Vacaville National League Bylaws

1. Mission Statement

The objective of VACAVILLE NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL (“VNLL”) shall be to instill in the children of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect for authority, so that they may be well adjusted, stronger and happier children who will grow to be good, decent, healthy and trustworthy citizens.

2. VNLL Bylaws

As outlined in the “Little League Rulebook” (https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/) VNLL shall produce a manual containing the local playing rules, All-Star selection process, code of conduct, fees, team selection criteria, drafts, and other procedures necessary to operate the local league.

As outlined in the VNLL Constitution, the Board of Directors shall establish the operating rules for VNLL for governing its own affairs. These documents should be renewed and updated annually by December 31st. These documents are known as Vacaville National League By-laws. The Board of Directors (BOD) has the authority to make changes to these documents and procedures Bylaws. Changes to the Bylaws require BOD majority approval and are not subject to general membership approval. No Bylaw may conflict with the Little League Rulebook or the VNLL Constitution. In the event of a conflict, the more restrictive document shall govern.

3. League Code

It is a Little League violation to engage in any activity which gives rise to or could give rise to an appearance or claim of self-dealing, divided loyalty or conflict of interest by reason of such person’s position within VNLL. Therefore, no unauthorized use of fields, equipment, utilities, or any other league property without prior approval of the BOD. Further restrictions and definitions of self-dealing can be found in the Little League Rulebook.

4. Volunteer Eligibility

As a condition of service to VNLL, all BOD members, managers, coaches, volunteers, and any other persons who provide regular service to the league and/or have repetitive access to, or contact with players or teams, must annually complete and submit a Background Check.

5. Volunteer Umpire Responsibilities

Every year the BOD will assign an Umpire in Chief (UIC). The UIC is responsible for recruiting, training, and scheduling all umpires, communicating rule changes, and evaluating and accepting evaluations of umpires by managers, coaches or players.

6. Season Registration Fees

Season Registration Fees are based on the costs of operations of VNLL and are determined by the BOD. VNLL will publish the fees and ~~on~~ the date on which player registration begins prior to October 1st of each year.

7. Fee Waiver

It is the policy of VNLL and Little League Baseball® that the inability to pay registration fees should not prevent a player from participating in the Little League Program.

Members who cannot afford to pay registration fees shall submit to the Player Agent a request for financial assistance. At the BOD discretion, partial or full scholarships may be granted. The BOD shall treat all such requests confidentially and shall take steps necessary to ensure the annual registration fee policy does not keep a player from participating.

8. Late Registration Policy & Refunds

VNLL will establish registration closing date at the opening of registration for each season, which will be no earlier than the primary evaluation date (not any subsequent make-up evaluation dates). VNLL cannot guarantee players requesting to register after the closing date will be allowed to participate in VNLL. The BOD will have the authority to add players after registration is closed under consideration of many factors including team openings, uniform orders, practice/games starting, etc.

Full refunds will be given to players who withdraw from VNLL before the teams have been formed. Players who withdraw after the teams have been formed, will be refunded VNLL fees, minus cost of ordered uniforms. Players who withdraw after opening day will not be eligible for a refund.

9.Code of Conduct (COC)

VACAVILLE NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE PHILOSOPHY:
The goal of Vacaville National Little League (hereafter referred to as VNLL) is to provide a safe, fun and enjoyable environment for our children to play and learn the game of baseball. It should be the primary objective of every Board Member, Manager, Coach, Parent and Visitor to ensure that this goal is achieved and maintained within VNLL. To that end, the VNLL Board of Directors has approved and mandated a Code of Conduct while at all VNLL functions, whether conducted on property, a local park, a batting cage facility, etc.

It is a requirement of all Managers, Coaches and all volunteers within VNLL to read, understand, and acknowledge in writing their commitment to abide by the Code of Conduct on draft day, prior to commencement of the draft. Nevertheless, it is everyone's job to ensure the Code of Conduct is being followed. It is the goal of VNLL that everyone feels empowered to remind those not in adherence to the "Code" that they need to be, for the sake of the kids.

CODE OF CONDUCT
All persons (fans, managers, coaches, parents, players, umpires, board members, volunteers, etc.) participating in VNLL activities must abide by a Code of Conduct, which includes the provisions that follow;

1. No one shall use tobacco products, alcohol, or drugs on VNLL facilities, including all adjacent areas to the field. This policy applies to practices, games and any VNLL team events.
2. No one shall provoke a manager, coach, player, umpire, board member or spectator. Provocation includes, but is not limited to words, gestures, etc.
3. No one shall use profane or abusive language, including threatening, intimidating or physically violent behavior.
4. No one shall show repetitive or violent disapproval of an umpire's decision such as, but not limited to, whether a batted ball is fair or foul, whether a pitch is a strike or a ball, or whether a runner is safe or out. All decisions, including judgement calls, of the umpires or other game officials shall be accepted as being fair and called to the best of their abilities.

Any violation of the above will be reviewed by the VNLL Code of Conduct committee for appropriate action. Notwithstanding the preceding items, no participant whether manager, coach, player, fan, guest, visitor or bystander, shall physically contact any umpire, manager, coach, player, board member or spectator. Violation of this rule will result in the offender being immediately removed from ~~the~~ VNLL facilities and being subject to criminal prosecution and/or possible disqualification by the Board from future participation and/or attendance at VNLL.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE CODE

VNLL cares about the safety and well-being of all the children participating in our league activities. This includes both the physical and mental well-being of each participant. VNLL is committed to making our league one where our kids play and practice in a safe, supported environment. As a result, whenever there is an alleged violation of the Code of Conduct, the Conduct Review Committee (CRC) will evaluate the reported incident to determine the appropriate action to be taken.

A completed *Violation of Code of Conduct Incident Reporting Form* is required to report any alleged violation of VACAVILLE NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE'S Code of Conduct; and it may be filed by any manager, coach, umpire, board member or parent. Any reporting of an alleged violation must take place within 48 hours of witnessing the incident in order for the Conduct Committee to take appropriate action. All *Violation of Code of Conduct Incident Reporting Forms* must be filled out and completed online available on the VNLL website. This method of reporting alleged infractions of the "Code" should remove the subjective nature from evaluating a Code of Conduct incident.

CRC COMMITTEE

The COC Committee (Committee) will be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, UIC and Division Representative and two (2) alternates from the VNLL Board, with one of the five being selected as the Committee Chair. There are two Alternative Committee Members in case a conflict of interest is determined in the review of a specific incident. The Committee will meet when a completed *Violation of Code of Conduct Incident Reporting Form* has been received.

The Committee will meet independently from the rest of the Board and will conduct their investigations/meetings outside of the regularly planned Board meetings. The Committee shall report to the Board of Directors regarding any and all Code of Conduct Incident Reports submitted and the Committee's resolution of the report(s) submitted.

INCIDENT EVALUATION PROCEDURE

After receiving the completed *Violation of Code of Conduct Incident Reporting Form*, the Committee will investigate the alleged incident. As a part of the investigation, witnesses of the incident as well as the individual being accused will be interviewed. Depending on the nature of early interviews and findings, the offender may be suspended until a formal ruling is established. All information gathered during the investigation will be factored into the decision. Once the decision is made by the Committee, that decision is final. There is no appeal.

"Strike(s)" will only be filed against an individual if the majority of the Committee determines by vote that an infraction has been committed. Strikes are cumulative each season and will not carry over into the next season. **Assigned Strikes will be used by the BOD in evaluating and accepting Volunteer Positions for following years.**

THREE STRIKES & YOU'RE OUT POLICY

All individuals, from board members, managers, coaches, parents, players, or visitors of Vacaville National Little League (VNLL) will be subject to the "*Three Strikes and You're Out*" policy. The Committee, after receiving a completed Violation of Code of Conduct Incident Reporting Form, and determining a Code of Conduct violation had occurred, will assign "Strikes" according to the severity of each incident. Any individual receiving their third "Strike" during a season, is "Out", and will no longer be able to participate in or attend, or have access to any of VNLL games, practices or events for the remainder of that season or longer, depending on the nature of the findings.

1) The penalty for the first "Strike" against an individual ranges from a written warning to a 1 game (maximum) suspension as decided by the Committee.

2) The penalty for the Second "Strike" will carry a minimum 2 game suspension. Any individual that has received their second "Strike" will also receive a written notice that they are 1 "Strike" away from expulsion from all VNLL activities for the remainder of the season.

3) The penalty for the Third and final "Strike" will be complete expulsion for that individual from all VNLL activities for the remainder of the season. This prevents the individual from being present at any VNLL team or league function whether on the VNLL facility or off site. The Committee will meet at the end of the season to determine for the upcoming season if that individual will be:

a. Reinstated to full access

b. Limited Access (i.e. allowed participant as a parent, but not allowed to coach or manage).
c. Or Full Suspension continued for additional season.

In the event of a suspension, individuals who are suspended are not allowed in sight or sound for the duration of the suspension including games, activities by the team or the league until the time of suspension has been served.

Depending on the severity and nature of the incident, for any single violation, the Committee can determine any single violation to be a 1 "Strike", 2 "Strike" or even a 3 "Strike" violation.

NOTICE OF INFRACTION

If the CRC determines that an infraction of the Code of Conduct has been committed, the CRC will immediately notify the offending individual of their penalty verbally and in writing from the BOD.

VACAVILLE NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE

CODE OF CONDUCTS

Manager/Coach Code of Conduct

Youth sports programs play an important role in promoting the physical, social, and emotional development of children.

As managers and coaches in Vacaville National Little League you should be models of good sportsmanship and behavior for your child and all children in the community including participants and spectators alike.

The Vacaville National Little League Board of Directors ask that you pledge to be responsible for your words and actions while coaching, officiating, and participating in Vacaville National Little League events, and that you conform your behavior to the following Code of Conduct:

● Place the emotional and physical well-being of players ahead of personal desire to win.
● Treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
● Do your best to provide a safe playing environment for all players.
● Do your best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all players.
● Lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all players.
● Teach the rules of the game to all players, officials, and parents.
● Remember that you are a youth sports coach and that the game is for children and not adults.
● Do not abuse other coaches, umpires, parents, or players.
● Promote fun, fairness, and sportsmanship over winning.
● Do not engage in the use of profanity or other offensive language.
● Encourage all team members to treat all players, teammates, coaches, officials, and parents with respect.
● Emphasize and foster a team atmosphere and not individual achievements.
● Be responsible for league policies.
● Return all equipment and player evaluations per league policies.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subjected to disciplinary action levied by the Vacaville National Little League Board of Directors or Conduct Review Committee that could include, but is not limited to the following:

● Written warning
● Manager/coaches suspension for games
● Manager/coaches season suspension
● Manager/coach removal from all league activities

The Vacaville National Little League Board of Directors or Code Review Committee retains the sole authority to determine what, if any, disciplinary action is appropriate for any conduct infraction.

Player Code of Conduct

Player's responsibilities are simple; be respectful of others, be responsible, play fair, and always do your best, and always exhibit good sportsmanship.
As a Vacaville National Little League participant, I hereby pledge that I will:

● Encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials, and parents.
● Be a team player and support my teammates.
● Be on time and attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coaches if I cannot.
● Work hard to improve my skills.
● Do my best to listen and learn from my coaches.
● Encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity.
● Congratulate the other team after each game as a demonstration of sportsmanship.
● Refrain from using violence, unfriendly language, or insults to others.
● Be generous when I win and gracious when I lose.
● Obey the rules of the game and always work for the good of the team.
● Accept the decisions of the officials with grace and never challenge or question calls. Refrain from challenging or questioning on-field calls by officials and/or managers and coaches.
● Conduct myself with honor and dignity.
● Applaud the efforts of my teammates and opponents.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action levied by the VNLL Board of Directors or Conduct Review Committee that could include but is not limited to the following:

● Verbal warning
● Written warning
● Player suspension for games

- Player suspension for season including postseason (All Stars & TOC)
- Player being expelled from the league

The Vacaville National Little League Board of Directors or Conduct Review Committee retains the sole authority to determine what, if any, disciplinary action is appropriate for any conduct infraction.

10. Manager and Coach Selections

The President shall nominate all managers and coaches in all divisions, including the Challenger Division, as per the Little League Rulebook. Interested Managers and Coaches shall register through the VNLL Registration process online. The BOD may approve or reject any properly nominated managers and coaches. The guidelines for becoming managers and coaches must be understood and accepted by all concerned. The guidelines are:

- There is no seniority or tenure in serving as manager or coach.
- All appointments expire annually.
- All managers and coaches are directly accountable to the BOD.
- There is no appeal process for reconsideration.
- Managers may not manage 2 total teams in Minors, Majors and/or 50/70 Divisions.
- Managers may manage 2 total teams. One in Farm A and/or Farm AA Divisions and one in Minor, Majors and/or 50/70 Divisions with Board of Director Approval.

Steps to becoming a manager

- Register as a manager on the VNLL website
- Player Agent shall confirm list of interested managers for their division
- The President shall nominate the final list of Managers for consideration
- VNLL Board of Directors shall vote to approve all Managers
- Managers and Coaches must complete background check and appropriate league training

11. Umpires

Umpires must be approved by the President. Umpires are NOT to coach while on the field umpiring. Umpires shall maintain a professional manner during games. No person, including parents and siblings, (except for the scorekeeper) may be sitting or standing directly behind the backstop, dugout, and/or engaging with any player in the dugout during a game.

The UIC is responsible for recruiting, training, and scheduling all umpires, communicating rule changes, and evaluating and accepting evaluations of umpires by managers, coaches or players.

Umpire Code of Conduct - VNLL expects the following standards of conduct and behavior of all umpires:

- Fairly call the game based on your best understanding of the rules (local and national) as established by the league.
- Respond professionally when asked for clarification of rules and judgment calls.
- Treat both teams and all players equally, fairly, and ensure the rights of players.
- Treat managers, coaches, other volunteers, players and parents with dignity.
- Attempt to pursue positive approaches when dealing with all parties.
- Show good sportsmanship, a positive attitude and remember the real purpose of the game is for the kids to have fun and learn baseball.
- Report to the BOD any issues or problems beyond your authority that you are unable to resolve.

12. Manager and Coach Guidelines

VNLL appreciates, admires and respects all those willing to manage and/or coach. Knowledge of the game is important, but equally important is leadership, patience, and understanding of the children one is coaching. Young athletes need coaches who teach intangible life lessons through baseball, which will carry them and stick with them more than the technical aspects of the game. People holding these positions should be able to inspire confidence and earn respect. Above all, they must realize they are helping to shape the physical, mental, and emotional development of these children. Therefore, all managers and coaches must abide and adhere to the following Coaching Principles.

COACHING PRINCIPLES

- Demonstrate you have an appreciation of the philosophy of Little League and mission of VNLL.
- Demonstrate you will cooperate with others in making the program beneficial to all players.
- Show by example that you respect the judgment and authority of the umpires.
- Exercise the leadership role effectively by leaving the game in the hands of the players.
- Provide each player an opportunity to participate and contribute in every game consistent with the VNLL rules.
- Encourage the players at every opportunity.
- Instill an age-appropriate competitive spirit and desire to improve, striving to impart confidence and enthusiasm for learning the game.
- Encourage respectful care of individual and team equipment including uniforms.

- Demonstrate and encourage care for the shared league environment - fields, dugouts, park, etc.
- Exemplify sportsmanship and appropriate behavior in both wins and losses.
- Know the rules and regulations of Little League Baseball® as well as VNLL local rules and play by them.

COACHING OBJECTIVES

- Players are appropriately prepared for baseball activity, which includes team warm ups that decrease injury risk and keep the attention and energy of the team for practice and games.
- Players are properly taught fundamental skills and game strategy through various drills.
- Managers and coaches assist players in developing individual goals and periodically reviewing progress and subsequently adjusting practice to ensure success.
- Protective gear is always properly used: batting helmets for all batting activities, appropriately fitting catcher's gear, and protective cups for male players.
- Instruction is given at the player's level of understanding.
- Players are taught the rules and that the rules are to be followed.
- Desirable and positive habits in players are taught by example and repetition
- Promptness is encouraged and demonstrated by the manager and coaches.
- General health and safety habits are encouraged.
- Good sportsmanship, fair play, responsibility, and leadership are demonstrated and celebrated at all times.
- Exemplary game decorum is practiced.
- Plans are made ahead to speed the game along.
- Players are not embarrassed or reprimanded in front of others.

13. Manager Responsibilities

The BOD wants to sincerely thank all managers for their time and dedication to the children of our league. Managers are responsible for the "management" of the team, including but not limited to the following:

- Try outs: Each manager is needed to help run the tryouts and evaluate players. All managers are encouraged to attend tryouts for all players in their respective divisions.
- Draft: A draft process is used to select each team at the Farm AA, Minors, Majors and 50/70 levels. This event is scheduled after the tryouts by the Player Agent. The Player Agent, with approval of the Board shall determine selection methods. Managers must be physically present at the draft.

- Team roster: Player Agent will issue to each manager a team roster for his/her respective team. Team rosters will not be provided to managers until all required Little League and VNLL paperwork is completed.
- Practice Scheduling: The manager will be assigned a practice time and practice location from VNLL. Practicing at a VNLL managed field during other time slots is prohibited.
- Scorekeepers: The Home team is the official scorekeeper of the game in Farm A, Farm AA, Minors, Majors and 50/70. Scorekeeping will be done using a paper book located in the field Scorekeepers Box labeled with proper Division. Majors and 50/70 can use the “Game Changer” app during the regular season in addition to the official book. An individual other than the manager or coach should be recruited to be the scorekeeper.
- Field preparation (Home Team): The Home team is responsible for field preparation before the game
- First Aid: Each team will have a first aid kit and a larger kit with additional supplies will be located in the shed and the snackbar. An AED and fully stocked medical bag are located in the Shed by the Scorekeepers boxes.
- Team parent: It is advisable that the manager recruit a team parent to help with administrative duties. If the manager does not designate a representative, he/she is required to fulfill the duties (see team parent section for more information).
- Game Schedules: Season schedules for each team are issued by VNLL and will publish league related information during the season both through email communication to the membership and on the league website. It is up to the manager to see that his/her players and parents have the information provided by the league (can be delegated to the team parent).
- Once a game schedule has been published, no changes will be made to accommodate Manager requests or conflicts.
- Field priority will start from 50/70, then Majors and working down divisions with Farm A having last priority
- VNLL will make every attempt to reschedule rain out games as best as possible, however may need to cancel games that are rained out.
- Ensure that a scorekeeper and scoreboard operator are provided for each home game. If a scorekeeper and scoreboard operator are not provided, the home team will forfeit the game.

14. Team Parent Responsibilities

The team parent is designed to assist the manager of a team with administrative duties such as team snacks, pictures, and various other duties. Note: If a manager does not select a team parent, then it is the manager's responsibility. The team parent is required to attend a Team Parent meeting prior to the beginning of the season. The meeting will go over the upcoming year’s activities, pertinent dates, and other important information.

15. Player Placement, Tryouts and Team Selection

League Age: A player's "league age" is the age that player will be on August 31 of the baseball season. Little League seasons run from September 1 through August 31st. Please refer to the most current league age chart at https://www.littleleague.org.

Evaluations & Make-up Evaluations

The purpose of Evaluations is to permit all managers and BOD members the opportunity to assess each player's skills, such as: catching fly balls, fielding grounders, hitting, running and throwing. All players who wish to play in the Farm AA, Minors, Majors, 50/70 and Junior divisions shall attend evaluations.

Players in Farm AA, Minors, Majors, 50/70 and Junior divisions who do NOT attend Evaluations or Make-up Evaluations will be ineligible for that season's All Star Teams

The ultimate purpose of evaluations is to ensure that teams are balanced. To achieve this goal, all managers must be provided the opportunity to evaluate each players 'skills and ensure a player doesn't pose a potential safety risk.

League Age	Available Level	Play Up One Level	Play Down One Level
14	Juniors	N/A	N/A
13	50/70	N/A	N/A
12	Majors	11/12 year olds may request to play 50/70, however the request must be approved by both Division coordinators before sending the request to the VNLL Board Any league age 12 player who is not drafted in 50/70 division will be placed on a Majors team.	N/A
11	Majors	N/A	11 year old players must attend tryouts for assessment. 11 year old's may be granted (under very rare exceptions) request to play down if the request is approved by the Majors and Minors Division coordinators.
10	Minors	10 year olds may request to play Majors, however this request will only be granted under very rare exception. The Minor Division coordinator and Majors Division coordinator must both agree, before sending the request to VNLL Player Agent, VP and President for approval.	10 year old players must attend tryouts for assessment. 10 year olds may be granted (under very rare exceptions) request to play down if the request is approved by the Farm AA and Minors Division coordinators.
9	Minors	N/A	9 year old players must attend tryouts for assessment. 9 year old's may be granted (under very rare exceptions) request to play down if the request

			is approved by the Farm AA and Minors Division coordinators.
8	Farm AA	8 year old's may request to play Minors, however this request will only be granted under very rare exceptions. The Minors Division coordinator and Farm AA Division coordinator must both agree, before sending the request to VNLL Player Agent VP and President for approval.	N/A
7	Farm AA	N/A	It is not recommended that 7-year-olds play Farm A, however special requests by parents will be considered. 7 year old's may be granted (under very rare exceptions) request to play down if the request is approved by the Farm AA and Farm A Division coordinators.
6	Farm A	6 year old's may request to play Farm AA, however this request will only be granted under a very rare exception. The Farm AA Division coordinator and Farm A Division coordinator must both agree, before sending the request to the VNLL Player Agent, VP and President for approval.	N/A

Player movement after Draft

24 hours after makeup Evaluations no players may move up or down a division. The primary reason for moving players down a division will be for player safety. Parents of players must make a request prior to evaluations to move down a division. Player Agent shall present findings for moving to a different division to the BOD for approval before evaluations.

The Draft

After the Evaluations, the draft protocol will follow the following guidelines set by VNLL as follows. Special parent requests to have players placed on a particular team, with a specific coach, have a particular practice time, etc. will not be granted.

- Managers who cannot attend draft will have a team formed by a Board Member.
- Determine number of teams based on number of eligible players and Managers.
    - Managers should be prepared to draft players
    - Player's All-Star eligibility shall be based upon the league that the player signed up for at registration and must attend Evaluations.
- Managers will draw playing cards (Ace, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc.) to determine draft order. Managers can trade draft positions after all cards have been drawn.
- Managers will be given a list of players for the Division prior to the draft.
- Draft in serpentine order (1,2,3,4,4,3,2,1) until teams are filled.
- Brother/sister and special circumstances are identified on the list provided to Managers prior to the draft and are automatically selected with the next pick, unless noted otherwise
- Managers may trade players up to 24 hours after the draft.

Juniors
- All 12, 13- and 14-year-olds are eligible.

Intermediate (50/70)
- All 11, 12- and 13-year-olds are eligible.

Majors
- All 10, 11- and 12-year-olds are eligible.

Minors
- All 8, 9- and 10-year-olds are eligible.

Farm AA
- All 7- and 8-year-olds are eligible.

Farm A
- All 5- and 6-year-olds are eligible.
- Teams drafted by Player Agent and Division Coordinator
- Determine number of teams, based on number of eligible players and managers

16. Uniform ~~Policy~~, Equipment, & Music Policy

All players must wear a league provided uniform to include: hat, jersey, pants, socks and belt. Special circumstances are evaluated and permitted on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Board Member on Duty.

Putting on and taking off protective batting attire, including base running sliding mitts, shall not unnecessarily slow the speed of game play. Players will be given a warning from Umpire if use of protective equipment is slowing down the game. A 2nd infraction for a team will result in use of protective equipment for that team being prohibited for the remainder of the game.

Metal cleats are allowed for players in the 50/70 and Junior Divisions; however metal cleats are not allowed to be worn by pitchers on the pitching mounds.

Pregame and in game music is allowed. The home team gets first selection in pre-game warm-up music. Managers may permit walk-up music for players as they approach their at-bat and must cease once the player has one foot inside of the batters box. Music is allowed to be played in-between innings by the team taking the outfield. Managers may use small portable speakers for music provided the volume is not distracting to other teams, games or spectators.

Please use discretion when selecting music and controlling volume (no foul language, sexual content, racial slurs, or vulgarity of any kind). Board members have discretion over the volume and appropriateness of the music, and will take reasonable steps to maintain a family-friendly environment, including removing inappropriate music if necessary.

17. Vacaville National Little League Local Rules

The objective of the Minors, Majors, 50/70 and Junior leagues is to provide a competitive atmosphere while keeping score. The managers and coaches can spend time **fine tuning the fundamentals** of baseball that their players learned in the younger leagues and **teach** them the fundamentals that they need for this level. There is winning and losing at this level, although that is not what is important.

The objective of VNLL is to provide a competitive atmosphere while focusing on player development. The managers and coaches are expected to teach **the fundamentals** of baseball to their players without the pressure of winning and losing. The most important aspect of the season will be to get players ready for the next level of play for the following season.

Managers and coaches are strongly encouraged to **move players to all positions and teach the fundamentals of each area.** Managers and coaches should emphasize the importance of every position in baseball.

Success in this league can only be measured by how well each and **EVERY** player progresses throughout the season. The most important aspect of the season will be to get players ready for the next level of play the following season

At every level, players should be taught the meaning of good sportsmanship. Managers and coaches set an example of behavior and conduct on and off the field (players will react the same way they see Managers and coaches react). In this league there is no reason for managers and coaches to argue with umpires or amongst themselves. If disagreements arise, take it off to the side and discuss it in a private manner. Sportsmanship does not just take place inside the playing field; the behavior of-parents is a key ingredient on how players will respond to managers and coaches. By keeping everyone informed and up to speed with coaching style and player expectations, the season should go smoothly.

50/70 and Junior Division Local Rules

The Regular Season rules for the Intermediate (50/70) and Junior Divisions will follow the Little League Blue Book except as modified below (coaches and managers are expected to know the Little League Blue Book):

1. Pitching and Batting

a. First half of season and on VNLL fields only; each pitcher will get one warning per game for balks. No warning in the second half. Second half is all games after VNLL Observed Spring Break.

2. Duration of Game

a. No new inning may begin after 2-hours, unless playing off a tie.

3. Players and Player Requirements

a. Each player participating in any game shall be in the continuous batting order.

b. Teams are allowed to make free defensive substitutions, at the top or bottom of each inning. Managers must advise the scorekeeper of all defensive substitutions.

5. Additional League Rules

a. All players must wear a helmet whenever they have a bat in their hands.

b. No warming up with bats or baseballs outside the fence field area.

c. No more than 3 adults in the dugout.

d. Only 8 players are required to start a game.

e. Sign steeling, as outlined in LL Rulebook (section 9.01) shall be adhered by VNLL as a prohibited practice.

Majors Division Local Rules

The Regular Season rules for the Majors Division will follow the Little League Blue Book except as modified below (coaches and managers are expected to know the Little League Blue Book):

1. Duration of Game

a. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes, unless playing off a tie game.

b. 6 innings is considered a complete game, unless the score is tied and there is remaining time on the 1 hour and 45 minutes clock. If there is no time remaining on the 1 hour and 45 minute clock, the game will end in a tie.

c. A game must complete 4 innings to be considered a regulation game. If the home team is ahead after 3 1/2 innings and either time has expired, or the mercy rule is in effect then that game shall be considered a regulation game.

d. If a game reaches the “no new inning” time limit and cannot be mathematically won (due to the 8 run rule) then the game must terminate at once (even if the home team had not received their at bats in the bottom half of the inning). This rule is to ensure that needless pitches are not thrown. This rule only applies if 4 innings have been completed.

e. Mercy Rule: 15 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings.

3. Base running

a. Players are allowed to slide into any base or home plate provided it is feet first (NOT head-first) while advancing. Players may dive head-first **back** to the base from which they came.

4. Players and Player Requirements

a. Each player attending any game shall be in the continuous batting order.

b. Teams are allowed to make free defensive substitutions, at the top or bottom of each inning. Players that sit the previous inning shall play in the field the next inning. Managers must advise the scorekeeper of all defensive substitutions.

c. Each player attending a game shall play at least 3 defensive innings per complete game. (Complete games are considered 6 innings).

d. Players may not sit out 2 consecutive innings.

5. Additional League Rules

a. Only 8 players are required to start a game.

b. Sign steeling, as outlined in LL Rulebook (section 9.01) shall be adopted by VNLL as a prohibited practice.

Minor Division Local Rules

The rules for the Minor Division will follow the Little League Blue Book except as modified below (coaches and managers are expected to know the Little League Blue Book):

1. Pitching and Batting

a. An inning is 5 runs or 3 outs. The sixth inning is considered an open inning where teams can score an unlimited number of runs prior to reaching 3 outs.

2. Duration of Game

a. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes.

b. 6 innings is considered a complete game, unless the score is tied and there is remaining time on the 1 hour and 45 minutes clock. If there is no time remaining on the 1 hour and 45 minute clock, the game will end in a tie.

c. A game must complete 4 innings to be considered a regulation game. If the home team is ahead after 3 1/2 innings and either time has expired, or the mercy rule is in effect then that game shall be considered a regulation game.

d. If a game reaches the “no new inning” time limit and cannot be mathematically won (due to the 5 run rule) then the game must terminate at once (even if the home team had not received their at bats in the bottom

half of the inning). This rule is to ensure that needless pitches are not thrown. This rule only applies if 4 innings have been completed.

e. Run Rule: 15 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings

3. Base running

a. Players are allowed to slide into any base or home plate provided it is feet first (NOT head-first) while advancing. Players may dive head-first **back** to the base from which they came.

b. For safety reasons the defensive player tagging the orange bag at first base is not an out. It is for the batter that is running to first. The offensive player shall only touch the orange bag unless advancing to second base.

4. Players and Player Requirements

a. Each player participating in any game shall be in the continuous batting order.

b. Teams are allowed to make free defensive substitutions, at the top or bottom of each inning. Players that sit the previous inning shall play in the field the next inning. Managers must advise the scorekeeper of all defensive substitutions.

c. Each player participating in a game shall play at least 3 defensive innings per complete game. (Complete games are considered 6 innings).

d. Players may not sit out 2 consecutive innings.

5. Additional League Rules

a. Only 8 players are required to start a game.

b. Sign steeling, as outlined in LL Rulebook (section 9.01) shall be adopted by VNLL as a prohibited practice.

FARM AA Division Local Rules

The rules for the FARM AA ~~Double A~~ baseball league will follow the Little League Blue Book except as modified below (coaches and managers are expected to know the Little League Blue Book)

First Half of Season Coach Pitch

1. There is no limit to the number of innings a player can play. However, each player may only play an infield position a maximum of two (2) consecutive innings (example: player plays innings 1-2 at shortstop, must then move to another infield or outfield position for innings 3-4 and move to another infield or outfield position for innings 5-6).
2. There shall be (10) defensive players, four (4) of which **must be stationed on the outfield grass**, and may not be used as a rover.

   a. The defensive pitcher must remain with a foot in the dirt, surrounding the rubber mound, or slightly behind the coach, until the pitched ball reaches the batter.
3. Teams are allowed to make free defensive substitutions, at the top or bottom of each inning. Players that sit the previous inning shall play in the field the next inning. Managers must advise the scorekeeper of all defensive substitutions.
4. There is no bunting in Farm AA
5. There is no infield fly rule in Farm AA
6. **Two Coaches may be in the outfield during Coach Pitch only (see Rule Adjustments for Kid Pitch below)
7. Will use a continuous batting order and must have a minimum of 8 players at game time. All players available must bat. Players arriving after the start of the game are added to the bottom of the existing batting line-up. If a player on the existing line up needs to leave due to illness or injury, their spot in the batting line-up will be skipped without penalty. If the player returns, they are allowed to re-enter the game at their original spot in the batting line-up.
8. Each batter will receive 5 pitches. If the 6th pitch is hit “foul” the batter is awarded additional pitches until struck out or the ball is put in play. Batters can strike out on 3 missed swings.
9. When the ball is hit to the outfield, “Time” will be called when the ball has returned to the infield. The base runner has to cross the “30 foot line” prior to the player having possession of the ball and not making a play on the runner . If the runner does not cross the “30 foot line” he/she must return to the prior base once the play is complete.
10. The base runner is able to advance bases without the batter advancing. The base runner may advance 1 base on an over throw per runner per play **When playing on A1 no runner shall proceed further than 2 bases (a double)
11. Courtesy runners will be allowed, with 2 out in the inning, if the base runner is playing catcher in the next inning, allowing him/her to get their equipment on to speed up the game. The replacement base runner is the last player to get out.
12. Base stealing is not permitted.
13. Lead offs are not permitted.
14. When the coach is pitching, they can kneel or stand while touching the pitching rubber at 38 feet. They may use a knee pad if they prefer. A coach can wear a glove, however cannot field any live balls, coach positions or relay signals to the batter, or coach any batters/runners while a play is in progress.
15. If the coach gets hit by a pitch, while pitching, the ball is live.
16. Innings 1-5 are over after 3 outs or 5 runs, whichever occurs first. When the fifth run scores the umpire will allow the baseball play to complete and will then call time. Only 5 runs will count.
    a. The 6th (or any subsequent) inning will allow each team to go no further than once through their batting order or 3 outs, regardless of how many players are on the team.
17. Each game is over by one of these:
    a. 6 completed innings
    b. If after three (3) innings one team has a lead of 15 or more runs OR after four (4) innings one team has a lead of 10 or more runs.

c. 1 hour 45 minutes no new inning. In the event of a tie game, if there is no time remaining on the 1 hour and 45 minute clock, the game will end in a tie.
d. Games may end in a tie

Last Half of Season Kid Pitch

Rule Adjustments for Kid Pitch:

**13. During Kid Pitch no coaches may be out in the outfield

Secondary Rules for Kid Pitch:

18. Kid pitch will start half way through the season at the direction of the scheduler.
19. Players will pitch innings 1-3, coach pitch will resume innings 4-6.
    a. The BOD reserves the right to change this rule based on division managers and BOD evaluation of division players skills and abilities. Any change to this rule must be voted on by the BOD prior to the first scheduled kid pitch game.
20. A pitcher throwing over 25 pitches in a game will not be able to catch in the same game.
21. Kid pitch innings will be played as follows:
    a. The pitcher will continue pitching until he/she throws 4 called balls by the umpire OR they reach a max of 7 pitches. The coach will come in, inherit the strikes and the batter will receive up to 3 pitches. If the final pitch is hit “foul” the batter is awarded additional pitches until down on pitches or ball is put in play.
    b. If the (kid) pitcher hits the batter, the batter gets first base.

FARM A Division Local Rules

The rules for the FARM A baseball league will follow the Little League Blue Book except as modified below (coaches and managers are expected to know the Little League Blue Book)

1. There is no limit to the number of innings a player can play. However, each player may only play an infield position a maximum of one (1) consecutive inning (example: player plays inning 1 at shortstop, must then move to another infield or outfield position for inning 2 and move to another infield or outfield position in each subsequent inning).
    a. The defensive pitcher must remain with a foot in the dirt, surrounding the pitching rubber, or slightly behind the coach, until the pitched ball reaches the batter.
2. There is no bunting in Farm A
3. There is no infield fly rule in Farm A
4. Two Coaches may be in the outfield all season
5. Will use a continuous batting order and must have a minimum of 8 players at game time. All players available must bat. Players arriving after the start of the game are added to the bottom of the existing batting line-up. If a player on the existing line up needs to leave due to illness or injury, their spot in the batting line-up will be skipped without penalty. If the player returns, they are allowed to re-enter the game at their original spot in the batting line-up.
6. Each batter will receive 5 pitches. If the final pitch is hit “foul” the batter is awarded additional pitches until down on pitches or ball is put in play.
7. When the ball is hit to the outfield, “Time” will be called when the ball has returned and in possession of the ball in the infield. The base runner has to cross the “30 foot line” prior to

the ball making contact with dirt or the player. If the runner does not cross the “30 foot line” he/she must return to the prior base once the play is complete.

8. If the ball is hit cleanly to the outfield grass, it is considered live and base runners can advance no more than 2 bases until “Time” is called. It is the base coaches’s discretion to instruct their runner. The base runner is only able to advance bases as the batter advances.
9. Courtesy runners will be allowed, with 2 out in the inning, if the base runner is playing catcher in the next inning, allowing him/her to get their equipment on to speed up the game.The replacement base runner is the last player to get out.
10. Base stealing is not permitted.
11. Lead offs are not permitted.
12. When the coach is pitching, they can kneel or stand with one foot touching the 20 foot pitching rubber. They may use a knee pad if they prefer. The coach can wear a glove, however cannot field any live balls, positions or relay signals to the batter, or coach any batters/runners while a play is in progress.
13. If the coach gets hit by a pitch, while pitching, the ball is live.
14. Innings 1-5 are over after 3 outs or 5 runs, whichever occurs first. When the fifth run scores the umpire will allow the baseball play to complete and will call time. Only 5 runs will count.
    a. The 6th (or any subsequent inning) will allow each team to go no further than once through their batting order or 3 outs, regardless of how many players are on the team.
15. Each game is over by one of these:
    a. 6 completed innings
    b. If after three (3) innings one team has a lead of 15 or more runs OR after four (4) innings one team has a lead of 10 or more runs.
    c. 1 hour 15 minutes no new inning. The game can be called due to light or weather after 3 complete innings. Max game time of 1 hours and 30 minutes.
    d. If the game does not complete at a full inning at the end of the 1 hour 30 minute clock, the score reverts back to full complete inning.
    e. Games may end in a tie

Player Pool All Divisions

2026-2027 PLAYER POOL POLICY:

VNLL has agreed to adopt a “pool” player program for the 2027 regular season for teams that have a need to borrow player(s) for one game. The program will work as follows:

A. Minor team managers can recommend players to be eligible to play in a Majors division game if a need arises. A manager's recommendation is not required for a player to be eligible for the player pool.
B. The league President will have final approval over which players are in the pool and the list for each division will be compiled and maintained by the Player Agent.
C. At a minimum, requests for pool players should be sent to the Player Agent and President.
D. It is understood that most requests for pool players will come on short notice. It is also understood that some games start at 7:30pm for Majors divisions.
E. If a manager makes a request for a pool player, it cannot be rescinded.
F. A specific player cannot be requested.
G. Once a request is made, the player agent will contact the next eligible player on the list. If the player refuses the request, they will go back to the bottom of the list, similar to a player who accepts their opportunity.
H. To be eligible, pool players cannot miss a scheduled game.
I. Pool players will not lose their spot on the list if they have a conflict due to their current team already having a scheduled game.
J. Pool players will wear their team uniform for games that they are called up to play.
K. Pool players must play at least nine consecutive outs and bat once.
L. Pool players are not eligible to pitch.
M. The pool player system will not be implemented for any post season game (playoffs and championship games).

Post-Season Playoff Tournament

The BOD will determine how the highest seeded team in each division will be recognized at closing ceremonies.

1. Tournament Seeding – Teams will be seeded for the first game of the tournament according to the end of season standings. Seeding will be determined by the aggregate total of wins and losses for the entire regular season. The following criteria will determine standings
    a. Overall record determined by winning percentage
        i. WP = (# of wins + (.5 x # of ties)) / (total games) ii. Head-to-head record
    b. Runs allowed
    c. Coin toss
2. In all Divisions- The higher seeded team (based on end of Regular Season Rankings) in each tournament game will be the Home team for the first playoff game ONLY. Each consecutive game in the playoffs the home team will be determined by Little League International Bracket Regulations.

3. In all Divisions, all regular season run rules apply. All regular season mercy rules apply.
4. Post-Season Playoff Tournament Game Durations:
    a. Juniors and 50/70- 7 innings game with no time limit.
    b. Majors and Minors 6 inning game with no time limit
    c. Farm AA 6 1 hour and 45 minute no new inning unless playing off a tie
    d. Farm A 1 hour and 30 minute hard stop time limit
    e. Any game cannot end in a tie
        i. If a complete game is tied at the end of regulation play, the first extra inning is played per regular rules. Every inning thereafter shall immediately be played in International Format with the last out from the previous inning being placed on 2nd base and 0 outs on the scoreboard.
5. The HOME team will be required to provide a scorekeeper and pitch count operator during all playoff games except the division Championship games as outlined below.
6. The BOD will be responsible for scorekeeping and pitch counts for the final Championship games in each division only (and the “if” game, if necessary)

17. All-Star Selection Rules and Procedures

<u>All-Star Player Selection</u>
The All-Star roster is determined in three steps. The first step is the result of direct voting by the players and will determine the first three (3) All-Star players for each age group.

The second step will require each minor and major manager to nominate up to ten (10) players from each division as follows:

- Minors ages 8/9/10
- Majors ages 10/11/12

Managers must nominate a minimum of three (3) players from any of the age groups who are not players on their own team. Each manager will email their nominations to the Player Agent. The Player Agent will tally the nominations and the top six (6) nominations will determine the next six (6) All-Star players for each age group.

The three (3) remaining All-Star players will be chosen by the All Star manager. VNLL will have 12 players per team per Age Group All Star Team.

AGE Groups are:

- 9U FUTURE All STARS: League Age 8/9
- 10U All STARS: League Age 8/9/10
- 11U All STARS: League Age 9/10/11
- 12U All STARS: League Age 10/11/12

Eligibility

Players must meet the eligibility requirements of Little League International General Eligibility Rules and Tournament Rules to be eligible to be a VNLL All-Star.

Players must have attended a VNLL evaluation for that season's league play to be eligible for All-Stars.

Please be aware that if selected, tournaments may extend through June, July and August. All Star players are expected to participate in all practices and games.

Release of Names

Release of the names of players selected for the All Star teams may be made no earlier **than May 15th** . All-Star practices may begin as early as May 16th and will be scheduled as part of the regular season master schedule.

All-Star Ballots

The Player Agent shall generate All-Star ballots. All-Star ballots shall be generated no earlier than 6-weeks after opening day.

The ballots for players, Player Agent shall specify that the voter may select up to (10) players. A ballot selecting more than (10) players is invalid and will not be counted. A ballot may reflect selection of fewer than (10) players and remain valid.

Each team's voting process shall be overseen by the player agent. Players are not allowed to discuss the ballots with each other before the votes are collected. Coaches and managers are not permitted to influence the player's votes in any way. Parents and coaches will not be present during the voting process.

Votes shall be collected and transmitted by the Player Agent who will count the ballots. Counting of the ballots shall be performed by two BOD members. Player Agent and one other BOD.

All-Star Manager and Coach Selection:

The BOD expects All-Star Managers to commit a much greater amount of time than is necessary for managing a regular season, with significant effort on activities including, but not limited to, scouting potential players, speaking with every Manager of an eligible player, daily practices, and practice preparation together with the Coaches.

Only Managers and Coaches in the regular season shall be eligible for selection as Manager of a VNLL All Star team. The Player Agent shall inform all eligible Managers and Coaches of the time commitment (daily practices are expected at every level) and expectations in leading a VNLL All Star team as Manager as well as the selection criteria used. Managers and Coaches interested in being the Manager of the All Star team shall inform the Player Agent of interest no later than April 1st, 2027.

VNLL BOD shall vote to approve an All-Star Manager for each Division. Selection shall include the following considerations: previous coaching experience, including All-Star experience, commitment level, character, and regular-season and playoff performance. VNLL BOD will select managers that put VNLL teams in the best position to win.

The Manager shall be selected no later than the 8th week of the season. Selected Managers will not have a guaranteed spot for their child on the All-Star team. The manager may add their child to the All Star team as a "manager's pick" as described below.

The Manager shall select Coaches to assist them with All Stars. All Star Managers shall submit names of proposed Coaches to Player Agent no later than 8th week of the season. The coach's children are not guaranteed a spot on the All Star team.

Completion of the All -Star Rosters

Juniors, 50/70, 12U, 11U, 10U, and 9U All Star teams shall comprise 12 players outlined by Little League International. Three (3) of the players for each chartered team are selected by the player ballot as described above. Six (6) of the players will be selected by the Division Managers. Three (3) of the players will be selected by the All Star Manager and/or All Star Coaching Staff.

Managers shall complete their rosters based on several factors including, but not limited to, position needs, quality of play, baseball skill, athleticism, and character.

The goal of the managers should be to create teams that best represent VNLL and have the highest likelihood of winning.

Eligible players include the players on the relevant ballot that were not voted in and players from older divisions who are age eligible for the specific division. Traditionally many league age 12 players participate in the 50/70 Division during the Spring Season. To enhance the 10-12 All Star Division, league age 12 players are Age eligible for All Stars Division 10-12, regardless of if they played in that division in the Spring.

The confidentiality of the proposed players for the All Star teams is of utmost concern. The selection order of players will remain secret and under no circumstances should players or parents be told the selection order or whether a player was voted in or selected by the manager.

All Star Summary Calendar (dates could fluctuate based upon LL Calendar)

Week 6

- All Star eligibility ballots finalized
- Player Agent reach out to identify interested Managers
- Interested Managers must submit Coaching Picks

Week 7

- BOD vote to approve placement of All Star Managers and Coaches
- Managers notified of Selection

Week 8

- Player All Star ballots voted and counted by Player Agent and one other BOD
- Division Managers submit their player nominations

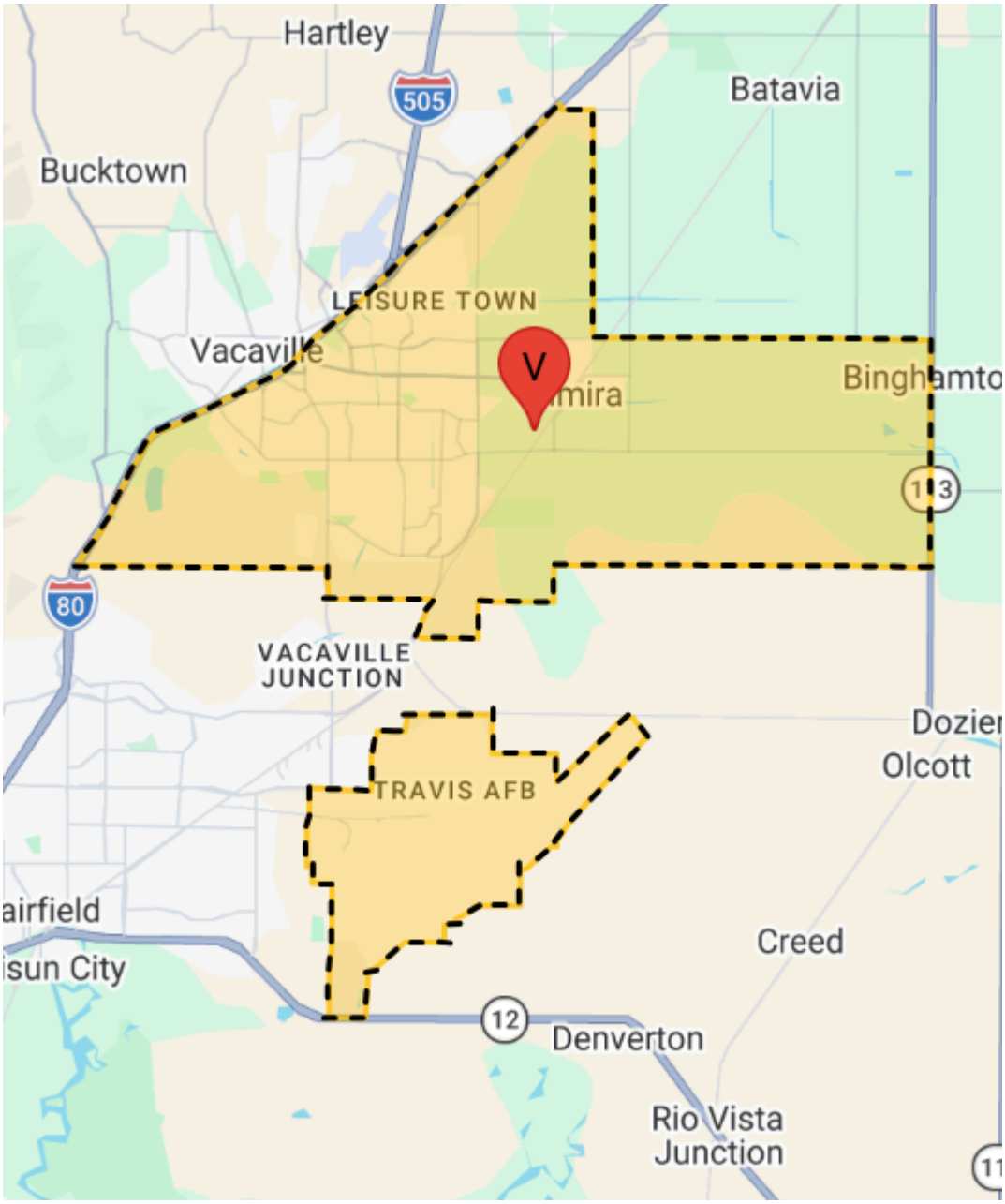
Week 9

- All Star roster, managers and coaches finalized

Week 10

- Announce All Star teams no sooner than May 15th

18. Vacaville National Little League Boundaries


Hartley
505
Batavia
Bucktown
LEISURE TOWN
Vacaville
V
Binghamto
113
80
VACAVILLE
JUNCTION
TRAVIS AFB
Dozier
Olcott
airfield
sun City
Creed
12
Denverton
Rio Vista
Junction