

South Salem Little League

Bylaws



BYLAWS PURPOSE

The purpose of the South Salem Little League bylaws is to enhance and clarify the Little League Constitution and provide a guideline for the efficient operation of South Salem Little League. These Bylaws are designed not to conflict with the Rules, Regulation and Policies of Little League Baseball, Inc. nor do they conflict with the adopted Little League Constitution.

The Bylaws of South Salem Little League shall be enacted in Good Faith and in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute Chapter 65-Nonprofit Corporations and said Statutes will supersede the Little League Constitution where conflicts may exist.

South Salem Little League is governed by Regulations listed as priority as follows:

- Official Regulations and Playing Rules for Little League Baseball and Softball
- Little League Operating Manual
- Oregon District 7 Policy and Guidelines
- South Salem Little League Constitution
- South Salem Little League Bylaws

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TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

- **South Salem Little League:** Also referred to as **SSLL** or **Local League**. These terms are synonymous and interchangeable.
- **Regular Member:** Any adult person actively affiliated with, and interested in furthering the objectives of the Local League.
- **Board Member:** Any regular member in good standing who has been elected to a board position.
- **Participant:** A person who is involved in any capacity with Local League sponsored events. This includes but is not limited to: parents, players, coaches, spectators, umpires, and volunteers.

BOARD PROCEDURES

Annual Meeting

This is a general membership meeting open to all **regular members** of South Salem Little League.

All regular members have voting privileges for this meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Present annual financial and membership reports as prescribed in the SSSL Constitution
- Make it known where the Constitution and Bylaws can be found and approve any updates to the Constitution.
- Elect the Board of Directors for the next year
- Appoint committees
- Conduct any other necessary business

This meeting must be held on or before September 30.

Notice must be given at least 10 days in advance, stating the time, location, and general agenda topics. Notice will be posted on the league website and sent electronically.

Regular Meetings

Monthly Board meetings are scheduled with at least 10 days notice and communicated electronically to all board members. The President presides, or a Vice President in their absence.

Special Meetings

May be called with three days' notice by the President or with less notice by written request of five Board Members.

Meeting Agenda

Set by the President for all meetings.

Meeting Conduct

Meetings must be orderly and respectful. Robert's Rules of Order apply to Annual Meetings, decisions of financial significance, to restore order when necessary, or at the discretion of the President. All other decisions are typically made by consensus or show-of-hands voting.

Confidentiality

When appropriate and legally allowed, the Board may keep certain matters confidential. If a Board member requests confidentiality (verbally or by email), the issue will not appear in meeting minutes or be shared beyond the Board.

Conflicts of Interest

A Board member must recuse themselves from discussion and voting if they, their spouse, or child are directly involved in the specific matter. They may return once the vote concludes.

Voting Privileges

With the exception of any general membership meeting - for example the Annual Meeting - Only elected Board Members may vote. Committee members, appointed officers, and guests may participate in discussion but do not vote.

Voting

Votes may occur in person or via email. The voting method will be stated in the meeting notice. If voting is by email or proxy, all items must be shared 10 days in advance. Only regular members may vote in email elections.

Quorum

A quorum requires 51% of filled Board positions.

RESIGNATION

Resignation of a director may be oral when given to the Board or in writing per Oregon Revised Statute.

PROBATION

The Board of Directors may, by a 51% vote, place on probation any **Local League participant** that, in the Board of Directors opinion, have acted in a manner inconsistent with the policies and principles of SSL. If the probation is violated, the Board of Directors may, by a majority vote, prohibit said participant from attending SSL sponsored events indefinitely.

ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

Board Members, Committee Members, Coaches and Managers that are found to be involved in illegal activity on SSL Property or with regard to the normal business operations of SSL will not be tolerated and the Board of Directors will impose sanctions to the fullest extent of their power.

LITTLE LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS SCREENING PROCESS

Background Check

Volunteers age 18 or older with direct contact with children participants will be required to complete volunteer application paperwork which will be background checked for criminal activity. South Salem Little League uses a variety of search vendors as prescribed by Little League International. These include Lexis-Nexis, Sexual Offender Registry, and Oregon Judicial Department [OJIN].

On rare occasions, Little League, through District Administrators and your local Board of Directors, may deny individuals the privilege of volunteering for reasons, past or present, that may be detrimental to the positive development of young people, other volunteers, and/or Little League International. When you apply to become a volunteer, you give the local Little League organization the right to conduct necessary background checks.

Little League Volunteer Application

As a condition of service to the league, all managers, coaches, Board of Directors, members and any other persons, volunteers or hired workers, who provide regular services to the league and/or have repetitive access to or contact with players or teams, must **ANNUALLY** complete and submit an official **Little League Volunteer**

Application to the local league president. Annual background screenings must be completed prior to the applicant assuming his/her duties for the current season. Refusal to annually submit a fully completed Little League Volunteer Application, must result in the immediate dismissal of the individual from the local league.

A copy of the volunteer application can be located on the SSLL website or by contacting the league via email.

TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

Each team plays an important role in creating a fun, safe, and successful game environment. Parents are highly encouraged to volunteer for these responsibilities. Below are the specific duties for both the home and away teams during SSLL games. **These expectations may differ for inter-district games.**

Sponsorship Banner (Either Team):

- As needed, set up and take down sponsorship banners before and after games.

Home Team Responsibilities (Pre-Game):

The home team is responsible for preparing the field at least 30 minutes before game time. Tasks include:

- Raking the infield (rake the base paths side to side).
- Lining the field.
- Placing the bases.
- Pickup trash from dugouts and around the field.
- Providing a “parent volunteer” umpire if necessary. For more information see [UMPIRES](#)

Visiting Team Responsibilities (Post-Game):

The visiting team is responsible for cleaning up the field after the game. We do not expect teams from outside of SSLL to complete these items, so please ensure they are completed if you are the home team for an interleague game. Tasks include:

- Storing the bases in the storage box.
- Raking the infield (fill in holes at the batter’s box and pitcher’s mound).
- Pickup trash from dugouts and around the field.
- Returning equipment and rakes to the storage building.
- Locking the storage area.

PLAYER REGISTRATION AND VERIFICATION

All player registration is conducted online via the SSLL website.

Registration Dates and Communication

The following dates are when registration periods generally occur. These may change from year to year as necessary

- **Spring Season:** December-February
- **Fall Ball:** June-August

Notice of upcoming registration is generally communicated via the following methods:

- Email to recent participants
- Social media platforms
- Yard signs placed near schools and other high traffic areas within the Local League boundaries

SSLL retains the right to increase registration fees for late registrants after the designated registration period ends.

Player Verification

Per Little League International rules all players league age 8 and older must meet age and league boundary requirements.

As of 2025 verification is only required for League Age 8 and older. Players League Age 7 and younger may play with any League they choose, regardless of league boundaries.

To be eligible the following must be completed for all League Age 8 and older players.

- **Original** “Raised Seal” Birth Certificate (to be shown to an official umpire)
- Three (3) proofs of recent residence (i.e. parents driver’s license, utility bill, car registration, etc.)

Documents must be resubmitted each and every year, with the exception of the birth certificate provided previous birth certificate verification is already on file.

To ensure families and players are kept together, if a player who is League Age 7 or younger is playing with the Local League their, older siblings are automatically eligible, regardless of where they reside or attend school. Additionally if a player began playing with a league when they were LEague age 7 or younger they may continue to play with the Local League as they get older.

All players must submit the following documents regardless of age:

- Player Registration through the SSL website
- Player Medical Release Form

IMPORTANT: Players will **NOT** be allowed to practice until a signed **Player Medical Release Form** is in the possession of his/her Head Coach.

All forms and more information are available on the SSL website or via email.

Typically the league hosts a required parents night prior to the start of the season where document verification occurs.

REFUNDS

Players are entitled to a refund if they withdraw prior to the first game. Refund amounts will be based on league expenses incurred.

- Prior to team assignment: A refund will be issued for the amount of the registration fee, less a \$10 processing fee.
- After team assignment: A refund will be issued for 50% of the registration fee. Additionally, the cost of any ordered uniform will be deducted from the refund.

HEAD COACH APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

Application Process:

SSL Participants interested in coaching a team must submit a completed volunteer application to the league through the SSL website.

The online coach application is available as a standalone option for anyone with an SSL website account, and is also presented to parents/guardians during player registration.

All coach application forms will be maintained digitally by SSL and are used by the Board of Directors to contact prospective coaches.

Selection Process:

1. After reviewing the list of prospective coaches, each Division VP will submit to the League President their list of recommended Coaches in the positions they have determined them to be placed.
2. Upon approval by the League President and a favorable background check completed, the Division Directors will notify the prospective managers/coaches that they have been approved. They will also advise them that their assignment to a team will be dependent on final registration numbers.
3. Coaches will be assigned teams based on the position in which the Local League approved them to manage/coach.

Head Coach Expectations:

All players, managers, coaches, umpires, and league officials are expected to abide by the rules and regulations of Little League Baseball, Incorporated, as well as the Constitution and Bylaws of South Salem Little League. Any player, manager, coach, umpire or league official who is involved in any verbal or physical altercation, incident of unsportsmanlike conduct at a game/practice site or league sponsored activity, is subject to disciplinary action by SSLL Board of Directors.

All players, managers, coaches and spectators are expected to follow the **SSLL Code of Conduct** as established and signed prior to the beginning of the season.

The SSLL Code of Conduct shall be published to the SSLL website.

Managers, Coaches and Umpires must have a working knowledge of the Little League Rule Book for the current season, as well as the local division rules of the SSLL. Information on how to obtain the Little League International Rule Book is available on the SSLL website and through Little League International.

Head Coach Responsibilities:

1. Attend all mandatory SSLL meetings and functions as required by the Board of Directors.
2. Handle all administrative requirements of his/her team.
3. Attend SSLL sanctioned clinics on coaching, safety, etc.
4. Be responsible for league equipment and facilities.
5. Strive to teach our children the proper way to play the game.

6. Stress fair play, sportsmanship and respect for ALL league participants.
7. Be available for scheduled practices and games.
8. Hold a mandatory preseason team meeting where team expectations, proper conduct, schedules and any questions can be adequately addressed.
9. Head Coaches are expected to read, understand and comply with the current Local League Bylaws.
10. Head Coaches are expected to read the distributed current Little League Rule Book.
11. Baseball only, for AA and up, Head Coaches are expected to maintain and carry the pitch count current logs and scorebooks at all times.

League President's Right to Veto, Suspend or Terminate Coaches

The President of SSLL has the final determination as to whether an individual will be allowed to manage/coach regardless of the Board of Directors approval or disapproval. The SSLL President may at any time suspend or terminate a Coach from managing/coaching at his/her discretion. The Board of Directors may at any time suspend or terminate an individual from managing/coaching by majority vote.

In the event that a Head Coach is removed from their team, abandons their team or in any way is unable to fulfill the commitment of managing/coaching; the league will replace the Head Coach with a current coach from the team. If that is not applicable, the Board of Directors will attempt to locate another Head Coach to fill the position.

EQUIPMENT

Players Provide:

- Glove
- Shoes/Cleats (metal spikes allowed at JR division and above),
- Pants (no shorts in tee ball or baseball).
- If a player wishes to supply their own catchers gear or bat, it must meet or exceed little league requirements.
- Batting helmet
- Other Protective Equipment: All players must wear appropriate protective equipment. This includes but is not limited to a jockstrap and/or compression shorts for practice and games. Players who play catcher must wear an appropriate protective cup for practice and games.

League Provides:

- Hat
- Jersey (AAA division and up may have their name on the back)
- Catchers Gear
- Bats (if needed)
- Baseballs or Softballs.

EQUIPMENT RETURN

Upon resignation, suspension, or termination, any participant with property belonging to SSLL must return said property in a timely fashion. Failure to return SSLL property within seven days following separation shall be considered detrimental to the league and will require further action.

SCOREKEEPING

Each team, except for Tee-Ball and A, is required to utilize GameChanger for scorekeeping. Scorekeeping must be completed by an adult outside of the field of play.

It is recommended by the board that each team's scorekeeper attend the provided scorekeeper's clinic.

The scorebook shall keep track of each game the team plays, including the game dates. Each player's name shall be written out in full (LASTNAME, FIRSTNAME) and the following information shall be recorded for each player.

- Number of at bats
- The number of innings played in the field
- The number of innings the player sat out
- Number of pitches thrown by each pitcher

The scorebook and pitching records shall be kept until every All-Star Team has concluded tournament play. It shall be presented to the President, Player Agent, Coaching Coordinator or Safety Officer upon request.

UMPIRES

Each year umpires are an integral part of completing a successful learning experience throughout SSLL. They have the thankless task of ensuring that all playing and safety rules are enforced, while tactfully coping with difficult situations.

SSLL encourages more parents to become umpires and will provide instructional booklets and clinics to gain confidence and knowledge of the game.

For the T-Ball, A-Division, and AA- Division- the coaches on the field during the time of play will make any necessary umpire calls. AAA Division- the Home Team will need to provide a “parent volunteer” umpire.

For the Juniors and Majors Divisions, SSLL will do their best to provide official umpires for all of these games. However, there are times where official umpires are not always available and “parent volunteer” umpires are asked to help out. At these levels, it is best to have 2 umpires, one behind the plate and one in the field.

If circumstances warrant, the board of directors has the right to schedule each team's set of coaches to umpire games when they are not playing. Games will be equitably distributed between all teams in the league. Each division's coordinator will complete the schedule in conjunction with the game schedule. This applies to ALL levels of play.

SSLL has sets of umpire gear available at each field location for those umpiring behind the plate.

Contact the current SSLL Umpire in Chief for further information or clarification of rules.

AGE REQUIREMENTS BY DIVISION

League Age

For the purpose of this Age Requirements Section all ages are Little League age. Little League age may differ from the player's actual age. Little League age is determined by the age the player will be as of a date set by Little League International. Information on determining league age is available on the SSLL website and from Little League International.

Tee Ball

Ages 4, 5 & 6 may play Tee Ball.

A Baseball

Ages 6 & 7

AA Baseball

Ages 7, 8 & 9 may play in AA.

AA Softball

Ages 7, 8, 9, & 10 may play in AA.

AAA Baseball and Softball

Ages 8, 9, 10 & 11 may play in AAA.

Restrictions: No player league age 12 will play in the Minors (AAA) unless the player's parents, approved by 2/3 of the Board of Directors and the District Administrator, request it. Further restrictions on a 12 year old playing in Minors can be found in the Little League Rule book.

Majors Baseball and Softball

Ages 9, 10, 11 and 12 may play in Majors.

Restrictions: All players who are league age 12 must be drafted to a Majors Division team or higher. Exceptions to this rule can only be made with written approval from the District Administrator, and only if approved at the Local League level by the Board of Directors and the parents of the player.

50/70 Baseball

Note: The SSLL may not offer a 50/70 team every year.

Ages 11, 12 & 13 may play in 50/70.

Restrictions: 11 & 12 year olds who wish to try out specifically for the 50/70 team can.

Juniors Baseball and Softball

Ages 12, 13, 14 & 15 may play in Juniors (15 year olds have restrictions on pitching, catching and all-star eligibility).

Seniors Baseball and Softball

Note: The SSLL may not offer a Seniors team every year.

Ages 13, 14, 15, & 16 may play in Seniors

PLAYER EVALUATIONS

Player evaluations are designed to be fair, consistent, and impartial, ensuring all players are given the same opportunity to demonstrate their abilities. It is the responsibility of the Players Agents to define the tryout and evaluation process, which must then be reviewed and approved by the appropriate VP.

Evaluations focus on a player's core fundamentals: hitting, fielding, throwing, and catching. Coaches place emphasis on assessing techniques and skills demonstrated, rather than a player's performance on a single day. A detailed description of what families can expect during evaluation days is provided on the SSLL website.

PLAYER DRAFT SELECTION

Draft Format

The draft occurs in the following order of upper divisions:

1. Majors
2. AAA
3. Juniors
4. 50/70

Draft order is determined by a random drawing of the Coaches names from a hat. The draft is formatted as a "Grouped Snake" draft which picks in order and at the conclusion of the first round, the draft then "snakes" its way back up to the team with the number one pick (1,2,3,4,5,6,6,5,4,3,2,1).

Ideally, coaches are selected prior to the tryouts. In the event that a coach has not been chosen for a team, league officials will "ghost draft" a team based on tryout evaluation scores. The draft will take place within 48 hours after the last tryout so player notifications can start to take place.

Players must be drafted into divisions that match their age group as defined in each division's age group order, unless prior approval is given to play in a different division.

Players may not be drafted into the division in which they were registered. For example, a 10 year old player registered for Majors may not get drafted onto any Majors team. In this case they will get included in the AAA draft.

Before a player is placed into a higher division than the one in which they were registered, their parents/guardians must agree.

Manager and Coach Options

Each team may “lock” one Head Coach and one Assistant Coach option, as long as these players are their respective children or family member. These options are placed in their respective draft rounds prior to the draft and count as that team’s selection for that round. The draft round will be determined by the tryout score by the combined coaches along with the Players Agent score. The Players Agent has the final determination unless vetoed by the President.

Siblings

If both siblings are drafted to the division, they are drafted back-to-back for the same team. Siblings are to be drafted on the same team unless requested otherwise by the parents.

Majors Division

Majors does not fully redraft each year. The player will stay on the same team throughout their eligibility in the majors division.

To promote balanced and competitive play, teams with a clear competitive disadvantage entering the draft may receive bonus picks at the discretion of the local league. It is the role of the Players Agents to determine whether bonus picks are warranted, with the goal of ensuring fair and balanced teams. If bonus picks are awarded, they must be reviewed and approved by the appropriate VPs and the President, and communicated to all coaches in the division prior to the start of the draft.

Majors is the first division to draft.

Age Group Order:

1. **League Age 12:** All of these players **MUST** be drafted to a Majors team.
2. **League Age 9-11:** These players are drafted until all Majors teams are full. Remaining players move into the draft pool for AAA

AAA Division

Age Group Order:

1. **League Age 10 & 11:** All of these players **MUST** be drafted to a AAA team.
2. **League Age 8 & 9:** These players are drafted until all AAA teams are full.
Remaining players are moved at random onto un-drafted AA teams

Juniors Division

Juniors do not fully redraft each year. The player will stay on the same team throughout their eligibility in the Juniors division.

To promote balanced and competitive play, teams who have a substantially lower number of returning players may receive bonus picks in earlier rounds of the draft at the discretion of the local league.

Age Group Order:

1. **League Age 13-15:** All of these players **MUST** be drafted to a Juniors team.

Alternate Age Group Order (Baseball with 50/70):

1. **League Age 14-15:** All of these players **MUST** be drafted to a Juniors team.
2. **League Age 13:** These players are drafted until all Juniors teams are full.
Remaining players move into the draft pool for 50/70

50/70 Division (If Offered)

50/70 does not fully redraft each year. The player will stay on the same team throughout their eligibility in the Juniors division.

To promote balanced and competitive play, teams who have a substantially lower number of returning players may receive bonus picks in earlier rounds of the draft at the discretion of the local league.

Age Group Order:

1. **League Age 13:** All of these players **MUST** be drafted to a 50/70 team.

REPLACEMENT PLAYERS

AAA and Majors teams are **expected to roster twelve (12) players for the regular season**. While twelve is the standard, roster sizes may occasionally vary due to unique circumstances.

If a team loses a player and feels that a replacement is necessary, the team's Head Coach must notify the appropriate Players Agent within 48 hours. To restore the roster, the Head Coach will work with the league to identify an eligible player from another team, usually from a lower division, to move onto the roster. A player may only move if the player, their family, and the league all agree to the transition.

Note: Any player that declines to move up cannot be moved up at a later time during that same season.

Exception: If a team loses a player within the last 2 weeks of the season, it is not recommended to fill the spot.

ALL-STAR TOURNAMENT TEAMS

Eligibility

All-Star applications will be handed out to all eligible interested players at a designated time during the regular season. The Player Agent and/or President will confirm eligibility.

Selection Committee

The all-star selection committee is the president and player agent or VP. In case of a tie, the baseball vice president is brought in to break a tie.

Team Selection Priority

The 11/12 year old team will be selected first. The selection committee determines the order of the other (10/11, 9/10, etc.). The selection committee selects in such an order to produce the team(s) that have the best chance of winning in tournament play.

Player Selection

Players are selected by both the selection committee and by the team Head Coach. The tournament manager has two weighted votes to select eligible players.

The selection committee will then complete the rest of the roster.

Coach Eligibility

Regular season coaches who want to be considered for a tournament coach position must submit their names via the all-star application.

The 11/12 year-old Division: The coaches shall be regular season coaches from the Majors Division.

The 10/11 year-old Division: The coaches shall be regular season coaches from the Majors or AAA Division.

The 9/10 year-old Division: The coaches shall be regular season team managers and/or coaches from the Majors or AAA Division.

Coach Selection

The tournament Head Coach is selected by the selection committee. Once the tournament Head Coach is selected, he/she will select their assistant coaches. Assistant coaches are subject to approval by the selection committee.

LOCAL RULES

The Local League maintains a set of Local Rules that apply when teams are not playing an interleague game. These rules are approved by the Board of Directors and published to the SSL website.

All rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors will be followed by the SSL and can be amended by a 51% vote of the filled positions of the Board of Directors. In case of the rules, regulations or procedures not covered by these Bylaws, the official Little League rules will be followed. Failure to adhere to the rules and Bylaws by SSL players, managers, coaches, umpires, and league officials will be deemed cause for immediate Board of Directors review and action.