



# Operating Manual & Supplemental Rules

*Updated December 2026*

# Snohomish Little League Operating Manual

This document is intended to set forth general information, policies, and procedures related to the operation of Snohomish Little League (hereinafter, “SLL” or the “League”) by and through its Board of Directors (the “Board”). This document is not intended to replace the Little League International rules or the [Snohomish Little League Constitution](#) (the “Constitution”); in the event of a conflict between this document and either the [Little League International Operating Manual](#) (“LLI Operating Manual”) or the Constitution, those documents control.

The Snohomish Little League Operating Manual incorporates rules, policies, and procedures that are adopted by the Board of Directors before the first scheduled game of the season each year. These are the day-to-day operational guidelines, which support the Rules, Regulations, and Policies of Little League International and the Constitution of Snohomish Little League and may include, in addition to rules, guidelines, recommendations, or additional information. These rules expire at the end of each season and are reviewed during the off-season for changes, clarifications, or additions.

For this document, “general members” includes all players and their parents/guardians and all approved volunteers in addition to the Board.

## **Vision Statement**

Snohomish Little League’s Vision shall be to implant firmly 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 and will grow to be good, decent, healthy, and trustworthy citizens.

## **Mission Statement**

To achieve this objective, Snohomish Little League will provide a supervised program under the Rules and Regulations of Little League International (LLI). All Directors, Officers, Members, and volunteers shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games is secondary, and the molding of future citizens is of prime importance. Per Section 501-(c)-(3) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code, Snohomish Little League shall operate exclusively as a non-profit educational organization providing a supervised program of competitive baseball and softball games. No part of the net earnings shall benefit any private shareholder or individual; no substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and which does not participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

## Table of Contents

<b>Seasonal Operating Rules</b>	5
<b>Definitions and References</b>	5
Constitution	5
District 1	6
Member	6
Season	6
<b>Board</b>	6
Executive Board	6
Board of Directors	7
Board of Director Meetings	7
Expectations/Discipline	7
Complaints, Concerns, and Suggestions	7
<b>Information</b>	8
SLL Website and Social Media	8
Content	8
Personal Player Information	8
Host	8
Team Pages and Mobile Applications	8
Web Site Information and Posting Expectations	8
Photography	9
Candid Photos	9
End of Season Evaluations	9
<b>Safety</b>	10
ASAP Plan	10
First Aid/CPR	10
AED	10
General Safety Rules	11
Reporting Incidents	11
Calling 911	11
<b>Volunteers</b>	11
Background Verification	11
Privacy	12
Responsibilities and Expectations of Volunteers and Reporting Structure	12
Game-Specific Volunteers	12
Team Parent	12
Umpires	13
Concerns or Complaints: Umpires	13
<b>Head Coaches and Assistants</b>	13
Head Coach	13
Assistants	13
Responsibilities and Expectations	14
Head Coach and Assistant Selection Process	14
Expectations/Discipline	15
Concerns and Complaints: Coaches	16
<b>Concession Stands</b>	17

Food Handlers Permits	17
<b>Donations</b>	17
Employer Match (In-Kind) Donations or Grants	18
<b>Sponsorships</b>	18
Sponsorship of Individual Teams	18
<b>Parent and Player League Responsibilities</b>	18
Responsibilities of all Players	18
Responsibilities of all Parents/Guardians of SLL Players	19
<b>SLL Code of Conduct</b>	19
<b>Equipment</b>	20
<b>Uniforms</b>	20
Baseball	20
Softball	20
<b>Fields</b>	21
<b>Scheduling</b>	21
<b>Registration</b>	21
Unpaid Registration Fees	22
Refunding Registration Fees	22
Scholarships	22
<b>Divisional Details</b>	22
<b>Tryouts, Team Selections, and the Draft Process</b>	22
Drafted Divisions	22
Draft Process	23
Draft Plan A	24
Draft Plan B	25
Draft Plan C	25
Options for Sons, Daughters, and Siblings	27
Secrecy	28
Player Release	28
Player Replacement	29
Exceptions	29
<b>Assigned Team Divisions</b>	29
<b>Tee Ball Local Rules</b>	30
<b>Rookie Baseball and Softball Local Rules</b>	30
<b>AA Baseball and Softball 89ers Local Rules</b>	31
<b>AAA Baseball and Minors Softball Local Rules</b>	32
<b>Adherence to Interleague Rules (Uppers and Softball)</b>	33
<b>Variance (Playing Up or Down an Age Group) Philosophy</b>	33
<b>In-House End-of-Season Tournaments</b>	34
<b>Post-Season Tournaments</b>	34
<b>All-Stars Coaches Selections</b>	34
<b>All-Stars Player Selection Process</b>	35
<b>Footnotes</b>	36

## Seasonal Operating Rules

Before the first scheduled game of the season, the Board of Directors adopts the Snohomish Little League seasonal operating rules for that year. These rules are the day-to-day operational guidelines, which support the Rules, Regulations, and Policies of Little League. They are also considered additional

information to the League Constitution, Vision, and Mission Statement. These rules expire at the end of each season and are reviewed during the off-season for changes, clarifications, or additions. These rules will be made available at the beginning of each season for all families involved with the league. The following pages explain the seasonal rules (or bylaws) and certain operating policies and procedures SLL will be using this season.

## **Definitions and References**

### **Constitution**

It is an obligation of a responsible administration and a requirement of Little League International that every league spell out its operational format in a document usually referred to as the Constitution. The Constitution describes the duties and responsibilities of the officers of the board, the definition of membership, election procedures, and meeting requirements such as quorum, etc. No part of the Constitution can conflict with or supersede any Little League rule, regulation, or policy.

Every local Little League is required to have a valid Constitution on file at its Regional Headquarters. Any subsequent amendments or additions must be approved by the Regional Headquarters and on file there before they become valid. The local Little League board of directors must make a copy of the Constitution available to any member of the local Little League for review and inspection if requested. The Constitution of a local league remains in effect from year-to-year, without requiring annual adoption by the membership or local Little League board of directors. However, the local Little League board of directors should review the Constitution annually for any possible amendments it may wish to propose to the membership.

The Constitution is to be distinguished always from the local Little League bylaws, local Little League local rules, and local Little League ground rules. These documents expire annually at the end of the fiscal year and must be renewed annually. They can include the local board's procedures for the selection of Tournament Teams (All-Stars), specific ground rules for various divisions (such as whether the 10-run rule will be used), etc., and/or additional information relative to the operations of the local little league. Because each local Little League board of directors should have the authority to change these types of procedures, they require only Board consent, without the general membership's approval.

The SLL Constitution is available to the general membership and can be found at [www.snohomishll.com](http://www.snohomishll.com).

### **District 1**

All local Chartered Little League organizations are organized into discrete districts. District teams are those that SLL will play against in interleague play. Snohomish Little League is assigned to [Washington State District 1](#). All districts are also organized by region. District 1 is assigned to the United States Northwest Region.

### **Member**

The word "member," as used in this document as well as the SLL Constitution, is defined in the SLL Constitution.

## **Season**

For these rules, the word “season” shall mean the 12 months that include preparations for the spring baseball and softball practice, regular game, and post-season tournament schedules, as well as the wrap-up to the spring schedule and the fall ball schedule following it.

## **Board**

The SLL Board of Directors is comprised of volunteers who have varying responsibilities to facilitate league operations throughout each Little League season. Each director is selected and voted into his or her position at a Board meeting. Once approved, each director position is an active voting member of the SLL General Board of Directors, and each director position holds one vote. The SLL Board of Directors may also include certain Board members that hold non-voting positions, as allowed in the SLL Constitution.

Certain rules related to the nomination, election, and retirement of the SLL Board of Directors are outlined in the SLL Constitution. Please refer to the SLL Constitution for more information.

## **Executive Board**

The role of the SLL Executive Board is to, in cooperation with the President, manage all operations of the league, provide leadership to the general board of directors, and deal with sensitive issues.

The Executive Board of Directors for SLL is comprised of the following positions:

- President
- Vice President of Administration
- Vice President of Baseball
- Vice President of Softball
- Vice President of Finances
- Vice President of Operations
- League Player Agent

## **Board of Directors**

As explained in the SLL Constitution, SLL includes many different and varying director positions within its Board and options to exercise additions to and removal from Board positions, including changes in voting member status. A complete list of the Board of Directors and their contact information is available to the general membership and can be found at [www.snohomishll.com](http://www.snohomishll.com). Information about the approved Board of Directors for the current season, and a short list of their position responsibilities, can be found in the Constitution of Snohomish Little League.

## **Board of Director Meetings**

A responsible administration must regularly meet to discuss and address issues and to vote on matters as required. Therefore, it is incumbent upon those who seek duty and ultimately serve on the Board of Directors to attend and participate dutifully in all meetings, as appropriate.

## **Expectations/Discipline**

It is the expectation of the general membership of SLL that all persons seeking and ultimately serving on the SLL Board of Directors will, with good intention and all due diligence, serve the best interests of SLL members and represent it in the manner befitting the organization and its high standards.

The SLL Board of Directors traditionally meets once a month, with few exceptions, for approximately one hour. Certain directors may meet separately to discuss specific issues as well, and certain Directors may sit on committees that may meet in person or navigate issues for the Board via email or a designated mobile chat application. Board members should attend all meetings and be prepared to discuss issues openly and provide input as appropriate. Because of the issues that the Board will address on behalf of its general membership, it is expected that Board members will be educated about many of the aspects of Little League to allow them to make informed statements and votes.

Directors and their assigns who willfully neglect their duties to the detriment of the general membership, any group of members, or any single member, risk recourse at the discretion of the Executive Board and/or President up to and including being relieved of Board duties and possible removal of membership benefits (e.g., ability to volunteer in any fashion).

## **Complaints, Concerns, and Suggestions**

The SLL Board of Directors has assumed their positions knowingly and will dutifully serve the general membership to the best of their ability. From time to time, issues may arise that a member, player, or parent, feels needs to be addressed. The escalation procedure regarding issues related to a Board member in their volunteer capacity is:

- If you feel comfortable, discuss the issue directly with the Board member.
- If you are dissatisfied with the result, contact the Vice President to whom the Board member reports.
- If you are still dissatisfied, submit your concern in writing to the President.

Concerns will be treated with sensitivity and confidentiality to the best of the League's ability.

## **Information**

### **SLL Website and Social Media**

The Board will maintain a website and contribute to social media outlets such as Facebook and Instagram to communicate with its general membership information relative to SLL. The Director(s) of Information will maintain primary responsibility and control over the website and social media outlets. Any control assigned is subject to withdrawal.

## **Content**

Content will be related to SLL operations, will be age-appropriate for all general members, and will not contain any inappropriate language, pictures, or other improper content.

## **Personal Player Information**

Personal player information, including a combination of name, age, address, phone number, and/or parents' names, constitutes personal player information and is not to be available to the public on the website.

## **Host**

If used, a Host website will be chosen by the Board and all postings will be subject to the requirements of the Host in addition to those of SLL and LLI.

## **Team Pages and Mobile Applications**

As allowed, the Director of Information may administer a Team Pages section or provide access to a mobile app, allowing teams in each division to include team information which may include personal player information, practice and/or game schedules, notifications, pictures, etc. To the extent that any such pages are created for teams to administer, assigned administrators and/or their designated editors will abide by the same content requirements for the general website. In addition, administrators of team pages will properly protect the privacy of personal player information to not allow public access.

## **Web Site Information and Posting Expectations**

SLL has chosen Sports Connect, a separate web management community, as its host using the domain [www.snohomishll.com](http://www.snohomishll.com). Through Sports Connect, SLL can provide valuable information about the league, provide updates to parents, and share information about teams. The Sports Connect site is also situated to allow SLL players to register online. The SLL Director of Information, or Webmaster, manages and maintains the league website. Each team is also provided an opportunity to create a webpage or utilize a League-approved mobile app, such as "GameChanger." Individual teams are responsible for maintaining their sites or apps. The expectations for team media managers are:

- Only players' first names can be used on the website in areas available to the public. Pages requiring login information that is provided only to the general membership or a specific group thereof (e.g., Head Coaches/Assistants) may include player's first and last names.
- Only positive comments and encouraging words are allowed. No derogatory or sarcastic comments about players on your team, opposing teams, or coaches (even in jest) are allowed. If comments are made about any competitions, they must be positive and encouraging.
- Unless SLL receives a written request otherwise, parents and guardians registering their player for the season consent to the use of the player's likeness or image on the SLL website and League-approved mobile apps.<sup>1</sup> All pictures and images posted must be in good taste.

Violation of these expectations will result in the removal of any inappropriate content, a warning issued by the Director of Information, VP of Administration, or the President, and ultimately may result in the removal of the team media manager and/or the team website page or app itself.

## **Photography**

All members agree that photographs may be taken during league-sponsored events, practices, and games, are the property of the photographer, and are subject to distribution or reproduction.



The Board shall select a photography company to produce team and individual photos of all teams and players and shall coordinate the photographing of all teams. Parents/Guardians and/or their players are not required to purchase.

## **Candid Photos**

Players, Player Parents/Guardians, other Volunteers, Coaches, Umpires, Fans, and third-party photographers may photograph any SLL general member at any time during an SLL event (practice, game, special event, or otherwise). Any such photography is the property of the photographer.

Little League International also prohibits the posting of Little League player images on websites that are not managed by chartered Little Leagues without the direct consent of the parent or guardian and in some cases, without the consent of Little League International. For more information about posting images of SLL players as limited by Little League International, please refer to [www.littleleague.org](http://www.littleleague.org).

## **End-of-Season Evaluations**

To improve its operations, SLL will sponsor and seek comment through end-of-season evaluations. Players, parents, coaches, and the team parent volunteer role are all encouraged to provide a written evaluation of how the league is operating. All responses will be confidential if requested. Names (if provided) will not be associated with any responses. All concerns and suggestions will be used to improve the league.

## **Safety**

### **ASAP Plan**

With the help of several sponsors, Little League has developed an ASAP network of more than 5,600 safety officers working together for safety. A Safety Awareness Program (ASAP) is a grassroots program based on the communication of ideas. Leagues across the country contribute their safety ideas to ASAP News, a colorful, monthly newsletter. Safety officers can then find out what their peers are doing to make things "safer for the kids." A safety officer in Georgia may see what a Nebraska league did to maintain safety during a heat wave. A safety officer in California whose concession stand is less than orderly may use the plan for concession stand safety submitted by a New Jersey league. Introduced in 1994, ASAP has already increased Little League's overall safety awareness and reduced insurance costs for participating leagues.

Snohomish Little League will annually develop and submit its ASAP Plan and endeavor to create the safest environment possible for all its members. The SLL ASAP plan will be developed and updated by

the Safety Officer with guidance from the Vice President of Operations and other Executive Board members, as needed.

### **First Aid/CPR**

First Aid and CPR training will be made available to all general members, and general members are encouraged to take such training. All Head Coaches are required to attend or be trained in First Aid and CPR training and proof of certification must be provided on an annual basis. AED endorsement will be required for Minors and Majors Divisions and encouraged for all other levels. In the event a Head Coach cannot attend training before the start of practices, a named and board-approved coach may attend in his/her place so long as that coach attends each practice and game until the Head Coach has completed the requisite training. Failure to meet this requirement will result in suspension until the situation is rectified.

SLL offers many opportunities for Head Coaches and others to complete this process and the league cannot take shortcuts where the safety of the kids is involved. Employers as well as the local Fire Department often offer first Aid/CPR. SLL honors such certifications; the league needs only to have proof of completion on file for the volunteers. While Head Coaches are responsible for knowing and implementing this requirement, Divisional Directors, the VPs of Baseball and Softball, and the Director of Safety will partner to ensure that all volunteers required to attend such certification training do so timely.

### **AED**

SLL owns three Automated External Defibrillators, or AEDs, for the benefit of its players, members, and fans that are located at the SLL Baseball fields. SLL's AEDs are in locked housing in the East Field 5 shed, the West red equipment shed (located between West Fields 13 and 14), and the Rookie/Tee Ball shed (located at the hub of East Fields 7, 8, 9, & 10). Persons staffing the concession stands have access to the key. The AED, while equipped with instructions, is intended for use by trained individuals for the sole purpose of resuscitating an individual in severe distress.

### **General Safety Rules**

SLL believes safety is of the utmost importance. Safety for all, including players, coaches, volunteers, and attendees is everyone's responsibility. Here are some general reminders about safety for the current season:

- Players must follow coach instructions while in the dugout and on the field.
- No climbing of fences.
- Except for Tee Ball, Rookie baseball, or Rookie softball, no person who is not an umpire, coach, or player is not to be in the field of play during games.
- Children attending games as spectators should be kept out of the field of play.
- No pets, except for service animals, are allowed on SLL premises. Service animals must have a visual designation and be leashed and picked up afterward.

## Reporting Incidents

All incidents that occur at any SLL practice or game must be reported using the [SLL incident report form](#) located at [www.snohomishll.com](http://www.snohomishll.com) for insurance purposes. Incidents that are not immediately reported for one reason or another should be reported as soon as possible thereafter both by completing the form and notifying the Director of Safety, who may have further instructions.

## Calling 911

While SLL will make every effort to always keep players and attendees safe, incidents may still happen. If necessary, the first person to witness an incident in which a player or any attendee appears in severe distress should immediately call 9-1-1.

When calling 9-1-1, from any SLL field, advise the representative of your location by name and address:

- SLL East Complex physical address: 9621 115<sup>th</sup> AVE SE, Snohomish, WA 98290
- SLL West Complex physical address: 9810 115th Ave SE, Snohomish, WA 98290

Field and facility addresses are in safety signs across the SLL complex and can also be found at [www.snohomishll.com](http://www.snohomishll.com).

## Volunteers

As with any volunteer organization, the people who actively participate define the quality of the organization. SLL has been very fortunate over the years to have many highly motivated people put in countless hours to provide quality programs for the children of the community. SLL is highly dependent on its volunteers to operate the league and provide a positive experience for all players.

## Background Verification

SLL requires any volunteers who have any contact with SLL players to submit to and pass background verification through the verification company identified by LLI or chosen by SLL, satisfying the requirements of LLI. In addition, all volunteers who are in any capacity interacting with players must properly, and always, display his or her SLL identification badge. Volunteers not displaying the appropriate identification badge should be asked to immediately cease contact with the players (except his or her child) and may be asked to leave the field entirely. The person in question may risk suspension as a volunteer and/or suspension of their Head Coach until such time that the volunteer demonstrates he or she has satisfactorily passed the requisite background verification and is displaying the appropriate identification badge.

In the interest of facilitating the best experience possible for all players, SLL recommends that every parent and guardian interested in volunteering submit to the background verification process as described above. SLL believes that this practice is valuable in creating a safe environment for all players and volunteers, as well as promoting a sense of community and unity.

## Privacy

SLL will take every precaution to ensure the privacy of its member information and any details that are discovered through the background verification process. For this reason, all background verifications will be completed by the President of the league only, and any communications necessary in response to background verification will be strictly between the President and the applicant.<sup>2</sup>

## Responsibilities and Expectations of Volunteers and Reporting Structure

SLL expects that all persons volunteering will dutifully and with good intent assist and/or direct players and/or other volunteers in accomplishing SLL-related activities for which they volunteer, treat all players and other volunteers with respect, and act as a good representative of SLL always.

### Game-Specific Volunteers

**Necessary** game-specific volunteers are asked to perform specific tasks, listed below, and are the responsibility of the Head Coach of the team from which they originate. Game-specific volunteers not associated with either team in the game are the responsibility of the Home Team Head Coach.

- Scorekeeper
- Scoreboard Operator
- Announcer
- Umpire
- Field Preparation/Takedown (For intra-League games, the home team will prep the field, the away team will take down the field)

### Team Parent

Each team will have a Team Parent, whose responsibility is to assist the Head Coach and Assistants with off-the-field activities that are related to SLL and assist the Head Coach and Assistants with certain projects and communication with other parents.

### Umpires

Volunteering as an umpire is an exciting opportunity to interact with young players and coaches positively and to help with the development of all kids, teams, and the League.

Umpires are required to have completed the volunteer application process, passed the background verification, completed League umpire training, and have on their person their SLL ID Badge. However, umpires should not display their badge (for safety reasons) but rather keep their badge in their pocket and produce it when asked.

Snohomish Little League may choose to contract with an umpire service to provide trained officials for select games. These umpires are not required to complete the SLL volunteer process. The scheduling of, and communication to (including the explanation of local rules) these contracted umpires will be the responsibility of the SLL Umpire-in-Chief, once the board has approved a set budget for the service.

## **Concerns or Complaints: Umpires**

Throughout the season, concerns may arise regarding calls in a particular game, overall officiating, or other issues. It is important to recognize that SLL believes that its umpires are volunteers who have dedicated their time to make game play a great experience for all, are well-trained and well-intentioned, and SLL will ensure that they are provided with every opportunity to ensure their success.

Additionally, only the Head Coaches are responsible for communication with the umpire during and after games. Any person wishing to express dissatisfaction with any SLL volunteer umpire should submit their concern to the appropriate Divisional Director, the Umpire-in-Chief, or the President directly, identifying the teams participating in the game, the date and time, the location, and the nature of the concern.

SLL prohibits attendees from 'heckling' or harassing the umpire. Little League rules place the control of any Little League game squarely with the umpire. Inappropriate actions may result in a warning or more significant action, up to and including removal from the field.

## **Head Coaches and Assistants**

### **Head Coach**

Each team will have a Head Coach whose responsibility is to manage all on-field activities. The Head Coach will report to the Director of the division and/or the VP of Baseball or Softball (as appropriate). Head Coach responsibilities and expectations are provided by the Directors of each division and/or the VP of Baseball or Softball (as appropriate).

### **Assistants**

Teams may have one Head Coach and up to two assistant coaches; all assistants report to the Head Coach. Rosters will identify up to three coaches (one Head Coach, and two assistants) who will be officially allowed in the dugout/on the field in a game situation. Head Coach and assistant coach responsibilities and expectations are provided by the Directors of each division and/or the VP of Baseball and/or the VP of Baseball or Softball (as appropriate).

## **Responsibilities and Expectations**

- Coaches are expected to create a safe and caring environment for all players to learn, practice, and play the sport of baseball or softball. Winning is important; however, learning to lose and the ideals of sportsmanship, fair play, teamwork, safety, and fun should be emphasized in the spirit of competition. Respect for the officials is important; therefore, all coaches are required to demonstrate tolerance of officials and accept the decisions of all officials with good grace.
- Coaches shall know and abide by all rules and regulations and the Safety Code as outlined in the SLL Constitution and Operation Manual for the current season for their division.
- All coaches, to retain their positions, shall attend meetings and clinics, and participate in League functions, as established by the Board of Directors.
- Coaches shall participate enthusiastically in League fundraising efforts, sponsorship drives, and outfield banner (signage) drives.

## Head Coach and Assistants Selection Process

SLL takes the selection of all team Head Coaches and Assistants as a very important part of the league. Integrity, compassion, knowledge of baseball/softball, and the ability to lead and be a positive role model are just a few of the traits that are considered during the selection process.

The process for coach selection is as follows:

- The Baseball and Softball Vice Presidents shall nominate team Head Coaches. A list of all candidates considered for appointment shall be furnished to the President with recommendations as to team assignments for each Head Coach. To the extent possible, all Head Coach assignments shall be made before the beginning of tryouts, in those divisions that require a tryout. Each Head Coach is allowed to designate a maximum of two (2) Assistant Coaches for the roster ahead of the draft.
- Head Coaches shall be appointed annually by the President and be approved by the Executive Board, with an opportunity for the General Board to review and comment on the nominees.
- Per Little League International rules and as described above, all SLL volunteers who have contact with players are required to complete a background check. A national background check and a National Sex Offender Registry check will be run on each person.
- The President will review the results of all background checks and address any potential problems with the respective Division Vice Presidents. If the President and the respective Vice President feel it is not appropriate for the volunteer to be around players, the volunteer will not be authorized and may be denied their requested volunteer position.
- Each coach will be required to sign a Commitment Statement and Code of Conduct provided by the League. The commitment statement contains the following requirements:
  - Complete Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training at least every two years.
  - Attend SLL meetings when requested.
  - Participate in SLL functions, including tryouts, opening day, field maintenance days, and fundraising.
  - Attend SLL-sponsored clinics on coaching, rules, safety, etc.
  - Attend SLL-required training sessions.
  - Be responsible for the safeguarding and return of all SLL-issued equipment and uniforms.
  - Teach players and parents fair play, sportsmanship, and respect for opponents and umpires.
  - Work positively with SLL personnel and assist in providing an umpire core and volunteer base of parents.
  - Read and abide by Official Little League Playing Rules and SLL Local Rules.
  - Comply with SLL Zero Tolerance policy, including prohibition of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and profanity at league activities.
  - Accept the decisions of the officials with good grace and conduct themselves with dignity.
- In addition, each Head Coach shall commit to the following requirements:
  - Complete board-approved Coaches Training program when scheduled.
  - Oversee the administrative requirements of his/her team, including the roster and parent or guardian-signed medical releases, utilizing the Team Parent, as necessary.
  - Spend necessary practice and game time with his/her team.
  - Be responsible for the selection of their team and their actions on the field.

As mentioned, the Executive Board will carefully review all candidates by the following criteria:

- Previous coaching experience at the requested level ● Thoroughness and accuracy of completed application.
- Other baseball/softball experience
- A character reference check, as appropriate

It is important to note that while prior experience coaching or managing teams, including SLL teams, can factor into a decision for selection, *tenure will not guarantee a continuing coaching position*. Per the Little League International Operating Manual, the final decision to select and appoint all Head Coach and Assistants lies with the President of the League. Once the decision is made, the President will present the names to the Executive Board for approval.

### **Expectations/Discipline**

It is the expectation that coaches will, with good intention and all due diligence, serve the best interests of SLL players, parents, and members and represent SLL in the manner befitting the organization and its high standards as laid out in Section 1 and 2 in the Constitution of Snohomish Little League.

- Coaches and Volunteers who fail to abide by the code of conduct will be subject to the league disciplinary protocols.
- Players who fail to abide by the code of conduct will be subject to the league disciplinary protocols.
- A parent of a player who fails to abide by the code of conduct will be suspended for attending one game. If a parent fails to fulfill their suspension, then their player/child can be suspended for one game.
- Coaches must notify both the player agent and Vice President of Baseball or Softball of any disciplinary action taken by a coach regarding a player or parent.
- Any second infraction of the code of conduct may result in the permanent removal of the Head Coach, assistant coach, umpire, player, or parent as determined by the Board of Directors.
- League Discipline Protocol
  - Minor Offenses
    - Infractions
  - Belligerency toward a Player/Minor
  - Belligerency toward an Umpire, Coach, or Fan
  - Failure to comply with Pitch Count Reporting Requirements
    - Judicator - Division Vice President
    - Penalties
  - Written warning filed with the League Board of Directors
  - Letter of apology to affected parties
    - Serious Offenses
      - Infractions
        - A Second Minor Offense
        - Ejection from a Game
        - Interacting with players/minors while under the influence of Alcohol or Drugs
        - Disparaging of a Player, Umpire, Coach, or Fan on Social Media
        - Misuse of Social Media in the representation of Snohomish Little League

- Judicator - Division Vice President
- Penalties
  - Single Game Suspension filed with the League Board of Directors and District 1
  - Letter of apology to affected parties
- Major Offenses
  - Infractions
    - A Second Serious Offense or a Third Minor Offense ● Alcohol or Drug Use during a League Activity.
    - Physical Assault of an Adult or Minor on or off the field of play
    - Sexual Assault of an Adult or Minor on or off the field of play
    - Misuse/Embezzlement of League assets or funds
  - Judicator - League Board of Directors
  - Penalties
    - Formal Discipline review with the League Board of Directors ● Suspension of Managing/Coaching/Volunteer Privileges

## Concerns and Complaints: Coaches

Throughout the season certain concerns or complaints might arise. It is best to use the following procedure to resolve the conflict:

- Talk to your child's coach; if you're still not satisfied,
- Talk to the divisional Director; if you're still not satisfied,
- Submit your concern in writing and direct it to the respective Director of your division, the Vice President of Baseball or Softball (as appropriate), or the President.

## Concession Stands

It has long been recognized by SLL that the concession stands have been a great source of revenue for the league. To help keep league fees down as much as possible, the Board has recognized that it must maximize the potential of the concession stands to generate as much income as possible. Therefore, the concession stands are one of the league's priorities.

It has been agreed upon by the SLL Board of Directors that the various teams that make up the Little League should endeavor to assist in the responsibilities of the concession stands. SLL will designate a Director of Concessions to manage the concession stands, who will (possibly with the assistance of others) coordinate a team schedule to appropriately staff (with the help of the Director of Volunteers), order, and maintain inventory of food/supplies, and account for all expenses and receipts.

However, it will be up to the Director of Volunteers, the Baseball and Softball Vice Presidents, Team Head Coaches, and Team Parents to attempt to fill the volunteer work times, as completely as possible. A teamwork schedule (physical, digital, or online) will be provided by the Director of Concessions and/or Director of Volunteers to make available to the Team Parents. The Head Coaches and Team Parents will be responsible for filling the time slots. If assigned individuals are not available to make their assigned time, the Head Coach and Team Parent must make arrangements to fill the time slot.



The responsibility of running the concession stands starts with the opening day of the baseball season and runs throughout the regular season of SLL. Once the postseason in-house tournaments start, the responsibility of the concession stands will shift to the Divisional Director, Team Coaches, and Team Parents of the division(s) who are playing at the SLL fields or otherwise, as determined by the Director of Concessions and/or the Director of Volunteers. It is understood that the concession stands must be open for each game. Closing the concession stands due to a lack of participation is not an option. Divisions and teams that are assigned the duty of staffing the concession stands but fail to do so rendering it closed for any game risk consequences as may be determined by the Board. SLL depends upon the revenue generated from the concession stands throughout the season, and during the postseason.

## **Food Handlers Permits**

The Snohomish County Health Department now makes available the option to obtain a food handlers permit by participating in an [online training](#). While not every person who volunteers at the Concession Stands is required to have a valid food handlers permit, at least one person must and on many occasions, two are required per shift. SLL encourages all its members to complete the food handler's permit process.

## **Donations**

Donations of all kinds are accepted by SLL. SLL is a Washington State registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations (except for registration fees used to operate the league) are tax deductible. Receipts can be provided for financial gifts and other contributions, provided that the donor provides the claimed (fair market) value.

### **Employer Match (In-Kind) Donations or Grants**

Some corporations offer programs that provide an additional benefit to non-profit organizations by contributing to the organization if an employee volunteers their time. Corporations that participate in such matching (in-kind donations or grant programs) often notify their employees of these opportunities through their benefits information centers. If you volunteer for SLL and you work for a company that offers such a program, please participate in the program. SLL has an established process that allows the League to confirm your volunteerism if the Board knows that you are participating. If you have any questions or require SLL information to register for such a program, please contact the Vice President of Administration or the President.

## **Sponsorships**

SLL invites the local community of Snohomish to support the kids by becoming a league sponsor. Without the generous support of volunteers, private individuals, and business sponsorships, the Snohomish Little League's mission to provide a quality baseball and softball experience for all participants through fair opportunities for children, and to establish an ongoing foundation of support for all athletes to reach their full potential would not be possible.

### **Sponsorship of Individual Teams**

Every year requests are made by various businesses to "sponsor a team" or to provide equipment for specific teams. Bat bags, specialized hats, team jackets, and even uniforms have been offered as gifts to

specific teams. The difficulty SLL faces with these types of gifts is equity issues with other teams in the league. While some teams are fortunate to have a connection with a generous family member or a friendly business, not all teams have the same or equal opportunity. If a family or business wants to donate any type of team equipment with recognition on the equipment (such as 'donated by' or including a name or logo) they can do so under the conditions that they provide the same quality and type of equipment for all teams in the division. Alternatively, families or businesses so inclined may wish to sponsor SLL as described above.

## **Parent and Player League Responsibilities**

Little League International Baseball and Softball have had a long-standing tradition of promoting sportsmanship and fair play. Snohomish Little League expects that the League will emphasize values that stress child development, consistency, and fair opportunities for all participants. Therefore, to promote these values of Little League International, certain player and parent expectations will be followed throughout the league. Little League International provides a "[Sport Parent Code of Conduct](#)," which SLL encourages all parents, players, and volunteers to adhere to.

Some, but not all, of the responsibilities and behaviors expected include the following:

### **Responsibilities of all Players**

SLL players are expected to:

- Attempt to attend all practices and games and participate to the best of their ability.
- Always demonstrate positive sportsmanship.
- Be respectful of all teammates, opponents, coaches, umpires, and adults involved with SLL.
- Properly balance their commitment to their family, school, and team.
- Follow all rules as established by Little League International, SLL, and the individual team.

### **Responsibilities of all Parents/Guardians of SLL Players**

SLL parents/guardians are expected to:

- Make sure that players arrive at (and are picked up at) all practices and games at the appropriate time.
- Communicate directly with coaching staff if your child cannot attend practice or a game.
- Always demonstrate positive sportsmanship.
- Be respectful of all teammates, opponents, coaches, umpires, and adults involved with SLL.
- Follow all rules as established by Little League International, SLL, and individual teams.
- Communicate with the coaching staff and league officials respectfully.
- Should a conflict arise, observe a 24-hour 'cooling-off' period before addressing issues with Head Coaches, unless otherwise instructed.
- Assist players in properly balancing their commitment to their family, school, and team.
- Help to ensure that no pets, except for service animals, are allowed on SLL premises.

In today's world, schedules fill up very quickly with various commitments. Family obligations, school responsibilities, and outside activities are all recognized as viable ways to invest valuable time. Please

take the time to watch your kids closely and read the signs to determine when they have hit their limit. All families must prioritize what is important to them. Please do not let outside activities pressure you into pushing your child too far. Specialization, advanced instruction, and additional teams competing at higher levels sound attractive and beneficial. However, you must judge and decide whether at the end of the day it is worth it. Snohomish Little League is committed to the philosophy of Little League International. SLL is about child development, fairness, and creating positive lifetime memories.

## **SLL Code of Conduct**

The following includes paraphrased examples from the Little League International [Sport Code of Conduct](#) along with Snohomish Little League-specific expectations:

- The use or possession of any alcoholic beverage or illegal drugs on SLL property is strictly prohibited. Violation of this will result in a formal discipline review with the League Board of Directors and may result in suspension of managing, coaching, and/or volunteer privileges. The use of tobacco in any form is prohibited in all areas of the SLL complex.
- Screaming or yelling at or towards anyone in the league for reasons other than to get someone's attention is prohibited.
- Profanity will not be tolerated.
- Demeaning, humiliating, or undignified comments towards players, umpires, parents, or fellow coaches under any circumstances are strictly prohibited.
- Speed Limit 5 MPH (walking speed) in roadways and parking lots while attending any SLL function. Watch for small children around parked cars.
- No Playing on or around lawn equipment (No one under the age of 18 may operate any of the motorized equipment. Only individuals trained and approved by the Director of Fields and Facilities may operate motorized equipment on SLL property).
- Glass containers are prohibited due to safety, littering, and equipment damage considerations.
- Everyone is responsible for ensuring that all debris and litter is placed in containers as provided. (Plastic garbage bags are available in the storage sheds).
- No throwing rocks.
- No horseplay on walkways or spectator areas at any time.
- No climbing fences or "fence batting" (this includes batting baseballs into the fences or backstops).
- No pets, except service animals, are allowed on SLL premises. Service animals must be leashed and picked up afterward.

## **Equipment**

SLL makes a considerable yearly investment in providing the best equipment available for all players. It is expected that all participants will treat the league equipment with proper care and respect. The Director of Equipment (and/or the Board of Directors if necessary) will coordinate the issuance, replacement (as necessary), and return of all equipment in a manner that they determine appropriate to manage the inventory responsibly.

## Uniforms

SLL makes a considerable yearly investment in providing the best uniforms available for all players. SLL players are expected to be appropriately dressed for each practice and game and to consider inclement weather when selecting attire. While practice and game attire may vary by division, in general, some guidelines are below. As with all other information about your baseball or softball season, make sure you listen to and check with your Head Coach or Assistants as necessary for the best information.

- Appropriate shoes – in general, all players should wear cleats. Cleats may not be appropriate for Tee Ball and/or specific practices.
- Jewelry – if it may interfere with your play or another player's, jewelry must be removed.
- Shirts/Sweatshirts - garments that fit loosely or have hanging strings should not be worn.
- Any garments that include inappropriate images or words are prohibited.
- Male athletes playing in the divisions including Rookies and above are required to wear athletic supporters. Athletic cups are required for all male catchers.

## Baseball

Baseball game uniforms include an SLL-issued game shirt or jersey and an SLL-issued hat. Uniforms also include player-provided baseball pants, belts, socks, and cleats. Check with your Head Coach or Assistants to see if there are any color recommendations for undershirts and socks. All players must be in-game uniform to play, and all players on a team must be in matching uniforms for games.

## Softball

Softball game uniforms include an SLL-issued game shirt or jersey and SLL-issued socks or visors. Uniforms also include player-provided softball pants, belts, and cleats. Check with your Head Coach or Assistants to see if there are any color recommendations for undershirts. All players must be in-game uniform to play, and all players on a team must be in matching uniforms for games.

## Fields

Maintaining SLL fields and keeping them safe for all players is a large responsibility for the league which generally falls on the Director of Fields and Facilities, and the team Head Coaches and Assistants but should be shouldered by all members. It's easy to help keep the fields in good condition. By following some basic and common-sense rules, everyone can help keep costs low, retain the ability to use the fields, and ensure a safe environment for all players and those that come after them. Volunteers may gain approval to operate motorized field maintenance equipment by contacting the [Director of Fields and Facilities](#).

## Scheduling

SLL schedules the start of the season - by division - with the intent of accommodating as many practices as possible and games for each division that are appropriate for the age and ability group of the division. By the size of the league membership, SLL requires the use of many fields throughout the season to accommodate the practices and games desired. As a result, scheduling can be a challenge.

SLL makes every attempt to schedule field use as far in advance as possible and fairly among all divisions as appropriate. However, there will be times when changes must be made. Therefore, all player parents need to be alerted to any notifications of field changes that may be disseminated by the Head Coach or an Assistant. SLL will take steps to limit changes to the extent possible and appreciates player and parent understanding and flexibility with any changes that may occur.

## Registration

Registration is completed online and is available by visiting [www.snohomishll.com](http://www.snohomishll.com). Online registration typically opens in November and closes in February. SLL will hold a minimum of one information night in January for upper divisions and February for lower divisions that offer parents and guardians an opportunity to speak with Board members and learn about varying volunteer opportunities, including managing or coaching a team, and ensures that any player who may have unanswered questions about registering or playing ball can visit with the appropriate player agent.

To register online, a parent or guardian must include all requested information and follow all online instructions. Before beginning the registration process, it is important to note that there are two qualifying requirements for SLL:

- League Age
  - Please refer to [LL guidelines](#) for age rules.
- Eligibility Boundaries:
  - Players must live within the Snohomish Little League boundaries, listed on the [Little League International website](#).

OR

- For Snohomish Little League, the following public schools are located within the SLL boundary: Cascade View Elementary, Cathcart Elementary, Central Elementary, Dutch Hill Elementary, Emerson Elementary, Little Cedars Elementary, Machias Elementary, Riverview Elementary, Seattle Hill Elementary, Totem Falls Elementary, Centennial Middle School, Valley View Middle School, Glacier Peak High School, and Snohomish High School. Some private or parochial schools are also located in the Snohomish Little League boundary.

You can verify your home league at [www.littleleague.org](http://www.littleleague.org).

## Unpaid Registration Fees

In some cases, players may move up a division after registration and therefore must pay additional registration fees. SLL asks that parents and guardians make every effort to pay registration fees. In the event there is a remaining balance it will carry over to the next year. The previous year's balance must be paid before the player is draft-eligible.

## Refunding Registration Fees

Except for the Sports Connect processing fee, a full refund of registration fees will be available before the first practice. After the first practice and up to the first game, 50% of registration fees (minus Sports Connect processing fees) will be eligible for a refund, pending review by the Board of Directors.

## Scholarships

SLL accepts applications for scholarships in situations of financial hardship. All scholarship requests must be made to the President, in writing, and will be reviewed and approved or denied by the President. All scholarship information will remain confidential.

In return for providing the scholarship, SLL may ask that the recipient volunteer in some manner that is generally valued the same as the amount of scholarship provided.

## Divisional Details

Please visit [www.snohomishll.com](http://www.snohomishll.com) to view updated baseball and softball divisions of SLL, including a brief overview of the season objectives for players in each division and information detailing the general age groupings, practice and game frequency, team selection, and variance limitations.

## Tryouts, Team Selections, and the Draft Process

### Drafted Divisions

A series of tryouts will be held for players in the following divisions:

- Seniors Baseball
- Seniors Softball
- Juniors Baseball
- Juniors Softball
- Intermediate Baseball
- \*Majors Baseball
- Majors Softball
- Minors Baseball
- Minors Softball

Exceptions:

- Tryouts need not be held if there are only enough players for one team in that division, and if the number of registrations for that Division does not exceed the maximum roster size allowed in the rulebook.
- \*Players need not tryout if the player was on a Majors Baseball team the previous year.

General guidelines for baseball tryouts are:

- Tryouts will be held rain or shine.

- Players should arrive at least 15 minutes before tryout time to register and warm up.
- All players trying out for Majors or Minors must attend the tryout sessions.
- Intermediate, Juniors, and Seniors players must attend one tryout to be eligible for All-Stars.

General guidelines for softball tryouts are:

- Tryouts will be held rain or shine.
- Players should arrive at least 15 minutes before tryout time to register and warm up.
- All players trying out for Majors or Minors must attend tryouts.
- Majors and Minors players must attend one tryout to be eligible for All-Stars (does not apply to returning Majors players).
- Intermediate, Juniors, and Seniors players must attend one tryout to be eligible for All-Stars.
- Be prepared to stay longer than the planned session.

## ***Draft Process***

### **1. Player Selection**

1.1 The selection of players is based on Sections III, IV, and V and the Operating Policies of the Official Little League Regulations, Playing Rules, and Policies.

### **2. Eligible Players**

2.1. Only those candidates who are registered by the deadline established by the Board of Directors and who have attended 50% of the tryout sessions are eligible for the draft selection process. Any player failing to attend at least 50% of the tryout sessions shall forfeit draft eligibility and be designated as a hat pick.

2.2. Transfer players from other Little Leagues who have played at a Major Division level may be given special consideration, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, for the opportunity to play at a Major Division level for Snohomish Little League.

2.3. Pull Up Requests (i.e., requests for a player to be drafted into a division other than they attended tryouts for) must be submitted in writing 48 hours before the draft and must include parent/guardian consent. The Player Agent approves/denies pull-up requests and determines if approved pull-up players are eligible or ineligible for the draft.

2.4. Non-draft eligible players will be blind drafted in the last rounds of the draft as hat picks.

2.5. The Player Agent is the final arbitrator of which players are eligible or ineligible for the draft.

2.6 Players with outstanding fees owed to the league will be declared ineligible for the draft.

### **3. Draft Plan A – Conventional Draft Plan**

3.1. Established teams draft in the reverse order of the previous complete regular season finish (not including playoff or tournament games) in every round. In the event there were ties, a

random draw between teams involved will determine the order. All drafts will be conducted from the same pool of eligible players.

3.2. Each Head Coach requiring eight (8) players before the draft to complete the roster will be allowed one bonus pick after round four. A team with nine (9) roster openings shall have bonus selections at the end of the fourth and fifth rounds. A team with ten (10) roster openings shall have bonus selections at the end of the fourth, fifth, and sixth rounds. A team with eleven or more roster positions open shall have bonus selections at the end of the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh rounds. If more than one Head Coach is allowed bonus picks under this rule, the order of selection will be identical to that being followed in the draft.

3.3. If a League is expanded by one or more teams, the Board of Directors shall devise an equitable method for filling the roster of the expansion team or teams. The process shall be determined as soon as possible following registration and before the draft. The circumstances of the expansion shall be considered in determining the expansion draft process. For example, if the existing teams have older, more experienced players, the Board should consider a method that would give each new team a nucleus of older experienced players. Such a process may involve a redistribution of players from existing teams. Expansion teams will be given priority draft order in each round. If there is more than one expansion team, the draft order of the expansion teams will be determined by a blind draw.

3.4. If the number of teams is to be reduced, the Board of Directors shall determine which team is to be deleted from the division. The Board shall consider factors such as the number of returning players, returning Head Coaches, or any other factors deemed appropriate to determine which team shall be dissolved. All current players affected must be reassigned by a preliminary draft to other teams before the regular player draft involving new candidates. The order of draft will be in the reverse order of finish from the previous season. The regular draft involving new candidates will begin once the preliminary draft is complete.

3.5. The Player Agent will provide lists of eligible players before the drafts and ensure that each player is selected for a team. For Majors teams, each team must have the minimum number of 12-year-olds per local rule I.4.3

3.6. The draft shall be stopped by the Player Agent at the appropriate time to allow for placement of players ineligible for the draft (such as those who did not attend one of the tryout sessions). The Player Agent will then complete the rosters by assigning any ineligible players to teams using a blind draw (hat pick).

3.7 There are no buddy requests under the Conventional Draft Plan.

#### **4. Draft Plan B – Redraft Plan**

4.1. Team Head Coaches shall select from a list of eligible players. The order of the draft shall be determined by blind draw. This draft order shall be used in odd-numbered rounds. In even numbered rounds, the draft order shall be reversed (a Serpentine Draft).



4.2. The roster size of each team shall be set by the Board of Directors before the start of the draft. The Player Agent shall determine requirements for age distribution of each team to ensure that teams are reasonably evenly distributed by age. Head Coaches may draft players in any order they see fit but must adhere to any age distribution requirements imposed by the Player Agent. The draft shall continue until all roster positions are filled.

4.3. All Players returning to a division shall be drafted to a team in that division. If several returning players have not been drafted by the time that same number of draft picks remain, those returning players shall be the only players eligible from that point forward in the draft (for example with 5 picks left in the draft, 5 returning players are undrafted. Those 5 players become the only eligible players for the remainder of the draft and must be drafted).

4.4. The draft shall be stopped by the Player Agent at the appropriate time to allow for placement of players ineligible for the draft (such as those who did not attend one of the tryout sessions). The Player Agent will then complete the rosters by assigning any ineligible players to teams using a blind draw (hat pick).

4.5 There are no buddy requests under the Redraft Plan.

## 5. Draft Plan C – Vested Redraft Plan

5.1. The Vested Redraft Plan reflects the team-first philosophy of the Snohomish Little League and is intended to enable players & families to stay together during their Little League experience throughout all the Upper Division leagues. (AA, AAA, and Majors)

5.1.1 The implementation of the legacy program at AA and AAA will begin with a FRESH draft in 2026, and the legacy program will become an option for families when registering for the 2027 season.

5.2. Parents/Guardians may request their player to stay (Legacy) with the same group of players/coach from the previous year's regular (spring) season team or re-enter the draft via the registration form or by otherwise notifying the Player Agent. All comments are confidential and will not be shared with Head Coaches or Assistants.

5.3. If a group of players from the previous year's regular season (spring) team requests to stay together in the same Division and that team's Head Coach is not returning, the player agent will strive to keep that

group of players together under a new Head Coach or as part of a new team. But in most circumstances the players will have to return to the draft.

5.3.1. Players are allowed to request to vest with a group of players and their coach that is progressing divisions. It will be up to the league player agent to determine if all players are at minimal skill and age for the new division. If you're unable to progress divisions, you will re-enter the draft at the current division.

5.3.2. If a player, or group of players move up a Division without their Coach, they will re-enter their new Division's draft. If a player, or group of players, choose to stay in their current division, but their Coach is moving up a division, they will re-enter the draft in their current Division.

5.4. There are no buddy requests under the Vested Redraft Plan

5.5. There are no Head Coach/Assistant requests under the Vested Redraft Plan.

5.6. All requests for player vesting or team reassignment will be reviewed and decided on by the League President, Player Agent, and Division Vice President.

5.7. Vested player draft round assignments: To maintain balanced teams and stimulate games, all vested players will be assigned to draft rounds based on the player's assessed ability. All vested (Legacy) players must attend Evaluations.

5.7.1. Via Evaluations, President, Vice President, Coaching Coordinator and Divisional directors to evaluate players and share those evaluations with the Player Agent. The Player Agent uses the attending league board member evaluations to compile a balanced skill assessment for each player and slots all players into one of the 12 draft rounds.

5.7.2. Before the start of the draft, vested (Legacy) players are assigned to their teams based on their draft round assignments. For example: Joey K. is slotted into the 3rd draft round by the player agent, so Joey is filled in as his Head Coaches 3rd round draft pick. If two or more players align to the same draft position, the additional players will be assigned to the next subsequent draft position.

5.8. For the remainder of the draft, Head Coaches shall select from a list of eligible un-vested players. The order of the draft shall be determined by blind draw. This draft order shall be used in odd-numbered rounds. In even-numbered rounds, the draft order shall be reversed (a Serpentine Draft).

5.9. All players must be drafted into Legacy at all levels. (in other words, for a player to be eligible to legacy back onto a team, they must have gone through at least one draft in their SLL career). As such, NEW teams being formed from players and coaches moving from A to AA must start fresh with a new draft.

5.9.1. NEW Head Coaches forming NEW teams at AA, AAA and Majors are allowed to have 2 Assistant Coaches for their first season. For subsequent legacy seasons, Head Coaches will be allowed ONE Assistant Coach. (Exception: NEW Head coaches at the Majors division will be allowed ONE Assistant Coach for the 2026 season ONLY).

5.10. The Player Agent may establish requirements for age distribution of each team to ensure that teams are reasonably evenly distributed by age.

5.11. All Sons, Daughters, and Sibling Options from Part III.6 of the Local Rules apply to the Vested Redraft Plan.

5.12. In the Minors draft all available 10, 11, and Regulation V-waivered 12-year-old players shall be drafted to a Minors team. Nine-year-old players must have one (1) year of Farm experience before being drafted to a Minors team.

5.13. In the Farm draft, all available 9-year-old players shall be drafted to a Farm team. Eight year-olds must have one (1) year Rookie of experience before being drafted to a farm team.

5.14. In the event registration is insufficient to support the Minors and Farm divisions, a single draft will be held for all teams in the Minors division. The draft will proceed in the same manner, except that the player pool will include available 9, 10, and 11-year-old players. Any approved 8 year-old players available under the provisions of part I.4.7 of the Local Rules can be drafted at any time, provided sufficient roster positions are reserved for 9, 10, and 11-year-old players.

## **6. Options for Sons, Daughters, and Siblings**

Once the Board of Directors has approved a Head Coach, he/she is eligible to coach for the upcoming season. The below rules will dictate draft day scenarios for the Snohomish Little League, in order of priority:

6.1. SONS/DAUGHTERS OF HEAD COACHES: If a Head Coach has children eligible for the draft, they must be taken with the last draft pick of the age group that the player is being drafted in. Multiple children by that coach slot into the last available pick of the players' age groups. The Parent/Head Coach option takes priority over any other option.

6.2. SONS/DAUGHTERS OF ASSISTANTS: If an Assistant Coach has children eligible for the draft, they must be taken with the first draft pick of the age group that the player is being drafted in. Multiple children by that coach slot into the first available pick of the players' age groups.

6.3. BROTHERS/SISTERS IN THE DRAFT: When there are two or more siblings in the draft, and the first sibling is drafted by a Head Coach, that coach automatically must draft the other brother or sister. The Head Coach must use their first available draft pick (in the sibling's age group) on that brother or sister.

6.4. BROTHERS/SISTERS OF PLAYERS CURRENTLY ON A TEAM: If desired, a Head Coach shall submit an option on a draftee if the player candidate's brother or sister is a member of that coach's team. If such an option is exercised, the Head Coaches MUST draft the sibling with their first available pick of the sibling's age group. (applicable if a vested option on the sibling's team is exercised).

## **7. Length of Ownership (if the League institutes the Legacy program):**

7.1. Each player selected to a Little League Majors roster shall, for the duration of his or her Little League career, be the property of the team making the acquisition, unless subsequently traded or released. Draft re-entry for Major divisions may be allowed at the discretion of the Board of Directors after review of specific circumstances which would warrant such an action.

- 7.2. Each player selected to a Senior, Junior, Intermediate, Minors, or Farm roster shall be the property of the drafting team only for the duration of one (1) playing season.
- 7.3. The Board of Directors shall reserve the right to claim a player whose residence changes after becoming a member of the League as provided for in Regulation II (d) of the Official Regulations of Little League. However, the best interests of the child should be taken into consideration by the Board in exercising this right.
- 7.4. Following the draft, Head Coaches may, if they desire, complete up to four (4) player trades until seven (7) days after the draft has been completed or the start of the regular season, whichever is later. All trades shall be made through and with the approval of the Player Agent. All trades must be player-for-player only and may only be conducted within the same division. Trades involving a player for draft choices are not permitted. Only the Player Agent may directly contact parent(s) and player(s) involved in a trade. The Player Agent must monitor any attempts by Head Coaches or parents to manipulate the system and thus create an imbalance in the League. The Board of Directors may disallow any trade that, in their sole judgment, creates a competitive imbalance, was not done for a justifiable reason, or was otherwise conducted improperly.
8. **Secrecy:** Players shall never be told the order in which they were selected. Violation of this rule shall result in disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.
9. **Player Release:** The Player Agent must be notified if there is an extended absence of a player and if a player is lost to a team during the playing season for any of the following reasons:
  - 9.1. He/she moves to another city or state too distant to commute for practice and play;
  - 9.2. He/she is injured and will not be able to return to play within a reasonable period of time to be determined by the Board of Directors;
  - 9.3. He/she has missed three (3) consecutive games;
  - 9.4. He/she has for personal reasons decided to terminate his/her association with the team;
  - 9.5. Any other justifiable reason must be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.
  - 9.6. In such circumstances, the Head Coach of the team losing a player shall promptly advise the Player Agent. The Player Agent shall advise the President and the Board. If the loss of a player is approved, the President will send a letter of release to the player and the parents stating that the player is released from the senior or Major League team and the League for a justifiable reason. This action creates a legitimate opening for a replacement on the team roster.
  - 9.7. Note: Failure by the Head Coach to inform the Player Agent of a player's continued absence should result in disciplinary action against the Head Coach.
10. **Player Replacement:** If a roster position opens on a team, the Head Coach of that team will make every effort to fill that position within three (3) days of its opening. The Player agent shall keep a

list of replacement players shared only with the League President and Division Vice President. The Head Coach shall review the list and select a replacement player. Example: A player brought up to a Senior/Major division from a Junior/Minor division shall be considered the Seniors /Majors division team's property and shall stay on the team's roster. In this instance, the player replaced must be released, will not be eligible for regular or post-season play, and is returned to the draft pool the following year.

10.1. Call-ups from the Minors divisions to the Majors division are prohibited during the last two weeks of the regular season.

## **11. Exceptions:**

11.1. A Major division team playing in a postseason tournament may use a player from a Minordivision level to avoid a forfeit situation. To be eligible, the player's Minor Division level team must have completed all regular-season and postseason play, the player will not be allowed to pitch and will not remain the property of the Major Division team. A player need not be dropped from the Major division team roster to make room for the lower-division player.

11.2. Players who register late will be placed on a waiting list if there is no team opening at the appropriate level. Those players shall be listed in the order they registered with the Player Agent. The waiting list shall remain confidential, accessible only by the respective Player Agent and the League President. If a position should open on a roster during the regular season, it must be filled by the first age-appropriate player on the waiting list. Little League intends to provide a playing opportunity for all who are interested. An attempt will be made to find a roster position for every interested player.

## **Assigned Team Divisions**

The following divisions will have their teams created by the divisional director. This information will be sent to the divisional player agent who will keep the official records for the league:

- Tee Ball
- Rookies (coach pitch)
- Softball Rookies
- Softball 89ers
- Challenger

Every effort will be made to place players on the team of his or her choice, if one is made, first by buddy request, Coach request, and finally by school. It is understood that baseball and softball have very important social implications for team selections. Playing with friends and kids from your school or neighborhood may be a priority. However, once a team is full, exceptions cannot be made. As necessary, teams may be re-balanced and new teams created.

## **Tee Ball Local Rules**

Tee Ball will be played according to the official minor league regulations and playing rules along with the local rules set forth and approved by the SLL Board of Directors.

1. The home team will occupy the third base dugout and the visitors will occupy the first base side.
2. Both teams will be responsible for preparing and maintaining the field before and after games. This includes raking all dirt areas, installing, removing, and properly storing bases and other equipment, and cleaning up all trash in and around the dugouts and field. The home team will prepare the field and the visiting team will break down the field.
3. Each team is allowed 10 minutes for warm-ups, beginning with the visiting team. Warm-ups are to start NO LATER than 20 minutes before the assigned game time.
4. On-deck batters are not allowed.
5. An APPROVED coach or volunteer of the defensive team will act as umpire for each half-inning.
6. Players will be alternated between all positions, including infield and outfield positions, and may not play any one position more than two innings. If safety is at stake, placement of fielders will be done using the Head Coach's best judgment and prior notification to the player's parents and the League Safety Officer.
7. The batting order will contain the entire roster of players that are present and will be rotated for every game.
8. Game length is 4-6 innings. No inning is to start after 1 hour 30 minutes.
9. Stealing of bases is not allowed and runners are not to advance on overthrows.
10. Rainouts may be made up if both Head Coaches agree. The home team's Head Coach will take responsibility for scheduling the makeup game. Contact the League Scheduler for field availability. There are no league standings and game scores are not kept.
11. Gameplay rules for specific divisions:
  1. Tee Ball 1 Division
    - a. The tee will be used at all times.
  2. Tee Ball 2 Division
    - a. Each batter will be pitched three (3) balls by an APPROVED coach only. No parents are allowed to pitch to the players. The ball will be pitched overhand only. After three thrown pitches, if the batter is unsuccessful at putting the ball in play, the tee will be used until the ball is successfully put into play.
    - b. It is encouraged that teams bat half of the roster each half inning to speed up the game flow when coaches are pitching.

## **Rookie Baseball and Softball Local Rules**

Single A (Rookie) baseball and softball will be played according to the official minor league regulations and playing rules along with the local rules set forth and approved by the SLL Board of Directors. **If SLL Rookie baseball or softball is involved in interleague play, then district interleague rules will prevail.**

1. The home team will occupy the third base dugout and the visitors will occupy the first base side.
2. Both teams will be responsible for preparing and maintaining the field before and after games. This includes raking all dirt areas, installing, removing, and properly storing bases and other equipment, and cleaning up all trash in and around the dugouts and field. The home team will prepare the field and the visiting team will break down the field.
3. Each team is allowed 10 minutes for warm-ups, beginning with the visiting team. Warmups are to start NO LATER than 20 minutes before the assigned game time.
4. On-deck batters are not allowed.
5. Each team will provide an APPROVED adult coach to pitch for their team. Additionally, these coaches will act as umpires for each half-inning. The rulings by these umpires are final. There are not to be any arguments or disagreements from coaches, parents, or players. Any rule

clarification (not judgment calls) should be handled with the Head Coach requesting a time-out and a quiet and quick discussion at the mound. If the issue cannot be resolved quietly and quickly the call stands and play continues. There will be no game protests, though a request for clarification can be made to the SLL Umpire-in-Chief.

6. Each batter may receive 5 pitches. A missed third swing or fifth pitch constitutes a strikeout. If the fifth pitch is hit foul, the batter will remain batting if the previous pitch is fouled off. There are no walks. The pitch should replicate as near as possible a player-thrown pitch. For baseball, this means that a coach-thrown ball must be overhand, with a speed that allows for the trajectory to be fairly straight.
7. If the ball is batted and is hit at the coach, it is the coach's responsibility to avoid the ball. If the ball hits the coach, the batter is awarded first base and the play is dead. All base runners will advance one base.
8. Players **MUST BE** alternated between all positions, including infield and outfield positions, and may not play any one position more than two innings, except Catchers may play up to 3 innings at that position. If safety is at stake, placement of fielders will be done using the Head Coach's best judgment and after notification to the player's parents and the League Safety Officer.
9. The batting order will contain the entire roster of players that are present and will be rotated for every game. **The side is retired when three outs have occurred, or five runs have crossed the plate. The five-run rule remains in effect throughout the game.** There is no 10 or 15-run rule in effect.
10. The batter and base runners may advance on a ball hit into the outfield (ground ball or fly ball) until the ball has been returned to the infield, even if it is not yet under control by the defensive team. If baserunners left the prior base before the ball was returned to the infield (in the judgment of the umpire), those baserunners may continue to the next bag. The batter and all base runners are at risk of being put out at all times. Extra bases cannot be taken on an overthrow.
11. Stealing of bases is not allowed.
12. Outfielders must be a minimum of 15 feet from the base line at the time the pitch crosses the plate.
13. Outfielders may not receive a ball to complete a force play at any base.
14. Game length is 4-6 innings. No inning is to start after 1 hour 45 minutes.
15. Minimum playing time on defense will be 3 innings. Games called due to rainouts and/or darkness may be made up if both Head Coaches agree. The home team's Head Coach will take responsibility for scheduling the makeup game. Contact the SLL Scheduler for field availability. There are no league standings.

## **AA Baseball and Softball 89ers Local Rules**

Double A (AA) Baseball and Softball 89ers will be played according to the official minor league regulations and playing rules along with the local rules set forth and approved by the SLL Board of Directors. **If SLL AA Baseball or Softball 89ers are involved in interleague play, then district interleague rules will prevail.**

1. The home team will occupy the third base dugout and the visitors will occupy the first base side.

2. Both teams will be responsible for preparing and maintaining the field before and after games. This includes raking all dirt areas, installing, removing, and properly storing bases and other equipment, and cleaning up all trash in and around the dugouts and field. The home team will prepare the field and the visiting team will break down the field.
3. Each team is allowed 10 minutes for warm-ups, beginning with the visiting team. Warmups are to start NO LATER than 20 minutes before the assigned game time.
4. On-deck batters are not allowed.
5. Each team will designate players to pitch to the opposing team. An opposing batter can either strike out via the player pitcher or hit the ball into play. If the player pitcher throws 4 balls, an APPROVED adult coach will take over the pitching duties and inherit the count from the player pitcher. The coach can deliver up to 3 pitches to the player, depending on the inherited count, until the ball is hit into play or if the batter strikes out - whichever comes first. An at-bat can continue beyond the 3 maximum pitches if they are fouled off. There are no walks.
6. If the ball is batted and is hit at the coach, it is the coach's responsibility to avoid the ball. If the ball hits the coach, the ball is considered in play.
7. Bunting is prohibited when the coach is pitching.
8. Players MUST BE alternated between all positions, including infield and outfield positions, and may not play any one position more than two innings, except Catchers may play up to 3 innings at that position. If safety is at stake, placement of fielders will be done using the Head Coach's best judgment and after notification to the player's parents and the League Safety Officer.
9. The batting order will contain the entire roster of players that are present and will be rotated for every game. **The side is retired when three outs have occurred, or five runs have crossed the plate. The five-run rule remains in effect throughout the game.** There is no 10 or 15-run rule in effect.
10. Stealing of bases is allowed once the pitched ball crosses home plate, with the exception that players cannot steal home.
11. The ball is considered dead when the pitcher has the ball and is on the mound.
12. Outfielders must be a minimum of 15 feet from the baseline at the time the pitch crosses the plate.
13. Outfielders may not receive a ball to complete a force play at any base.
14. The game length is 4-6 innings. No inning is to start after 1 hour 45 minutes and there is a hard stop at 2 hours.
15. Minimum playing time on defense will be 3 innings. Games called due to rainouts and/or darkness may be made up if both Head Coaches agree. The home team's Head Coach will take responsibility for scheduling the makeup game. Contact the SLL Scheduler for field availability.

## AAA Baseball and Minors Softball Local Rules

Triple-A (AAA) baseball and softball (Minor League) will be played according to the official minor league regulations and playing rules along with the local rules set forth and approved by the SLL Board of Directors. **If SLL AAA baseball or Minors softball are involved in interleague play, then district interleague rules will prevail.**

1. The home team will occupy the third base dugout and the visitors will occupy the first base side.
2. Both teams will be responsible for preparing and maintaining the field before and after games.



This includes raking all dirt areas, installing, removing, and properly storing bases and other equipment, and cleaning up all trash in and around the dugouts and field. The home team will prepare the field and the visiting team will break down the field.

3. Each team is allowed 10 minutes for warm-ups, beginning with the visiting team. Warmups are to start NO LATER than 20 minutes before the assigned game time.
4. On-deck batters are not allowed.
5. The batting order will contain the entire roster of players that are present and will be rotated for every game. The side is retired when three outs have occurred, or five runs have crossed the plate. The five-run rule remains in effect throughout the game.
6. The uncaught (dropped) third-strike rule will take effect in the second half of the season.
7. A batter must remain with both feet in the batter's box until completion of the pitch unless attempting to get out of the way of a ball thrown directly at the batter. Any player stepping out of the batter's box before the pitch is completed shall receive a warning from the umpire. Each subsequent occurrence shall result in a called strike unless the pitch thrown is illegal.
8. Outfielders must be a minimum of 15 feet from the base line at the time the pitch crosses the plate.
9. Outfielders may not receive a ball to complete a force play at any base.
10. Game length is 4-6 innings. No inning is to start after 1 hour 45 minutes and there is a hard stop at 2 hours.
11. Minimum playing time on defense will be 3 innings. Games called due to rainouts and/or darkness may be made up if both Head Coaches agree. The home team's Head Coach will take responsibility for scheduling the makeup game. Contact the SLL Scheduler for field availability.

## **Adherence to District Interleague Rules and Regulations**

For all other SLL Divisions, including but not limited to Majors, Intermediates, Junior and Senior Baseball, and Majors and above softball divisions, the most current Little League Rulebook, and interleague rules by District 1 Little League. This information can be found at [www.littleleaguewad1.org](http://www.littleleaguewad1.org).

## **Variance (Playing Up or Down an Age Group) Philosophy**

Each year there are several requests made for younger players to play up an age division. Frequently, these requests are made for many of the following reasons:

- My child is bored at their assigned level and I want him/her to be challenged.
- My child's athletic ability and skills are far more advanced for kids his/her age.
- My child is so much bigger than other kids his/her age.
- My child has transferred from another league and they are far more advanced than SLL.
- I want my child to play with the same team and coach as last year.
- My child wants to be with friends from school and this will help with carpooling issues.
- I want my two children on the same team because it will be easier to transport them to one practice.

With all due respect and consideration to all these very viable reasons, it is the policy of Little League International not to move kids into other age group divisions unless highly exceptional circumstances exist. This is done primarily for the following reasons:

- Little League International believes in age grouping, not ability grouping, for players.
- There can be safety issues involved with younger kids playing with older kids.
- Although a player might have advanced skills, that does not mean their emotional skills are advanced.
- It can be frustrating for older kids to compete with younger kids.
- Moving kids into another age division might create an imbalance in age group teams.

For these reasons and others, SLL takes variance requests very seriously. If a player's parent wishes for their child to play in any division other than the age-appropriate division, the player's parent must first register the player for the age-appropriate division, pay the registration fee for the age-appropriate division, and then submit a written variance request. Variance requests must be made in writing each year to the league President. All variance requests are subject to review, which may include the required written variance request, past coach recommendations on placement, a skills assessment performed by unaffiliated league officials, and/or other factors as determined by the President, VP of Baseball/Softball, and/or the League Player Agent. Variance requests will be reviewed and responded to before the first practice; players who are selected to play up a division will be notified, and parents/guardians will be asked to pay any remaining registration fee for the appropriate division. While all review and critique will be considered, final determinations for variance requests are at the sole discretion of the President.

## **In-House End-of-Season Tournaments**

Following the regular season, younger divisions (Tee Ball, Softball/Baseball Rookies, Softball/Baseball Minors teams) will all play in an in-house SLL end-of-season tournament of varying formats. These tournaments are scheduled at the Snohomish Little League complex and are designed to give the kids a fun way to end the season.

Majors Baseball and Softball divisions may also play an in-house tournament before participating in district tournaments, as decided by the VP of Baseball and VP of Softball.

## **Postseason Tournaments**

Majors division teams and/or AAA/minor division teams with the best regular season (as determined by record) may move on to the District 1 Baseball and Softball Tournaments of Champions (TOCs). These tournaments are usually announced in late May and can last into mid or late June.

Softball and baseball Intermediate, Junior, and Senior programs, along with the Majors teams not invited to TOC, may also be invited to postseason tournaments held at various District 1 sites.

## **All-Stars Coaches Selections**

- Any recognized coach who has met Little League eligibility requirements (attendance of at least 50% of the scheduled games) and the above coaching requirements is eligible to manage an All-

Stars Team. Prospective candidates must submit a letter of intent to the Vice President of Softball and Baseball, respectively, at a date determined by the executive board.

- All-Stars coaches shall be nominated by the Vice President of Softball and Baseball, respectively, (or All-Stars Coaches Selection Committee) and be approved by the Board of Directors.
- Each approved Head Coach may recommend two (2) All-Stars assistant coaches from among any of the other coaches who coached during the regular season, to their respective League Vice President. Each League Vice President shall recommend to the Board of Directors, who must give final approval to the Head Coach and any assistant coaches for the All-Stars Teams.
- All coaches will respect the All-Stars team selection process as established by SLL.
- The League desires that the broadest level of support be given to the All-Stars coaches and team during the practice period before the tournament. Should the designated All-Stars Head Coach be unable to fulfill the commitment of coaching the All-Stars team, the Board will select a replacement All-Stars Head Coach.

## **All-Stars Player Selection Process**

1. All-Stars Players will be selected by an All-Stars Committee. All Star Teams are consistent with Little League International guidelines which allow for a team of league age 8, 9, or 10-year-old combined (10U), as well as a 9, 10, or 11-year-old (11U), and 10,11, 12-year-old Little League combined (12U) team(s).
  - 1.1.1 The Softball All-Stars Committee will include the President, the Vice President of Softball, the League Player Agent, the Softball Director, Softball Coaching Coordinator, and other player agents as deemed appropriate by the Board, the chosen All-Stars Head Coaches, and a Board representative, if there are no divisional directors available.
  - 1.1.2 The Baseball All-Stars Committee will include the President, the Vice President of Baseball, the League Player Agent, the Baseball Director, Baseball Coaching Coordinator, and other player agents as deemed appropriate by the Board, the chosen All-Stars Head Coaches, and a Board representative, if there are no divisional directors available.
  - 1.1.3. Representation of noted positions which make up either Committee which are filled by individuals who also have an eligible player shall result in recusal of that individual from any decision-making processes affecting their player child.
2. To be eligible for All-Stars selection:
  - 2.1.1 Softball players must be on the active roster of a Minor Division or above team. The team must have completed competition in a minimum of 12 games and an eligible player must have participated in a minimum of 8 of those games before All-Stars rosters are turned in to District 1 officials.
  - 2.1.2 Baseball players must be on the active roster of a AA Division or above team. The team must have completed competition in a minimum of 12 games and an eligible player must have participated in a minimum of 8 of those games before the All-Stars roster is turned in to District 1 officials.
3. Players with accounts that have outstanding debt to the League will not be eligible for selection.

4. Ballots will be provided to all All-Stars eligible teams by the League Player Agent to allow coaches and players to vote for 6 teammates. League Age 8 (or League Age 9 for 89ers softball) players will be nominated and voted for by their respective coaches, only. These ballots will be

presented to the All-Stars Committee for each respective league, for reference in determining the All-Stars Teams.

5. To determine the best players to be selected for the teams, eligible players receiving the top votes (total number of eligible players to be decided by the committee) will be invited to a tryout.
6. All-Stars players must have demonstrated throughout the season through behavior and performance, to have the skill level, mental and emotional focus, commitment, and desire required to best represent SLL in a competitive postseason atmosphere. Coaches' votes will carry extra weight in the decision process for selection of the respective league's All-Stars teams.
7. It is encouraged that 12 players be selected. However, participation levels may dictate 14 players as the maximum.
8. The All-Stars Committee shall preside over the selection and placement of players to teams. No player will be selected using favoritism (i.e.: son or Head Coach's own team player).
9. Chosen rosters are to be presented to the General Board for approval before being released.

## **Footnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> *Little League Baseball and Softball prohibits the posting of images or likenesses of players on a Chartered local Little League's website without receiving written permission from the player's parent or guardian. SLL uses a negative response acknowledgment during its registration process, which requires that the parent or guardian agree that unless they submit their request otherwise in writing to SLL, they consent to the use of their player's likeness, image, and/or name on the SLL website.*

<sup>2</sup> *If the President is unable to perform his or her duties, the person designated by the President to act in his or her stead will perform the background verifications.*

