

Riverside Baseball Federation Handbook:

Constitution and By-Laws

General Guidelines

League Rules

Parent Participation, Support & Conduct

Safe Kids Program

2019

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

2019 RIVERSIDE BASEBALL FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Mike Garvin
VICE PRESIDENT	Stan Giles
SECRETARY	Jennifer Garvin
TREASURER	Renee Giles
BASEBALL COMMISSIONER	Matt Meyer

The Riverside Baseball Federation Governing Board would like to take this opportunity to thank the members for their continued efforts and support of youth baseball in the RBCSD.

AMENDMENTS

The procedure to amend the existing By-Laws, General Rules, or League Rules, etc. shall be: The proposed amendment shall be read to the membership at the December meeting. The proposed amendment must be read at three consecutive regular monthly meetings. At the third meeting, it shall be voted on by the membership, with the majority of votes cast to rule.

The Board, at its discretion, can make any necessary grammatical corrections to this document without the required three consecutive readings; as long as the corrections do not change the meaning of the rule in any way. Upon making such changes, the Board will notify and provide the membership with an updated copy of the corrected document.

INDEX

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS	3
GENERAL GUIDE LINES	7
LEAGUE AGES	7
MANAGERIAL REQUIREMENTS	8
MANAGERS	8
CONDUCT	9
UMPIRES.....	10
LEAGUE DRAFT	11
REGULATION GAMES.....	13
PLAYOFFS	13
UNIFORM	14
ALL-STAR/TOURNAMENT TEAMS.....	14
LEAGUE RULES FOR 2019	18
COLT LEAGUE.....	18
PONY LEAGUE	18
LITTLE LEAGUE.....	20
MUSTANG LEAGUE	25
FARM LEAGUE	29
8-YEAR-OLD INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE.....	33
T-BALL.....	37
6-YEAR-OLD INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE.....	39
PARENT PARTICIPATION, SUPPORT & CONDUCT	41
SAFE KIDS PROGRAM	43

This document is based on information available at the time of its publication. The Riverside Baseball Federation makes no representation, express, implied, or statutory with respect to, and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, sufficiency, or usefulness of the information contained herein.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE
RIVERSIDE BASEBALL FEDERATION
AS ADOPTED BY MEMBERS, JANUARY 1993**

ARTICLE I OBJECTIVES

- A. The purpose of this Federation will be to organize and support the Riverside spring, summer and fall youth baseball program, to implant in the youth of this program the ideals of sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and reverence so that they may be finer, stronger, happier children and will grow to be mature and responsible adults.
- B. Achievement of this objective will be accomplished by providing supervised practices and games. The supervisors shall bear in mind at all times that attainment of exceptional athletic skills or winning of games is secondary to the molding of future adults of good character and responsibility.

ARTICLE II ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RIVERSIDE BASEBALL FEDERATION

- A. The Riverside Baseball Federation (RBF) was established to operate the spring, summer and fall youth Baseball Program in the RBCSD.
- B. Any additional athletic organization wishing to join the RBF in the future must have unanimous approval by the existing organization.
- C. The agreement to participate in the RBF will be renewed yearly. Either association may break the agreement with a six-month notice. If no notice is given, the agreement will automatically be renewed.

ARTICLE III GOVERNMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

- A. The government of this association will be under the direct supervision of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Baseball Commissioner. These officers are to be elected and known as the governing board.
- B. The officers will be elected for terms of two years. The President, Treasurer and Baseball Commissioner will be elected in even years and the Vice President and Secretary will be elected in the odd years.
- C. The RBF year will run from October to September. The annual meeting will be held in September of each year. This will be a public meeting for the nomination and election of officers whose terms have expired.
- D. Any member nominated for an office must be present to accept the nomination or previously submitted a written authorization to accept a nomination to the RBF Board.
- E. All active members, 18-years of age or older, present at this meeting will be entitled to cast a vote. There will be no proxy votes. The majority of the votes cast constitute the winner. The President will be the chairman of this meeting.
- F. This Federation will hold monthly meetings throughout the entire year and will give at least a seven-day notice prior to such meetings to all members. At least three members of the Governing Board are to be present to conduct a meeting.
- G. The Governing Board of this Federation will meet prior to the October meeting to prepare the final reports for the Federation.

ARTICLE IV SUPERVISION

- A. The word member, wherever appearing in this constitution and by-laws, will be taken to mean only active members in good standing in the RBF. A member in good standing will be one whose attended four meetings in the last RBF year, is currently not under suspension by the RBF, is 18-years or older

in age, and is willing to participate actively in support of all RBF projects. All managers and coaches will be active members.

- B. All persons who wish to become active members can begin by signing up at any regular monthly meeting.
- C. Voting members will be those persons who have attended a minimum of four meetings per year.
- D. Attendance will be taken at all meetings. The secretary shall keep records of attendance.
- E. On any matters pertaining to a specific league or leagues, each team will be represented by one vote.
- F. Three-fourths majority vote of all the membership present at a special meeting will be necessary to remove any member or officer in the organization for any cause whatsoever, other than at the time his/her term shall have expired.
- G. Any member of the organization who resigns, leaves, or is removed for any reason, shall turn over to the proper board member all money, books, papers, or property which belongs to this organization immediately.
- H. A special election will be held to fill any open office/board position. This election shall be held at the first regular scheduled monthly meeting after a position is vacated. Normal election procedures will be followed as described in Section E and F of Article III Government of the Association.
- I. The Riverside Baseball Federation shall not be disbanded as long as five members are willing to continue to serve.
- J. It will be the duty of the Governing Board of this organization to act as a Board of Arbitration to police the organization and recommendations. For emergency purposes the Governing Board may be empowered to act on any decision that may demand immediate action with a majority of votes to rule.
- K. The Governing Board will nominate a person for Umpire-In-Chief. The qualifications to be Umpire-In-Chief will be a responsible person who knows baseball and a resident of the RBCSD if possible. The fees to be paid for umpiring will be decided by the membership. The Umpire-In-Chief has the right to accept or reject all personnel.
- L. All players participating in our baseball program will be residents of the RBCSD and will be registered in the organization with all money to be paid by a date set by the Federation; otherwise that person will not participate in the program. Exceptions may be made, if necessary, by the membership.
- M. All money that is paid out of the Federation treasury will be paid by check and signed by at least two members of the Governing Board. No one in the organization will make any purchases without the consent of the membership.
- N. The Governing Board will meet in October to discuss the budget for the coming year. All leagues will be budgeted with entry fees based on the budget. This will be presented to the members at the first Federation meeting after the budget is set.
- O. The Governing Board will determine fees for sponsors, award money, and other rules as may be deemed necessary to provide proper function of the federation.
- P. Individual all-star teams may fundraise, but the fundraiser must be approved by the board prior to the commencement of the specific fundraiser.
- Q. DISSOLUTION STATEMENT
 - 1. In the event this organization ceases to exist or is dissolved any assets must not benefit any individual or person and the assets must be donated to another non-profit organization with similar goals.

- a. Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future federal tax code
- b. Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the Federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organizations then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organization, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes
- c. The Riverside Baseball Federation does not discriminate regardless of race, gender, color, ethnicity, or religion

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

GENERAL GUIDELINES

LEAGUE AGES

A player's age is determined by their age on August 31st of the current year. Those born on or prior to April 30th, 2007 will use their age on April 30th of the current year. Colt League and Legion is January 1st of the current year.

4, 5 & 6-year-olds	T-Ball
7 & 8-year-olds	Farm League
9 & 10-year-olds	Mustang League
11 & 12-year-olds	Little League
13 & 14-year-olds	Pony League
15 & 16-year-olds	Colt League

A player who is registered for the current year as a 6-year-old and who has played the previous two years for RBF during the regular T-Ball season (at the T-Ball level), will have the option to play at the Farm League level at the request of their parent or guardian and the acceptance by the RBF Board.

The above age groups are invariable, except at the Governing Board's discretion, another team is created within a league due to large team rosters.

Any child that is 14-years-old and in the 9th grade who makes the J.V. or High School baseball team shall have the option of trying out for the Colt League team in our organization instead of playing in Pony League.

FIELD USAGE

Field usage shall be as follows:

T-Ball - Shall use the field at Franklin Township Park or Bradshaw Park fields as the schedule permits.

Farm League - Shall use the field at Franklin Township Park or Bradshaw Park fields as the schedule permits.

Mustang League - Shall use the second field on the right at Bradshaw Park.

Little League - Shall use the third field on the right at Bradshaw Park.

Pony League - Shall use the first field on the right at Bradshaw Park

Colt League— Shall use the Riverside High School field.

Any deviation from the above assignments must have Governing Board approval. Board will make final decision on fields to be used.

Make-up games will have preference over practices.

All field usage must be scheduled through the league commissioner. Field assignments can change to allow better use of facilities

MANAGERIAL REQUIREMENTS

Persons applying for or having a manager's position must have updated Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (Act 33) and Pennsylvania Criminal Record Check (Act 34) clearances and FBI fingerprint based federal criminal history or signed Volunteer Affidavit by March 1st of the current year. Assistant coaches and scorekeepers must have Act 33 and Act 34 clearance and FBI criminal history/Affidavit by April 1st. RBF will not absorb any cost occurred to obtain Act 33 and Act 34 clearances and FBI criminal history/Affidavit. The RBF will accept Act 33 and Act 34 clearances and FBI criminal history/Affidavit obtained within the last 3 years. No team function/event will take place without the immediate supervisor in charge having Act 33 and Act 34 clearances and FBI criminal history/Affidavit. An individual's Act 33/34 clearance and FBI criminal history/Affidavit will remain valid with the RBF so long as said person remains in continual service with the organization and has not been found guilty of an action which would nullify his/her Act 33 or Act 34 clearances and FBI criminal history/Affidavit.

Note: All coaches, assistants and scorekeepers must have Act 33 and 34 clearances and FBI criminal history/Affidavit to be in the dugouts.

The Positions of Colt manager will be opened 30 days after the season ends. The respective managers will be notified that their positions will be opened for the following year at this time, if it is the wish of the Board and the membership. The respective managers must also notify the Board if they do not wish to continue coaching said team.

SELECTION OF MANAGERS

The Governing Board of the Federation selects managers for each team. Interested parties shall apply to the Board. Selection will be based on the following aspects in no particular order:

1. Service to the organization
2. Baseball knowledge
3. Ability to teach and handle children
4. Seniority

MANAGERS

The manager is allowed to select coaches and a scorekeeper in the dugout during the game. All coaches must be active members of the RBF and have all clearances turned in.

Managers will instruct the fundamentals of baseball, sportsmanship, fair play, and emphasize that winning is not the most important aspect of the game.

The following are some duties and responsibilities of the manager:

1. To insure safety, good conduct and sportsmanship of his/her team.
2. To assist umpires in maintaining control of the game.
3. To keep the playing fields and surrounding areas clean and in good shape all year.
4. To maintain equipment and have it returned to the RBF by August 15th.
5. To set a good example for players at all times.
6. To umpire at least two regular season games and one all-star tournament game, if asked.
7. To turn in a roster of all their coaches to their league commissioner by Opening Day.
8. Managers or coaches shall not use alcoholic beverages or tobacco products in any form on the field, benches, and dugouts or around the players during games or practices.
9. The RBF will refund team managers' snack shack fees for responsible service. This includes:
 - a) No game ejections
 - b) No Board sanctions
 - c) Fulfill umpire obligations (both regular season and All- star) and
 - d) Prompt return of all equipment

MANAGER SELECTION

Interested members should apply to the Board. Managers in the respective leagues vote for the All-Star/Tournament managers within that age group at the spring draft and present their selection to the Board for final approval.

COACH SELECTION

The team manager will select coaches. All managers and coaches must have current Act 33 and Act 34 clearances and FBI criminal history/Affidavit on file dated no further back than three (3) years of the current playing year.

ASSISTANT COACHES

The manager of each team will choose his/her assistant coaches for the season.

YOUTH ASSISTANTS

Youth assistants must be a registered player in the organization and must be at least one league removed from the league in which they are acting as a youth assistant.

Some stipulations are:

1. Only one youth assistant can be in the dugout, on the playing field or participating in the game activities.
2. Under no circumstances can the youth assistant assume the manager's duties.
3. A youth assistant cannot umpire in the league in which he/she is assisting.
4. Teammates of the youth assistant cannot umpire in the youth assistant's game.
5. In addition to the youth assistant, the manager will be held liable and punishable for any or all behavior or actions of his/her youth assistants.
6. A manager can use more than one youth assistant during a game, or use teammates of youth assistants to umpire, providing the opposing manager agrees prior to the start of the game. If the opposing manager objects prior to the start of the game, all rules and stipulations adopted by the board shall apply.

NOTE: Youth assistants may pitch batting practice or hit infield practice.

LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS

The Governing Board of the Federation will select league Commissioners. They will be selected from any member of the Federation who applies for the position. If no volunteers step forward, the Governing Board of the Federation shall appoint a commissioner.

League Commissioner is responsible for:

1. Managers and coaches in their league
2. Resolving any problems that may arise in their league
3. Re-schedule make-up dates and field usage for their league

Each League Commissioner shall have a meeting with all managers in their league before Opening Day to go over rules, practice schedules, regular season schedule, play-off format, etc. Additional meetings during the season are recommended.

The League Commissioner has no authority to act on behalf of the Governing Board in making policy or rule changes. In this area the League Commissioner's duty will be to report the necessary information to the Governing Board.

CONDUCT

It is the manager's responsibility to maintain order among the members of his/her team. All players not actively involved on the playing field shall remain in the dugout during the game.

In addition to the individual League Rules Team Managers may implement participation and attendance rules for their individual team provided that said rules are in accordance with the rules of this RBF Handbook including the Constitution and Bylaws, General Guidelines, and League Rules. Any such policy must be presented to the RBF Board prior to implementation. Any disciplinary action taken by a Team Manager or Coach is subject to review by the RBF Board for compliance with the RBF Handbook and rules.

Must Play Rules of individual leagues, as defined in the League Rules of this Handbook, must be adhered to under all circumstances.

Profanity will not be tolerated from anyone including the umpires. This is grounds for removal from the league.

Throwing of equipment will not be tolerated. If done in anger or disgust, a player may be ejected from the game. If it appears unintentional, the player may be given a warning. This is a team warning and a second offense from any team member will result in ejection of that player.

There will be no heckling of opposing players.

Any manager or coach ejected from a game must leave the field of play and become a spectator. If he/she refuses to leave, he/she will forfeit the game. If, as a spectator, he/she continues to harass the umpires, opposing team, spectators, etc..., the umpire will instruct him/her to leave the park. Failure to do so will result in further disciplinary action by the RBF.

The Riverside Baseball Federation bans the use of alcohol, drugs, or other non-prescribed controlled substances by any member of the Riverside Baseball Federation, before, during, or after any RBF function.

ALCOHOL POLICY

The penalty for alcohol use: First Offense – warning; Second Offense – 30-day suspension from the RBF; Third Offense – Indefinite suspension from RBF.

DISCIPLINE

A manager may discipline a player for good cause by not permitting him/her to play in a game. Missing an occasional practice is not good cause. The manager must inform the opposing manager and the head umpire prior to the game as to the name of the player being disciplined and the reason for the action. The opposing manager has the right to confront the player. If a manager feels that this rule is being abused, he/she should write a report to the RBF within twenty-four hours of the game. The RBF will review the report and determine if the case is justified. If the ruling is against the disciplining manager, he/she will be cited for illegal substitution and forfeit the game. *This rule is intended only in leagues where there is a "must play rule" in effect.*

UMPIRES

Home team managers are responsible for checking with the scheduled umpires for the game. Visiting team managers are responsible for cleaning the dugouts and emptying the garbage cans after the game.

The RBF will assign a head coach or volunteer to Little League and Mustang League games with the responsibility to get a second person to assist with umpiring each game. When a patch or paid umpire is provided by RBF that umpire will be the plate umpire and only one coach or volunteer is required to umpire the bases.

A manager has the option to exclude an individual from umpiring his/her games. The person's name must be given to the League Commissioner one week prior to taking effect.

The umpires will maintain crowd control by keeping whatever area they deem necessary free of spectators. Only the manager may discuss a call with the umpires.

The home plate umpire will be the head umpire and remain behind the plate the entire game. Second-year players in Pony League can umpire at the Little League level.

The managers must remember the umpires are doing the best they can and, like themselves, may miss some calls and may not know all the rules.

Umpire eligibility: Persons under the age of 18 being paid to umpire and who are not registered players in the organization are not covered by RBF's insurance. They may umpire, however, if they show proof of personal insurance and have parental permission.

Umpires should be one league removed from the league they are officiating. Any deviation from the age limit must have both managers' approval.

Umpires will be paid \$20.00 for behind the plate and \$15.00 for the bases in Little League and Mustang League. Farm league umpires will be paid \$5.00, with a maximum of two umpires.

LEAGUE DRAFT

Pony League ** Little League ** Mustang League ** Farm League

These general guidelines were adopted by the membership of the Riverside Baseball Federation to be used in conjunction with the Little League Rules and the rules set forth by the Federation for the operation of the league draft. These guidelines will be adhered to without exception.

An impartial officer of the Federation will be present at all drafts. This officer has the responsibility of properly conducting the draft with fairness and parity in mind.

From hereon the 14-year-old Pony League, the 12-year-old Little League, 10-year-old Mustang League, and 8-year-old Farm League players will be referred to as second- year players.

Also, the 13-year-old Pony League, 11-year-old Little League, 9-year-old Mustang League, and 7-year-old Farm League players will be referred to as first-year players.

When an older sibling is chosen, the younger child is to be placed in the round equal to his/her All-star ranking.

Second-year players will be drafted first. First-year players will be drafted last.

Manager's child will "seed" the manager for 1st round draft position in each particular age group provided the child was voted one thru "X" (X= the # of teams in each league) in the previous year's all-star voting.

Example

Manager's child was the 5th highest vote getter in previous year's all-star voting. Manager of said child is slotted with the fifth pick in round 1 (provided the league has at least five teams), and takes his child in that slot. If the league has less than five teams, the manager's name goes into the hat with all remaining managers to determine round one draft order. The child then becomes the manager's automatic 2nd round pick.

If coach's child did not receive enough votes for any position in first 2 rounds, child will then become automatic 3rd round pick provided there are four (4) or more teams. If less than four (4) teams the following will take place:

1. For a 3-team league: if coach's child is ranked 1, 2, 3, he/she is taken in the first round. If the child is ranked 4, 5, 6, he/she is taken in the second round. If ranked 7, 8, 9, he/she is taken in the third round. If the coach's child is not ranked in the top 9 of the Tournament All Star team, he/she is taken in the fourth round as three rounds are needed to draft the top 9 players.
2. For a 2- team league: if coach's child is ranked 1, 2, he/she is taken in first round. If the child is ranked 3, 4, he/she will be taken in the second round. If the child is ranked 5, 6, he/she will be taken in the third round. If the child is ranked 7, 8, he/she will be taken in the fourth round. If the child is not ranked in the top 9 players, he/she is taken in the fifth round as four rounds are needed to draft the top 8 players.

The RBF Board will reserve the right to have final approval on the previous year's all-star rankings and how they may affect the draft. This is similar to the Board's already needed approval for each league's all- star rosters.

Draft will reverse after each round for fairness.

Example

In a league with five teams, the Manager who has the first pick will then get 10th pick, 11th pick, and 20th pick. Manager with 2nd pick gets 9th, 12th, and 19th pick. Manager with 3rd pick gets 8th, 13th, and 18th pick. Manager with 4th pick gets 7th, 14th, and 17th pick. Manager with 5th pick gets 6th, 15th and 16th pick. Total "value" of all picks = 42 for each manager.

The older age group portion of the draft will end when there are no longer enough players to finish another complete round. (Example: A five-team league with twenty-two players would draft four complete rounds with two remaining "undrafted" players.)

Remaining players will not be drafted until all first-year players have been drafted to their fullest completed round.

Manager's draft order for initial round of first-year players is reversed from the draft order of the second-year age group. This is subject to manager's child, and/or sibling seeding.

Example of an 11-year-old (first-year player) Little League draft

The draft will begin as the 12-year-old draft began. We will seed any 11-year-old manager by his child, using the method described in paragraph above. The remaining managers will be "slotted" in reverse order from original (second-year players) portion of the draft. Example: In a 5-team league, the manager who had the 5th pick in the 1st round of the second-year player portion of the draft, now gets 1st pick in first-year player portion of the draft unless that spot is taken due to the seeding of a first-year player manager's child or sibling from a second-year player. In this case, the manager would get the next highest spot available: the 2nd pick.

The 11-year-old draft will continue, reversing after each round, until there are no longer enough kids to finish another complete round.

At this point, all remaining players (left-over 12-year-olds and left-over 11-year-olds) will be drafted at will. Starting with the #1 draft position of the younger age group (i.e. 9, 11, 13 year-olds), a pick is made until all players have been drafted. For fairness, this final round will not reverse.

A late sign-up will be determined by any child who does not sign up by March 10th of each year. All late sign-ups will be placed on a team by the RBF board. The Board will place the additional player(s) on teams as the Board deems necessary to even out said league. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

No RBF Board member with any involvement in a particular league will have any say as to the placement of a late sign-up player in said league.

There will be no try-out day.

The top two rounds of players based on the previous year's all-star voting for each league (three rounds for Pony league) will be listed numerically to help aid managers at the draft.

Any returning players to the organization that did not play the previous year will be ranked by the RBF Board and slotted into a spot if it is determined by the Board that said player would have been voted in the top two rounds of the All-star voting.

Any unusual exceptions to the above draft rules will be the sole responsibility of the RBF Board to determine fairness as to how it equates to an individual league, and the organization as a whole.

NOTE: The definition for a player to be deemed an All-star is "any player elected or selected to the original Tournament All-Star team's roster." This does not include alternates or substitutes.

T-ball and Farm players will remain together from one year to the next if the manager remains. The draft will be determined from drawing the managers' names out of a hat.

REGISTRATION (LATE SIGN-UPS)

(Late fees will be set at \$100.00)

There is a \$100.00 late fee for anyone wishing to play that has not signed up by the third and final registration date.

This late fee does not apply to T-Ball and Farm Leagues.

Colt League: Registration taken until March 10th.

New residents to the district are not considered late sign-ups.

Late sign-ups will be added to the rosters without regard to the placement of any siblings.

Any player who registers after the rosters have been made may not necessarily be placed on the team with which he/she played the previous year.

REGULATION GAMES

All scheduled games will start no later than 6:00PM. The home team will use the field from 1 1/4 to 1/2 hour before game time (ie.4:45PM to 5:30PM) and the visiting team from 1/2 hour before game time until game time (ie.5:30PM to 6:00pm). Saturday game's field times are dependent on game scheduling. The ground rules will be the same for each game and will be reviewed before each game by the umpires and both managers.

All games will be played to its completion. There will be no suspended games. Games will continue from the exact point of suspension. This does not include a game ended by the mercy rule in Little League.

For safety reasons, there will be no on-deck batters, hitting sticks, soft toss, and the like after the game has started. This applies to T-ball, Farm League, Mustang League, and Little League.

MAKE-UP GAMES

Regularly scheduled games must be played on the dates scheduled. All effort should be made by all teams to play any rainouts or continued/suspended games by the end of the calendar week. If the managers cannot agree on a date, the commissioner will decide when the game will be played. The commissioner can schedule make-up games on Sunday. All decisions by the commissioner can be protested to the Board.

All games must be made up before the team is able to start the play-offs.

PLAY-OFFS

A play-off tournament for Little League and Mustang League will be used. It will be played as a single elimination tournament. A team's seeding in the bracket shall be determined by its place in the standings at the end of the regular season. The bracket will be made up at the beginning of the year once the number of teams is determined.

All play-off games must have adult umpires. Adult umpires are defined by age 18 or older.

Home team is the higher seed throughout the tournament except in the event a third game is needed to decide the championship. In which case, a coin toss will decide home team for the final game only. The coin toss will take place before game one of the championship.

No double headers will be permitted in the playoffs and all regular season pitching rules will apply. Suspended playoff games will be played to completion on the next day. All pitching rules will apply.

The play-off tournament will be held within 1 week of the start-date, unless the weather does not permit.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

In the event the top teams finish the regular season with identical league leading records, they will be deemed season co-champions. The tiebreaker for playoffs will be: 1 – head to head record, 2- runs against in the regular season, and 3 – coin toss.

In the event two teams finish the regular season with identical league records and are not in first place, the tiebreaker for playoffs will be: 1 – head to head record 2 – runs against in the regular season, and 3 – coin toss.

TROPHIES

Only one set of trophies will be awarded per championship team. If the same team wins the regular season and play-offs, only one set of trophies will be presented. The Federation will decide upon the amount of money spent on trophies. In no year shall an increase of more than 10% be permitted.

Monies allotted: Colt League: up to \$40 per player provided they win the Colt League Championship. Pony league will be allotted \$30 per player provided they win the championship. Little League and Mustang Leagues will be allotted up to \$14 for winning the Regular Season championship and up to \$14 for winning the playoff championship. If the same team wins both the regular season and playoff championships, the team will be allotted up to \$20 per player. Farm League and T-Ball will be awarded a participation trophy.

OPENING DAY

All teams must march in the Opening Day parade. Depending on the number of teams in each league, all teams will have a game scheduled whether it is a scheduled league game or an exhibition game.

UNIFORMS

No name, logo, insignia, or other attachment can be placed anywhere on a player's uniform without the prior approval of the RBF Board. At no time may a player's uniform be altered in any way.

END OF SEASON IN-HOUSE TEAM TOURNAMENTS

For the end of season in-house team tournaments, the Riverside Baseball Federation teams may elect to follow the general league consensus of rules of the hosting organization.

TOURNAMENT TEAMS

The Federation will send Tournament teams from the seven (7), eight (8), nine (9), ten (10), eleven (11), twelve (12), thirteen (13), and fourteen (14)-year-old age groups, provided there are enough players to participate. The 13 and 14-years-olds will be a combined team.

TOURNAMENT TEAM ALL-STAR MANAGER SELECTION

Interested members should apply to the Board. Managers in the respective leagues vote for the All-Star/Tournament managers within that age group at the spring draft and present their selection to the Board for final approval.

TOURNAMENT TEAM ALL-STAR COACHES SELECTION

The team manager will select coaches. All managers and coaches must have current Act 33 and Act 34 clearances and FBI child abuse clearances on file.

ALL-STAR PLAYER SELECTION

Each manager will nominate the players from his/her team for each age group whom he/she thinks should be considered for All-Star/Tournament team voting. The players' skill level, abilities, sportsmanship, and attitude will be considered when voting. The 9 best players for each age group will be selected using the following point system.

Players will be awarded points: 9 - 1 with 9 points awarded to the best player in each age group, 8 points awarded to the next best and so on down to 1 point. Points for each player will be totaled and the players will be ranked based on the total points awarded. Managers cannot award points to players from their team. In the event of a tie for the final position, all the managers from that age group will vote to select the last player.

Any player receiving enough votes to be on the Tournament teams must have the "Parent Acknowledgement" form completed and returned to the RBF Board at least 1 week prior to the All-Star game(s). By signing the acknowledgement form, the parent/guardian(s) indicate that they understand the player selection process and will fulfill their requirements and obligations if their child is selected to the Tournament teams. The parent/guardian(s) will also provide any known dates in July that would prevent their child from participating in a tournament if he/she is selected. Players selected to play on the tournament teams may be required to pay for uniforms and/or tournament entrance fees for the tournament teams.

A maximum of 15 players may be selected to each team.

TOURNAMENT TEAMS / ALL-STARS

The Riverside Baseball Federation will pay for one tournament for each particular tournament team, not to exceed the amount being charged for the current year's tournament at that league (as long as funds are available), but will not provide funding for uniforms. Managers, with Board approval, may solicit funding for uniforms. The Tournament Entrance Fee will only be paid to age groups hosting a successful tournament.

The 8-year-old tournament team, if formed, will not be limited to just two tournaments, but will not be allowed to participate in more than four tournaments that year. The 8-year-old instructional league may still be offered if enough players show the interest to participate.

The Riverside Baseball Federation will authorize a 7-year old all-star team on a year to year basis if there are enough coaches/families to support the team. The 7-year old all-star team will be limited to two tournaments that year.

Voting shall remain as indicated above. The nine players receiving the most points will be placed on the Tournament Team. In the event of a tie for the ninth position, all the managers from that age group will vote to select the last player.

The minimum Tournament Team roster will consist of one additional player than the normal league fields. For example: Mustang rosters will be a minimum of 11 players. Little and Pony League's minimum rosters shall be 10 players. The Farm League roster will consist of 12 second-year players (8-year olds). All players on the tournament team roster must practice with, travel, and play with the tournament team.

The manager of the tournament team, with the Governing Board approval, will select the players to complete the roster and will list the roster in alphabetical order. If any player in the top 9 chooses to not participate on the tournament team, the manager will select the next best player (based on # of votes) and all will move up in the voting. (Example: player #6 does not want to participate; player #7 now becomes #6 and so on. New player selected will be #9 on the list. This will continue until the roster is filled.

All players/parents will have the understanding that there is no "must play" requirement for any player in any game.

A maximum of 15 players may be selected to each team. To fill out the roster to 15 players the manager can list additional players as alternates. These players will have the understanding that they will only play if a player from the main roster is absent from a game, or in the event that the manager elects to travel with more than the required 10/11 players.

All players and alternates will be permitted to participate in every tournament team practice.

No player will play for a tournament team outside of his/her age group unless there are not enough players available within an age group due to injury, vacation, etc... Under no circumstances can a player miss his/her own Tournament Team game to play up. Special situations shall be reviewed by the Board prior to the player(s) playing up.

Any player owing money from the previous year(s) will be asked to reimburse the funds before being eligible to play in the present year's All-stars.

Any players quitting the tournament team will be ineligible to play on the tournament team the next year.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

LEAGUE RULES 2019

COLT LEAGUE

The Riverside Baseball Federation plays in the Beaver County Colt League (BCCL) and adheres to the rules of the BCCL. RBF Handbook including the Bylaws, General Guidelines, League Rules for Colt League, Parent Participation, Support and Conduct, and Safe Kids Program are effective and shall be in effect. Playing rules are in accordance with the rules of the BCCL.

PONY LEAGUE

The Riverside Baseball Federation plays in the 376 Pony League and adheres to the rules of the 376 Pony League Rules. RBF Handbook including the Bylaws, General Guidelines, League Rules for Pony League, Parent Participation, Support and Conduct, and Safe Kids Program are effective and shall be in effect. Playing rules are in accordance with the rules of 376 Pony League.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

The following rules are only for Riverside in-house play (when no other community leagues are playing with the RBF that year) and are superseded by the joint community league rules that are agreed to by the RBF for that year.

LITTLE LEAGUE

Official playing rules of Little League Baseball will govern game situations in Little League. The Riverside Baseball Federation will adhere to all Official Little League rules regarding bats, legal and illegal, in all leagues. Objectives of the game as listed in the Little League Rule Book will be followed. The official Little League rules, however, do not regulate the operation of our league to the degree desired by our members. Therefore, some rules will be discarded, including but not exclusively: REGULATION PLAYING RULES. In cases of contradiction, the RBF ruling will apply.

Doubleheaders are allowed. A team may play a maximum of two games on one day. This includes a continuation of a suspended game. A team cannot play two games plus finish a suspended game. All pitching rest rules would apply to determine eligibility of pitchers. A pitcher may pitch in two games in one day provided that they pitch 30 or less pitches in the first game. A Little League pitcher who is eligible to pitch can pitch a total of 85 pitches between the two games played. - ex: if a pitcher throws 25 pitches during the first game, he is eligible to throw 60 pitches during the second game for a total of 85 pitches thrown during that day. Normal rest requirements, as stated below, will then take effect based on the total number of pitches thrown during both games played that day.

All game scores are to be verified by both coaches and the home team is responsible for reporting the score by entering the scores on the Google score sheet after that game. Failure to do so may result in RBF Board action against the coaches involved.

Each team will record all pitchers who threw in a game and how many pitches they threw in that day on the Google pitching sheet. Pitchers who go over the rest rule limits during a batter in accordance with the exception under (c) below will be recorded as the pitching limit as listed under (d) below. All pitchers and their number of pitches must be recorded by 4pm the following day.

All protests or rule violations of any kind will go before the Board. The Board will decide if the violation affected the outcome of the game. If there was a violation, but is deemed that it did not affect the outcome of the game, there will be no forfeit and the outcome will stand. The Board reserves the right to discipline the offending individuals if deemed necessary.

PITCHING

(c) The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

11-12 - 85 pitches per day

Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs:

1. That batter reaches base;
2. That batter is put out;
3. The third out is made to complete the half-inning.

(d) Pitcher's league age **12** and under **must adhere to the following rest requirements:**

- If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, **four (4)** calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 51 - 65 pitches in a day, **three (3)** calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 36 - 50 pitches in a day, **two (2)** calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 21-35 pitches in a day, **one (1)** calendar day of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, **no (0)** calendar days of rest must be observed.

(e) Each league must designate the scorekeeper or another coach as the official pitch count recorder for that team. Pitch count recorders from each team will compare the number of pitches recorded at the end of each half inning. In the event that the two did not record the same number of pitches an agreement will be

reached as to the number of pitches to be recorded in the scorebook. The home team's pitch count will be used if the teams cannot agree.

(f) In Little League, an 11-year old player must pitch one inning (between innings 1 through 4); at a minimum, they must face the following: 3 outs, or at least 4 batters total.

(g) The pitch count recorder must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager is responsible for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed.

(h) The official pitch count recorder should inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game. The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed. (c). However, the failure by the pitch count recorder to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in-chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.

(i) Violation of any section of this regulation can result in protest of the game in which it occurs. Protest shall be made in accordance with Playing Rule 4.19 of the official Little League rule book.

NOTES:

1. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after that pitcher is announced, or after a warm-up pitch is delivered, but before that player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation. Little League officials are urged to take precautions to prevent protests. When a protest situation is imminent, the potential offender should be notified immediately.

2. Pitches delivered in games declared "Regulation Tie Games" or "Suspended Games" shall be charged against pitcher's eligibility.

3. In suspended games resumed on another day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of their eligibility for that day, provided said pitcher has observed the required days of rest.

Example 1: A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on Thursday. The pitcher is not eligible to pitch in the resumption of the game because he/she has not observed the required three days of rest.

Example 2: A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on Saturday. The pitcher is eligible to pitch up to 85 more pitches in the resumption of the game because he/she has observed the required three days of rest.

Example 3: A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes two weeks later. The pitcher is eligible to pitch up to 85 more pitches in the resumption of the game, provided he/she is eligible based on his/her pitching record during the previous four days.

Note: The use of this regulation negates the concept of the "calendar week" with regard to pitching eligibility.

No balks will be called.

THIRD STRIKE

The batter becomes a runner when the third strike called by the umpire is not directly caught, providing

- (1) First base is unoccupied **or**
- (2) First base is occupied with two outs

(Note: A batter who does not realize his situation on a third strike not caught, and who is not in the process of running to first base, shall be declared out once he leaves the dirt circle surrounding home plate.)

BATTING ORDER

The batting order will consist of nine players only or nine players and an extra hitter (EH). When providing

the batting order to the opposing team, the extra hitter will be clearly indicated.

SUBSTITUTION

Each player will be entitled to play at least 6 consecutive defensive outs and bat one time in a game. Players injured during the game may be excused from this entitlement. If a game ends in less than six innings because of the 10-run mercy rule, the playing entitlement shall not be a requirement.

Late-arriving players (those players arriving after the game has started) do not have to play in the game. (Per Little League Rule book). If they are inserted into the batting order they will be placed after the last batter in the lineup. (if a continuous batting order is utilized)

Any manager in violation of the substitution rules will be suspended for the next game and said player who was omitted from playing shall start the next game regardless if regular season or play-offs.

Courtesy runners will ONLY be used for the catcher of record and only when that player is on base and there are two outs. The courtesy runner must be a player not currently in the line-up. If all players are in the line-up, then the last batted out will be used as the courtesy runner.

SUBSTITUTE RUNNER:

A substitute runner may be used in case of injury. The substitute runner will be the batter who made the last out. Injured players must sit out a minimum of three defensive outs before re-entering the game.

Players with documented medical ailments can be substituted for when necessary. These players will not be treated as injured players. Players with such conditions must be identified to the head umpire and opposing manager prior to the game.

SPECIAL PINCH RUNNER

Once per inning, any player not currently in the batting order may run. A player may only be removed for a special pinch runner once per game.

INFIELD FLY

The infield fly rule **WILL** be in effect.

STEALING

Stealing is permitted in this league, including home. Refer to Little League Baseball Inc. Official Regulations and Playing Rules.

SLIDING

Refer to Little League Baseball Inc. Official Regulations and Playing Rules.

Managers and coaches must teach and instruct all players to slide when the possibility of a close play may occur. No headfirst slides. Runner will be called out if they headfirst slide into the base they are attempting to reach. Diving back to a base they have already reached is permitted.

First base: Runners are not permitted to slide while attempting to reach the base unless the slide is to avoid a throw that pulls the first baseman off the bag. If the runner slides for any other reason, he/she will be called out. Once touching the base, a runner may slide in an attempt to return to the base. Obstruction offenses by a fielder will be strictly enforced.

Second and third base: While running the bases, the runner should become accustomed to sliding as overrunning the base can cause your team an out.

Home plate: Runners must slide to avoid a collision with the catcher, provided the catcher has the ball. If the catcher is attempting to field the ball, the runner must avoid contact without necessarily sliding.

All players, including the catcher, must understand they cannot block any base, including home plate,

without possession of the ball. Blocking any base and interfering with the runner will result in fielders' obstruction. The umpire will award the runner that base plus one.

Any fielder, including the catcher, having possession of the ball prior to the runner reaching the base, including home plate, may block the base and then require the runner to slide. Failure to slide will result in runners' interference. The umpire will call the runner out and the play becomes dead.

MERCY RULE:

The mercy rule occurs when a team has a 15-run lead after 4 innings (after 3 1/2 innings if the Home team is leading). Trailing team must bat at least four complete times per game. Alternatively, a mercy is declared with a 10-run lead after 5 innings (after 4 1/2 if the home team is leading).

CATCHERS

All catchers must wear a protective helmet with mask and throat protector and a protective cup at all times, even when taking warm-up pitches. The umpires will strictly enforce this rule. It is the manager's responsibility to insure compliance with this rule

PICK-UP PLAYERS

Call up players: Only second-year players from the prior league may be used as call ups unless the Board is satisfied that a reasonable attempt was made to contact all second-year players and none are available. In this case only, a team will be permitted to call up a first-year player from a prior league. Any manager using a first-year player as a call-up player will be brought before the Board for possible disciplinary action, which may result in a suspension and/or a forfeiture of the game involved. Under no circumstances will a team be permitted to call up a player from a league not immediately below the manager's league. Example: Little League cannot call up a Farm League player; Mustang League cannot call up a T-ball league player. Any violation of this rule will result in a forfeit and the manager may be brought before the Board for disciplinary action. A call-up player cannot start over a regular rostered player.

If less than nine players are available for a scheduled game, a manager may pick up a Mustang League player from a team not scheduled to play during the same time period. No call-up player is permitted to "play-up" and miss any part of his/her own game or practice within his/her league. These pick-up players will not play as pitchers or catchers and must bat at the bottom of the order. A team cannot pick up other Little League players from other teams.

A team may play with eight players if that is all that is available. Any team that starts with eight players or ends up with eight players due to injury or player(s) having to leave the field early shall not be charged an out when his/her spot in the batting order comes up. The spot shall be skipped and the next batter shall bat. Any player removed from a game by an umpire or coach for discipline reasons and, if said team does not have a substitute player who has not yet entered the game, shall take an out each time said ejected/disciplined player's spot comes up in the batting order. Once removed from the game by the umpire or manager for disciplinary reasons, that player is not eligible to re-enter that game.

Once the first pitch of a game is thrown, teams are not allowed to "pick-up" additional Mustang League players but can insert any late-arriving rostered players. If a team starts the game with 8 players and another rostered player arrives, that player can be immediately inserted into the game and must bat in the 9th spot in the batting order. He/she must bat as soon as his/her turn comes up in the batting order.

INJURED PLAYERS

Any time a team falls below 9 players due to injury/illness, the player's spot shall be skipped and no out shall be recorded. If this happens during an at bat, the next scheduled batter shall bat and assume the current ball/strike count, if any. If the injured/ill player can resume playing at a later time, he must first bat before he can enter in the field. This rule is in effect to keep a coach from skipping a lesser player's spot offensively, and then putting him/her back on the field defensively to ensure all defensive positions are filled. The player must bat before re-entering the game defensively.

At no time can a starter or substitute change spots in the batting order to "fill" the spot of an injured/ill player. Only a starter and his/her substitute can occupy the same spot in the batting order. The original batting order can never be manipulated.

The following rules are only for Riverside in-house play (when no other community leagues are playing with the RBF that year) and are superseded by the joint community league rules that are agreed to by the RBF for that year.

MUSTANG LEAGUE

Official playing rules of Little League Baseball will govern game situations in Mustang League. The Riverside Baseball Federation will adhere to all Official Little League rules regarding bats, legal and illegal, in all leagues. Objectives of the game as listed in the Little League Rule Book will be followed. The official Little League rules, however, do not regulate the operation of our league to the degree desired by our members. Therefore, some rules will be discarded, including but not exclusively: Regulation Playing Rules. In case of contradiction, the RBF ruling will apply.

Doubleheaders are allowed. A team may play a maximum of two games on one day. This includes a continuation of a suspended game. A team cannot play two games plus finish a suspended game. All pitching rules would be intact. For example, if a pitcher pitches 1 or less innings in game one of the double header, he/she can pitch (up to) 2 additional innings in game two provided he/she still has innings left from his/her 6 maximum innings per week. If a pitcher pitches 2 or more innings in game one, he/she cannot pitch in game two. If a total of 4 or more innings are pitched in a day (this may occur when playing a double header or continuing a game and playing another game) the pitcher shall observe 3 days of rest.

All game scores are to be verified by both coaches and home team is responsible for reporting the score by entering the scores on the Google score sheet after the game. Failure to do so may result in RBF Board action against the managers involved.

All protests and rule violations will go before the Board. The Board will decide if the violation affected the outcome of said game. If there was a violation but deemed it did not affect the outcome of the game, there will be no forfeit and the outcome will stand. The Board reserves the right to discipline the offending individuals if deemed necessary.

PITCHING

Pitching rules for Mustang League: 6 innings per week maximum, 2 innings per game maximum. Week runs Monday to Sunday. Violation of the pitching rules WILL result in a forfeit of the game in question. Rest rules are as follows:

2 Innings Pitched	1 Day Rest
1 Inning Pitched	No Rest

Regardless of the number of innings pitched in a game, if a player has pitched 50 pitches in a game they are required to have 2 days' rest.

Regardless of the number of innings pitched in a game, if a player has pitched 30 pitches in a game they are required to have 1 day rest.

In Mustang League, a 9-year old player must pitch one inning (between innings 1 through 4); at a minimum, they must face the following: 2 hit batsmen, 3 outs, or at least 4 batters total.

The umpire shall remove a pitcher after hitting two batters in one inning or three batters in a game.

The pitching rules will not be changed for the playoffs. Except that the four vs. five game (if played on) the first Saturday following the end of regular season all pitchers will be eligible to pitch two innings.

No balks will be called.

MERCY RULE

The Mustang League mercy rule occurs when a team has a 15-run lead after 5 innings (or after 4 1/2 innings if Home team is leading). The trailing team must bat at least five complete times per game. If a 6th

inning is played, there is no run limit in the 6th inning. Innings 1 – 5 will be capped at 5 runs per inning, there is no continuation.

BATTING ORDER

Every player on the roster must be included in the batting order. A continuous batting order will be used.

If a player arrives late to the game, his/her name will be immediately inserted at the bottom of the order.

DEFENSIVE ALIGNMENT

The defensive team will field ten players: six infielders and four outfielders.

SUBSTITUTION

Free substitution will apply except that each player on the roster will be entitled to play a minimum of three complete defensive innings. Players injured during the game may be excused from this entitlement. If a game ends in less than six innings (rain out, darkness, etc.), the playing entitlement shall not be required.

Courtesy runners will ONLY be used for the catcher of record and only when that player is on base and there are two outs. The courtesy runner will be the last batted out.

SUBSTITUTE RUNNER

A substitute runner may be used in case of injury. The substitute runner will be the batter who made the last out. Injured players must sit out a minimum of three defensive outs before re-entering the game.

Players with documented medical ailments can be substituted for when necessary. These players will not be treated as injured players. Players with such conditions must be identified to the head umpire and opposing manager prior to the game.

INFIELD FLY

The infield fly rule **will not** be in effect for Mustang League.

STEALING

Stealing is permitted in this league except that:

A maximum of one base can be stolen at one time. If a runner attempts to advance another base on an overthrow and arrives safely he/she will be returned to the preceding base. If he/she is put out attempting to advance or return to a base he/she will be called out.

Runners must be on the base when the pitcher is on the rubber and ready to pitch. A runner must not leave the base until the pitch has crossed home plate. If a runner leaves the base early and reaches the next base safely on a pitch that is not hit, he/she must return to the previous base. If the runner is thrown out, the out will stand. If the runner leaves the base early on a batted ball, the runner will only advance the number of bases based on the "cleanness" of the hit. Example: single and an error, the base runner advances only one base.

Stealing second base is not permitted until there are two outs prior to the pitch being thrown. Stealing from second to third is permitted at any time. Stealing home is not permitted at any time. If in the process of stealing a base, an attempt is made to throw the runner out and an overthrow occurs, no additional base may be taken or attempted.

DELAYED STEALS

Delayed steals are not permitted.

BASERUNNERS

While on any base, runners may not advance when an attempt is made to put out runners by throwing behind them, regardless of where the ball is thrown.

Runners may not advance on an overthrow of the pitcher by the catcher after a thrown pitch.

Runners will be called out if they are put out while leading off or they are not on the base when the pitch is being thrown.

SLIDING

Refer to Little League Baseball Inc. Official Regulations and Playing Rules.

Managers and coaches must teach and instruct all players to slide when the possibility of a close play may occur. No headfirst slides. Runners will be called out if they headfirst slide into the base they are attempting to reach. Diving back to a base they have already reached is permitted.

First base: Runners are not permitted to slide while attempting to reach the base unless the slide is to avoid a throw that pulls the first baseman off the bag. If the runner slides for any other reason, he/she will be called out. Once touching the base, a runner may slide in an attempt to return to the base. Obstruction rules by a fielder will be strictly enforced.

Second and third base- While running the bases, the runner should become accustomed to sliding as overrunning the base can cause your team an out.

Home plate- Runners must slide to avoid a collision with the catcher, provided the catcher has the ball. If the catcher is attempting to field the ball, the runner must avoid contact without necessarily sliding.

All players, including the catcher, must understand they cannot block any base, including home plate, without possession of the ball. Blocking any base and interfering with the runner will result in fielders' obstruction. Umpire will award the runner that base plus one.

Any fielder, including the catcher, having possession of the ball prior to the runner reaching the base, including home plate, may block the base and then require the runner to slide. Failure to slide will result in runners' interference. Umpire will call the runner out and the play becomes dead.

CATCHERS

All catchers must wear a protective helmet with mask and throat protector and a protective cup at all times, even when taking warm-up pitches. The umpires will strictly enforce this rule. It is the manager's responsibility to insure compliance with this rule.

PICK-UP/CALL-UP PLAYERS

Call up players: Only second-year players from the prior league may be used as call ups unless the Board is satisfied that a reasonable attempt was made to contact all second-year players and none are available. In this case only, a team will be permitted to call up a first-year player from a prior league. Any manager using a first-year player as a call-up player will be brought before the Board for possible disciplinary action, which may result in a suspension and/or a forfeiture of the game involved. Under no circumstances will a team be permitted to call up a player from a league not immediately below the manager's league. Example: Little League cannot call up a Farm League player; Mustang League cannot call up a T-ball league player. Any violation of this rule will result in a forfeit and the manager may be brought before the Board for disciplinary action. A call-up player cannot start over a regular rostered player.

If less than ten players are available for a scheduled game, a manager may call up a Farm League player from a team not scheduled to play during the same time period. No call-up player is permitted to "play-up" and miss any part of his/her own game or practice within his/her league. These call-up players will bat at the bottom of the order and play the outfield. A team cannot pick up Mustang League players from other teams.

A team may play with eight players if that is all that is available. Any team that starts with eight players or ends up with eight players due to injury or player(s) having to leave the field early shall not be charged an out when his/her spot in the batting order comes up. The spot shall be skipped and the next batter shall bat. Any player removed from a game by an umpire or coach for discipline reasons shall take an out each time said ejected/disciplined player's spot comes up in the batting order. Once removed from the game by the umpire or manager for disciplinary reasons, that player is not eligible to re-enter that game.

Once the first pitch of a game is thrown, teams are not allowed to "pick-up" additional Farm League players, but must insert any late-arriving rostered players into the line-up. If a team starts the game with 8 players and another rostered player arrives, that player must be immediately inserted into the game and must bat in the last spot in the batting order. He/she must bat as soon as his/her turn comes up in the batting order.

INJURED PLAYERS

Any time a team falls below 8 players due to injury/illness, the player's spot shall be skipped and no out shall be recorded. If this happens during an at bat, the next scheduled batter shall bat and assume the current ball/strike count, if any. If the injured/ill player can resume playing at a later time, he/she must return to the same position in the batting order that he/she previously occupied.

The following rules are only for Riverside in-house play (when no other community leagues are playing with the RBF that year) and are superseded by the joint community league rules that are agreed to by the RBF for that year.

FARM LEAGUE

Official playing rules of Little League Baseball will govern game situations in Farm League. The Riverside Baseball Federation will adhere to all Official Little League rules regarding bats, illegal and legal, in all leagues. The official Little League rules, however, do not regulate the operation of our league to the degree desired by the members. Therefore, some rules will be replaced with the following.

GOAL: To provide training in the basic skills of baseball and insure a positive experience to all players.

PITCHING

The manager or an assistant coach will pitch to his/her team. The pitching rubber will be identified by a hash mark located approximately 40 feet from home plate. When delivering a pitch, the coach must have his/her foot in close proximity to the hash mark. The defensive player at the pitcher's position must wear a face guard and a heart guard. This player must be positioned behind and to the side of the coach who is pitching but not behind the pitching rubber. They shall not be closer than the 40 foot hash mark to the batter.

BATTING

Every player on the roster must be included in the batting order and a continuous batting order will be used. If a player arrives late, his/her name will immediately be inserted at the bottom of the order.

The batter must hit the ball or strike out. A strike out will consist of three SWINGING strikes. A foul ball with two strikes on the batter is not considered strike three.

The batter will receive eight pitches. If the batter refuses to swing, he/she will be called out. No walks will be awarded. If a batter fouls the eighth pitch, they are not out and will receive another pitch until they do not swing or swing and miss (strike three).

No hit batsman.

Players may not bat in the same batting position for two consecutive games during regular season games. Any batting order may be used during the play offs.

INNING

An offensive inning will be determined when three outs occur. Six runs per inning maximum if six runs are scored the inning ends.

SUBSTITUTION

Free substitution will apply except that each player on the roster will be entitled to play a minimum of three complete defensive innings and each player shall not sit more than one consecutive inning. Players injured during the game may be excused from this entitlement.

Courtesy runners will ONLY be used for the catcher of record and only when that player is on base and there are two outs. The courtesy runner will be the last batted out.

SUBSTITUTE RUNNER

A substitute runner may be used in case of injury. The substitute runner will be the batter who made the last out. Injured players must sit out a minimum of three defensive outs before re-entering the game.

Players with documented medical ailments can be substituted for when necessary. These players will not be treated as injured players. Players with such conditions must be identified to the head umpire and opposing manager prior to the game.

RUNNER ADVANCEMENT

Runner advancement will be controlled by hash marks located 2/3 of the way between first and second base, second and third base, and third base and home plate. Base runners will be stopped at first ***control of the baseball by any infielder on the infield dirt in fair territory***. At the time of first control by the infielder, the runner will be awarded the forward base if he/she is at or beyond the hash mark. If the runner has not reached the hash mark, he/she must return to the preceding base. Regardless of the hash mark, if a play is made on the runner, and he/she is tagged out, the runner will be called out. If there is any indecision by the umpire as to the position of the runner at the time of first control, the runner will be awarded the forward base.

No base runners may advance on an overthrow in the infield regardless of where the runners are or which base the play was made.

One base will be awarded on all overthrows out of play. There is no leading off of the bases and/or stealing of bases.

SLIDING

Sliding is permitted. Refer to Little League Baseball Inc. Official Regulations and Playing Rules.

Managers and coaches must teach and instruct all players to slide when the possibility of a close play may occur. No headfirst slides. Runner will be called out if they headfirst slide into the base they are attempting to reach. Diving back to a base they have already reached is permitted.

First base: Sliding is not permitted while attempting to reach the base unless the slide is to avoid a throw that pulls the first baseman off the bag. If the runner slides for any other reason, he/she will be called out. Once touching the base, a runner may slide in an attempt to return to the base. Obstruction rules by a fielder will be strictly enforced.

Second and third base: While running the bases, the runner should become accustomed to sliding as overrunning the base can cause your team an out.

Home plate: Runners must slide to avoid a collision with the catcher, provided the catcher has the ball. If the catcher is attempting to field the ball, the runner must avoid contact without necessarily sliding.

All players, including the catcher, must understand they cannot block any base, including home plate, without possession of the ball. Blocking any base and interfering with the runner will result in fielders' obstruction. The umpire will award the runner that base plus one.

Any fielder, including the catcher, having possession of the ball prior to the runner reaching the base, including home plate, may block the base and then require the runner to slide. Failure to slide will result in runners' interference. The umpire will call the runner out and the play becomes dead.

DEFENSIVE ALIGNMENT

The defensive team will field a maximum of ten players: one pitcher, one catcher, four infielders, and four outfielders. No fielder is to be in a "rover" position (standing on or near second base.) No player will play more than two innings in any one position with the exception of First Base which will be a maximum of three innings. Players may not play more than four innings in the infield including the pitcher and catcher positions.

CATCHERS

All catchers must wear a protective helmet with mask and throat protector and a protective cup at all times, even when taking warm-up pitches. The umpires will strictly enforce this rule. It is the manager's responsibility to insure compliance with this rule.

INFIELD FLY

The infield fly rule will not be in effect.

REGULATION GAMES

A game will consist of a maximum of six innings (no extra innings) or a maximum of 1 hour and 30 minutes. The home team will bat in the bottom of the 6th inning if the game has not yet reached the time limit.

On Saturdays when multiple games are scheduled, games will be played with a one-hour and thirty-minute time limit.

All scheduled games will start no later than 6:00PM. The home team will use the field from 1 to 1/2 hour before game time (5:00PM to 5:30PM) and the visiting team from 1/2 hour before the start of the game until game time (5:30PM to 6:00pm). Saturday game's field times will depend on game scheduling. The ground rules will be the same for each game and will be reviewed before each game by the umpires and both managers.

MAKE-UP GAMES

Regularly scheduled games must be played on the dates scheduled. Rain-outs or continued games should be played by Saturday of the same week. If this cannot be done, they must be played by the following Saturday. If they cannot be played by then, the League Commissioner will schedule a date for the game.

SCORE

The score of the game will not be kept for the games. Dry-erase boards will be used to keep the batting order ONLY. **Score books shall not be used.**

No won-loss records or team standings will be kept. There will be no play-offs or league champions.

COACHES

Defensive coaches: Only two defensive coaches are permitted on the playing field and must be positioned in the outfield. If both coaches agree, a coach may be positioned behind the catcher to help retrieve pitched balls missed by the catcher in an effort to keep the game moving.

Offensive coaches: Only two offensive coaches are permitted on the playing field, excluding the coach that is pitching. The coaches will be positioned in the first and third base coaching boxes only.

UMPIRES

There will be no assigned umpires. Managers (preferred) and assistant coaches (when necessary) are responsible for umpiring all games. An umpire may be used during any game and must be at least eleven-years-old. Both teams must agree to the umpires being used.

A manager has the option to exclude an individual from umpiring his/her games. That individual's name must be given to the League Commissioner one week prior to the game(s).

If available, one umpire will be placed on the first base foul line and one umpire placed on the third base foul line.

Coaches/Umpires will make calls only pertaining to fair or foul balls, if the batter/runner is safe or out, and the location of the runners when the ball is controlled by an infielder.

Only the manager may discuss a call with the umpires. Managers are responsible for ensuring their assistants are not arguing over calls. Any questionable plays should be calmly and quietly discussed amongst Managers or designated assistant(s) (if the Manager is not present). If disputes about calls become a problem, the Board may take disciplinary action against the offending manager and/or coaches.

The managers must remember the umpires are doing the best they can, and, like themselves may not know all the rules.

PICK-UP/CALL-UP PLAYERS

Only six-year-old Tee-Ball players may be used as call-up players unless the Board is satisfied that a reasonable attempt was made to contact all six-year-old players. In this case, a team will be permitted to call up a 5-year-old Tee-Ball player. Any coach using a 5-year-old player as a call-up player will be brought before the Board for possible disciplinary action, which may result in a suspension.

8-YEAR-OLD INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE

Official playing rules of Little League Baseball will govern game situations in the 8-Year Old Instructional League. The official Little League rules, however, do not regulate the operation of our league to the degree desired by the members. Therefore, some rules will be discarded and replaced with the following.

Please remember the players are only eight-years-old and this league is solely for their baseball development. This instructional league may be offered year to year, depending on the number of players interested and volunteers to lead the league.

PITCHING

8-year-old players will pitch.

The pitching rubber will be placed four (4) feet closer than Mustang's regulation of forty-six (46) feet. A player may pitch a maximum of six innings in a calendar week, Monday through Sunday. Delivery of one pitch constitutes having pitched an inning. Innings pitched in games declared official games (rain outs, suspended games or regulation games) will be charged against the pitcher's eligibility for that week.

The umpire shall remove a pitcher after hitting two batters in one inning or three batters in a game. A pitcher can pitch a maximum of two innings in one game.

If a pitcher pitches three innings in a game, two complete days of rest is mandatory. If a pitcher pitches two innings or less, there is no mandatory rest period.

On the second trip of an inning to the mound by a coach the pitcher must be removed. This does not apply for an injury or suspected injury.

No balks will be called.

An enlarged version of the strike zone shall be used to encourage the batters to swing. Before each game the home plate umpire and both managers should discuss the strike zone. The calls must be consistent.

BATTING

Every player on the roster must be included in the batting order. A continuous batting order will be used. If a player arrives late, he/she will be inserted at the bottom of the order.

INNING

An offensive inning will be determined by three outs or when a team scores five runs. There is no run limit in the 6th inning.

TENTH BATTER

When the tenth batter, of a normal inning, is at bat the inning will end when:

1. He/she strikes out.
2. He/she is put out.
3. The ball is put to a base in front of the runner.
4. A normal play is made

The tenth/last batter will not be able to receive a walk or hit batsman. He/she must either put the ball in play or strike out.

If a pitch hits the tenth/last batter it will be charged against the pitcher.

SUBSTITUTION

Free substitution will apply except that each player on the roster will be entitled to play a minimum of three complete defensive innings. The exception to this rule is a minimum of two innings if the game is shortened

to five innings, and one inning if the game is shortened to four innings. Four innings constitutes a regulation game. Players injured during the game may be excused from this entitlement.

SUBSTITUTE RUNNER

A substitute runner may be used in case of injury. The substitute runner will be the batter who made the last out. Injured players must sit out a minimum of three defensive outs before reentering the game.

Players with documented medical ailments can be substituted for when necessary. These players will not be treated as injured players. Players with such conditions must be identified to the head umpire and opposing manager prior to the game.

SLIDING

Sliding is permitted; refer to Little League Baseball Inc. official regulations and playing rules.

Coaches must teach and instruct all players to slide when the possibility of a close play may occur. No headfirst slides. Runner will be called out if they headfirst slide into the base they are attempting to reach. Diving back to a base they have already reached is permitted.

First base: Sliding is not permitted while attempting to reach the base unless the slide is to avoid a throw that pulls the first baseman off the bag. If the runner slides for any other reason, he/she will be called out. Once touching the base, a runner may slide in an attempt to return to the base. Obstruction rules by a fielder will be strictly enforced.

Second and third base: While running the bases, the runner should become accustomed to sliding as overrunning the base can cause your team an out.

Home plate: Runners must slide to avoid a collision with the catcher, provided the catcher has the ball. If the catcher is attempting to field the ball, the runner must avoid contact without necessarily sliding.

All players, including the catcher, must understand they cannot block any base, including home plate, without possession of the ball. Blocking any base and interfering with the runner will result in fielders' obstruction. The umpire will award the runner that base plus one.

Any fielder, including the catcher, having possession of the ball prior to the runner reaching the base, including home plate, may block the base and then require the runner to slide. Failure to slide will result in runners' interference. The umpire will call the runner out and the play becomes dead.

STEALING

Stealing is permitted in this league except that:

1. Stealing of home is not permitted at any time.
2. Stealing of 2nd base is only permitted with two outs.
2. A maximum of one base can be stolen at one time. If a runner attempts to advance another base on an overthrow and arrives safely he/she will be returned to the preceding base. If he/she is put out attempting to advance or return to a base he/she will be called out.

Unlike Little and Mustang League when you can steal as soon as the pitch is past the batter, the runner cannot leave the base until the catcher has the ball.

DEFENSIVE ALIGNMENT

The defensive team will field a maximum of ten players, six infielders and four outfielders. No fielder is to be in a "rover" position.

MERCY RULE

There is no mercy rule for this Instructional League.

UMPIRES

A manager has the option to exclude an individual from umpiring his/her games. The person's name must be given to the League Commissioner one week prior to taking effect.

The umpires will maintain crowd control by keeping whatever area they deem necessary free of spectators. Only the manager may discuss a call with the umpires. The home plate umpire will be the head umpire and remain behind the plate the entire game.

Umpires for the 8-Year-old Instructional League must be 11 years or older. Any deviation from the age limit must have both manager approvals.

The managers must remember the umpires are doing the best they can, and like themselves, may not know all the rules.

Any rule not covered here will be entirely at the discretion of the home plate umpire.

CATCHERS

All catchers must wear a protective helmet with face mask and throat protector and a protective cup at all times, even when taking warm-up pitches. The umpires will strictly enforce this rule. It is the manager's responsibility to insure compliance with this.

INFIELD FLY

The infield fly rule will not be in effect.

PICK-UP PLAYERS

If less than ten players are available for a scheduled game, the manager may pick up a first-year Farm League Player. These pick-up players will play in the outfield and bat at the bottom of the order. A team may play with nine players if that is all that is available.

OVER THROWS

On a batted ball:

If the overthrow goes out of play, the runner gets the base he/she was going to plus one.

If the overthrow stays in play, the ball is live and the runner advances of his/her own volition.

COACHES

No defensive coaches will be permitted on the field.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

The following rules are only for Riverside in-house play (when no other community leagues are playing with the RBF that year) and are superseded by the joint community league rules that are agreed to by the RBF for that year.

T-BALL

GOALS

Provide an opportunity for all players to learn basic baseball skills. Introduce and teach the players how to participate as part of a team.

Teach the merits of good sportsmanship by setting an example to the players.

GAME

Games will consist of up to a maximum of 3 innings with no inning beginning after one hour of play.

BASES

Bases will be spaced fifty feet apart when loose bases are utilized.

INNING

The offensive inning will end when all players on the roster have batted one time.

UMPIRES

Coaches will umpire.

BATTING

A batting tee will be used during the first half of the season (i.e.) no coach pitch. During the second half of the season, if the manager elects, a manager or coach may pitch during the last inning of each game. After four (4) pitches, the batting tee must be used by the batter.

Every player on the roster must be included in the batting order and a continuous batting order will be used. If a player arrives late to the game, his/her name will be inserted at the bottom of the order.

To ensure that all players have an equal opportunity to bat, the same batting order shall not be used every game.

To ensure safety, no on-deck batters will be used.

BASE RUNNING

Base runners will be encouraged to run the bases properly, (doubles, triples, etc.). All runners must stop when the ball reaches the infield dirt.

There is to be no sliding, no leading off, and no stealing.

DEFENSIVE ALIGNMENT

Teams will field five infielders, no catcher will be used. The remainder of the players will play outfield. Outfielders should play a minimum of 20 feet from the infield dirt.

No fielder is to be in a "rover" position behind or on second base.

All coaches are to ensure that all players are taking an active role by playing all players at all times. All coaches are to give all players an equal opportunity to play both infield and outfield positions.

COACHES

Defensive coaches: The defensive team may have three coaches on the field to assist in the positioning of players and to instruct them on proper fielding plays.

Offensive coaches: The offensive team may have three coaches on the field: one first base coach, one third base coach, and one hitting instructor at home plate.

Coaches are to familiarize themselves with the rules and regulations of the Riverside Baseball Federation. Please ensure that all head coaches and assistant coaches adhere to the policies set forth by the RBF board.

6-YEAR-OLD INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE

All six-year-old players may be offered the opportunity to play a number of games according to Farm League rules at the end of the regular season provided there are enough players for two teams and enough volunteers who are interested to lead the league.

The purpose of this instructional league is to prepare these players for Farm league rules.

Official playing rules of Little League Baseball will govern game situations in the 6-Year-Old Instructional League. The official Little League rules, however, do not regulate the operation of our league to the degree desired by the members. Therefore, some rules will be discarded and replaced with the following.

This league will be played under the same rules as Farm League. See Farm League rules in this handbook. Games will be played using T-Balls in place of regular baseballs.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

Parent Participation

Many responsibilities exist beyond the normal team-level commitments that make the Riverside Baseball Federation function smoothly. Parents are what make the program a quality experience for all of our children. The Riverside Baseball Federation can only be as good as we, the parents, make it. Following are some important volunteer areas that are required both before and during the season:

- Assistance preparing the fields for the new season.
- Assistance with new construction projects to improve our fields and facilities.
- Manager and Assistant Coaching and Scorekeeping Positions
- Volunteer Umpiring
- Field Preparation and Maintenance during the season.
- Fundraising
- All Star and Tournament Assistance and Coordination

Parent Support and Conduct

Parent support during both games and practices is critically important to the success of the league. Be supportive of the team by ensuring your child attends each practice and game on-time. Be a positive role model during games, whether you are a manager, an assistant coach, or simply a spectator. Finally, please keep the following in mind:

- Always be positive and enthusiastic. Remember that children play baseball to have fun.
- Observe practices and games to learn proper techniques to practice with your child.
- Encourage your child toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game.
- Teach your child to always play by the rules.
- Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are more important than a victory.
- Show your child positive reinforcement regardless of the outcome of the game.
- Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
- Never ridicule or yell at your child or any other participants for making a mistake.
- Do not use or tolerate the use of rude, abusive or profane language or gestures.
- Let the managers and coaches do the coaching.
- Let an umpire be the umpire

Remember that the Coaches and Umpires are not professionals and they give their time to help instruct and teach the players. We are all human and as hard as we may try we are not perfect.

Recognize that the umpire is the closest to the play and that each umpire will do their best to make accurate and fair calls. While we do utilize "patch" umpires who do a good job in an often-underappreciated role the umpire is often a volunteer parent who has assumed a difficult, but necessary role. Regardless, we as coaches, parents and players must realize that they are doing their best.

The Role of the Parent

Parents play a very important role in helping to shape a positive experience for players, coaches, umpires, and other parents. To help you understand the key role parents play in the Riverside Baseball Federation, the following excerpt was taken from the Official Regulations and Playing Rules of National Little League Baseball.

Parents should accept the fact that they must shoulder responsibility and take initiative to make the local program successful. Little League is not a club in which membership implies baby-sitting benefits and entertainment privileges for your children.

Practically speaking, Little League is an adult, volunteer work project constructed, supervised and assisted by parents who desire to make its benefits extend to their children.

Each parent should join in the total effort. There is a place and a job to do for all. The burden of operating the League should not fall on a few. The parent who shirks this responsibility cannot, in turn, expect others to assume the burden."

Parent Concerns

If you have concerns about your team or the league, first talk to the team manager. If your concern is not resolved, then please contact a RBF Board Member and/or attend a RBF Membership Meeting; meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at 8:30 pm at Bradshaw Park from April thru October and at 7:00 pm at North Sewickley Municipal Building basement from November through March.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

SafeKids Program for Riverside Baseball Federation

The following constitute the policies of Riverside Baseball Federation (RBF) with regard to awareness and prevention of abuse within our organization.

- **Riverside Baseball Federation** is committed to provide a safe environment and to prevent child abuse and sexual misconduct.
- **Riverside Baseball Federation** will make every reasonable effort to ensure that every person involved in coaching/training a sport activity in our organization will abide by the SafeKids guidelines.
- **Riverside Baseball Federation** will make every reasonable effort to exclude any adult with a legally documented history of child abuse/molestation or any other conviction or record that would bring unnecessary risk to the health and safety of the participants of this organization. Therefore, every person applying for a position as a coach or assisting in the field or dugout must complete an Employee Disclosure Statement. Additionally, every coach, assistant, scorekeeper, etc. assisting in the field or dugout must provide current Act 33 and Act 34 clearances and FBI, fingerprint based criminal history in accordance with the **Riverside Baseball Federation Handbook**.
- **Riverside Baseball Federation** will take appropriate action on all allegations of child abuse and/or sexual misconduct. All allegations will be reported immediately to the authorities for investigation and will cooperate fully with any such investigation.

The following represent the preventive measures of our organization with regard to abuse:

- Physical, mental, and verbal abuse of any of the participants, coaches, managers, employees, volunteers involved in our sponsored activities is not permitted.
- Inappropriate touching of any kind is forbidden.
- We agree to provide more than one adult working at or overseeing every activity. If a child needs special attention (one-on-one training or an individual meeting), it will be handled with the assistance or presence of another adult.
- Coaches/trainers should not socialize with the participants outside of the sponsored activities of the organization.
- Coaches/trainers should never ride alone with a child or participant in the car. In the event a child or participant is stranded at an activity at least one assistant coach must stay until the child is picked up.
- Parents are encouraged to attend all sponsored activities with their child.

Conduct:

- It is the manager's responsibility to maintain order among the members of his/her team. All players not actively involved on the playing field shall remain in the dugout during the game.
- Profanity will not be tolerated from anyone. This is grounds for removal from the league.
- Use of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products in any form on the field, benches, and dugouts or around the players during games or practices is not permitted.
- Throwing of equipment will not be tolerated.
- There will be no heckling of opposing players.
- Any manager ejected from a game will be told to leave the field and become a spectator. If he/she refuses to leave he/she will forfeit the game. If as a spectator, he/she continues to harass the umpires, the umpire will instruct him/her to leave the park. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action by the RBF.

Riverside Baseball Federation has adopted this program and has incorporated it into the **RBF** guidelines.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank