

# WHITE PLAINS LITTLE LEAGUE

## BYLAWS

### ARTICLE I - INSIGNIA AND COLORS

SECTION 1. Insignia. The official insignia of the White Plains Little League (“WPLL”) shall be a representation of a baseball that includes the words, “White Plains Little League”, as well as representations of a baseball player and a softball player.

SECTION 2. Colors. The official colors of the WPLL shall be black and orange.

### ARTICLE II – GENERAL LEAGUE PROGRAM

SECTION 1. Program & Seasons. The WPLL program for instructional and competitive baseball and softball (“WPLL Program”) shall begin on January 1 and terminate no later than November of a calendar year. The WPLL Program shall consist of a Spring League Season, Summer League Season and Fall League Season. The dates of each Season shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The WPLL Program shall be conducted in accordance with the Official Regulations, Playing Rules and Operating Policies of Little League Baseball and the Official Regulations, Playing Rules and Operating Policies of Little League Softball (together, “Little League Playing Rules”), the WPLL Constitution, these Bylaws, as well as any local rules, handbooks and other guidelines to the extent ratified by the Board of Directors (together, “local rules”).

SECTION 2. Registration. The following sets forth the general criteria for registering to participate in the WPLL Program.

- A. Eligibility. In order to participate in the WPLL Program, a player must:
- a. Register in a timely fashion in a manner determined by the Board of Directors;
  - b. Be eligible to participate based on residency and age requirements as set forth under the Little League Playing Rules.
  - c. Be physically able to compete within their age group, and not present a safety issue to themselves or others.

No player, however, shall be denied the opportunity to participate in the WPLL Program due to experience, ability or financial considerations. In addition, the WPLL shall not deny a player the opportunity to participate in the WPLL Program based on disability, race, color, creed, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation.

- B. Fees. The WPLL will require a registration fee, in an amount to be determined by the Board of Directors, for a child to participate in the WPLL Program. The fee will be collected during the registration period in advance of each Season. A child may

receive waivers and/or financial aid towards the payment of the registration fees upon good cause shown. Any questions as to good cause shall be determined by the Finance Committee and Treasurer.

SECTION 3. Officials. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to appoint certain officials whose role will be to effectuate the WPLL program. Such officials include, but are not limited to the Vice Presidents of Baseball and Softball and Divisional Vice Presidents.

- a. Vice President of Baseball and Vice President of Softball. The Vice President of Baseball and Vice-President of Softball are generally responsible for the effective and efficient management of the on-field WPLL Program, in coordination with the Player Agent. The respective Vice Presidents of Baseball and Softball shall also oversee the activities of the Divisional Vice Presidents. Individuals serving as a Vice President of Baseball or Softball, respectively, must be current members of the Board of Directors in good standing.
- b. Divisional Vice Presidents. The respective Vice Presidents of Baseball and Softball shall assign a Divisional Vice President for each baseball and softball division.
  1. Eligibility. Divisional Vice Presidents must be current members of the Board of Directors in good standing.
  2. Duties. Divisional Vice Presidents shall assist the Player Agent in connection with the team selection process for the division to which he or she is assigned. Divisional Vice Presidents shall assist managers and coaches with respect to questions and issues that arise during the course of a season, including practice and batting cage schedules, notices regarding cancellation of games or practices due to inclement weather, playoff scheduling, equipment and other season related issues, and shall act as liaisons on behalf of managers and coaches with the Board of Directors.
  3. Shadow Assignments. The respective Vice Presidents of Baseball and Softball may appoint Provisional or regular Board members to shadow Divisional Vice Presidents during the course of a Season. Individuals appointed to such shadow assignments will be expected to learn and understand the duties of current Divisional Vice Presidents and to assist Divisional Vice Presidents where applicable.

### **ARTICLE III - PLAYERS**

SECTION 1. Player Selection Process. The player selection process for each Season of the WPLL Program shall be conducted by the Player Agent in coordination with the Player Development and Evaluation Committee, in accordance with the Little League Playing Rules, these Bylaws and any other local rules.

- a. Team Selection/Drafts. For the Spring League Season competitive baseball and softball divisions (i.e., AA Minors , AAA Minors and Majors), the selection of players for team rosters shall be determined through a draft. The date of the draft shall be scheduled by the Player Agent in advance of the start of the Spring League Season.

The draft shall be attended by the Player Agent, the applicable Divisional Vice President and one (1) representative from each team (manager or coach).

- b. Draft Criteria. The process by which the draft for each division is organized shall be determined by the Player Agent and involve the respective Vice-Presidents of Baseball and Softball, as well as the respective Divisional Vice President where necessary. The criteria to be used in selecting players should include:
  1. Player ratings. For the AAA and Major League divisions, the order of players available to be drafted will be based on player ratings (i.e., generally highest to lowest).
  2. Snake Draft. Drafts may be conducted according to a 'Snake Draft' Method, with teams selecting in order (e.g., 1 through 8) in one round, followed by the reverse order (e.g., 8 through 1) in the following round until all eligible players have been selected. The initial order of teams selecting players in the first round of a draft will be determined by the Player Agent and respective Divisional Vice President.
  3. Sons/Daughters of Managers and Coaches. The sons and daughters of managers and coaches shall automatically be assigned to the team of such manager and coach. In order to preserve the competitive balance of a division, the manager/coach's turn should be skipped during the snake draft process described above when the manager/coach's son or daughter would have been made available for selection.
  4. Trades. Following the immediate conclusion of the draft, managers/coaches may trade players. All trades must be player for player and for justifiable reasons. All trades are subject to oversight of the Player Agent and respective Divisional Vice President, who can deny a trade in the interest of preserving the competitive balance of the division. All trades must be completed and communicated to the Player Agent and Divisional Vice President prior to the dissemination of rosters to managers.
- c. Player Ratings. Player ratings shall be based on the following:
  1. Manager/Coach Ratings – at the conclusion of the Spring League Season for competitive baseball and softball, all managers will be asked to rate their players based on criteria determined by the Player Agent, with involvement from the respective Vice-Presidents of Baseball and Softball, as well as the respective Divisional Vice President, as necessary. The Player Agent and respective Divisional Vice President shall manage the player ratings process, including the dissemination and collection of player rating forms.
  2. Major League Evaluations – subject to the Player Agent's discretion, all players eligible to compete in the Majors division must attend a pre-season independent evaluation supervised by the Player Agent and Vice Presidents of Baseball and Softball. The independent evaluations will generally be conducted by experienced baseball/softball professionals at an area baseball facility (e.g., Hardball Training Center).

SECTION 2. Player Agent. As described in the WPLL Constitution, the Player Agent is considered an Officer of the Board of Directors, and shall be responsible for overseeing the player selection process, including player evaluations, ratings and drafts, in connection with the competitive baseball and softball divisions.

SECTION 3. Medical Release Forms. Medical release forms must be completed by all players participating in all divisions in connection with the Spring, Summer and Fall League Seasons, and provided to respective managers prior to participation in clinics, practices and/or games.

#### **ARTICLE IV - MANAGERS AND COACHES**

SECTION 1. Selection. The selection and appointment process of managers and coaches shall be overseen by the Board of Directors, taking into account the recommendations of the Personnel Committee, and shall be conducted in accordance with the Little League Playing Rules, the WPLL Constitution, these Bylaws and any local rules. Managers and coaches should be selected on an annual basis based on the following guidelines:

- Demonstrated commitment to the WPLL Program;
- Results of the background check;
- Prior participation and conduct in the WPLL program;
- Recommendations from Board members, parents, other managers and coaches

SECTION 2. Background Checks. All managers and coaches must complete a Little League volunteer form which grants permission to conduct a background check prior to participating in the WPLL Program. The background check process shall be conducted by the WPLL Safety Officer in accordance with the Little League Playing Rules, the WPLL Constitution, these Bylaws, and any local rules. The Board of Directors, in coordination with the Safety Officer, respective Vice Presidents of Baseball and Softball and the Personnel Committee, shall retain the right to deny anyone from participating as a manager or coach based on the results received from the background check.

SECTION 3. Conduct & Discipline. Managers and coaches must adhere to the Little League Playing Rules, the WPLL Constitution, these Bylaws, and any local rules. In addition, managers and coaches are expected to:

- Conduct themselves in a manner that advances the objectives and goals of the WPLL, as described in the WPLL Constitution;
- Serve as leaders and role models, and understand that they hold a position of trust and responsibility;
- Serve as models of good sportsmanship;
- Meet with their players' parents/caregivers prior to the start of the season and communicate regularly with these individuals throughout the season;
- Understand and know the Little League Playing Rules, and any local rules;
- Take active measures to help ensure the safety of players and avoid accidents;
- Work to control the behavior of players in the dugout;

- Maintain good records, including medical forms, of players on their team;
- Complete and submit player evaluations when requested; and
- Communicate regularly with the respective Divisional Vice President regarding any questions that may arise.

Any Manager or Coach found to have violated or not complied with the expectations set forth above may be removed from the position as a manager or coach at any time, upon the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, and subject to a two thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors. Examples of behaviors that may constitute grounds for removal include, but are not limited to: abusive behavior towards players, other managers and coaches, umpires, or parents, and any other behavior deemed to violate the objectives and goals of the WPLL. In addition to the foregoing, managers and coaches are subject to the following Three Strike Policy in the event of being ejected from a game:

- First Ejection: the manager or coach will be automatically suspended from participating in his or her team's next league game during the Season in question;
- Second Ejection: if the manager or coach is ejected a second time during the same Season or any subsequent Season, the manager or coach shall be suspended from participating in any and all WPLL activities for the rest of that calendar year. The manager or coach's future participation in the WPLL program will be reevaluated by the Board of Directors and Personnel Committee before the start of the following year's WPLL Program;
- Third Ejection: if the manager or coach is ejected a third time during the same or any subsequent Season, the manager or coach shall be prohibited from any further participation in the WPLL Program.

## **ARTICLE V – GAME OPERATIONS**

SECTION 1. Divisions. The divisions for all instructional and competitive baseball and softball shall be determined by the Board of Directors, in consultation with the Player Agent and respective Vice-Presidents of Baseball and Softball, and in accordance with the Little League Playing Rules, as well as any local rules.

SECTION 2. Equipment. The Equipment Committee shall be responsible for ordering adequate equipment for all instructional and competitive baseball and softball divisions. The type and nature of equipment necessary for each division shall be determined by the respective Vice Presidents of Baseball and Softball, in accordance with the Little League Playing Rules and any local rules.

- A. Equipment Distribution. Equipment shall be distributed prior to the start of a respective Season in a manner prescribed by the respective Vice Presidents of Baseball and Softball. At the time of equipment pick-up, all managers who are not current Board members shall leave a deposit check in an amount determined by the Board of Directors for the timely return of any applicable equipment.

- B. **Batting Cage Keys.** Managers of competitive baseball and softball divisions shall also be entitled to receive a batting cage key at the time of equipment pick-up. Managers who are not current Board members shall also leave a separate deposit check in an amount determined by the Board of Directors for the timely return of the batting cage key.
- C. **Equipment Return.** Managers are required to return all applicable equipment and, where applicable, batting cage keys, at the conclusion of the respective Season at a time and place designated by the respective Vice Presidents of Baseball and Softball. Any manager who fails to return any applicable equipment and/or batting cage key in a timely manner and in good condition risks forfeiture of his or her deposit check.

**SECTION 3. Uniforms.** All players participating in the WPLL Program shall be expected to wear team uniforms assigned to each team within a respective division, and provided to the manager at the start of a Season. Uniforms shall generally consist of: a team hat, jersey, uniform pants, and socks.

- A. **Instructional Divisions.** For instructional baseball and softball divisions during the Spring League Season, the respective Vice Presidents of Baseball and Softball may generally assign team names and uniforms by Major League Baseball Teams.
- B. **Competitive Divisions.** For competitive baseball and softball divisions during the Spring Season, the respective Vice Presidents of Baseball and Softball may generally assign team names and uniforms in accordance with that particular division (e.g., AA - AA Minor League baseball teams , AAA - AAA Minor League baseball teams, Majors - Major League baseball teams). Teams competing in competitive baseball and softball divisions during the Summer and Fall League Seasons may generally adopt 'White Plains' as their team name.
- C. **Other/Specialized Equipment.** The WPLL is not responsible for providing other types of specialized equipment or uniform pieces, including but not limited to cleats or protective cups, that may not be required to be provided under Little League Playing Rules or any local rules.

**SECTION 4. Team Sponsors.** Team sponsorship fees shall be determined by the Fundraising and Sponsorship Committee in coordination with the President and Treasurer. The name of each team's sponsor should be set forth in a prominent place on each team's uniform jersey.

**SECTION 5. Practice and Batting Cage Schedules.** Practice and batting cage schedules for each division are determined by the Season/Scheduling Committee based on, among other things, field availability and the number of teams within each division. Divisional Vice Presidents are responsible for working with managers at the start of the Spring League Season to assign teams to individual field practice and, where applicable, batting cage practice slots.

**SECTION 6. Season Schedule.** The schedule of games, including clinics, in connection with the WPLL Program shall be determined by the Season/Scheduling Committee. The Master

Schedule of games during the Spring League Season will generally be posted and continuously updated on the WPLL website.

- A. Number of Games. The goal of the WPLL Program is to have all teams within the competitive divisions play 12 regular season games during the Spring League Season, with teams within the same division playing against each other at least once. For certain competitive baseball or softball divisions, regular season games during the Spring League Season may include games against other local district little leagues. The number of games for teams participating in the Summer and Fall League Seasons shall depend on the number of participating teams within the WPLL and other local district little leagues as well as field availability.
- B. Rainouts/Postponements. In the event of inclement weather or other circumstances that may render playing conditions too dangerous, the respective Vice Presidents of Baseball and Softball working, where applicable, with the White Plains Department of Public Safety and School Board, will determine to postpone a game or set of games. Such decisions will be communicated to Divisional Vice Presidents who in turn will provide notification to all affected managers. Notice of rainouts/postponements will also be made available on the WPLL website. Every attempt will be made to reschedule any games cancelled to rainouts or other types of postponements.
- C. Regular Season. The regular season game rules for competitive baseball and softball divisions shall generally be played in accordance with the Little League Playing Rules, except in instances where the Board of Directors adopts local rules.
- D. Playoffs. All playoff games during the Spring League Season for competitive baseball and softball divisions shall be played in accordance with the Little League Playing Rules.

SECTION 7. District Tournament. The selection process for all WPLL District Tournament teams shall be conducted in accordance with the Little League Playing Rules. Managers and coaches for district tournament teams shall be selected upon the recommendation by the Personnel Committee and a two thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES**

SECTION 1. STANDING COMMITTEES. The standing committees of the WPLL shall consist of the following: Fields & Grounds Committee, Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, Player Evaluation & Development Committee, Equipment & Uniform Committee, Fundraising & Sponsorship Committee, Public Relations Committee, Community Outreach Committee, District/LLI and InterProgram Relations Committee and the Season/Scheduling Committee. As described in the WPLL Constitution, the Board of Directors shall have the authority to appoint any other committee that it considers necessary.

SECTION 2. STRUCTURE OF COMMITTEES. Each Committee may appoint a Chairperson who shall be authorized to schedule Committee meetings and determine other rules in connection with the performance and activities of the Committee that do not otherwise conflict with the Little League Playing Rules, the WPLL Constitution, these bylaws, and any other local rules. Committees should consist of at least four Board members, all of whom should be active Board members or provisional Board members in good standing.

SECTION 3. DUTIES OF COMMITTEES. The standing committees may conduct the following activities on behalf of the WPLL:

- A. Fields & Grounds Committee. Responsible for all activities in connection with the maintenance, development and improvement of ballfields and related facilities, including batting cages. In this capacity, the Fields & Grounds Committee will have primary responsibility for capital improvement proposals and interaction regarding fields and grounds with the White Plains Department of Public Works.
- B. Finance Committee. Responsible for the review and preparation of league financial statements, reporting financial related issues and concerns, including the adequacy of revenues vs. expenditures, to the Board and advising on the costs and expenditures related to all capital improvements under Board consideration.
- C. Personnel Committee. Responsible for monitoring and governing decisions related to the nomination, approval and conduct of all Board members, Divisional Vice-Presidents, team managers and coaches, including the selection of District Tournament managers and coaches. The Personnel Committee shall also be responsible for monitoring the performance and conduct of umpires, and maintaining communications with any third party organization(s) that provide umpiring services to the WPLL.
- D. Player Evaluation & Development Committee. Responsible for conducting and organizing player tryouts, clinics, season roster allocations (i.e., drafts), as well as player evaluations and ratings. In this capacity, the Player Evaluation & Development Committee shall be responsible for the process behind District Tournament team selections on behalf of the WPLL.
- E. Equipment & Uniform Committee. Responsible for evaluating and addressing WPLL needs and requests regarding equipment, uniforms and other related items necessary for league play.
- F. Fundraising & Sponsorship Committee. Responsible for proposing sponsorship parameters, maintaining sponsorship relations, and proposing and managing fundraising efforts.
- G. Public Relations Committee. Responsible for the review, approval and publication of all WPLL correspondence and communications, including website content, email and other



written correspondence on behalf of the WPLL. The Public Relations Committee shall also be responsible for communications regarding WPLL issues and concerns with the City of White Plains and applicable White Plains school boards

- H. Community Outreach Committee. Responsible for proposing and managing efforts to expand the reach of the WPLL across all areas and communities within the City of White Plains, including all diversity efforts and programs to increase participation from underrepresented communities.
- I. District/LLI and InterProgram Relations Committee. Responsible for communicating and managing relationships with the District 20 office of the New York State Little League, Little League International, as well as other area baseball organizations and clubs with which the WPLL maintains relationships, including but not limited to Hit-n-Run and Hardball Training Center.
- J. Season/Scheduling Committee. Responsible for handling in-season scheduling and on-field game issues, including but not limited to rule interpretations and other related matters.

**ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS.** These By-Laws may be amended or repealed in whole or in part by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board members present at a regular Board meeting or Special Board Meeting called for that purpose.