be returned to Treasurer along with money.
- E. All money raised must be deposited and all purchases must be made by check. Money shall never be collected and held to make purchases without depositing first as this is not proper accounting practice.
- F. All non-cash payments, Zettle/Paypal will be used for concession. Sports Connect will be used for registrations.
- G. No personal accounts will accept money on behalf of Louisa Little League.

## **X. FUNDRAISING**

The league will conduct multiple fundraisers throughout the year to offset operating expenses, keep registration fees low, for all stars, and mainly for the new complex building fund. All players are required to participate.

- A. Hit-A-Thon: Fundraiser for all players held during the regular season. Half of funds raised will be used for general operating expenses and other half will be used for building fund.
- B. All Stars: Every all-star family will participate in fundraiser to begin the day after the all-star selection. All proceeds from fundraiser will be used to offset all-star expenses.



- C. Other fundraiser: The league may elect to host other fundraising events and elect allocation and/or beneficiaries of raised funds per majority vote by Board of Directors.

## **XI. ALL STARS**

### **A. Selection Process:**

#### **1. Tournament Team Managers and Coaches**

- The managers of all-star teams will be selected based on the regular season standings, with the manager of the regular season champion having his/her choice of the team he/she wishes to manage within his/her respective division. The second-place team manager would then get his/ her choice and then so forth and so on.
- A manager or coach of a tournament team must have been a manager or coach of a regular season team.
- All Star selections will take place at the conclusion of the regular season.

#### **2. Tournament Players**

- It will be the responsibility of the manager of each team to nominate deserving players from his/her team for possible selection to the tournament team. Nominations will take place 1 week before the end of the regular season. After the initial nomination process is completed, but before any All-Star vote is taken, a manager may, at his or her discretion, nominate a player from another team within his or her division for possible selection to the tournament team. A manager must vote for a player he or she nominates on the first ballot. If a player receives only one vote, he or she will not be selected to the tournament team. The managers will collectively select the tournament team with the exception of the last two vacancies on the team. The selected manager of the tournament team will have the choice of the last two candidates provided they had at least two votes on the first ballot. (Example: Twelve player roster: the managers will pick ten and the tournament team manager selects two. Thirteen player rosters: the managers will pick eleven and the tournament team manager selects two).
- The tournament team manager will decide on a 12-player or 13-player roster.
- Selection of all star players will be conducted by the managers only. Coaches (if requested by manager to attend) and Executive Board members asked to aid with record keeping may be in attendance. No one else is allowed in room during selection. Results are strictly confidential.
- All star players are to be notified immediately following the selection process.
- Prior to starting practices there will be a mandatory player/parent meeting. This meeting has to be attended for the player to be eligible to play All-Stars.

- You must participate in the regular season (if there is a regular season) to be eligible for all stars. If there is a regular season team but there isn't enough interest for all stars amongst the regular season players, then we can request to have a combined team within the district. We will NOT allow kids that did participate in the regular season to go onto an all star team. There will be no reimbursements for combined teams. Players must be registered by May 1<sup>st</sup>. ( Senior Leagues does not require set amount of games to be eligible)
- C. Practices: Teams may practice no more than six (6) days each week. It is advised to have two (2) rest days per week. Fields will be allocated per team through the scheduler.
- D. Fundraising: All players will participate in fundraising starting the day after selection process. All teams, not just teams that play beyond the district tournament, incur costs associated with all stars (i.e. uniforms, tournament entry fees, tournament balls). These funds will offset not only these costs incurred by every team but also costs of travel and meals when teams move on to the next level of play. All donations or funds raised are for the benefit of Louisa Little League as a whole and will not be allocated to a specific team (per Constitution Article IX, Sections 2 and 3). All of these efforts will be organized by the league fundraising chair, not by individuals. Each team will get a sponsor to cover tournament entry fees.
- D. Uniforms: The league will provide all uniform costs. Jersey and hat for baseball teams. Jersey and socks for softball teams. The league will cover costs not to exceed \$50/player. Up to an additional \$50.00 per player can be charged to each player family with a board vote. Players are allowed to select jersey numbers. No team is allowed to order additional uniforms to replace the ones provided by the league.
- E. Distribution of Funds:
1. District 14 Tournament: No reimbursement or allowance.
  2. State Tournament within a 60-mile radius (from Luck Field to Tournament field): No reimbursement or allowance
  3. State Tournament outside a 60-mile radius:
    - a. Lodging – Individual all-star teams must come to an agreement regarding how players are lodging at tournament.
      - With Parents: If (and only if) the player stays with his/her parents/guardians only, one-fourth of the hotel expense is reimbursable from Louisa Little League with completed reimbursement request and paid receipt. Up to 3 rooms per team will be paid for by league for managers and coaches (limit 1 manager and 2 coaches per team).
      - Check-out: On elimination day the team shall check out of the hotel prior to leaving. Any room not checked out is done at the risk of the occupant. Rooms are not guaranteed to be

paid for by the league on the day of elimination and are subject to individual circumstances and a board vote.

- b. Meals – Teams are allotted \$25/day per diem per individual to supplement food cost.
  - b. Entertainment or state t-shirt allowances are not guaranteed. Board of Directors will assess the all-stars finances and then will vote on whether to pay for such extras and how much prior to state tournament travel.
  - b. Reconciliation – All unused funds and receipts with expenditure report must be turned in to Treasurer within 14 days after elimination or completion of tournament. Failure to do so will jeopardize future funding of all stars by the league.
4. Regional Tournament: Will follow same procedure as State Tournament.

## **XII. FALL SEASON**

- A. The fall league is strictly instructional and focused primarily on player development.
- B. Divisions: Per current age chart
  - 1. PeeWee division 6-7 yrs. old. Per division rules in Section VI of bylaws.
  - 2. Minor division 7-10 yrs. old. Per division rules in Section VI of bylaws.
  - 3. Major division 8-11 yrs. old. Per division rules in Section VI of bylaws.
    - a. Major/Minor teams will bat full roster and will have a 5 run per inning rule. This rule is void in 6<sup>th</sup> inning. During the end of the season tournament play (if applicable), this rule is void.
- C. Participation: Minimum of 24 players per age division and the discretion of the President.
- D. Registration: Online registration opens on July 1st and closes in mid-August. \$68 fee per player.
- E. Evaluations: One day evaluations for Fall Ball. Attendance is not mandatory, but highly encouraged. The league will make all efforts to evenly distribute talents.
- F. Draft:
  - 1. Managers will draw numbers to determine draft order and will follow a serpentine draft (the last manager to draft in the first round will draft first in the second round).
  - 2. Draft in mid-August.

G. Schedule:

1. Teams may interleague and encouraged to do so after approval by League President and District Administrator.
2. Season concludes the last week of October.

**XIII. DISCIPLINE** (Discipline of team personnel-all disciplinary action requires the approval of the Board of Directors)

- A. If a Manager, Coach or Player is removed from the game for Disciplinary action by the Umpire, he/she must leave the field. The Manager or adult Coach must not sit on the bench or in the stands and may not be re-called. If a player is removed from the game, the Team Manager is responsible for ensuring the matter is handled appropriately. If a Manager, Coach or Player is removed from a game, they must sit out the following game and appear before the board to ensure no further disciplinary action is required
- B. Players may be benched for behavior unbecoming to the Louisa Little League Program. The opposing Manager or Coach and Head Umpire shall be advised prior to the start of the game (or during the game, if applicable) of any action being taken and for what reason. If a player is removed for discipline during a game with continuous lineup, or a game where there is no available substitution using a 9-man lineup, that player's spot in the lineup shall be scored as an out for the remainder of the game.
- C. The Executive Board will decide whether or not disciplinary action is required against any player displaying behavior unbecoming to the league. This may or may not include a player being ineligible to play all-stars.
- D. Manager and Coaches may be referred to the board for conduct unbecoming to Louisa Little League for disciplinary action.

**XIV. SPECTATOR RULES AND REGULATIONS**

All parents and spectators shall:

- A. Become well acquainted with the objectives of Little League Baseball, Inc.
- B. Recognize that these are children, not professional players and needs ample encouragement, not destructive criticism.
- C. Applaud good play of all participants and ignore the errors, award great effort, initiative and hustle, congratulate the winning team, encourage the losing team, and enjoy the game for what it is.

- D. Constructively offer any criticism of the program to League or District Officials (in that order) and at the same time be willing to volunteer their services to improve the League and District.
- E. Realize that the umpire is the closest to the play and that each umpire calls them as he or she sees them.
- F. Any use of profanity, alcohol or drugs on or around the playing field, in the dugouts, or where kids are practicing is strictly prohibited.
- G. Any use of tobacco (including smokeless forms) on the playing field, in the dugouts or during practices is strictly prohibited.