

Organization Bylaws 04/19/26

Austintown Community Baseball
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Article I – Name

The name of the organization, herein after referred to as the "League," or "ACB," shall be known as Austintown Community Baseball.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of the league shall be to provide a supervised program of baseball and softball games to the youth of Austintown Township and any other area included in any of its charters.

Article III – Membership

Members include the Board of Directors, Managers, Coaches, and Authorized League Volunteers. Conditions of Membership include a background check with passing results, successful completion of the Concussion Awareness course, Abuse Awareness course, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Course (Lindsay's Law) and proper training in the usage of an AED. Membership is subject to termination after written notification of the reason, and after the Board of Directors hearing on the conduct of representatives detrimental to the League.

Any Board of Director member who resigns or is asked to resign before his/her term is fulfilled, shall not be eligible to hold any board position for the remainder of that season, and for the entire next season.

Article IV – Stakeholder Voting/Final Authority

Final authority in all matters necessary to carry out the purpose of the League, including any matter brought forth to the board to be voted on, the amendment of bylaws, and/or annual elections, shall be done if there is a quorum of 50% + at least one (1) or more members of the Board of Directors by either in-person meeting attendance or by absentee ballot/internet poll. If electronic internet polling is used, the vote shall be considered closed at seventy-two (72) hours after the initial posting. Any proposed motion(s) shall pass if resulting in 50% + at least one (1) or more "in favor of" those who cast a vote, provided the quorum was met. In the event of a tie, the League President shall be the final authority on a matter, unless the vote involves the President, then the Vice President shall cast the vote to break the deadlock. In the case that both the President and Vice President are involved, the executive board votes again minus involved parties being voted upon.

Article V – Board of Directors Elections

The annual Board of Directors re-organization ***nomination meeting*** shall be held each year on or before the last day of September. Eligible nominations for Board of Director positions at this annual meeting will be accepted from the floor from eligible members (as defined in Article III). Members are not permitted to nominate themselves. Nominations shall be closed at the conclusion of the September meeting. Nominations may be accepted for only one executive board position. Board of Director Nominees will be placed on a ballot for voting at the October Board of Directors re-organization election meeting, or by absentee ballot.

The annual Board of Directors re-organization ***election meeting*** shall be held each year on or before the last day of October. Voting eligibility from members (as defined in Article III) will be

based on attendance at 2/3 of the general board meetings from November 1st of the previous calendar year through September 30th of the current calendar year. Failure to attend any monthly meeting that is a result of attending any League sanctioned event will not count against the board member.

Any current board member who is not seeking re-election in any capacity, and who is vacating from the board for the following year, is prohibited from voting, with the exception of tiebreaker circumstances addressed in Article IV above.

Voting shall be a secret written ballot. The President shall appoint a three person committee from the present Board of Directors to conduct the election, tally votes, and declare the winner for each position. An election committee member who is a nominee shall abstain from conducting and/or ruling on his/her own election result.

Absentee ballots must be submitted to three (3) person committee no later than seven (7) days prior to the election. Said three (3) person committee makes a ruling on any emergency situation with regard to missing the election meeting.

Article VI – Board of Directors Positions

Terms for each Board member shall be 1 year in length, beginning November 1st and ending October 31st. Board members will be considered for termination if they miss three (3) consecutive Board of Directors meetings without a valid reason. Any vacancy in the Board of Directors shall be filled by the Board at their next regularly scheduled meeting or by the League President in the event there is a lack of a quorum at the next Board meeting. In the event of the necessity to immediately fill these vacancies, they may also be voted on by the use of internet polling, or whichever remote communication medium the board is currently using.

So as to eliminate bias, whenever reasonably possible, it is preferred that positions are not held where he/she has children participating under the guidance of said position. I.E. Directors of divisions his/her children are members of.

1. **League President**
    - Shall schedule and preside over all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors.
    - Power to preside over a meeting shall include the decision to recognize a motion, the second to a motion if any, to recognize who has the floor, to limit discussion of an issue or motion, and to call for a vote on a motion.
    - Eject anyone in attendance from a meeting if necessary so an orderly meeting can be conducted.
    - Shall have the authority to assign all other duties and responsibilities necessary to accomplish the purpose of the league.
    - Together with the Treasurer, shall secure the League's annual property, medical, and liability insurance coverage, as well as administer the annual financial budget.
    - Shall administer the League's charter membership requirements and perform the duties of being the main liaison between the league and the chosen national baseball organization, to carry out the mission of both parties.
    - Shall be responsible for the League's operating policy and procedure administration.

2. **League Vice-President**
   - Shall assume the duties of the League President in his/her absence at meetings or when a vacancy occurs in the League President position.
   - Responsible for the development of each season's practice, indoor training center, game, and field maintenance schedules.
   - Shall provide oversight for the Field Maintenance Managers for all matters concerning the yearly upkeep of all facility grounds and non-playing equipment.

3. **Secretary**
   - Responsible for the preparation, record keeping, and posting of the Board of Director's meeting minutes.
   - Custodian of the League's non-financial records.

4. **Treasurer**
   - Responsible for the preparation of all League's financial reports and records required by law or the League's constitution.
   - Responsible for the record keeping and custodian of financial reports and records.
   - Responsible for all receipts and disbursement of League money.
   - Shall supply oversight to the Concession Managers for all financial matters concerning the concession stand operations.
   - Shall attend any league function where payments are exchanged.

5. **Director of Boys**
   - Responsible for all matters concerning not otherwise the responsibility of another Board of Directors member.
   - Shall also jointly certify with the Player Agent, a list of eligible players within each age group.
   - Chairperson of the Boys Executive Committee and shall preside over their meetings.
   - Shall provide oversight to the Assistant Directors of Boys for playing rules development and interpretation.
   - Together with the Safety Director and Director of Girls, shall plan and schedule the presentation of the annual coaches' safety clinic.
   - Shall be responsible for attending any outside meetings with other communities regarding interleague rules and/or scheduling of games.
   - Shall be the tournament director if the league holds its own boys tournament on site.

   Together with the Assistant Director of Boys, responsible for the following:
   - All matters concerning the 4–18-year-old boys programs.
   - Responsible for the planning and execution of the yearly skills assessment/draft prior to each season.
   - Communicates with the division managers under his/her guidance.
   - Presides over the All-Star Selection process and prepares the post-season tournament plans.
   - Shall be the main liaison between the League and the current Tri-T Interleague Governing Body for ages 13+.

6. **Director of Girls**
    - Responsible for all matters concerning not otherwise the responsibility of another Board of Directors member.
    - Shall also jointly certify with the Player Agent, a list of eligible players within each age group.
    - Chairperson of the Girls Executive Committee and shall preside over their meetings.
    - Shall provide oversight to the Assistant Directors of girls for playing rules development and interpretation.
    - Together with the Safety Director and Director of Boys, shall plan and schedule the presentation of the annual coaches' safety clinic.
    - Shall be responsible for attending any outside meetings with other communities regarding interleague rules and/or scheduling of games.
    - Shall be the tournament director if the league holds its own girls tournament on site.

    Together with the Assistant Director of Girls, responsible for the following:
    - All matters concerning the 4–18-year-old girls programs.
    - Responsible for the planning and execution of the yearly skills assessment/draft prior to each season.
    - Communicates with the division managers under his/her guidance.
    - Presides over the All-Star Selection process and prepares the post-season tournament plans.
    - Shall be the main liaison between the League and the current Tri-T Interleague Governing Body for ages 13+.

7. **Player Agent**
    - Responsible for maintaining a list of all eligible players.
    - Responsible for maintaining a copy of each player's birth certificate.
    - Shall jointly certify player eligibility and age group with the Director of Boys and Director of Girls prior to the season.

8. **Safety Director**
    - Responsible for all league safety matters including but not limited to: field safety, equipment safety, player safety and safety related playing rules.
    - Together with the Director of Boys & Director of Girls, responsible for the scheduling and coordinating of each season's coaches' safety clinic.
    - Shall be the single point of contact for all reportable safety incidents from League participants.
    - Submits the league's annual safety plan and tracks required coaches certificates.

9. **Umpire Director**
    - Responsible for all matters concerning the boys' and girls' umpires.
    - Responsible for hiring the season's umpires and scheduling their games.
    - Responsible for the approval of umpire time sheets.
    - Responsible for the monitoring of umpire competency and coordinating their training.

10. **Fundraising/Sponsorship Managers**
    - May consist of up to 2 positions on the Board of Directors.
    - Responsible for all league approved fundraisers.
    - Responsible for obtaining personnel, supplies and advertising for all fundraising events.
    - Responsible for all league sponsorship agreements and/or partnerships with outside entities, including the ordering and placement of all sponsorship advertising signs.

11. **Concession Managers**
    - May consist of up to 6 positions on the Board of Directors, contingent upon the needs of the league.
    - Responsible for the operation of all concession stands.
    - Responsible for the purchases of concession stand sellable goods.
    - Shall be responsible for the establishment of each season's menu and their respective selling prices.
    - Responsible for the scheduling of parental volunteers to effectively operate the concession stands.
    - Responsible for communicating with the Board of Health for annual licensing.

12. **Field Maintenance Managers**
    - May consist of up to 4 positions on the Board of Directors, contingent upon the needs of the league.
    - Responsible for the maintenance of all League fields.
    - Responsible for the care of all non-player equipment (i.e. tractors, bases, etc.)
    - Responsible for the scheduling of parental volunteers to effectively operate the field maintenance schedules, with the assistance of the Vice President.

13. **Player Equipment Director**
    - Responsible for all matters concerning players' equipment and uniforms.
    - Responsible for the care, storage, inventory, disbursement and collection of all player equipment.
    - Responsible for obtaining bids and processing Board approved purchases for equipment and/or uniforms.

14. **Information Officer**
    - Responsible for all League communication via social media, newspaper, and internet.
    - Responsible for the maintenance and updating of the League's website.

15. **Assistant Director of Boys**
    - Shall assume the duties of the Director of Boys in his/her absence in situations and at meetings or when a vacancy occurs in the Director of Boys position.

    Together with the Director of Boys, responsible for the following:
    - All matters concerning the 4–18-year-old boys programs.
    - A member of the Boys Executive Committee.
    - Responsible for the planning and execution of the yearly skills assessment/draft prior

to each season.
- Communicates with the division managers under his/her guidance.
- Presides over the All-Star Selection process and prepares the post-season tournament plans.
- Shall be the main liaison between the League and the current Tri-T Interleague Governing Body for ages 13+.

16. **Assistant Director of Girls**
    - Shall assume the duties of the Director of Girls in his/her absence in situations and at meetings or when a vacancy occurs in the Director of Girls position.

    Together with the Director of Girls, responsible for the following:
    - All matters concerning the 4–18-year-old girls programs.
    - A member of the Girls Executive Committee.
    - Responsible for the planning and execution of the yearly skills assessment/draft prior to each season.
    - Communicates with the division managers under his/her guidance.
    - Presides over the All-Star Selection process and prepares the post-season tournament plans.
    - Shall be the main liaison between the League and the current Tri-T Interleague Governing Body for ages 13+.

Article VII – Standing Committees

There shall be the following committees in addition to any committees appointed by the League President:

League Executive Committee:
The committee is authorized to make all decisions necessary to carry out the purpose and management of the League that cannot wait until the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting. A report of all actions shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors at the next meeting.

The committee is limited to approving total expenditures of $2,500.

Committee Members:	President – Chairperson	Safety Director
	Vice President	Player Agent
	Treasurer	Director of Boys
	Secretary	Director of Girls

Boys Executive Committee:
The committee is authorized to make all decisions necessary to the administration and operation of boys' baseball that cannot wait until the next Board of Directors meeting. A report of all actions shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors at the next meeting for approval or rescission.

The committee is responsible for the review, revision, and presentation to the Board of any playing rule changes for the upcoming boys' baseball season.

The committee is limited to approving total expenditures of $250.

Committee Members: Director of Boys – Chairperson
Assistant Directors of Boys
Vice-President

Girls Executive Committee:
The committee is authorized to make all decisions necessary to the administration and operation of girls' softball that cannot wait until the next Board of Directors meeting. A report of all actions shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors at the next meeting for approval or rescission.

The committee is responsible for the review, revision, and presentation to the Board of any playing rule changes for the upcoming girls' softball season.

The committee is limited to approving total expenditures of $250.

Committee Members: Director of Girls – Chairperson
Assistant Directors of Girls
Vice-President

Financial Committee:
The committee is authorized to make all decisions necessary to carry out the purpose and management of the League that cannot wait until the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting. A report of all actions shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors at the next meeting for approval or rescission.

The committee is responsible for the development of each year's operating budget. The committee is limited to approving total expenditure of $1,000.

Committee Members: President (Co-Chair)
Treasurer (Co-Chair)
Vice President
Equipment Director
Concession Manager Rep
Field Maintenance Manager Rep

Registration Committee:
The committee is responsible for the planning, preparation, and execution of the League's player registration activities each season. Activities of this committee are:

- Community advertisement for registration dates.
- Prepare all necessary forms for player registration (i.e., player information, medical release, liability waiver, uniform sizes, etc.).
- Acquire uniform samples of various sizes for registration day player fitting.

The committee is limited to approving total expenditure of $250.

Committee Members:	Player Agent – Chairperson	Secretary
	Director of Boys	Director of Girls
	Fundraising/Sponsorship Managers	Information Officer
	Equipment Director	

Protest Committee:
The committee is authorized to investigate, report on, and make all decisions necessary to carry out a final ruling regarding any game that a manager protests.

Committee Members:	President-Chairperson	Director of Boys (If regarding boys matter)
	Vice President	Director of Girls (If regarding girls matter)
	Player Agent	
	Umpire Director	

Article VIII – Bylaw Amendments

Any member has the right to propose amendments to the Bylaws. Any proposed amendments must initially be presented in writing at a Board of Directors meeting. Immediately following the initial presentation, it must be made available for all absent board members via posting of minutes and/or posted on whichever board communication medium is being used for the current season. The proposed amendment is then eligible for a vote at the next month's board meeting. Any changes are effective immediately.

Article IX – Parental Volunteer Responsibilities

Austintown Community Baseball is an entirely volunteer run organization. All the revenue generated by registration fees, sponsorships, fundraisers, and concessions is 100% reinvested back into the league for the youth of our community. These funds go towards operating, maintaining, and improving the league properties, buildings, and fields. Parental Volunteers cooperating in assisting the league with these activities, as well as the volunteer work to maintain the fields, is necessary and truly appreciated by the entire organization. As a condition of registering each player, the following requirements must be met to make this a successful community youth organization now and into the future.

Concession Stands
All parents/guardians/representatives (16yrs and older) of every player (excluding Pony and Colt, whom play offsite) are responsible for working in the concession stand at Champ Park and Libbee Field on specified days. This includes all games during the regular season, post season playoffs, and non-league tournaments held at our facilities.

Each family is intended to have an equal amount of games to work. Typically each family should work no more than three times per season. No children under 16 years of age are permitted in the concession stand.

Working the concession stand consists of opening approximately 1 hour prior to game time, working the counter during the game, cleaning, restocking, closing, and locking the stand after the games have ended.

A board member will be scheduled to open and close the concession stands each day. The board member closing the concession stand and a second person (non-relative) are responsible for counting the money upon closing and communicating sales with the league treasurer.

Field Days:
Each team will be assigned no more than 2 field days to help in maintaining the baseball fields and common grounds of our parks. Activities may include, but are not limited to: weed whacking, brooming/blowing out dugouts, dragging fields, and picking up litter. The team managers are responsible for informing his/her parental volunteers when their dates are to help do the various maintenance activities per the direction of the Field Maintenance Managers.

Schedules:
Parents will be required to sign up for their concession shifts after the season schedule is made available, but before the start of the season. They may choose to sign up for any dates based on their personal preference and availability. Schedules for the concession stand duty and field days will be made available and posted on social media and/or the league's website.

If a parent is unable to attend his/her scheduled concession day, or the game is rained out, please contact a member of the concessions committee to assist in rescheduling the date.

No Call/No Show:
If a parent fails to show up without attempting to reschedule in advance, his/her child will not be permitted to play in his/her team's next scheduled game. On a second occasion of failing to show, his/her team will forfeit their next scheduled game. Managers are required to enforce this policy. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this rule.

Opt-Out: If a parent/guardian finds that it is impossible to sign up to volunteer for his/her required duties due to work schedules, child care arrangements, and/or family dynamics, he/she may choose to pay to the league, a pre-determined opt-out fee for the season. The league will use this money to reimburse student volunteers from our community to fulfill the absent parental volunteer duties for him/her.

Exemption: Managers aren't required to work the concession stand but are required to participate in the team field day.

Article X –Player Eligibility/Pool Players

If any team does not have enough players to participate in a scheduled game, advance notice must be given to the opposing manager and both managers must make every attempt to reschedule their game with the assistance of the Vice President. If a game cannot be rescheduled, it must be reported to the league as soon as reasonably possible so accommodations can be made. All registered league players are eligible to play in any league sanctioned game in their respective division or in 1 division older. Refer to **Little League Regulation V-Selection of Players.** In addition, pool players are not permitted to pitch. They must bat last in the lineup and occupy the Right Field position. No member of the team may be substituted off the field in exchange for the pool player.

Article XI – Boys and Girls Teams Selection Process: Coach Pitch, Minors, Majors/Intermediate

The goal of the Austintown Community Baseball & Softball Teams Selection Process is to create a competitive balance for each team to participate in on a yearly basis. The objective of the draft's format is to equalize the playing talent across the participating teams. Each season, all teams will be selected based on the following process to achieve this objective.

Manager/Coach Selection: After the posted dates of the registration period have officially closed, managers are voted on by The Board of Directors from the master list of all applicants during the registration period. Once the managers are selected and notified the week prior to the draft, they will then pre-select and designate their assistant coach(s) to join their teams. All members or volunteers shall be considered for an assistant coaching opportunity after the pre-selection process (provided he/she successfully completes the criteria in Article III).

For drafting purposes, the following applies to the managers' limits of pre-selected designees:
Coach Pitch: Manager + (2) Pre-Selected Designated Asst Coaches
Player Pitch Minors, Majors, Intermediate: Manager+(1) Pre-Selected Designated AsstCoach

Skills Assessment: Immediately prior to the draft, all managers from the age group and his/her Pre-Selected Designated Assistant(s), as well as ALL PLAYERS are required to attend the skills assessment session. This session will allow every player the opportunity to bat, field, and throw, so that the managers and pre-selected designated assistants can identify the players and assess their abilities. EXCEPTION: Managers and/or Pre-Selected Designated Asst coach(s) child(ren) whom were All Stars the previous year are EXEMPT from attending the skills assessment, as they will be automatically placed in the draft per the guidelines below. If they were NOT a member of an All Star team the previous year, they MUST attend. Regardless of All Star status, they will automatically become members of the Manager's team.

> **Failure To Participate:** Any player who has not previously participated in the league and does not attend the required pre-draft skills assessment, shall forfeit his/her eligibility for the standard draft selection procedure. The player will be assigned to a team after all eligible players have been drafted, by drawing his/her name and placing the player on the next available team in the established draft order. The league reserves the right to make exceptions to the random assignment for the betterment of the league, the player, and the player's family, to avoid potential conflicts.

All Star Players: Each team in the draft room will be provided with rosters from the previous season's All-Star teams, with the goal being for each team to have an equal number of these players. For the purposes of identifying and defining these players in the draft, the following applies:

- **Senior All Star:** A returning member of the age division's all-star team from the previous season.

- **Junior All Star:** A member of the all-star team from the previous season in the younger age group.

1. If any of the manager's or his/her designated assistant coach(s) child(ren) are **Senior All Stars**, those children are automatically placed in the draft as that Manager's top pick(s).

2. If any of the manager's or his/her designated assistant coach(s) child(ren) are **Junior All Stars,** those children are automatically drafted as that Manager's next pick(s) once all the Senior All Stars have been drafted.

3. If the manager's or his/her designated assistant coach(s) child(ren) were NOT members of the previous season's All-Star team, those players will be "inserted" in a location determined by a discussion amongst all the managers regarding that player's talent level and anticipated draft round selection. If a mutual agreement cannot be made, the final decision is made by the board members assigned to monitor the draft process.

***Coach pitch division ONLY**- Many of the younger players are not yet known by all the managers. The number of available returning All-Star players from the previous season may not allow for each team to have an equal number of these players. The player agent will provide a populated list from the previous season's 6- & 7-year-olds who were not selected to the All Star team but were agreed upon by the managers to likely make it the following season.

Team Sponsorships: Certain businesses requesting connection to a particular participant must be tagged prior to the draft and selected based on number of teams and sponsors available. The league will make every effort possible to honor these requests, but it is not guaranteed to be met due to possible discrepancies in balancing of roster numbers throughout each age group. Board members assigned to monitor the draft process for each division shall be responsible for ensuring proper balance of sponsorships.

Relatives: In the event that there are two or more siblings (including step relations, anyone living at the same address, or biological cousins with proof) entered in the draft, the following policy applies:

- Prior to the draft, the relatives are identified and communicated to each of the Managers.

Managers drafting a player with relatives are required to select the remaining relatives in the draft. The managers will mutually agree on the location the other relatives will be inserted into their draft order.

Draft Process:

1. Per Little League rules no draft shall take place without at least 2 Executive Board members being present. Only board members, managers, and his/her designated assistant(s) are permitted to be in the draft room.

2. Each team will have an equal number of players at the end of each round however each team may not have an equal number of players at the conclusion of the draft.

3. In order of league seniority, each team will select a "numbered pill" to determine the sequential draft order. The most senior manager draws first, down to least senior manager drawing last.

4. A "Snake Draft" rules format is used based on the draft order from step 3. The first round starts with the team who drew the highest numbered pill, then progresses in sequential order to the team who drew the lowest numbered pill. With back-to-back picks, the second round begins with the team who selected the lowest numbered pill, then progresses in sequential order to the team who drew the highest numbered pill, and so forth. This order will continue until all players are selected.

5. It is recommended, but not required, that the drafting begin with the previous season All Stars (from the provided rosters) being selected first, then proceed in the drafting of oldest players to youngest players until the list of available players is exhausted. **It is imperative in the player pitch age groups that managers balance their rosters with pitching and catching capabilities.**

6. All draft selections are final and no player trades are permitted.

7. The indoor/field practice days/times are then selected by the managers inversely of the drafting order.

Article XII – General Playing Guidelines, Equipment, & Safety Requirements/Rules

1. Baseball bats are to be marked with USA Certification only. Softball bats are to be marked with a BPF of 1.20 only.

2. Ages 4-9 All batters/base runners must wear helmets with caged facemasks.

3. Ages 10+ (after 1 yr of player pitch) batters/base runners are permitted to have helmets with C-Flaps in lieu of caged facemasks.

4. All pitchers in T-ball and Coach Pitch must wear a batting helmet with a face mask and a chest protector/heart guard.

5. All catchers in every age group must wear shin guards, chest protectors, and catcher's helmet with mask and dangling throat guard. Boys at the catcher position must wear protective cups.

6. Jewelry is prohibited from being worn by any player during a game.

7. All player uniform jerseys must be tucked into their game pants and hats are to be worn frontwards.

8. No On-Deck Batter except for Intermediate Division (boys 11-13).

9. No throwing the bat - After one team warning the next batter from that team to throw a bat will be called out.

10. Any runner interfering with an infielder attempting to field a ball will be called out.

11. The scorekeeper for each team shall be responsible for recording the pitch count for each pitcher for both teams. At the end of each ½ inning the scorekeepers from each team will confer to confirm both the pitch count for that inning and total pitches accumulated for the game. The home team's pitch count is considered the official pitch count for the game.

12. Immediately following the conclusion of each game, both managers are required to report pitch counts to the league.

13. If the ball hits the batter, a courtesy runner may be used. The batter will be substituted with the player who made the last out.

14. Full roster continuous batting orders apply.

15. All players will play a minimum of six (6) consecutive outs in the field.

16. Infield fly rule, dropped 3rd strike, and balks apply for ages 11+.

17. Only the manager may question an umpire's call.

18. No swearing or foul language is to be used. The penalty is automatic ejection.

19. Managers are responsible for addressing unacceptable behavior by their coaches and fans.

20. Lightning delays will follow the official Little League Policy. Umpires have discretion regarding rain delays.

21. Games suspended due to weather, darkness, etc. will be resumed at the point the game is postponed unless it is considered a completed game according to Official Little League Rules.

22. The league reserves the right to NOT make-up cancelled games based on lack of field availability and/or team schedules.

23. Unless otherwise noted, all Official Little League Regulations and Rules apply for each respective division.

Article XIII-- Season Playing Rules: T-Ball Division

1. Each batter will receive six (6) pitches (any combination, overhand or underhand) to put the ball into play. After six (6) pitches, a tee will be used until the ball is put into play.

2. All players will play in the field on defense. A normal infield at normal depth (P,1B,2B,SS,3B) without a catcher will be placed, with the remainder of the players in the outfield.

3. Once the ball is put into play, runners may advance, plays may be made. Infielders may attempt a play at a base rather than displaying the ball above their head.

4. Time called/Play dead - "PROPERLY DISPLAYED BALL" - Ball held with the barehand over the head with full arm extension in the infield in fair territory. Player must yell "TIME."

5. No lead offs or leaving the base early.

6. When advancing the bases, the runner must have at least one (1) foot past the halfway mark before the defensive player displays the ball properly and calls for TIME in order to be granted the base he/she is advancing to. If not, the runner(s) must go back to the previous base(s).

7. Teams will use a continuous batting order and innings will conclude when each player on a team has completed an at-bat or three outs are made, whichever comes first.

8. Youth pitchers must be positioned near but behind the coach pitcher before the pitch is delivered.

9. If a batted ball hits the coach pitcher, the ball is considered dead and the pitch does not count towards the "pitch count."

10. Games will be four (4) innings or one (1) hour, whichever comes first. After forty five (45) minutes either manager may call the game if he/she decides appropriate attention and focus has been lost.

11. NO SCORE WILL BE KEPT! This level is about teaching the children the fundamentals of baseball, good sportsmanship, and HAVING FUN!

Article XIV – Boys Season Playing Rules: Coach Pitch (6/7/8) Division

1. **Umpires:**
   - **a.) Regular Season-** In the absence of official umpires, the nearest offensive base coach or defensive fielding coach will make the call. A coach from the opposing team must confirm the call. If there is a disagreement on a call, there is to be a stop in play until both teams can mutually resolve the conflict.

   - **b.) Playoffs only**-Each team in the age group will supply 1 umpire for the other games they are not participating in so each playoff game has 2 or more umpires. If any call is in question, the umpires will confer to a mutual agreement.

2. **Coaches**:
   - **a.) Defensive Field Coaches-** while playing the field, each team is only permitted to have 3 coaches on the field of play. These coaches are to be positioned in Left Center, Right Center, and behind home plate, to assist the catcher in order to speed up gameplay.

b.) Offensive Coaches- while batting, each team is only permitted to have 3 coaches on the field of play. These coaches are to be positioned at first base, third base, and pitcher. Only the base coaches may communicate with the baserunners.

c.) Coach Pitcher-

1. The pitching distance is to be 35' from the back point of home plate to the front of the rubber. The Coach Pitcher must maintain contact with the rubber at all times, including the delivery of the pitch.
2. He/She must refrain from communicating with the baserunners and the batter- once the ball is put in play.
3. If a batted ball hits the adult pitcher, the ball is considered "dead" and does not count in the pitch count.
4. Each team may make one adult pitching change per inning.

3. **Batting & Baserunning:**

a.) Each batter will get 6 pitches to put the ball in play and will continue getting pitches if the last pitch is hit foul.

b.) No leadoffs or leaving the base early. The runner must be on the base until the bat meets the ball. After one warning has been given, the next runner from that team leading- off will be called out.

c.) Obstruction of any runner advancing to a base will give that runner the base they were advancing to plus the next one.

d.) Overthrows (ball thrown out of play or hits the fence) will allow runners to advance one base beyond the one they were running to or standing on. Overthrows that stay in play and don't hit the fence are considered live balls.

e.) When advancing the bases, runners must have at least one foot past the halfway hash mark before a timeout is called by a fielder, in order to secure the base they were running to. If the lead runner is not past the hash, he/she and the runners behind the lead runner, must go back to the previous base(s).

4. **Fielding:**

a.) Youth pitchers must play in a position within 5' of the coach pitcher, and must be positioned behind him/her before the pitch is delivered.

b.) No player may play the same position for more than two innings in a game. (Regular season only).

c.) Player Field placement- Outfielders must be positioned a minimum of 12' (4 adult steps) from the infield dirt.

- When either team has 10 players at any given game, the game will be played as normal with 4 outfielders and a catcher. OF positions are LF, LC, RC, & RF. No rovers.
- When either team has 9 players at any given game, that team will play the game with 3 outfielders and a catcher. OF positions are LF, CF, & RF. No rovers
- When either team has 8 players at any given game, that team will play with 2

outfielders and a catcher. OF positions are LC & RC. No rovers.
- A game will be forfeited by a team with seven or less players.
- In order to prepare for the next level it is recommended that the catcher assumes a normal squatted stance and location behind home plate to field the coach's pitches.

d.) Play Stoppage - In order for timeout to be called to stop the current play, one of the infielders must possess a PROPERLY DISPLAYED BALL (his/her fully extended arm overhead with the ball in bare hand in the infield in fair territory) and yell TIME! A timeout will be called by an umpire and the play will be dead. Outfielders cannot run into the infield to stop a play.

e.) Fielders may attempt a play on a runner rather than putting their hands in the air, but runners will be able to advance on any attempt that results in an overthrow. Once a timeout is called, no more plays may be made on a runner.

5. **Game Duration:**
   - Regular season games will be six (6) innings or two (2) hours whichever comes first.
   - Playoff games will be six (6) innings with NO time limit.

6. **Run limits**:
   - For innings 1 through 5: Maximum (5) runs per inning or three outs whichever comes first.
   - For inning 6 and beyond unlimited runs per inning.
   - The game is official if a team is up by 10 runs after 4 innings or 8 runs after 5 innings

Article XV – Boys Season Playing Rules: Minors (9/10) Division

1. **Game Duration (regular season only):**
   - Games will be six (6) innings. A new inning cannot start after two (2) hours from the official start of the game. The home plate umpire is responsible for keeping the official time of the game.

   Game Duration (playoffs only):
   - Games will be six (6) innings with NO time limit.
2. Four (4) outfielders will be used with no rovers.

3. Stealing home is permitted as described by Little League Minor League Division Rules.

4. A game may not start with less than 8 players per team. If a team plays a game with 8 players, the 9th position in that team's batting order is considered an "out" when that position in the batting order is reached. There will be a 15 minute wait period from the official start of the game.

5. **It is IMPERATIVE that all coaches and managers strictly follow the daily Little League Pitch Count and required days of rest guidelines!**

6. **Run limits**:
    - For innings 1 through 5: Maximum (5) runs per inning or three outs whichever comes first. For inning 6 and beyond unlimited runs per inning.
    - The game is official if a team is up by 10 runs after 4 innings or 8 runs after 5 innings.
7. Unless otherwise noted, Official Little League Rules apply.

Article XVI – Boys Season Playing Rules: Majors/Intermediate (11/12/(13)) Division

Official Little League Rules and the agreed upon exceptions to those within the Mahoning County Baseball Conference Rules apply.

Article XVII – Divisional All-Star Selection Process

All-Star Team players should be selected solely upon their playing ability and eligibility. It is the intent of the league to form the most competitive team possible, per age division. The rosters should include sufficient pitching strength in the Major/Intermediate and Minor Divisions to meet the tournament schedules. There is to be 1 All-Star Team per age division unless league enrollment/talent level dictates the forming of a younger developmental team.

Major/Intermediate Division: All 11-12(13) year old players are eligible for selection onto the 11-12(13) year old All-Star team. Any 12 year old players who do not make this team, OR 11 year old players who accept a position on this team, are not eligible for selection onto an All 11 year old All-Star team (if one is formed).

Minor Division: All 9-10 year old players are eligible for selection onto the 9-10 year old All-Star team. Any 10 year old players who do not make this team, OR 9 year old players who accept a position on this team, are not eligible for selection onto an All 9 year old All-Star team (if one is formed).

Coach Pitch Division: All 6-8 year old players are eligible for selection onto the 6-8 year old All-Star team.

General Rules:

- All players must meet Little League International rules for tournament team eligibility.
- In certain cases, players with exceptional abilities may be permitted to "play up." The Board of Directors will analyze these situations on a case-by-case basis.
- Each All-Star team will consist of Twelve (12) players. A 13th may be added at the manager's discretion.
- To be considered for an All-Star selection, the player's registration account must have a zero balance, and his/her parents must have fulfilled their Parental Volunteer Responsibilities outlined in Article IX.

The following procedure applies for All-Star selections across all league player groups:

1. The regular season managers from each respective division will meet during the first week of June to select the teams. The President, Player Agent, and Girls Executive Committee will preside over the girls softball meetings. The President, Player Agent, and Boys Executive Committee will preside over the boys baseball meetings.

2. Each divisional regular season manager will be given a ballot containing the complete listing of all the players that are eligible for election to that division's All-Star team. Each divisional regular season manager will discuss the playing ability of each player on their respective rosters.

3. Following the discussion in step #2, each divisional regular season manager will then vote for Twelve (12) players from the ballot. Managers are permitted to vote for players from their own team, including their own child(ren).

4. The Director of Boys or Girls will collect the ballot from each divisional regular season manager for tabulation. The regular season managers will leave the room while the votes are being tabulated.

5. The top Nine (9) players receiving the most votes are elected to the All-Star team. The managers are then asked to return to the room and informed who the top Nine (9) players are. If Nine (9) players are not able to be agreed upon by virtue of a tie, still continue to steps 6&7-Allstar Team Manager Selection, then continue to step 8-Roster Tiebreakers.

6. The Director of Boys or Girls will inquire with each regular season manager to see his/her interest in being placed on the election ballot for the All-Star team Manager.

7. Each divisional regular season manager will be given a ballot to elect the All-Star team Manager. The Director of Boys or Girls will collect the ballot from each divisional regular season manager for tabulation. The regular season manager receiving the most votes is elected as the All-Star team Manager. In the event of a tie, the board members present in the room (presiding over the meeting-outlined in step 1, minus the interested managers) will vote on the team manager.

8. In the event of a voting tie in Step 5 when determining the top Nine (9) positions on the All-Star Team, the elected All-Star Team Manager can elect to keep all players tied for the final positions or elect to have the players in the tied voting group be placed on a ballot to be voted upon again by the regular season managers.

9. If a second vote results in an impasse, the board members present in the room (presiding over the meeting-outlined in step 1, minus the regular season managers and any parent of a child who is on the tied list) will vote on the tied players until a list of Nine (9) is generated.

10. The elected All-Star team manager from Step 7 will then choose the remaining

players to complete the roster, while also making note of alternates in case any of the elected players decline.

11. After selecting the All-Star team, the regular season managers and Board members present in the room, will discuss the benefit of an additional team. Parties involved will take into account player enrollment and overall skill prior to adding additional teams.

12. Any player who is a member of an All-Star Team, including a member of a younger developmental team (if one is formed) will be labeled as a Junior or Senior All-Star during the following year's draft. **Ref Article XI – Boys and Girls Teams Selection Process.**

13. COACH PITCH ONLY- The managers will have a conversation regarding the 6 & 7 year olds who were not selected to be All Stars for the current year, but who are likely to be considered the following year. A list of at least 9 names will be populated and kept by the league, for use in identifying these players for the purpose of the following year's draft.

14. The All-Star team Manager is then to contact the elected player and their parents to inform them of their selection onto the All-Star team and must discuss the following participation policy:

    A. All-Star participation requires full commitment from every selected player and his/her family. Tournament schedules are condensed and highly competitive, and consistent attendance at all practices, games, and team events is mandatory unless prior approval is granted by the manager for extenuating circumstances. Players are expected to prioritize All-Star commitments over other activities during the tournament period. Being selected as an All-Star is both an honor and a responsibility, and dependable attendance is essential to maintaining team unity, preparation, and competitive success. Unexcused absences may result in reduced playing time or removal from the roster, at the manager's discretion.

    B. The Executive Board reserves the right to review all absentee occurrences to make a final determination of player eligibility.

    C. Players and their parents will be responsible for the cost of purchasing All-Star Uniforms and if necessary, any travel arrangements.

15. In the event that a player cannot accept their position on the All-Star team, the remaining position(s) will be selected from the pool of alternates from step #10.

Article XVIII – Disciplinary Action Policy

The Austintown Community Baseball Board of Directors shall have the authority to discipline any player, parent, manager, coach, umpire, league official, or any other person whose conduct is in violation of the Rules and Regulations of the following baseball and softball organizations: ACB, Little League, Pony, Colt, Tri-T, and MCBC.

Recognizing the difficulty of establishing specific penalties for a variety of violations of acceptable conduct, the following penalties shall be instated where applicable. League officials may impose any of the following penalties upon investigation and severity of the offense.

1. **Warning:** The offending person is advised of the offense and further advised that repetition of the offense shall result in a more severe penalty.
2. **Suspension:** The offending person is advised that he or she has been suspended from all league activity for a specified number of games or days.
3. **Dismissal:** The offending person is advised that he or she has been dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current year.
4. **Banishment:** The offending person is advised that he or she has been banned from all present and future participation in the league for a specified duration of time.

Austintown Community Baseball has adopted a zero tolerance policy regarding unacceptable behavior of players, parents, managers, and coaches before, during, and after games. All ejections from a game will be investigated and disciplinary action may be taken, up to and including banishment as defined above.

Persons subjected to penalties of suspension, dismissal, and/or banishment may be granted an appeal hearing before the members of the Board of Directors. In the event of the hearing for persons under the age of 18, the person's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) is(are) required to attend.

Article XIX – Game Protest Policy

As outlined in LL Rule 4.19, any manager has the right to protest any game if he/she feels the rules were misinterpreted, violated, or ineligible players were being used. Any protest must be submitted by the manager to the umpire on the field first. The protesting manager or acting manager shall immediately, and before any succeeding play begins, notify the umpire that the game is being played under protest. The formal protest must then be filed in writing by the reporting manager to the Local League President within 24 hours and reviewed by the protest committee (**Ref Article VII: Protest Committee)** as soon as reasonably possible. The protest committee shall contact the opposing manager and umpire (if necessary) to request a meeting with both managers before deciding on the ruling.