



# 2026 Powhatan Little League Player Pool Process & Procedure

## Purpose

The purpose of the Player Pool is to ensure teams that are short on players for a game have access to additional players, allowing games to proceed as scheduled while providing an opportunity for players to gain experience in a higher division.

## Definition of a Pool Player

A Pool Player is a registered and eligible Powhatan Little League player, in the active season, who may be temporarily assigned to another team **only when necessary** to meet minimum player requirements for a scheduled game.

Pool Players are not permanent roster members of the team they support and return to their original roster following the game in which they are used.

## Eligibility

- The Player Pool consists of players who have volunteered to play in the next division when available.
- Players must be in good standing with the league and meet all eligibility requirements for participation.
- Participation in the Player Pool is optional and requires parental/guardian consent.
- Have not exceeded Little League daily game limits.

## Daily Game Participation Limit

UPDATED – 2026 CLARIFICATION:

While Little League Baseball does not publish a single universal rule limiting total player participation across all positions, Little League regulations do limit how teams may be scheduled within a calendar day. In alignment with those scheduling rules and Little League's player-safety principles,

Powhatan Little League adopts a maximum of two (2) games per player per calendar day.

This limit applies regardless of whether the player is rostered or serving as a Pool Player.

Rule basis and alignment:

- Little League regulations restrict teams from being scheduled for excessive same-day play (including limits on doubleheaders by division)
- Pitching regulations further restrict individual player usage within a day
- PLL's two-games-per-day participation limit is adopted to align with these scheduling and safety guardrails

Key implications:

- A player who has already participated in two games that day is **not eligible** to play in an additional game, including as a Pool Player
- Managers and the Player Agent must verify same-day participation prior to confirming Pool Player availability
- This standard is enforced to protect player safety and prevent overuse

## Player Pool Management

- The **Player Agent** is responsible for maintaining and managing the Player Pool.
- The Player Pool will be compiled at the beginning of the season and updated as necessary.
- Team Managers should not contact pool players directly; all requests must go through the Player Agent.
- The Player Agent will reach out to the managers in their respective divisions as soon as teams are finalized to encourage families to participate in the Player Pool.
- The Player Agent will also reach out to families through a bulk Sport Connect email to increase awareness and interest.
- The Player Agent will support the maximum age limitations and requirements for their division.
- The Player Agent will maintain a rotating list of Pool Players. When a request is made, the Player Agent will reach out to the next three eligible pool players to fulfill the request. If no response is received within two hours, the next three players will be contacted and continued until filled.

## Requesting a Pool Player

1. **Notification of Need:** If a team anticipates being short on players (below the minimum required to field a team), the Team Manager must notify the Player Agent as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours prior to their game to arrange for a pool player.
2. **Verification & Assignment:** The Player Agent will verify the need and assign an available pool player based on:
  - Availability
  - Rotation to ensure fair participation
  - Ensuring competitive balance
3. **Manager Notification:** The Player Agent will inform the requesting Team Manager of the assigned pool player.
4. **Player Notification:** The Player Agent will contact the player and their parents/guardians to confirm availability and assignment.

PLL will attempt to accommodate Team Managers requiring a pool player within 24 hours prior to game time but cannot guarantee availability.

## Game Day Time Exceptions

- It is understood that last-minute needs may arise where it is necessary to grab a player that is already at the field to prevent forfeits.
- For these exceptions, the Team Manager must still reach out to the Player Agent and notify them in order to record the player's participation.
- Players **must** be part of the Player Pool already in order to participate in the game.
- If the opposing team has also requested a pool player and was assigned one from a younger division, the team with the last-minute need must also have a player from the lower division.

## Pool Player Guidelines

- It is preferred that Pool Players support one division above their current division when appropriate (e.g., a Kid Pitch player supporting a Majors team), but not required.
  - When a team has a pool player from a division below, if their opponent needs a pool player, they **MUST** also be pulled from below.
- In all cases, the Player Agent retains final decision-making authority, provided the assignment is league age-appropriate for the division.
- Pool Players must be listed on the lineup card as a Pool Player.
- Pool Players must be utilized if requested and assigned.
- Pool Players are not eligible to pitch.
- Pool Players must play at least nine (9) consecutive defensive outs.
- Pool Players must bat at least once.
- Pool Players will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
  - Exception: If a rostered player arrives late after the batting order has already cycled once, that rostered player will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
- Pool Players may not exceed a team's maximum age limit requirement as established during the draft.
- Pool Players may participate in a doubleheader, provided daily game participation limits are not exceeded.
- The Player Agent may assign additional or alternate Pool Players if needed and will determine the most appropriate assignment.
- Pool Players must wear their regular team uniform.
- Pool Players may be used to staff a team up to the minimum required number of players (up to nine [9]), including the Pool Player. (10 for Coach Pitch)
  - Postseason Exception: Pool Players may only be used to bring a team to the minimum of eight (8) players.
- Pool Players will be provided for interleague games versus other leagues.

## Rostered Players

- Rostered players may show up after the game starts.
- Rostered players may enter and play in the game at any time and at any position consistent with the normal league rules.
- Pool Player continues to play.

## Attendance Confirmation

- It is recommended that Team Managers have their team confirm their attendance in Game Changer no later than 72 hours prior to the scheduled game time in order to allow ample time to acquire pool players.

## Compliance & Oversight

- The Player Agent will oversee the Player Pool process to ensure fairness and adherence to league guidelines.
- Team Managers and/or coaches will not reach out directly to a potential pool player or their family. This will be managed by the Player Agent.
- Team Managers and/or coaches do not have the authority to pick and choose players from the pool within their respective division.
- Any concerns or disputes regarding pool players should be reported to the Player Agent for resolution.
- Failure to adhere to the Player Pool process may result in disciplinary action for Team Managers and/or coaches.

## Contact Information

For any questions or requests related to the Player Pool, please contact the Powhatan Little League Player Agent.

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This procedure is subject to modification by the Powhatan Little League Board as needed to improve functionality and fairness.