

The Bylaws of Biddeford Little League Softball, Incorporated

****Based on the BLL Constitution, all verbiage in these by-laws that describe positions (I.E – President, Vice President, etc) are position descriptions of the Softball Board Committee. If any other position needs to be called out in these bylaws, it will be clearly defined.**

General

It will be the obligation of all Officers and Directors to comply with all Little League Rules and Regulations as stated in the Little League Manual published by Little League International. Board members, officers, and volunteers must uphold the standards and requirements of conduct set forth by Little League International. The Board of Directors will establish the dates for registrations and tryouts. They will be conducted in a manner prescribed by the Little League Manual. A schedule for the upcoming season will be distributed to the proper officials of the League prior to the start of the season. Any issue not covered in these by-laws will be governed by the Little League Softball Operating Manual, or the Official Regulations and Playing Rules of Little League Softball. Any discussion acted upon by the Board of Directors at a given meeting may not and will not be discussed at another meeting for the duration of the current season, unless it was tabled at a previous meeting.

Amending the Bylaws

The Bylaws may be amended by either forming a bylaws committee before January or by a majority vote of proposed changes at a regular scheduled meeting before February. If the Board of Directors chooses to form a Bylaws Committee, the bylaws committee must be formed after August but prior to January to give time for the committee to meet properly. The committee will be formed of the Board of Directors and the public. The committee will meet a minimum of once, multiple meetings may be had if the Bylaws committee chair deems it necessary.

The Bylaws will be reviewed partially or in its entirety. This can be completed in a regular announced board meeting after August but prior to February of the new year.

The Bylaws will be approved annually by all the Board of Directors by documentation of February Meeting Minutes. Once accepted, no changes will be allowed, or entertained for the duration of the current season. The Bylaws will then be submitted to the Little League District Administration and uploaded on the Biddeford Little League website for public review.

Funding

Only active appointed members of BLLS will be considered for funding of any sort. The funds may be used to attend clinics, seminars, or any other event sponsored by Little League Softball. The amount of the contribution by the League will be decided by the Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis.

Drafting Order

The drafting procedure for each division including the order of selection, will be reviewed, and determined each season by the Board of Directors. The method chosen will be in direct compliance with one of the several methods outlined in the Little League Operating Manual. The drafting order and procedure will be described in detail by the Player Agent prior to the start of the draft.

Drafting Players

The draft will be conducted according to the Little League Operating Manual, or approved method by the Board of Directors prior to evaluations. Conditions for freezing or optioning players are:

(a) When two or more siblings are trying out together, the manager selecting the first sibling must select the remaining sibling in the very next round or the option is broken on that player, and he/she will then be available for selection by any other team.

(b) Sons or daughters of managers or coaches may be frozen if the manager and coaches meet the following conditions.

1. The coach or manager must have two or more years of concurrent service as manager or coach in the league at any level.

2. The coach or manager must be returning to the same team as last year.

(Both conditions must apply in order to exercise an option.)

Only the manager can submit an option to the player agent. All options must be submitted prior to the draft. Options will be for siblings, or manager/coach's sons or daughters that meet the above conditions only. New coaches will be appointed before the draft process is completed.

The option schedule by age is as follows:

9 or 10-year old's must be drafted by round 5

11-year old's must be drafted by round 4

12-year old's must be drafted by round 3

*Or, by a schedule approved upon by the Board of Directors prior to the draft.

Trades

Trades will be allowed under the conditions specifically outlined in the Little League Operating Manual, with exception to the time frame stated.

All trades at BLL will be conducted prior to the adjournment of the annual draft meeting. No trades will be considered after this time.

Replacing Players

When a team loses a player during the season, the manager of the team losing said player shall immediately advise the Player Agent. Failure to do so should result in disciplinary action against said manager as recommended by the Operating Manual. This may include but is not limited to probation, suspension, or termination of said manager, to be determined by the Board of Directors. The Player Agent will directly monitor the replacement process as outlined in the Operating Manual. Replacements must be approved by the Player Agent, President, and Director of Coaches. Discretion can be used when replacing players in the Minors Coach Pitch Division.

Players Wishing to Change Team

A player may only change teams if there is a legitimate and justifiable reason to do so. The final decision on this matter will rest with the President and the Executive Board. Before making said decision, the President and Player Agent will investigate the matter extensively, conducting interviews with the player, parents, and the coaching staff of said player. The President and Player Agent will report their findings to the remaining Executive Board members so that they may make an informed decision on the matter. If there are no justifiable reasons found to allow said player to leave his/her team, the manager of said team under advisement of the President and Player Agent may refuse to release said player. In this case the player would be forced to remain on his/her current team or elect to sit out one season to break his/her tenure to the team. After sitting out one season, said player may re-enter the draft process and be selected by any other team, in accordance with the regular draft rules. In the case of a team having no returning coaches, a player is still bound to that team and must play on it or follow the same rules above to break his/her tenure. This rule would not be in effect if the league is practicing a redraft, or clean slate approach to the selection of teams.

DIVISIONS

Majors Division:

The Majors division will be comprised of players that are of league age 10*, 11, and 12 years old. Biddeford Little League does not allow a player to be on a roster for two or more local little leagues.

*Only the strongest 10-year old's are selected to round out the balance of the teams. Once the 10-year-old player evaluations are completed, coaches in that division and the Player Agent will make the final determination who is eligible to play in the Majors Division. Biddeford Little League does not allow a player to be on a roster for two or more local leagues/teams.

**If the player agent has a 10 year old that is evaluating in the Majors, then the President and Vice President (or deemed individual running the evaluation) will evaluate the Player Agent's child to prevent a conflict of interest.

Minors Player Pitch Division:

The Minor Player Pitch division will be comprised of players league age 8*, 9, 10, 11**, and 12** year olds. Biddeford Little League does not allow a player to be on a roster for two or more local little leagues.

*Only the strongest 8-year old's are selected to round out the balance of the teams. Once the 8-year-old player evaluations are completed, coaches in that division and the Player Agent will make the final determination who is eligible to play in the Minors Division. Biddeford Little League does not allow a player to be on a roster for two or more local leagues/teams.

**11- and 12-year-olds placed into this division will need approval by the executive board after recommendation from the player agent.

**If the player agent has an 8 year old that is evaluating in the Minors, then the President and Vice President (or deemed individual running the evaluation) will evaluate the Player Agent's child to prevent a conflict of interest.

Minors Coach Pitch Division:

The Minors Coach Pitch Division will be comprised of players that are of league age *5, *6, 7, 8, **9, **10-year-olds.

*5- and 6-year-olds must have completed 1 season of Little League Tee Ball to be eligible to play in this division. Adequate proof as defined by the Player Agent must be made to the Executive Board upon request.

**9- and 10-year-olds may be placed in the Minors Coach Pitch Division upon request, and with approval of the Player Agent and President. This decision will be based on the best interest of the child in question only.

Season Operating Rules

Regular Season Coach Selection

1. Prior to evaluations, at the March Board Meeting, The President will nominate head coaches in each division. Head coaches are encouraged to be present at the March meeting in order to campaign if needed.
2. The softball board committee will make a motion to accept the nominations in each division by a majority vote by the Board of Directors. This MUST be done prior to evaluations starting.
 - a. If there are more coaches than teams, then the President's nominations will reflect that accordingly. A final closed ballot vote from the softball board committee will finalize coaches. (I.E – If there are 3 predicted teams and 4 head coaches have signed up, then the President will nominate 3 guaranteed head coaches and 1 "just in case" head coach. The "just in case" head coach needs to be decided if they are needed before evaluations.)

- b. If there aren't enough head coaches to nominate then the President will ask the board to vote to find enough head coaches without Board Approval based on a verbal discussion with the newly appointed head coaches.

****If a situation arises where a child is league age 8 and they wish to evaluate in the Minors Kid Pitch division and are successful, then their parent is not allowed to head coach in the Minors Kid Pitch division. This rule is in effect to prevent the certainty that a child WILL move up in divisions before evaluations begin.**

****If a situation arises where a child is league age 10 and they wish to evaluate in the Majors division and are successful, then their parent is not allowed to head coach in the Majors division. This rule is in effect to prevent the certainty that a child WILL move up in divisions before evaluations begin.**

Majors and Minors Player Pitch Divisions

Game Specific Rules (See Appendix A):

The interleague rules will be followed for all games inter-league or inner-league. If a rule is not spelled out in the inter-league rules, then the Little League Rulebook will be followed.

BLL Tournament Playoff Play Guidelines:

1. Batting Order-

A. If a team has only 9 players present, then standard softball substitution guidelines in accordance with Little League international rules for regular season play will be followed.

B. Player substitutions for defense remains free and 50% defensive participation remains enforced.

2. Managers should make all attempts to field roster for tournament play.

3. Intentionally walking a player will be allowed for tournament play. Good judgment and sportsmanship should be used. This rule may be used twice per game only and one time on any player.

4. Any maximum per inning run rules for any division will no longer be enforced during tournament play. Total run rules per game still apply.

General Rules, Policy and Procedure

Forfeits

Failure to field a team shall not be grounds for an automatic forfeit as recommended by rule 4.16 of the Official Regulations and Playing Rules manual. There are no legitimate reasons to consider forfeiting a game during the regular season. Therefore, forfeits will only be allowed by the direction of the Board of Directors. Managers do not have the authority to forfeit any games on their own. All attempts should be made to play every game on the schedule. Rescheduled games will be played on the earliest available makeup date as determined by the Official League Scheduler.

Protested Game

Protested games will be replayed at the discretion of the Executive Board, and in accordance with the Little League playing rules. Their decision shall be final. No exceptions will be granted or considered.

Managers, and all league officials should do everything possible to avoid protest situations. If you have information that can prevent a protest situation, speak up. Do not wait until after the offense takes place.

Caged Helmets

All Biddeford Little League Softball provided helmets will be used with a cage regardless of the division of play in which it is used, and should not be altered. Personal helmets are required to have a cage installed. All Biddeford Little League Softball players are required to wear a fielding mask when playing the field.

Jewelry

Jewelry shall not be worn during games or practices. Jewelry is defined as, but not limited to, necklaces, watches, rings, earrings, or facial jewelry.

Rainouts

Rainouts should be rescheduled on the earliest open date available as determined by the League Scheduler, to avoid creating a backlog of make-up games at the end of the season. The availability of pitchers or lack thereof should not be a deciding factor in the rescheduling of games. If possible, try to reschedule games in the same week as the postponement takes place. It is the responsibility of both team managers to notify the Canteen Manager\ and the Umpire-in-Chief if the game is to be rescheduled. The managers, under the direction of the League Scheduler, will agree on a new date and time to play the game. Once this decision has been made, the managers will notify the Canteen manager and the Umpire-in-Chief to allow them to re-staff the new date agreed upon.

Rainy Day Procedure

Weekday games-- Opposing managers or coaches will communicate at least 1 hour before and make a decision on the status of that night's game. If the game is called, the managers in consultation with the Scheduler, will agree upon a tentative make-up date at this

time. Once a decision is made, the Canteen Manager and the Umpire-in-Chief must be informed of the cancellation and the tentative make-up date.

Weekend games-- Opposing managers or coaches will communicate at least 1 hour before their scheduled game and decide on the status of that game. If the game is called, the managers in consultation with the Scheduler, will agree upon a tentative make-up date at this time. Once again contact the Canteen Manager and the Umpire-in-Chief and inform them of the cancellation and the tentative make-up date.

Field Preparation

It is the responsibility of both teams to prepare the field for the game to be played. All coaches and managers should work together to get everything done to start the game at the scheduled time. Teams using the batting cage prior to their scheduled game should end the hitting drills one hour prior to game time. This is necessary to ensure that the players are settled into their respective dugouts and prepared to participate in stretching and throwing drills beginning 45 minutes prior to game time. This will also ensure that the coaching staffs are available to help prepare the field for play. It is the responsibility of both teams to assist in closing the field after each game. Each manager should be sure to check that the bases and all field equipment have been brought in, and the buildings are closed and locked before leaving the field. Managers of both teams should remain at the field until the Canteen volunteers have completed all work and have given the managers permission to leave. This is a safety measure designed to protect our Canteen volunteers. Volunteers and managers should help in field management, and trash disposal, as well as other canteen related functions as needed.

Disciplining Members

The Board of Directors has the right to discipline any officer, board member, player, fan, parent, manager, coach or volunteer for conduct deemed detrimental to the league. This will occur upon written submittal to the Board. The Board will take appropriate action, which may include expulsion from the league. Managers are encouraged to attend all league meetings and encourage their coaches to do the same. If a manager is unable to attend a properly scheduled meeting, it will be the manager's responsibility to try to have their team represented at the meeting by another of his/her team rostered coaches, as well as to notify the Secretary that he/she will not be in attendance, and who will represent the team in his/her place. Managers who do not uphold this responsibility may be subject to action by the Board if they are continually absent from properly scheduled meetings, without providing another team representation. A poor attendance record will be justifiable cause to deny members the right to use their proxy vote at any properly scheduled meeting of the league. The Executive Board will make the final decision on any request by a member to utilize their proxy voting privilege. The Executive Board will reserve the right to deny voting privileges to any members that are not in "good standing". Board Members who have not attended at least 1 meeting prior to the meeting designated to select our Tournament Managers will not be entitled to vote during the Tournament Managers selection process.

Disciplining Players and Fans

Managers have the right to discipline players by barring them from practices and benching them for games for unexcused absences and misbehavior. The President and Player

Agent should be notified before disciplinary action is imposed. If the child continues to miss practices, or the misbehavior persists, the manager will have the right to move to dismiss the player from the team upon consultation with the President and Player Agent. The President and Player Agent will present the matter to the remaining Executive Board members for a decision. If the Executive Board approves the motion, the player will be dismissed from the team. The dismissal will create an opening on the team which may be filled as outlined under the "Replacing Players" section of this package.

Tournament team players will be responsible for adhering to the Tournament Team Attendance Policy, which will be handed out and explained by the coaches at the first team practice, on or around June 15th. Managers are responsible for the conduct of their fans and may find it necessary at times to take an active role in controlling them. If forced into this situation, please confront the offender in a polite and cordial manner. Inform the offender of the leagues "zero tolerance policy", and do not take a confrontational tone. If this does not stop the abusive behavior, it may be necessary to call the authorities to remove the offender. Prior to the start of the season, team managers should have all parents read and sign a "Parent Code of Conduct" contract. Managers should take this time to explain the leagues "Zero Tolerance Policy" as well.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

1. Managers are responsible for the conduct of their team. This includes players, coaches, and spectators, and managers may find it necessary to take an active role in controlling them. Managers must make all parties aware of the leagues Zero Tolerance policy, and the Parent Code of Conduct policy, and do everything possible to ensure that everyone adheres to the principles of each.
2. Any spectators engaging in any derogatory language, criticism, or behavior toward an umpire, or other league official during a game, will be asked to leave the game site immediately. If necessary, the authorities will be summoned to assist in removing the offender.
3. Any player, manager, or coach, who verbally objects to an umpire's decision that calls into question the umpire's judgment, (not the interpretation of a rule) is subject to automatic ejection.
4. If there is reasonable doubt that an umpire's judgment conflicts with Little League rules, the manager must call time out and summon the Umpire-in-Chief (plate umpire) and opposing manager for a discussion behind home plate. If the manager is not present, the team should inform the UIC which ONE coach will be responsible for such appeals prior to the start of the game. Any verbal comments made prior to calling timeout or made in route to the meeting behind home plate, shall be grounds for automatic ejection. Any comments by non-designated coaches or players shall result in automatic ejection.
5. Once the meeting behind home plate begins, the manager or his designee should document the suspected rule violation to the umpire using a current copy of the Official Regulations and Playing Rules. All discussion with an umpire will be made in a respectful manner, and with intent so as not to be audible to surrounding players, coaches, or spectators.
6. Once the Umpire-in Chief analyzes the suspected rule violation, he/she will inform both managers of the decision, and play should resume. If a manager does not feel the umpire's decision is correct, he may file a protest at that time, and then the game will resume. Protests will not be accepted or allowed if made after play resumes. Continued discussion following the UIC's decision shall be grounds for automatic ejection.

7. Comments not directed at the umpire but verbalized in a tone which is audible to the umpire, players, coaches and/or spectators shall be grounds for automatic ejection.
8. Any player, manager, or coach who is ejected from a game, will be suspended from his/her team's next physical game. This includes regular season games, playoffs, tournament games, or any other games involving a Biddeford Little League Softball team.
9. Any person ejected must leave the field and surrounding area immediately. Game play will not resume until the person ejected leaves the surrounding area. Any manager or coach who does not leave the grounds immediately, may be suspended for a minimum of 3 additional games. The Board may take more extensive action in cases that are deemed severe, and detrimental to the league and its members. This may include permanent dismissal from the league.
10. Any manager or coach ejected twice in a season, or three times in his/her Biddeford Little League Softball career, shall be suspended from the league for one calendar year.
11. Any appeal of an ejection will be made to the Executive Board, and their decision will be final.

Tournament Rules and Procedure

General

The League will financially assist in the purchase of uniforms, and the payment of entry fees, one tournament team in each division of play. Players selected to the tournament teams may be assessed a participation fee to assist in the financial support of the teams. The amount of the fee will be determined by the Board on a yearly basis. The league will provide additional financial support to any team advancing beyond the district level of play. The amount will be determined by the Board on a case-by-case basis. Tournament Coaches will be responsible for fundraising if tournament play exceeds district level play. Tournament coaches can also reach out to the board of directors for any additional funding, upon approval vote. Candidates for tournament team managers for all divisions to be entered, will be elected by the Officers of the league, and the coaches and managers of the division being considered. Prior to the vote, all candidates will be given the opportunity to speak on their own behalf, and answer questions if any are presented. Any member that has not attended at least 1 meeting prior to this meeting, will not be eligible to vote for the Tournament managers. Any member who is not familiar with the candidates may choose to abstain from the vote by simply casting a blank ballot. The managers will choose 1 or 2 other coaches to complete their staff. The teams will consist of a minimum of 10 players per team. The team coaching staff may opt to carry as many as 14 players if they desire. Alternates are not authorized and will not be selected through the voting process. The coaching staff will distribute and explain the League's Tournament Team Attendance Policy. Should the team rosters fall below the desired levels because of injury, dismissal, or unavailability of a player, the team coaches will choose the replacements from the listing of prior balloted players in phase 2 of voting. The Player Agent will give this information. All equipment and uniforms must be procured by the Equipment Manager. The League will only be responsible for purchases made by the Equipment Manager. The Equipment Manager

should inspect and approve all equipment to be used by each tournament team within the first week of practice for each team.

Team Selection Process

The process detailed above will be used for all teams to be entered into each division of district play. The teams to be entered in the district tournaments will be selected by the following process:

Phase 1: Voting Participants:

Players in the respective division will vote for 9 players and 1 Head Coach.

The Head Coach who receives the most votes will get 1 additional vote added to their total count in the Head Coaching decision meeting.

The top 5 vote recipients will be placed on the team. The voting in this phase must be completed and tallied prior to the selection meeting for the managers and coaches. In the event of a tie, all girls with a tie vote will be selected and the number of girls will be subtracted in phase 2.

Phase 2: Voting Participants: Managers and Coaches of the respective division will select up to 5 players, not to exceed 10 players to be added to the team following the procedure detailed below. When this phase is completed, 10 players total should be selected for tournament play. Unless the Executive Board has approved a new minimum of less than 12 players during the meeting then the Phase 2 process must be used eliminating ties until the new minimum is fulfilled and the team selection completed. Any 10 year old, who played in the Majors division for the regular season, and who was not selected in the Majors Tournament Team will automatically be placed on the Phase 2 Ballot for Minors Tournament Team Selection process by the Player Agent. Managers holding more than one voting position within the respective division must vote with the managers and coaches in this phase of the process. No member will have more than 1 vote within each respective division.

The player selection procedure for managers and coaches:

- a. The selection meeting will be attended by the managers and coaches, along with the Player Agent, the President and another member of the Executive Board who will aid in tabulating the votes if the President is also a manager or coach.
- b. The Player Agent will create a ballot of the eligible players and distribute them to the managers and coaches in attendance.
- c. The manager of each team will speak briefly about each of his/her players that he intends to nominate to the ballot.
- d. Any players not receiving the recommendation of their team manager, and players previously selected to the team by the participants of Phase 1, will be eliminated from the ballot.

- e. Each team will cast one ballot, and vote for the top 5 players on the list. The ballots will be returned to the Player Agent, and a second Executive Board member for tallying.
- f. Up to 5 vote recipients will be added to the tournament team, determined by manager and coach of the tournament team to bring the roster to 10 players.
- g. Extra rounds will be used to settle ties.

Tournament Team Head Coach Selection

At a board meeting, each candidate will have an opportunity to speak to the softball board committee on why they deserve to be named Head Coach. Once each candidate has spoken, a closed ballot vote will take place. Votes will be tallied by 2 individuals (that are not running for Head Coach*) and the Head Coach will be announced. Ensure that the favorite vote from Phase 1 makes it to this tally. *If a conflict of interest is present within voting then 2 people who share no conflict will tally votes.*

Phase 3: Voting Participants: Tournament Team Coaching Staff

The participants will select up to 3, depending on the desired roster size. Please refer to Team Minimum requirements within Little League. Notification of Team Selection to players can not be completed until ALL Regular Season play within the respective Division has been completed. This includes ALL Interleague games or Regular Season League Tournaments.

It is recommended the announcement of the team be delayed until the local schools have recessed for summer break, and the Leagues "Field Day" or end of the year awards ceremonies have been completed.

***The process detailed above will be used for all teams to be entered into each division of District play.

District Teams

The league will annually enter teams into the district 4 tournament. The decision to enter the following teams into the District 4 Tournament will be assessed annually by the Board of Directors. The decision will be based solely on the availability of players, and or coaches and only if another category is created.

11 and 12-year-old Major Division All Stars

- a. All 11 and 12-year olds will be eligible for selection. *Only 10 year olds that played in the Major's Division can be added to the Majors Division ballot. If the 10 year old is not placed on the Major's Tournament team, the 10 year old will automatically be placed on the Minors Player pitch ballot.

9 and 10-year-old Minor Division All Stars--A team

- a. All 9 and 10-year olds will be eligible for selection. *Only 8 year olds that played in the Minor's Division can be added to the Minors Division ballot.

COACH PITCH DIVISION

Mission and Philosophy

The primary goal of the Biddeford Little League Softball Minor League Coach Pitch division is to provide a learning environment suitable for young players to obtain the necessary skills to prepare them for a safe and enjoyable future in the more competitive levels of Little League play. The intensity of the games should be kept at a level that is suitable to the age group involved. The importance of playing with structure however, must not be diminished. Softball is a game and should be fun. Players have the most fun when they can execute plays successfully. Tremendous emphasis should be placed on fundamentals, both during practices, and in games. It is the coaches' responsibility to teach relevant softball skills, and it's the players' responsibility to give the game their best effort. The players should walk away from each practice and game with a sense of accomplishment and purpose. They should be made to understand what they did well, and what they need to improve on.

Managers and Coaches

- Minor League Coach Pitch Managers/Coaches will be appointed by the Director of Coaches through the Appointment Committee, and subject to approval of the league President.
- They are responsible for teaching the players the fundamentals of hitting, fielding, and base running.
- They are responsible for maintaining discipline among team members, and instilling in them a respect for the game, the umpires, and the opposing team.
- They should stress the importance of attendance at practices and games and arriving on time. These are all important elements in each level of Little League play.
- They should not take an "It's just Minor League" approach to coaching, or the players and parents will take the same attitude.
- They should not hesitate to seek help from other more experienced, or knowledgeable coaches in the league, if needed.
- They are encouraged to be enthusiastic, happy, engaged, and provide positive feedback to all players. Do not stress wins and losses. The score of the games should not be kept by adults.
- They should hold a minimum of 1 practice per week, not to exceed 4 events per week counting games, group clinics, and individual practices.

Coach Pitch Division Eligibility

The Minors Coach Pitch division will be comprised of players that are of league age *5,*6, 7, 8, 9**, and 10** years.

*5 and 6-year olds must have completed 1 season of Little League T-ball to be eligible to play in this division. Adequate proof as defined by the Player agent must be made to the Executive Board upon request.

**9 and 10-year olds may be placed in the Minors Coach Pitch Division upon request, and with approval of the Executive Board. This decision will be based on the best interest of the child in question only. The player must have completed the Minor League Player Pitch tryouts and has passed unselected through the draft process for the Minor League Player Pitch division. This decision will be based on the best interest of the child in question only.

The team rosters will include no more than 10 players, with a more desirable goal of between 8 and 10 players per team being the objective. The Player Agent, and all Coach Pitch Managers shall be present and responsible for assembling the teams, through an evaluation program if possible. All possible attempts will be made to evenly divide the children into equally competitive teams. The teams should be assembled as evenly as possible, by age, and ability. Special attention should be paid to those that can pitch. Each team should be assigned an equal number of players with pitching ability.

Minor League Coach Pitch Division rules coaching staffs are responsible for preparing the fields on game day. This is NOT the responsibility of the home team alone. Please work together, it will be easier for everyone. There is plenty to do. Please follow the rules outlined below verbatim and to deviate from them in any way will only cause problems. It is important that we are all on the same page and that can only be achieved by following the written rules.

Game Rules (See Appendix A):

All Games will follow the inter-league rules, whether it is an inter-league or inner-league game. The Inter-league rules will be made accessible to all coaches in the beginning of the season and should be attached to the by-laws listed online for ease. If a rule is not listed in the inter-league rules, then the Little League Rulebook will be followed. Any discrepancies will go to the UIC or President for final judgement.

Date of prior revisions: October 2023

Date of latest revisions: March 8, 2025

Package accepted and approved by the Board of Directors on: March 10th 2025

Reviewed by Attorney at Eaton Peabody: January 2025

Appendix A

Inter-League and District 4 Rules

1. General Rules (All Divisions)

In order for a game to be considered complete, 4 full innings must be played with a maximum of 6 innings unless there is a tie. In the 6th inning, there will be an “endless run” rule implemented where the opposing team can score as many runs as possible. Every other inning will be a 5 run maximum. If a game is finished in the half-inning due to rain or darkness, then the score will revert to the last full inning played.

Players are to wear their uniform tops tucked in. Jewelry is prohibited to be worn unless it is medically necessary.

Players are required to have a cage on their helmet and a face mask in the field. No exceptions. If a player does not have equipment, it will be provided by either team.

Shortened games cannot have the 50% playtime rule applied, equal to Little League playing rules in tournament play.

Coaches, when it comes to umpires, you can dispute a rule in the rule book. You are NOT allowed to dispute a judgment call.

A speedy transition is the key to keeping the kids' interest and providing an exciting environment for the game. Use line up sheets or the Game Changer App with opposing teams. Line up sheets should be posted in the dugouts in order for the kids to know when they are coming due to bat or where they are playing in the field. Coaches should assist catchers in suiting up each inning to ensure the game is not delayed.

Only players and Coaches are allowed in the dugouts at all times. Players may leave the dugout with coaches' permission.

2. General Rules (Majors Division Only)

Pitchers may pitch 4 innings per game maximum. The defensive team may have 10 players on the field with the extra player being in the outfield if agreed upon during the pregame home plate meeting between coaches and umpires. Stealing bases is allowed.

3. General Rules (Minors Division Only)

Pitchers may pitch 3 innings per game maximum. The defensive team may have 10 players on the field with the extra player being in the outfield if agreed upon during the pregame home plate meeting between coaches and umpires. Stealing bases is allowed.

Teams will bat until around the batting order, 3 outs have been made or 5 runs have been scored.

Players may advance as many bases as they want on overthrows to bases.

Players MUST change positions in the field after 2 innings excluding pitchers and catchers.

On weeknights, a new top of the inning may not start after 7:30pm. Once the top of the inning starts, that inning can be completed after 7:30pm

Bunting is allowed.

If the catcher overthrows the pitcher, runners may be allowed to advance if desired.

4. General Rules (Coach Pitch Division Only)

All games will be played with an 11" soft compression ball, no exceptions. All games are 6 innings or a maximum of 90 minutes.

Coaches are encouraged to move kids to different positions throughout the game.

Tees will NOT be used during the season.

Pitchers can pitch from a temporary mound at 32' away. Each pitcher is given 4 pitches per batter. After the 4 pitches, the coach will step in. A batter may strikeout during these 4 pitches. A batter can NOT walk during these 4 pitches. Once the coach steps in to pitch, the count will carry over from the pitcher. Batters cannot walk.

The defensive and offense will switch when 3 outs have occurred.

A half inning can also be complete when the offense has batted around the batting order.

Players may only take one base at a time during a hit unless the ball reaches the outfield. The play is "dead" when the outfielder has possession of the ball.

Coaches may stay on the edge of the outfield grass to help players with positions and keep all players focused during the game.

There is no leading, bunting, or stealing. Base runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit.