By-Laws: Ottumwa Little League League ID Number: 1150420

ARTICLE I – LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1

Membership – Any child meeting the requirements as to age and residence as set forth in the Rules of Little League Baseball, Inc., shall be eligible to active membership in the Ottumwa Little League Program.

SECTION 2

Misconduct - The Board of Directors shall have the sole authority to suspend any player whose conduct is considered as detrimental to the best interest of the league.

Members of the Board of Directors shall, upon evidence of the misconduct of any player, notify the head coach of the team of which the player is a member is within twenty-four (24) hours of the act. Said head coach shall appear; in the capacity of an advisor with the player before the President, Vice President of the League and the game umpire within three (3) days of the act.

SECTION 3

Age Divisions – Ottumwa Little League may be comprised of five different divisions of play. Those five different divisions will be known as Peewee, Rookie, Minor, Major and Challenger division.

SECTION 4

Player Membership (Peewee) – Ottumwa Little League will accept membership from any youngster who has celebrated their fourth (4th) birthday before August 31st in the year they intend to participate and providing they are otherwise qualified as set out in the Little League Incorporated's rules. They will play in the Pee Wee system until they become six (7) before August 31st.

For optimal playing and coaching time, Peewee teams will have a minimum of six (6) players and a maximum of eight (8) players per team.

SECTION 5

Player Membership (Rookies) - The Local League will accept membership from any youngster who has celebrated their seventh (7th) birthday before August 31st in the year they intend to participate and providing they are otherwise qualified as set out in the Little League Incorporated's rules. They will play in the Minor system until they become nine (9) before August 31st.

For optimal playing and coaching time, Rookie teams will have a minimum of ten (10) players and a maximum of twelve (12) players per team.

SECTION 6

Player Membership (Minors) - The Local League will accept membership from any youngster who has celebrated their ninth (9th) birthday before August 31st in the year they intend to participate and providing they are otherwise qualified as set out in the Little League Incorporated's rules. They will play in the Minor system until they become eleven (11) before August 31st.

For optimal playing and coaching time, Minor teams will have a minimum of ten (10) players and a maximum of twelve (12) players per team.

SECTION 7

Player Membership (Majors) - The Local League will accept membership from any youngster who has celebrated their eleventh (11th) birthday before August 31st in the year they intend to participate and providing they are otherwise qualified as set out in the Little League Incorporated's rules. They will play in the Minor

system until they become thirteen (13) before August 31st.

For optimal playing and coaching time, Major teams will have a minimum of ten (10) players and a maximum of twelve (12) players per team.

SECTION 8

Challenger League - If a "Challenger League" is established, the league will be maintained under the rules established by Little League Incorporated. The purpose of this division is to encourage special needs individuals to participate in Little League baseball. One (1) board member will represent the Challenger League.

SECTION 9

Players Playing Up – Any parent or guardian that wishes their player to play up to a different division will contact the Player Agent. The Player Agent will notify the parent or guardian of the tryout dates / times for the division they wish to play in. If the player is not accepted into that division, the player will be placed back in the originally assigned division.

SECTION 10

Playing Down – Ottumwa Little League does not permit players to play down unless there is a medical reason provided by the parent or guardian. Any parent or guardian that wishes to have their player play down must contact the Player Agent. The Player Agent will present this information to the Board of Directors for approval.

ARTICLE II – REGISTRATION PROCESS

SECTION 1

Registration - All Registrations will be completed online at ottumwalittleleague.org.

SECTION 2

Documents – During registration, a parent or legal guardian of a potential Little Leaguer are required to provide a minimum of three personal documents that are used to establish residency of the child. This documentation should be uploaded to the Ottumwa Little League website during registration.

SECTION 3

Residency – Players are eligible to play with that league only if they reside, or the physical location of the school where they attend classes is, within the boundaries provided to, and approved by, Little League® International. Complete Residency and School Attendance Eligibility Requirements can be found in the current year's Little League Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Policies rulebook.

Residency shall be established and supported by documents containing the full residence which includes parent(s) or court-appointed guardian(s) name, street address, city, state, and zip code information, dated or in force between February 1 of the previous year and February 1 of the current year, from ONE or more documents from EACH of the three groups outlined below:

(a) Group 1 - choose at least one of the following
    a. Driver's license
    b. School records
    c. Vehicle records
    d. Employment records
    e. Insurance documents

(b) Group 2 – choose at least one of the following
    a. Welfare / child care records
    b. Federal records (federal tax, social security)
    c. State records
    d. Local (municipal records)

e. Support payment records
f. Homeowner or tenant records
g. Military records

(c) Group 3 - choose at least one of the following
a. Voter's registration
b. Utility bills (gas, electric, phone, heating)
c. Financial records (loan, credit, investments)
d. Medical records
e. Internal, cable, or satellite records

Three documents from the same group constitute only one document. Certain documents may be used in different groups but will count for only one group per child.

School Attendance shall be establish and supported by a document indicating enrollment for the current academic year, dated prior to October 1 of previous year, and with the physical location of the school from ONE of the following categories

(a) The school enrollment form provided by Little League

(b) Official / certified enrollment record, confirming current enrollment that includes the school's physical address and the original signature of the school's senior administrator (principal, headmaster, etc.)

SECTION 4

Registration Fees – Registration Fees cover a team shirt and hat for the player, umpire expenses and field maintenance for the year. Registration fees must be paid in full prior to tryouts.

(a) Peewee - $60 per player

(b) Rookie, Minor, Major - $85 per player

(c) There is a $25 discount per additional child from the same family.

SECTION 5

Fundraising Fee – A fundraising fee is mandatory for each child. This fundraising fee must be paid in full prior to tryouts.

(a) $30 Fundraising Buyout – there is nothing to sell with this option.

ARTICLE III – SELECTION OF COACHES / MANAGERS

SECTION 1

Selection – All coaches shall be selected and approved by the Board of Directors. Appointed coaches shall be responsible for selection of their teams, the training of their team and the conduct.

(a) The Coaching / Equipment Director shall submit a slate of head coaches to the Board of Directors each year.

(b) The Board of Directors shall ask for input into the selection process by other managers and coaching in making their decisions.

(c) The Board of Directors may appoint a selection committee to make a recommendation for a head coach selection.

SECTION 2

Coach Suspension - The Board of Directors shall have the sole authority to suspend any coach whose conduct is considered to be detrimental to the best interests of the League.

Possible reasons for suspension could be:

(a) Confrontations/Disrespect toward Umpires

(b) Abusive or inappropriate language

(c) Abuse of players

(d) Conduct unbecoming of Little League

(e) Lack of support at meetings, workdays, projects, etc.

(f) Deliberate delay of game to benefit their team

Suspension period is at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3

Coach responsibilities - Appointed coaches have the responsibility to support the league by:

(a) Ensuring care and custody of equipment, mower, and fields

(b) Participating in workdays

(c) Attending meetings where presence is required

a. Any head coach missing two (2) or more consecutive meetings or workdays will be suspended for one (1) game. Further absences will result in the loss of head coach's position. This does not include excused absences.

(d) Head Coaches will conduct themselves in a manner becoming to a Little League Manager at all times.

(e) Each head coach must assume certain responsibilities for the opening and closing of each day's games. These responsibilities are:

a. Opening (the 1st game of the day) the visiting team of the first game is responsible for chalking the field and putting bases in place.
b. The visiting team will have the first base dugout.
c. The home team of the last game of the night is responsible to see that all bases are put away, field drug; sheds are locked, including restrooms and concession stand. The Treasurer or designee is responsible for depositing the money of the evening in the night deposit box.
d. Both coaches will be responsible to sign the official score book / binder located in the concession stand. This will attest to the accuracy of the game played, noting innings pitched on pitching log, and innings played by team members (mandatory play regulation). Failure to sign the official log will signify agreement with the details of the game and the accuracy of such details.

ARTICLE IV – BACKGROUND CHECKS

SECTION 1

All board members, managers and coaches, umpires, and any other volunteer or hired worker who provides regular service to the league and/or have repetitive access to, or contact with, players or teams must complete a Little League Volunteer Application and complete an annual background screening prior to involvement in the league in any fashion.

Any individual with a conviction, guilty plea, no contest plea, or admission of guilty to a crime against or involving a minor may not participate in the Little League program.

SECTION 2

All background checks must be completed PRIOR to attending any league function with the players. Any volunteer working with a team without a background check will be removed and not permitted back until the check has been completed satisfactory.

SECTION 3

The Information / Public Relations Director will compile a list of all approved coaches, umpires, concession stand volunteers and will provide this to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V – PLAYER EVALUATIONS / TRY-OUTS

SECTION 1

Requirement – All players in the Rookie, Minor and Major divisions are required to undergo a player evaluation during the year they are playing baseball.

SECTION 2

Attendance – All approved coaches for the current season must attend the tryout so they may assess / grade players for their own reference.

SECTION 3

Try-out – Try-outs will be ran by the Player Agent of the Board of Directors.

Players will be graded on a scale of 1-5 (5 being the highest) in five areas of play:

(a) Batting / Bunting
(b) Fielding fly balls
(c) Fielding ground balls
(d) Throwing
(e) Run in competition

ARTICLE VI – CREATION OF TEAMS

SECTION 1

Peewee Teams – Once coaches have been established, the head coach's player(s) will be assigned to their team. This includes all assistant coach's players. The remainder of all players will be randomly assigned to teams. Ottumwa Little League will do their best to accommodate team / coach requests.

Peewee teams will be re-assigned each year.

SECTION 2

Player Draft – The Player Draft will be conducted by the Player Agent. The Player Draft will consist of all eligible players for the Rookie / Minor / Major teams.

SECTION 3

Rookie Draft – Once coaches have been established, the head coach's player(s) will be assigned to their team. This includes all assistant coach's players. The Player Agent will then determine the draft order.

SECTION 4

Minor / Major Draft – The Player Agent will determine the draft order.

(a) A head coach may take their player as an automatic draft pick.

(b) A team may take a sibling option (including step-siblings) as an automatic draft pick. The sibling option pick(s) will be taken in the next round of the draft after the initial sibling pick. For example, if a player is picked in the third round and they have a sibling pick, that sibling pick will be considered taken in the fourth round.

(c) Any manager needing only one (1) player may not draft a sibling combination unless he has prior written permission from the parents to separate the siblings.

(d) Any variation from the above may petition the board.

(e) Manager's options will be taken the second round of the draft.

SECTION 5

Permanent Loss of Player - If a Major Division team suffers a permanent loss of a player during the season and does not have enough players to field a team of nine (9) players, the Head Coach will contact the Player Agent. The Head Coach will select the player of his/her choosing from the pool of eligible players provided by the Player Agent. The pool of eligible players will only include Minor division players.

ARTICLE VII – SEASON SCHEDULE

SECTION 1

Practice Schedule – Practice schedules will be established at draft night for each team. Practice schedules will be provided to all teams and posted on the league's website for teams to have by the Information / Public Relations Director.

Practices may be scheduled for Sundays at the coach's discretion. However, players are not required to attend.

SECTION 2

Playing Schedule - Playing schedules will be developed and approved by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3

Inclement weather – In the event of inclement weather, the Board of Directors will make the decision on cancelling or postponing games. All decisions will be made as soon as possible each day and will be posted on social media, our website and coaches will be contacted.

SECTION 4

Rescheduling – Games will be rescheduled at the first available opportunity without regard to pitching problems. Coaches will be notified as soon as possible for game reschedules. Each game may be rescheduled one (1) time.

(a) Peewee and Rookie games – coaches will coordinate schedules and desires to make up these games. Rescheduling is NOT required for these two divisions.

SECTION 5

Times – Times for games will be as follows:

(a) All Peewee games will start at 5:30pm or 6:30pm

(b) All Rookie games will start at 5:30pm

(c) All Minor and Major games will start at 5:30pm Monday through Thursday while school is in session.

Games may start at 5:30pm or 7:30pm on Friday's and once school is out of session.

SECTION 6

Days – Games will be scheduled Monday through Friday of each week. Only in emergency situations will games be scheduled on Saturdays. There will be no games scheduled on Sundays unless approved by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 6

Length of Season – The schedule must provide for not less than twelve (12) games per team per regular season against other Little League teams within their respective division, exclusive of playoff and tournament games.

(a) Peewee – The schedule will provide for no more than twelve (12) games per season.

SECTION 7

Opening Ceremonies – Ottumwa Little League will host an opening ceremonies on Saturday April 22, 2023. All teams will be announced on the field starting at 10am. Opening Ceremonies will be held at Kirkland Fields.

ARTICLE VIII – PLAYING EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

SECTION 1

Playing Equipment – Ottumwa Little League will provide playing equipment to each team in the league. Each team will receive:

(a) Peewee
   a. Equipment bag
   b. Three bats
   c. Three batting helmets
   d. A bucket of balls specifically rating for Peewee

(b) Rookie, Minor and Major
   a. Equipment bag
   b. Two bats
   c. Three batting helmets
   d. Catcher's Gear (helmet, chest protector, shin guards, and a catcher's mitt)
   e. A box of practice balls

SECTION 2

Damaged Equipment – It is the responsibility of the coach to identify any equipment that is broken or needs replaced. The Coaching / Equipment Director should be contact immediately to report and identify replacements (if needed).

SECTION 3

Obtaining / Returning – The Coaching / Equipment Director will provide equipment to all coaches prior to starting practices. The Coaching / Equipment Director will also establish a date and time for all coaches to turn in their equipment at the end of the season. All-Star coaches may retain their equipment if needed. All equipment must be turned in once the season is over. Coaches are not permitted to keep equipment.

SECTION 4

Uniforms – Ottumwa Little League will purchase team shirts and hats. Names of teams will be based upon Major League teams and logos will be as such. Coaches may ask players to have certain colors of pants for each team.

SECTION 5

Player Provided – Players will be required to provide baseball pants, gloves and any other apparel or equipment wanted or needed for the game.

ARTICLE IX – MARKETING, SPONSORSHIP AND FUNDRAISING

ARTICLE XI – UMPIRES

SECTION 1

Umpire-in-Chief – The Board of Directors will approve an Umpire-in-Chief for each season of play.

SECTION 2

Umpire Schedules - It shall be the responsibility of the Umpire-in-Chief to produce a list of available umpires for all Major/Minor/Rookie League games to include a home plate umpire.

SECTION 3

Investigating - The Umpire-in-Chief shall have the responsibility of investigating any questionable conduct on the part of the umpire. They will report the results to the Board of Directors for appropriate action.

SECTION 4

Rules – At all times, Little League rules will prevail.

SECTION 5

Umpire Age – Age limits for umpire are as follows:

(a) Major League Home Plate – 16 years or older

(b) Major League Bases – 14 years or older

(c) Rookie and Minor League – 14 years or older

SECTION 6

Backgrounds – Prior to umpiring any game, every umpire must have a background check successfully completed.

ARTICLE XII – GAME OPERATIONS

SECTION 1

Starting Times – Games will start promptly as scheduled.

SECTION 2

Time Limits - Major and Minor will have a two (2) hour time limit. The two (2) hour time limit may be exceeded if the game is tied or the top of the inning was started prior to the two (2) hour time limit expiring. That inning should then be finished (or ½ inning if the home team is ahead). When two (2) games are scheduled on the Major Field on the same night, in the event of a tie, the first game will continue until finished, regardless of the time the first game started. No inning shall be started after 10:00 P.M., the official curfew of Little League, Inc.

Rookie League games will have a one and one half (1 ½) hour time limit.

Peewee League games will have a one hour time limit.

SECTION 3

Ten and Fifteen Run Rules - Ottumwa Little League has adopted the ten (10) run rule. Little League Rule 4.10(e). There will be a fifteen (15) run rule after three (3) innings.

SECTION 4

Lightning and Rain - It is the policy of Ottumwa Little League that whenever a bolt of lightning is seen, play will be suspended for at least thirty (30) minutes. Coaches need to let the umpire know when the bolt of lightning is seen. Players should be allowed to go to automobiles and be kept away from the fences. Teams should wait a minimum of thirty (30) minutes, before calling the game.

SECTION 5

Peewee Play – Little League International rules will be enforced with the following modified rules have been adopted by Ottumwa Little League for Peewee Play:

- All players present will field and bat.
- There are no outs. Each team will bat their entire roster each inning.
- No on-deck batters outside the dugout.
- All batters are required to wear a helmet when hitting or running bases.
- Coaches will pitch up to five (5) pitches to each batter. After the fifth missed pitch, the hitter will hit from a tee.
- Hitters will advance one base at a time. When the last batter hits, all runners will run around the bases.
- One (1) hour time limit or three innings of play.

SECTION 6

Rookie Play – Little League International rules will be enforced with the following modified rules have been adopted by Ottumwa Little League for Rookie Play:

- Pitchers can throw a maximum of 50 pitches per day. If 50 pitches are thrown, there will be two days' rest.
- Pitcher's mound is at 40ft.
- No walks. If a batter receives four balls, their coach will step in to pitch to them.
- Batters are awarded first base if hit by the pitch.
- No on-deck batters outside the dugout.
- No stealing bases.
- If there is an overthrow, runners may advance one base.
- The team that is batting will be responsible for calling balls and strikes.
- If teams need to coach pitch, they may do so the first time through the batting order. This must be decided upon before the game between coaches.
- All players present will bat in a given order.
- Five (5) run limit each inning. Exception – Visiting team in the last inning may score as many runes as possible before ending their half of the inning.
- 10 players may field. The 10th player is a rover and must play in the outfield grass. They may come to the infield only to make the play.
- 90 minute time limit or six (6) innings of play.

SECTION 7

Minor Play – Little League International rules will be enforced with the following modified rules have been adopted by Ottumwa Little League for Minor Play:

- No dropped third strike
- Five (5) run limit each inning. Exception – Visiting team in the last inning may score as many runes as possible before ending their half of the inning.
- 90 minute time limit or six (6) innings of play.

SECTION 8

Major Play – Little League International rules will be enforced with the following modified rules have been

adopted by Ottumwa Little League for Major Play:

- 90 minute time limit or six (6) innings of play.

ARTICLE XIII – FIELD(S) AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE, PERMITS AND INSURANCE

SECTION 1

Facilities – Any facility used for practices and/or games must be approved by the Ottumwa Little League Board of Directors. Kirkland Field and Holder Field will be the fields used most for games and practices. Hagglund Field will be used for makeup games and practices ONLY if the other two fields are booked.

SECTION 2

Maintenance - The playing field will be maintained, mowed and are ready to play by the Coaches or parents of their respective fields. A mowing schedule may be produced by the Facilities Directors.

SECTION 3

Major Field Work - No major fieldwork will be done without approval of the President and Vice President. Major work is defined as any purchase over $200.

SECTION 4

Field Cleanup – Teams using the fields on a weekly basis will do field cleanup

Annually, the Facilities Director(s) will schedule a Field Cleanup Day in the early spring. All teams, parents, and members will be invited to help the league clean the fields and get ready for the season. The Facilities Director will identify what work needs to be done and coordinate efforts that day.

The Concessions Director will also coordinate on Field Cleanup Day to have volunteers to ready the concessions stand(s) for the upcoming season.

SECTION 5

Lights – No lights will be used for practice or practice games unless approved by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 6

Rental - Upon request from outside interests, the Executive Board may approval the rental of fields, for a rental fee of $500.00 per day. This rental fee covers the cost of insurance, line chalk, bases, scoreboard, lights (if needed) and use of tractor. There will be no food or refreshments brought into the complex. Ottumwa Little League will operate the concession stand with all profits being the property of the Local League.

SECTION 7

Travel Ball Teams – The league has adopted the following rules for travel ball teams wishing to use the fields covered by leases the league has signed with the City of Ottumwa:

(a) Prior to any practice or tournament, the President of the league must be contacted to receive permission for use.

(b) Cost to use each facility for practice will be $100 per day

   a. If 75% of the roster of the travel ball team contain registered and active players from the league, there will be no charge for the use of the fields for practice.

(c) Cost to use each facility for a weekend tournament will be $500 per weekend

(d) Prior to use of the facilities, each travel team will have a completed contract signed and on file with the league. All fees must be paid prior to use.

(e) Priority facility use will be given to league practices and games.

(f) No league key will be given to travel ball teams unless they are registered, active and in good standing with the league. Keys will be turned in to the league President at the end of each season.

ARTICLE XIII – AWARDS

SECTION 1

End of Season Awards – Ottumwa Little League will purchase and provide awards. End of season awards will be given during closing ceremonies.

(a) Peewee and Rookie – All participants will receive an award to the discretion of the Board of Directors.

(b) Minor / Major – the first place team in each division will receive an award to the discretion of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 1

Tournament Awards – Ottumwa Little League will provide awards to the winning team. Depending on the number of teams, an award may be presented to the second place team at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIV – TOURNAMENT PLAY

SECTION 1

Time – Voting for the All-Star team will be held the last two (2) weeks of the season.

SECTION 2

Coaches – All-Star Coaches will be identified as the team in 1st place in their division at the time of All-Star voting. The coach has the right to withdrawal their name from consideration from coaching if they desire. All final decision on coaches will be up to the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3

Format of Team – "A" All-Star teams shall consist of a minimum of twelve (12) players and a maximum of fourteen (14) players. Any variation requires District Administrator's approval.

"B" All-star teams shall consist of a minimum of ten (10) players and a maximum of fourteen (14) players that did not make the "A" all-star team. The Major / Minor managers will pick these players.

SECTION 4

Ballots – Each league head coach shall submit one (1) ballot ranking the top ten (10) players on the league teams that they deem worthy to be on an "A" All-Star team. Scores will be totaled and the ten (10) players with the highest scores will be placed on the "A" All-Star team. The Board of Directors shall do tabulation of ballots. The All-Star head coach will select the final two (2) or four (4) players.

SECTION 5

Birth Certificates - All head coaches will be responsible to provide the Player Agent with birth certificates of eligible players. Birth certificates will be accepted in accordance with Little League requirements.

ARTICLE XV - ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1

Website - Ottumwa Little League has contracted through Little League International with SportsConnect to

operate the league website.

SECTION 2

Background Check Vendor - The background check is done through JP Palatine. JD Palatine has a partnership with Little League International and also integrates with our website.

SECTION 3

Document Storage – Ottumwa Little League uses Microsoft Onedrive for all document storage.

SECTION 4

Bank – Ottumwa Little League has chosen to use South Ottumwa Savings Bank for all financial transactions.

SECTION 5

Team Apparel –

SECTION 6

Awards - Ottumwa Little League will use Crown Awards for all trophies / medals.

SECTION 7

Concession Stand Food - Ottumwa Little League will use the following food and beverage vendors:

(a) Fairway – meat, buns, perishables
(b) Coke – Holder Concession Drinks
(c) Pepsi – Kirkland Concession Drinks

Calendar of Events

December 1st - Registration Opens Online

February (Specific dates, times and location TBD) – In-person Sign-ups

March 27th – March 29th - Try-outs

March 30th - Team Draft

March 31st (Tentative) – Spring Fundraiser

April 1st - Coaching Fundamentals / Equipment Check-out

April 3rd – Practice Begins

April 15th - First Aid Training

April 22nd – Opening Day – Kirkland (American) Fields

Week of May 29th – All-Star Voting

June 30th – Closing Ceremonies

TBD - Field Cleanup Day