Hermiston Little League

2022 Local League Rules

Ages and Divisions of Play:
Players will be placed in divisions according to the final guidelines. With the exception of T-Ball, ages will be defined according to Little League rules.

- 5-6 year olds - T ball. 6 Year olds who have played one year in T Ball may be placed in a pool of players to move up to AA baseball/softball if there is room on a team. Four year olds can be placed on a team with approval of the Executive Board.
- 6-8 year olds - AA baseball/softball. 8 year old with one year of play in AA must attend a demonstration to be eligible to play up to AAA if there is room on a team.
- 9-11 year olds - AAA baseball/softball. 10 year olds must attend a try out in order to be eligible to play up to majors.
- 11-12 year olds - Major baseball/softball, unless for safety reasons it is decided otherwise.
- 13 year olds - Intermediate Baseball (50/70)
- 13-14 year olds - Junior softball
- 13-14 year old - Junior baseball (60/90)

JR Baseball & Softball and Intermediate Baseball Mandatory Rule:
It is mandatory that all Jr. Baseball and Softball eligible players to be drafted. JR Baseball and Softball and Intermediate Baseball will abide by all rules provided in the LL rule book.

Regular games will be 7 innings. There will be a 2 hour time limit on school nights with a minimum of 5 innings played. Junior baseball and softball will use a continuous batting order in league play. Interlock rules apply when playing outside our league.

Intermediate baseball is an option, but if there is not enough enrollment, or other teams to play, 13 year olds can compete in Juniors Baseball.

Major Baseball Mandatory Rule:
It is mandatory for all 12-year-old players to be drafted to the Majors unless, following parental request, and/or Director of Major Baseball believes that for the well-being of the player they should be placed on a AAA (9/10 year old) team. (Subject to Board approval.) District approval is necessary for this alternative placement. Managers have the right to not place a child in the batting order for disciplinary action.

All Major eligible players are subject to being drafted up to the Majors' division at any time during the season due to a player vacating a team. Draft choice will be made from the original pool of players who attended the pre-season tryout. All players are required to tryout, even if their parent intends to coach. **See Attachment A: Draft Rules** Continuous batting is required for all teams.

Game Play:

In regular games, (single games starting on or before 6pm), all games will be 6 innings, except no new inning will begin after 9:30pm. Ten run rule will be in effect after 4 innings of play. Continuous batting order will apply for all games. If, after 6 innings of play, there is a tie, a 7th inning will be played. If, after 7 innings of play, there is a tie, the Kansas City Tie-Breaker will go into effect.

a. Runner on 2nd base (Last batter that completed a full at-bat in the previous inning)
b. Inning begins with one (1) out.

For double header games or late games, a time limit will be reached after two (2) hours of play, with a minimum of four (4) innings. For late games/double headers, after the 4th inning and two-hour time limit, the game becomes drop dead. If the drop-dead rule is applied, score reverts back to the last complete inning. Five run rule will be implemented.

Major Softball Mandatory Rule:

It is mandatory for all 12 year old players to be drafted to the Majors unless, following parental request, and or the Director of Majors Softball believes that for the well-being of the player they should be placed on a AAA (9/10 year old) team. (Subject to Board approval.) District approval is necessary for this alternative placement. Continuous batting is required for all teams. Managers have the right to not place a child in the batting order for disciplinary action.

All Major eligible players are subject to being drafted up to the Majors' division at any time during the season due to a player vacating a team. Draft choice will be made from the original pool of players who attended the pre-season tryout. * *See Attachment A: Draft Rules* *

AA Baseball/Softball:

First 4 games of the season will be played with the coach pitching. Starting at the 5th game, at the manager's discresion, 1st inning will be coach pitch and all players will bat in the first inning. 2 nd and 3rd innings will be player pitch and will be played with 3 outs (players will have a set pitch count per Little League rules). Pitchers will only be able to pitch to a maximum of 4-6 batters. There will be a maximum of 5 pitches per batter by the player. If three strikes are not achieved during the first 5 pitches, the coach will complete the pitching for the at bat. During the 2nd and 3rd innings only, all players will bat, but the bases will be cleared each time a 3rd out is made. The director will give notice when the player pitch will start. There will be no stealing in AA baseball / softball. Base runners may not run on an overthrown ball. Offensive coach will serve as umpire during player pitch.

Home team will set up the field and visiting team will clean up, put bases away, rake fields if playing on one of the main fields, etc. Both teams are responsible for removal of debris.

AAA Baseball/Softball:

Minors will be played according to LL rules with the following exceptions. There are no intentional walks in AAA baseball / softball and each inning will have a 5 run max per team. The entire roster must bat, even if they are not playing defensively, per little league rules. Line-ups must be given to the scorekeeper prior to the start of the game and must include a last name and first initial (Smith, J.)

Games shall be 6 innings, but four (4) full innings must be played to constitute an official complete game. A 2 hour time limit will be in effect (after 4 innings played) and no new inning will be started after 1 hr 45 minutes. If the two-hour time limit is met in the middle of an inning, the inning must be completed to end the game. Unlimited runs in the sixth inning.

For late games and double headers, after the 4th inning/ two-hour time limit the game becomes drop dead. Games will not be called at the end of the 4th if they have not reached the two-hour time limit. If the game is called drop dead at 2 hours, the score reverts back to that of the last inning.

Home team is responsible for the official book and Visiting team is responsible for providing an umpire if one is not provided by the league. Pitch count and home book will be turned in at the end of the game, signed by both coaches and the umpire.

AAA Baseball/ Softball Draft

The skills evaluation is for players ages 8 to 11 years old to be drafted to a AAA Minor baseball or softball team.

Every player that wishes to make a AAA team is required to:

1 .) Attend Skills Evaluation

2.) If they cannot attend the skills evaluation, they will be placed in the blind pool

Draft Rules: **See Attachment A for Full Draft Rules

- Once the skills evaluations are completed all the AAA Managers will meet and the draft order is determined by a number pull from a hat.
- Managers of a AAA team can declare 1 coach prior to the draft. They must declare in writing to the Player Agent.
- The Manager's child is protected until the 3rd round. The first coach's child is protected from draft through the 5th round of the draft.
- Draft Method: The Snake. 1-6,6-1,1-6.
- Separate out all undrafted kids by age groups and do a blind draft starting with the last team to draft a player. Player agent along with VP, President or Director could participate in this.
- Eight (8) year olds will be drafted upon availability to complete teams.
- Brothers/sisters who need to be on the same team will be drafted as consecutive round picks.
- Late registrations will be placed in the blind pool and placed according to the draft order.
- No requests unless it is an EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCE.
- Only Managers will be allowed to attend the draft.

T Ball:

T Ball will be played according to Little League rules with the following exceptions: Until game 4, all at bats will be off the Tee. Starting at game 5, at the manager's discretion, players may be given three (3) pitches by the coach. If, after these three pitches, the batter has not hit the ball, they will be given two (2) attempts to hit a ball off of the tee. There will be no stealing of bases in T Ball. A runner may not advance on an overthrown ball. No more than 9 players will be placed on a T Ball team.

8 Year-Old Skills Evaluation:

All 8-year olds who have played at least one year on AA baseball or softball who wants to play up to AAA baseball or softball must attend a skills evaluation. Players who do not attend this evaluation will not be eligible to play up to AAA. Mangers, Player Agent and President will decide which players are eligible to move up.

Selection of Managers and Coaches:

Managers in all divisions will be selected and approved each year by the Board. Managers may appoint two coaches and submit them to the Board for approval. Managing or coaching in previous years does not guarantee placement on a team in the following year.

Number of coaches for all divisions:

All teams in each division will be allowed 1 manager and 2 coaches in the dugout. One coach must remain in the dugout at all times. The dugout is off limits to anyone other than players and coaches. If only 2 coaches are present then a player will need to be a base coach.

Pitch Count:

Managers must turn in pitcher affidavit book to official scorekeeper prior to the beginning of each game. Home team will always have the "official" books. The game can not start until both pitcher affidavit books are with the official scorekeeper. If you do not provide your pitcher affidavit book, your team will forfeit. Manager or coach needs to sign book after every game.

Umpires and Scorekeepers:

In the minor divisions, the visiting team is responsible for providing the umpire for the game, unless the visiting team is from out of town, in which case the home team will provide the umpire. In all divisions, the home team is responsible for providing the official scorekeeper.

Players out of Dugouts:

Any player leaving the dugout at any time must wear a helmet while they are out of the dugout. The umpire must be notified prior to a player leaving a dugout for any reason.

Practice on Minor/Major fields:

During the pre-season and regular season, no team or individuals will be permitted to practice on the 4 major/ minor fields without prior Board approval.

Field Care:

No games will start unless the field is properly set up. Home team is responsible for setting up the field and the visiting team is responsible for putting away bases, raking all base areas, pitcher's mound and the home plate area after the game. Both teams are responsible for clearing out debris.

All Star Manager Selection:

Any current year manager or coach interested in serving shall submit an application to manage or coach by the deadline deemed by the board. The board shall review all manager applications prior to the manager selection voting. Softball managers will only vote for selecting the managers of the softball All Star teams. Baseball managers will only vote for selecting the baseball All Star managers in the following categories:

- Regular season Intermediate and Juniors Managers will vote for the Intermediate and Juniors All Star Manager.
- Regular season Majors Managers will vote on the 9/10/11 and 10/11/12 All Star Managers.
- Regular season Minors Managers will vote on the 8/9/10 All Star Manager(s).

Regular season division managers, division directors, and executive board members, excluding those interested in the position of All-Star manager, (one vote per person) will, by blind vote, choose the All-Star Managers. The manager with the highest number of votes will serve as the All Star Manager. If voting results in a tie the league president will cast the deciding vote. All additional coaches will be presented to the board for final approval.

Exception:

Any manager/coach who receives a written disciplinary letter from the President shall be disqualified from managing/coaching the All Star team in the year of the offense.

All Star Selection, all qualifying divisions:

Players interested in participating in All Stars will be required to submit an application and sign a Letter of Commitment. Following the determined deadline for acceptance of this application, the Player Agent will compile a list of eligible players. Selection of players for All Star teams will go as follows:

- Board of Directors will determine the team size
- Manager will have final 2 picks regardless of the roster size.
- All Star rosters must be presented to the board for final approval. Alternate players may be appointed.

Managers Eligible to Vote:

- Major managers will vote on the 10/11 / 12 team
- Managers will vote for the 9/ 10/11 year old team
- All Minors Managers and those Majors Managers who had an eligible 10 year old on their regular season team will vote on the 8/9/10 year old team

Exception: Any player who receives a written disciplinary letter from the President shall be disqualified from playing on the All Star team in the year of the offense. Procedure for disciplinary action depends on the seriousness of the offense.

Absentee Ballots:

In the event that a voting member cannot attend a meeting and he or she wished to have a counted vote, they must submit in writing either via email to the board or hand-written note, their wishes. In the case of a blind vote, the absentee ballot must be given to the President and Secretary.

Rule Violations:

Any rule violations will result in disciplinary action. Actions include, but are not limited to, written warnings, game suspensions, and/or indefinite suspension pending Board review.