



VACAVILLE NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE

LOCAL RULES

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INTRODUCTION

Vacaville National Little League (VNLL) is committed to providing youth in the community with a baseball program that promotes a healthy atmosphere, geared in providing a fun activity, through good leadership. Therefore, all Player, managers and Coaches are responsible for adhering to Little League Baseball® Rules, the VNLL Constitution and the Local VNLL Rules established in this document. Additionally, the VNLL Board of Directors, as defined in the VNLL Constitution will adhere to the rules and regulation contained in the Little League Baseball® Rules, the VNLL Constitution and the Local VNLL Rules when resolving disputes.

Failure to abide to the rules as stated may result in suspension, removal, expulsion, or other discipline identified by the Grievance Board (refer to Article II Section 4 for the definition of this board).

Note: The VNLL Board of Directors, as defined by the VNLL Constitution, consist of the League President, Vice President (Administration), Vice President (Operations), Secretary, Treasure, Player Agent, Safety Officer, and Umpire In Chief (UIC, the Challenger Director may be part of the Board of Directors if agreed upon at the VNLL's General Meeting.

ARTICLE I –JUNIOR, INTERMEDIATE 50/70, MAJOR, MINOR, FARM LEAGUES AND CHALLENGER

SECTION ONE

Health and Safety:

SAFETY IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH AND EVERY INDIVIDUAL

a) NO PARENTS WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE FIELD.

i. Permission for any professional photographer business and/or media to be permitted to enter the field must be obtained from the Home Plate Umpire and/or "on-duty" board member. A list of Board Approved photographers will be on file in the Concession stand.

b) The use of tobacco and alcoholic beverages, in any form, is prohibited on the playing field, benches, dugout, park, or practice sites, bleachers, stands, snack bar, etc. - Smoking is allowed on the center island of the parking lot.

SECTION TWO

Ground Rules:

a) Only VNLL approved Manager and Coaches (2) of record, in addition to Players are allowed in the dugout during the game. If Manager or Coaches substitute are required for a given game, the substitution needs to be preapproved by the Board of Directors prior to the start of the game.

- **Exception:** The official Farm Team Parent of record is allowed in the dugout.

b) The Home Team will be responsible for providing the Official Scorekeeper, and for obtaining the score board remote control for all regular season and playoff games. Additionally, the home team will be responsible for prepping the field prior to the start of their game. It is highly encouraged for the away team to assist.

SECTION THREE

Age Limits – By Division:

THE LITTLE LEAGUE CUT-OFF DATE FOR DETERMINE A PLAYER’S AGE IS AUGUST 30.

- a) The Junior League division will include 13 and 14 year olds.
- b) The Intermediate 50/70 League division may include 11, 12 and 13 year olds.
- c) The Major League division may include 101 , 11 and 12 year olds. Note 1: Parent authorization must be communicated prior to drafting a 10 year old to a Major division team.
- d) The Minor League division may include 8, 9, 10 and 11 year olds.
- e) The Farm League division may include 6, 7, 8 and 9 (safety risk only) year olds.

Other ages may be eligible at the discretion of the VNLL Executive Board.

SECTION FOUR

Minimum Playing Time per Game:

- a) Each Player on a Junior, 50/70, Major, Minor and Farm League team must play a minimum of 6 consecutive defensive outs and have at least 1 at bat per game.

Player Removal:

- a) If a player repeatedly misses games, a Manager may request to remove that player for the team, subject to VNLL Board of Directors approval. The request for a player’s removal should be submitted through the Division representative to the Player Agent along with supporting documentation.
- b) At the discretion of the parents (e.g. disciplinary reasons) a child may be removed from a game and does not have to fulfill the minimum playing time requirements.

SECTION FIVE

Managers and Coaches:

- a) Selection:
 - i. All prospective Managers and Coaches must complete a Manager and/or Coaches application form and a volunteer application form (with a copy of current driver’s license) to be considered.
 - ii. Selection of Managers will be determined and finalized by the VNLL Board of Directors.
 - iii. Managers/Coaches may be removed from their position at the discretion of the VNLL Board of Directors.
- b) Responsibilities:
 - i. There must be at least one Manager or Coach in the dugout at all times
 - ii. Prior to the start of any game, Managers must provide the Official Scorekeeper with Pitching Affidavits. Following the game, the Official Scorekeeper will complete the Pitching Affidavits and both Managers are required to sign each teams Affidavit.

SECTION SIX

Complete Games:

A GAME WILL BE CONSIDERED COMPLETED (REGULATION) PER LITTLE LEAGUE RULES.

- a) For Major league games, the “10 run rule” described in Official Regulations and Playing Rules section 4.10e applies to all games. If after four (4) innings, 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of 10 runs or more, the game will be considered complete.
- b) A “five (5) run rule” described in Official Regulations and Playing Rules section 2.00 (Definitions of Teams – INNING) will apply to Minor and applied to Farm league games (for consistency).

Time Limits: THE FOLLOWING TIME LIMITS WILL APPLY WHEN THERE IS A GAME SCHEDULED ON THE SAME FIELD, WHICH FOLLOWS THE GAME BEING PLAYED.

- a) Minor league games – **No new inning** shall start after **one (1) hour and fifty (50) minutes regardless.**
 - i. Minor league games may end in a tie. When there are no scheduled games **following games that are tied**, the game in progress will continue until there is a winner or until deemed unsafe (darkness, fatigue, etc. as identified by head umpire).
- b) Farm league games – **No new inning** shall start after **one hour 50 minutes.**
- c) Little League curfew is 10:00 pm; No new inning can start after 10:00. (see Blue Book)
- d) The following “mercy” rules will apply to the Minor and Major division:
 - i. If, after 4 innings (3 ½ if home team leads), one team is leading by more runs than the other team can score in their total remaining at-bats (>10 runs), the game will be considered complete.
 - ii. If after 5 innings (4 ½ in home team leads), one team is leading by more runs than the other team can score in their total remaining at-bats (>5 runs), the games will be considered complete.

Continuous Batting Order:

- a) The Junior, Intermediate 50/70, and Major leagues will not use a continuous batting order.
- b) The Farm and Minor leagues will use a continuous batting order. 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 is removed from the line-up due to illness or injury, their spot in the batting line-up will be skipped without penalty.

c) In the Farm and Minor leagues, a special pinch runner may be used to run for the next innings catcher after there are two outs. The pinch runner cannot have played the field defensively in the previous inning. The intent is to have the catcher ready for the next inning.

Defense: a) ONLY the Farm and Minor leagues will use the "Ten Defensive Player Rule". There shall be ten (10) defensive players, four (4) of which must be stationed on the outfield grass. Players will start in one of the 4 positions and will remain in the position for the entire inning.

b) In the Farm and Minor Leagues, teams may go once through the batting order (unlimited runs) during the 6th inning only.

Farm - Pitching and Other Rules: See Farm Rules

ARTICLE II – DRAFT, PLAYOFFS, ALL-STAR SELECTION AND GREIVANCES

SECTION ONE

Player Selection:

VNLL WILL ADHERE TO PLAYER SELECTION PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN THE OFFICIAL LITTLE LEAGUE OPERATING MANUAL. THE SPECIFIC METHOD WILL BE APPROVED BY THE VNLL BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

a) The Junior, Intermediate 50/70, Major and Minor league drafts will be serpentine in order (Example: Round 1-1, 2, 3; Round 2-3, 2, 1).

b) Managers draft position will be determined by lottery.

c) The Manager's Option Pick and Coach's Option Pick are automatically on the team as the last pick. There will be one Coach's Option Pick in the Intermediate 50/70, Major, and Minor league

*Note: The serpentine does not reset when the draft comes to the Manager's or Coach's picks.

d) Players of league age 8 who wish to be eligible for the Minor division draft must try out.

Note: Draft positions are NEVER to be discussed with the players.

e) There will be no draft in the Farm league; teams will be assembled randomly with considerations for friend requests. No more than 6 friend requests (including the manager and coach's children) will be entertained in an effort to keep the Farm division competitive and a fun experience for all.

SECTION TWO

Standings:

f) Regular season standings for the Intermediate 50/70, Major, Minor and Farm leagues will be based on the total number of wins. In the event of a tie, the following tie breakers will be used in order:

- i. Head to Head results
- ii. Fewest losses for the season
- iii. Fewest runs allowed in Head to Head games

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iv. Differential of runs scored for and runs scored against for all regular season games played during the entire season. Note: If a tie still exists after the tiebreakers, the two teams will play a single elimination game to determine the League Champion. Home team will be determined by a coin flip. If more than two teams are tied, a double elimination tournament will be held with all games being 3 innings and scheduled by the VNLL Board.

g) Trophies will be awarded for the Intermediate 50/70, Major, Minor and Farm leagues to the 1st and 2nd place teams based on the post season standings. All other Farm teams will receive participation medals.

h) The Farm league will keep regular season standings for playoff seeding only.

League Tournament Format:

i) The Intermediate 50/70, Major, and Minor leagues will conduct a double elimination tournament to determine which team will represent VNLL in the Vacaville City Championship.

j) The number of teams competing in the tournament will be as follows:

i. If there are four (4) or more teams in the league, the top four (4) teams will compete in the tournament

ii. Seeding will be based on the final regular season standings. The higher seed will be the home team until the championship game. In the Championship round the undefeated team in the tournament will be the home team and in the event of an "if" game the home team will be decided by a coin flip.

k) At the end of the regular season, a Farm league tournament will be held if agreed upon by Farm Managers and approved by the VNLL Board of Directors.

SECTION THREE

All-Star Selections:

All-Star Team selections are meant to recognize players that have excelled in regular season play through game performance, baseball skill, fair-play, and positive attitude. The selected players, Managers and Coaches will represent the VNLL community in a competitive, intra-district, post-season tournament and if successful, higher level tournaments.

l) All-Star Teams

i. VNLL will field All-Star Teams in all eligible age groups as defined by the Little League Rules.

ii. The Player Agent will manage the All-Star player and Manager Selection process with the assistance of the President and Vice President.

iii. The final number of players will be determined by the All-Star Manager.

iv. All-Star Managers will be responsible for selection their coaching staff. Only Managers and Coaches from the regular season are eligible to be an All-Star Coach.

v. Final approval of the All-Star Team, Manager Selection and Coach Selection must be approved by the VNLL Executive Board.

m) Manager Selection

i. VNLL Managers and Coaches interested in managing a post season All-Star Team should notify the Player Agent one week before the final game of the current season.

Note: Winning the VNLL Regular Season does not guarantee selection as an All-Star Manager. Prospective Managers should consider the following before contacting the Player Agent: - Would you be willing to manage an All-Star Team? - Which age group do you want to manage (9/10, 10/11, or 11/12)? - Would you be willing to coach/manage if your child is not selected to the All-Star Team? - Do you understand the time commitment involved with managing an All-Star Team? (Tournaments can run through July and August depending on success)

ii. The names of interested Managers and Coaches will be placed on a ballot and voted on by all Managers of the appropriate Division. The person with the most votes in the age group of interest (i.e. 11/12 All-Star Team or 10/11 All-Star Team) will be named the manager of the associated All Star Team. The person with the most votes in the Minor Division will be named the Manager of the 9/10 All-Star Team.

iii. In the event of a tie the eligible VNLL Board of Directors will cast the deciding vote.

n) Player Selection

The All-Star selection process will involve both the Players and Managers from each eligible division. The Player Agent will manage the process and all ballots/selections will be kept confidential. The process for all All-Star selections will be done according to the current Little League Rule Book.

- i. Player ballots will be distributed to each team immediately following their final regular season game. The ballots will show the names and league ages for each player in their division. Players may vote for up to 10 All-Star nominations (players, individuals) in their division. Ballots are to be returned to the Player Agent before leaving the field. Late ballots will not be accepted.
- ii. The 5 players in each division (Intermediate 50/70s, Majors, and Minors) that received the most votes on the Player ballots will be “automatic” selections to the appropriate All-Star team. In the event of a tie vote, all players with the same number of votes will be considered “automatic” selections to the All-Star Team.
- iii. Manager will meet and discuss players recommended to be on the team. Managers may select up to 5 players from their own team to add to the pool of “eligible All Star” players. These players are not automatically on the All-Star Team unless they qualify under section ii above.
- iv. After the “automatic” selection is completed based on the results of the Players Ballots, the remaining All-Star players in each age group will be selected from the ‘All-Star Pool’ of players that is created based on the Managers meeting.
- v. Final Manager Selections will be made from the “All-Star Pool” of players in the following order:
 1. 11/12 All-Star Team – The Manager may select from the 11 or 12 year old “All-Star Pool” of players. This team should be selected prior to the 10/11 year old team in an attempt to build the strongest team for tournament play.
 2. 10/11 All-Star Team – The Manager may select from the 10 or 11 year old “All-Star Pool” of players. Every effort should be made to ensure that players selected for this team have

had Major Division experience. This team should be selected prior to the 9/10 year old team in an attempt to build the strongest team for tournament play.

3. 9/10 All-Star Team – The Manager may select from the 9 or 10 year old “All-Star Pool” of players.

Team will be selected prior to June 1st for the All-Star Tournament. Players will be announced at Closing Ceremonies and contacted by the All Star Manager.

Note: If necessary, Manager may select no more than two at large selections of any eligible player not listed in the pool of players.

o) Player Notification

i. Notification and release of players’ names on the 11/12, 10/11 and 9/10 old All-Star Team shall be Not announced until June 1 and not until availability and eligibility of all prospective team members have been established.

ii. If a player gives notification that he/she is unavailable to play on the All-Star Team then the respective All-Star Manager has the option to replace the player from the original All-Star player pool or not to replace a player at all (final VNLL Executive Board approval is required). All efforts should be made not to disrupt the rosters of other All-Star Teams

SECTION FOUR

Grievance Procedures:

a) When a parent or guardian of a player desires to register or file a complaint upon a Manager, Coach or League Official, the following process will be utilized in an effort to resolve the issue at the lowest level possible:

i. First Level – issues or complaints should first be discussed with the team Manager. The Manager should document the date, time, location, parties involved, and the subject of the issue or complaint. If the concern is resolved to everyone’s satisfaction. No further steps are necessary. If the issue remains unresolved, the issue will be escalated to the second level, but not until the complaint has been documented per the requirements above. Note: E-mails to mass distribution lists are not appropriate. If e-mails are used to file a complaint to the Manager, Coach or League Official please ensure to include the required information above.

ii. Second Level – All parties involved shall provide the appropriate Division Representative with an overview of the issues (i.e. documented complaint from the First Level) and any documentation related to previous attempts to resolve the issue. Complaint will not be heard at this level until all appropriate information has been completed per the requirements of the First Level. If the Division Representative is unable to resolve the issue, complaint may be escalated to the Vice President and/or Player Agent.

iii. Third Level – If a resolution cannot be reached at either the first or second level, the complainant(s) may file a Formal Complaint with the Grievance Board. The Grievance Board will be made up of 5 members of the VNLL Executive Board. None of the participants hearing a discipline issue may be involved in the issue. The Formal Complaint must be filed within five (5)

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calendar days of notification to the Division Representative of the original complaint. The Formal Complaint must document the following:

- The topic of the complaint(s) - Date, time, and location of the alleged incident(s) - Thorough overview of the issue(s) - Details of all previous attempts to resolve the issue(s) - Desired resolution VACAVILLE

iv. No complaint will be heard at the preceding level unless heard at the previous level.

Note: Anonymous issues/complaints cannot be addressed via this grievance procedure hence the requirement in section 4.a.i (Parties involved are to be listed to hear all issues equally). The Grievance Board will make all efforts to keep the issues/complaints anonymous to the league (i.e. between the impacted individuals).

b) Decisions rendered by the Grievance Board are final and represent the formal position of the VNLL. Such decisions will not preclude any complaint from seeking further remedy by addressing such issue(s) at the district or Regional Level.