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League ID: 03461113

League Operation Manual & By-Laws

Updated: 1/31/2026

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2025-2026 RAL Board of Directors

Executive Board (Voting Directors):

| Position | Name | Phone | Email |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| President | Tonya Hurt | 276-971-1984 | Tonyahurt71@yahoo.com |
| Vice-President – Baseball | AaronBuchanan | 276-202-6410 | Abuchnan370@yahoo.com |
| Vice President – Softball | Matt Gilbert | 276-202-9342 | Gilly7680@yahoo.com |
| Secretary | Sarah Lawson | 276-202-1089 | Squesinberry0002@email.vccs.edu |
| Treasurer | Brittany Byrd | 276-701-6481 | Britt.byrd.92@gmail.com |
| Umpire In Chief | Brandon Goins | 276-701-2132 | Bgoins01@comcast.net |
| Player Agent | Adam Wade | 276-701-4037 | |
| Safety Officer | Larry Meadows | 276-385-2380 | |
| Coaching Coordinator - Baseball | Darrell Wess | 276-971-2331 | |
| Coaching Coordinator - Softball | Randy Horton | 276-701-4664 | |
| Coaching Coordinator – Tee Ball | Haley Brewster | 276-206-7149 | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

OTHER NUMBERS:

Emergency.....911
 Richlands Police.....276-964-9134
 League Office.....276-971-1984

Section I - Purpose:

To layout the Hometown Rules that will govern Richlands Athletic League Inc., further known as Richlands Little League, in association with the Richlands Little League Constitution and the Official Rules and Regulations provided by Little League International in Williamsport, PA.

Richlands Athletic League Mission

Richlands Athletic League, Inc. encourages participation and is committed to enrich the lives of the youth in our community. Through proper guidance and leadership the Richlands Athletic League assists youth in developing character, qualities of citizenship, discipline, sportsmanship, competitiveness, teamwork, fair play and physical well-being to become superior citizens.

Section II – League Administration:

1. Board of Directors

- a. The Board of Directors is the Governing body of the Richlands Athletic League, Inc.; sets all the policies of the League, hereinafter referred to as the Local League or Richlands Little League. The Executive Board shall hold all voting authority to affirm and/or modify policies, procedures and other matters that properly come before the Board.
- b. All board and general member meetings will use the standard Robert’s Rules of Order
- c. The Local League shall be governed by one Board of Directors (Executive Board) that will be elected annually by the Local League Regular Membership at an annual general membership meeting conducted during the month of September, time and location to be announced.
- d. Beginning with the 2025-2026 fiscal year, no two or more immediate family members and/or spouses shall be permitted to seek election to and serve on the board simultaneously. However, if immediate family and/or spouses are elected to the board immediately preceding this enactment then they may still seek re-election to the board for the following fiscal year(s) provided there is no lapse in board service.
- e. The Board of Directors of Richlands Little League approves this Operations Manual and By-Laws for the fiscal year each October, post elections. The approved Operations Manual and By-Laws will be available on the website and in the Concession Stand.
- f. The Board of Directors of Richlands Little League shall approve each fiscal year the Sponsorship and Participant Fees outlined in this document.
- g. The Board of Directors **shall not** permit the solicitation of funds in the name of Richlands Athletic League, Inc., dba Richlands Little League, unless all of the funds so raised are placed in the Local League Treasury. The donor and person collecting donations must provide all receipts and documentation to the Treasurer.

2. League Membership

- a. To become a Regular league member the participant must be an approved volunteer and pass all necessary background checks. Once approved, the volunteer has 30 days to pay the \$5.00 membership fee to the league secretary, OR delegated official, to become an **active** “Regular” member for that year.
- b. **“Regular Member in Good Standing”** means any person who has completed the requisite volunteer application, completed a background verification, paid the requisite membership fee, and is an active participant in league activities, such as but not limited to, coaching, concessions, field maintenance, score keeping, or announcing.

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- c. Only Regular Members in good standing shall be entitled to make motions and vote at General Membership Meeting. However, the Board of Directors may invite, admit and recognize guests for presentations or comments during General Membership Meetings. (Those eligible to take part at the meeting of the Board of Directors are described in Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution). Only Regular Members in good standing can vote at the Annual Meeting of the Members to elect the new RAL board for the upcoming year.
- d. The Regular Membership meetings are open to all members of the Local League. Regular members will not have a vote in the Board proceedings. The Executive Board, by a majority vote, may allow a regular member or a non-member to address the Board of Directors, provided the subject is made known before a vote is taken. The regular membership meetings are scheduled per quarter with time and location to be announced.
- e. The General Membership of Richlands Little League approves a League Constitution for the fiscal year each September. The approved Constitution will be available on the website and in the Concession Stand.

3. Fees & Registration

- a. Season registration will be scheduled by the Board for multiple days to allow for ample opportunity for participation.
- b. The Board will determine the registration deadline and publish with registration materials. Late registrants are not guaranteed a spot but every effort will be made to place them.
- c. Appendix D outlines the approved player registration fees

4. Division Age Alignment:

- a. Players are expected to play in the division they are eligible, unless registration by Board states otherwise.
- b. Players/parents may petition the Board of Directors for a waiver form to play in a different division.
 - i. Waiver requests should be made in writing to the Player Agent
 - ii. The division Coaching Coordinator will provide a recommendation to the Board with regard to any safety concerns and/or skill level concerns
 - iii. The Board of Directors will have final approval of any waiver requests.
- c. Should safety be a concern for a player, the division Coaching Coordinator can recommend a waiver be approved by the Safety Officer, for that player to play up or down in a league division.
- d. Age Structure
 - i. Based on the League Age determination passed by LLI for the season
 - ii. Tee Ball: 4-6
 - iii. Minor: 6-9
 - iv. Major: 9-12
 - v. Junior: 12-14
 - vi. Senior: 13-16
 - vii. Big: 15-18

5. Fundraising

- a. Advertising
 - i. Advertising will be collected under the leadership of the President and Vice-Presidents.

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- ii. RAL will sell advertising in the following levels
 - 1. Field Sponsor
 - 2. Team Sponsor
- iii. The Board of Directors will have discretion over amounts and levels which are attached in the Appendix
- b. Annual Fund Raiser
 - i. Every player in the league shall participate in the annual fund raiser. A parent may wish to make a donation of \$50.00 in order to cover the fund raiser for lack of participation.
 - ii. The Board of Directors shall decide and approve the annual fundraising opportunities.
 - iii. **ALL** Richlands Little League fundraising proceeds will go into the General Fund and used as approved by the Board of Directors.

6. League Safety

- a. The Safety Officer will present the annual Safety Plan for approval by the Board of Directors
- b. Accident forms **MUST** be filled out for ANY injury. Forms will be available on the website or in the concession stand.
- c. Accident forms should be returned to the Safety Officer upon completion for proper reporting.
- d. Concussion policy is defined in the Safety Plan and conforms to standards of Tazewell County Public Schools in accordance with Virginia Law.

7. League Insurance

- a. Richlands Athletic League secures league insurance each year based on the following:
- b. Insurance Covers the following RAL activities:
 - i. Practice, exhibition or scheduled games.
 - ii. Participation in District, State, Division, Regional and World Series.
 - iii. Use of baseball parks, bleachers, stadiums, ground or other premises specifically designated by the league.
- c. Insurance Does Not Cover:
 - i. Practice or exhibition games in non-designated areas or fields.
 - ii. Practice or exhibition games or unofficial games with other league or youth baseball or softball programs.
 - iii. Injuries incurred during non-scheduled practices or games.
 - iv. Injuries incurred from outside normally travelled routes to and from practices or scheduled games.
- d. Injuries
 - i. All player injuries shall be reported to the team manager. The manager shall notify the Executive Vice President of the Local League within 24 hours of all injuries. Injured players shall be retained on the player roster until terminating release is received in writing, from a physician or parent/legal guardian.

- ii. The parent/legal guardian must submit a medical release and/or letter from their physician before the player is authorized to participate in practices or games. Forms can be picked up from the Local League office, the website, or concession stand.
- iii. An injured player may participate in team activities other than practice or actual play, but may not actively participate in a game or practice in any capacity involving field participation.
- iv. **CONCUSSION:** Please refer to the following site for the concussion ruling and training: <http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/>

8. Disciplinary Committee

- a. The Disciplinary Committee will include the League Executive Vice-President, Umpire-in-Chief, Coaching Coordinator of Baseball, Coaching Coordinator of Softball, Coaching Coordinator of Tee Ball and two general members appointed by the League President.
- b. If one member recuses themselves, or is asked to leave by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, the League President will appoint a replacement.
- c. The committee will investigate complaints submitted by form (RAL-DC1) against managers, coaches, umpires, league official, players, or fans.
- d. The Disciplinary Committee will have the ability to temporarily suspend for 1 game, by majority vote, any of the above parties until a board meeting can be called by the League President to address and adjudicate the issue.
- e. The disciplinary committee will provide a final determination and resolution in written form (RAL-DC2) to the impacted parties, along with Appeal Rights.
- f. If the impacted parties appeal the Disciplinary Committees resolution and Appeal maybe submitted to the League President within 24 hours of the receipt of the resolution. The Appeal will be resolved by the RAL Board of Directors.

9. Weather/Rescheduled Games

- a. No practices or games will be conducted when the temperature is below 40 degrees.
 - i. Temperature Standard – AccuWeather app
 - ii. Any game started will continue to completion even it temperature falls below the 40 degree mark, unless it is deemed a safety risk to so by the League President or Safety Officer.
- b. Visible lightning requires an immediate stoppage of play/practice. Play can resume after a full 30 minute window with **NO** visible lightning.
- c. Decisions on practice/game cancellations due to inclement weather will be made by the League President OR his/her designated representative. Please note the Safety Plan for further information.
- d. The first game rained out is scheduled to be replayed at the first rain date on the schedule, unless that causes a team to have more than four games in a playing week (Sunday-Saturday).
 - i. Under no circumstances will a manager/coach set the date and time for the rescheduled game
 - ii. The division Coaching Coordinator shall reschedule games and make arrangements for umpires, giving the date and time for the rescheduled game.
 - iii. Saturdays can be used for make-up games.
- e. No game will be rescheduled due to “Convenience”. If a manager has a school function that involves 3 or more players, then the manager must notify the division Coaching

Coordinator of the event with names of the affected players at least 1 week prior to the event.

Section III – Managers, Coaches, and Volunteers:

1. Membership and Background Checks

- a. All Officers, Board Members, Committee Members, Managers, Coaches, Scorekeepers and other elected or appointed officials **must be** active Regular (paid) Members in good standing.
- b. Richlands Little League must conduct a Background Check that includes the National and State Sex Offender’s Registry and Criminal Registry on the roles identified above.
- c. Additional checks can be ran, as deemed necessary, by the League President or Safety Officer.
- d. Background checks are reviewed by the League President, Vice-Presidents or Safety Officer.
- e. Background checks are performed via the First Advantage National Criminal Database file provided by Little League International.

2. Appointment

- a. All Manager and Coach Applicants MUST be nominated for appointment by the League President for Board Approval.
- b. All Manager and Coach Applicants are approved by the Board before eligible to participate in practices or games.
- c. The League President shall appoint a Board approved Coach to replace a Manager if an approved position becomes vacant.
- d. Appointments are for one year and positions are not guaranteed for the current year solely on past participation.

3. Meetings & Handouts

- a. Approved Managers and Coaches shall attend a Rules and Safety meeting prior to the start of the League Season. At least one member from each team must attend. If a manager/coach does not attend the rules clinic, the League President retains the right to forfeit that manager/coach from coaching an All-Star team.
- b. Approved Managers and Coaches are required to complete the CDC Concussion Training and the Diamond Leader coach training and provide the certificate on file with the President.
- c. Approved Managers will be provided with a rule book and copy of the by-laws. They are expected to be familiar with both documents.

4. Equipment

- a. Managers will be given appropriate equipment and facility keys for their team as documented on a League Use form.
- b. All RAL equipment and keys must be returned to the league at the end of the season as signed off by the League President, or representative, on the same League Use form.

- c. Any equipment or keys not returned to the league the manager will receive an invoice from Richlands Athletic League at current replacement costs. **Note:** This may include the costs for replacement of door locks due to lost keys.

5. Facilities

- a. All Richlands Little League volunteers should be conscious of policing the ground of trash and debris as well as assisting with the upkeep of the facility building and grounds, including bleachers and dugouts.
- b. Managers, coaches, and other volunteers for the last game (or practice) of the night are responsible for checking the trash inside and outside of the fields and dumping as necessary.
- c. Managers, coaches and other volunteers are responsible to assist in maintenance of all playing fields. The division Coaching Coordinators will coordinate the maintenance schedules of the fields.
- d. Managers and coaches are responsible to provide at least one member from the team to work the concession stand during alternate games. Each team can designate a “Team Mom” to assist in coordinating participation from each team.

Section IV – Pre-Season:

1. Team Setup

- a. After registration deadline, the League President, with assistance from the division Coaching Coordinators and Player Agent, will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors for the number of teams and draft setup for each division.
- b. Every effort will be made to keep the team rosters at 12 or less players.
- c. Wait list participants will be added to teams by the Player Agent as positions are available.
- d. Player Release During Off Season
 - i. In any contemplated release of a player, the manager **MUST** make the Player Agent and the Board of Directors aware of the situation immediately.
 - ii. The Player Agent first determines (in writing from manager) why the manager wants to release the player, or why the parents want the player to be released. Playing ability CANNOT be a factor.
 - iii. The issue is then brought before the Board of Directors for a decision. No release is valid without the Board approving it.
 - iv. The player is then notified of the release in writing (or by phone) by the Player Agent, in time to attend tryouts for the upcoming season.
 - v. If a player is released he/she may not play for the team released from the remainder of the season nor shall he/she be a substitute player for such team if players are needed to play so a game will not be forfeited.
 - vi. A player may appeal to be allowed on the same team if the prior team Manager is released for the upcoming season.

2. Try-Outs

- a. Division Coaching Coordinators and Player Agent will be responsible to run a fair and effective tryout for each division (not including Tee Ball).
- b. Only the players participating in the draft are required to tryout.
- c. The division Coaching Coordinator or Player Agent can appoint someone to run the try-

out under their direction, with approval of the League President.

- d. Try-out Obligations:
 - i. Any candidate failing to attend at least one of the spring tryout sessions shall lose the status of a candidate unless an acceptable written excuse is presented and accepted prior to the draft by the majority of the Board.
 - ii. Prior to the tryouts, the Player Agent shall make a list showing the names and League Age of each candidate. Prior to the player draft, and after requirements have been taken into consideration, a final player list of all players who qualify as eligible candidates will be prepared before the selection takes place.
 - iii. This list must be maintained by the Player Agent and is the basis for future player with the waiting list.

3. Draft Mechanics

- a. All drafts must be administered by the League President with the assistance of the Player Agent. Coaching Coordinators can be present during the draft.
- b. Only team Managers may be present for the draft, no coaches.
- c. Participants moving up to a new division will be part of the draft
 - i. If a player moving up is the child of an appointed manager, that child will be automatically drafted to that team, per the rules of the draft.
 - ii. If a player moving up has a sibling on a team in that division, that child will be automatically drafted to that manager's team, per the rules of the draft.
- d. Once drafted that player remains on the assigned team until moving up divisions or a re-draft is ordered of the current division.
- e. The Board must approve all requests to re-enter the draft within a division. Request should be in writing to the League President or Player Agent.
- f. Managers are NOT allowed to select coaches prior to the draft. Coaches will be chosen from available volunteers based on the finished roster.
- g. **TRADING OF PLAYERS MUST BE WITHIN ONE WEEK AFTER DRAFT. NO EXCEPTIONS. MANAGERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TRADE UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY THE PLAYER AGENT.**
- h. Types of Drafts
 - i. Common Rules
 - 1. Brothers/Sisters in Draft: When there are two or more siblings in the draft, and the first brother /sister is drafted by a manager, that manager automatically has an option to draft the other brother/sister on the next turn. If the manager does not exercise the option, the second sibling is then available to be drafted by any team. **EXCEPTION: SAFETY CONCERN APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**
 - 2. Brothers/Sisters of Players Currently on Team: If desired, a manager shall submit an option in writing on a draftee if the player candidate's brother or sister is a member of that manager's team. If such an option is submitted, the manager **MUST draft the sibling within the first three draft selections.**
 - 3. Sons/Daughters of Manager: If a manager has sons/daughters eligible for the draft, and wishes to draft them, he/she must submit the option in writing. If so stated, the parent/manager is required to exercise the option at or before the close of the specific draft round, depending on

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the League Age of the son/daughter. Parents/Manager option takes priority over any other option.

4. Sons/Daughters of Coach: A new coach shall not be appointed nor approved until after the draft to avoid “Red Shirting” of players through selective coaching appointment. A returning coach, through the manager, may exercise an option in writing to the Player Agent provided:
 - a. The coach has served as manager or coach in the league (at any level) for the past two years, AND,
 - b. The coach is returning to the same Major League team as last year.
 - c. In order for a manager to exercise this option; the coach must qualify under **BOTH** conditions above.
5. All players who are league age 10, 11, and 12 year-old must be drafted.
6. Player lists shall be broken up by league age and position (if known)
- ii. Standard Draft – No change in number of teams
 1. Draft order will be selected (first pick to final pick) by the team with the worst previous season record to the best record. In the event of a tie for the worst season record, a head-to-head record will be utilized for the tied teams. If a second tie exists, a coin toss shall be used to determine the draft order for the teams who are tied.
 2. Draft is completed using Standard format (1,2,3,4—1,2,3,4—1,2,3,4)
- iii. Reduction Draft – Reduction in number of teams, but not complete redraft
 1. Draft order will be selected (first pick to final pick) by the team with the worst previous season record to the best record. In the event of a tie for the worst season record, a head-to-head record will be utilized for the tied teams. If a second tie exists, a coin toss shall be used to determine the draft order for the teams who are tied.
 2. Draft is completed using Standard format (1,2,3,4—1,2,3,4—1,2,3,4)
 3. All players on the returning roster of the removed team will be placed in the draft. They are eligible to be drafted at any slot unless parent or sibling clause applies OR by the round dictated by LLI rules. These players should also participate in the tryout.
- iv. Expansion Draft – Addition in number of teams, but not complete redraft
 1. The expansion draft will utilize Option 3 as outlined in the Little League Operating Manual (Player Selection Systems Section/Expansion/Option 3)
 2. The player pool will be established as outlined by Option 3.
 3. The player pool draft will be conducted prior to the regular draft.
 4. All undrafted player pool players will return to the original teams.
 5. The regular draft will have a draft order that is to be first by the expansion team, then by the team with the worst previous season record to the best record. In the event of a tie for the worst season record, a head-to-head record will be utilized for the tied teams. If a second tie exists, a coin toss shall be used to determine the draft order for the teams who are tied.
 6. Draft is completed using Standard format (1,2,3,4—1,2,3,4—1,2,3,4)

- v. Complete Redraft
 - 1. Manager will be appointed for each necessary team as nominated by the league President and approved by the Board.
 - 2. Draft order will be selected by drawing
 - 3. Draft is completed using Snake format (1,2,3,4—4,3,2,1—1,2,3,4)
 - 4. **Every effort should be made to maintain the majors division without a complete redraft.**

4. Practices

- a. Practice schedules will be administered and slots assigned by the division Coaching Coordinator.
- b. Every effort will be made to post the practice schedules on the website/League Fa no later than Thursday for the following week.
- c. Managers can make request with regard to the schedule but there is no guarantee those requests will be honored.
- d. Scrimmages allowed within a time slot during the two weeks prior to season. FaceBook page. All scrimmages must be approved by the division Coaching Coordinator. All pitching rules must be followed for scrimmages.

Section V – Regular Season:

1. Rules

- a. Richlands Little League uses the Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules for governing play for all divisions
- b. Interleague Play
 - i. Richlands Little League may, at the President’s discretion, allow scheduled games against approved neighboring leagues. The division Coaching Coordinators will determine the appropriate scheduling.
 - ii. Any discrepancies in the By-Laws of Richlands Little League and the scheduled league will be negotiated prior to any games being played, by the Presidents of both leagues.
 - iii. Managers within a division scheduled for interleague play will be notified prior to games of any adjustments to the Richlands Little League By-Laws for any scheduled interleague play.
- c. Certain additional rules and clarifications for Minor League play are shown in Appendix A.
- d. Certain additional rules and clarifications for Tee Ball play are shown in Appendix B.
- e. All Softball pitchers are required to wear face masks during pitching practice and games.

2. Field Prep

- a. Managers and Coaches are responsible for preparing the field prior to their practice or game. Including painting lines and dragging infield. Managers and Coaches are responsible for leaving the field in good condition, including raking/dragging infield and covering areas as needed.
- b. Managers and Coaches are responsible for verifying the field and dugout areas are safe and ready for play.
- c. Manager and Coaches are responsible for ensuring the trash cans are clean and emptied as appropriate. This includes trash cans in the fan areas.
- d. No outside organizations shall use any of the RAL fields unless approved by the Board.

3. Umpires

- a. When games are scheduled back to back, each team is responsible for providing umpires for the alternate game.
- b. Umpires should work to ensure games move at an appropriate pace and curfews and times are honored.
- c. The division Coaching Coordinator will layout umpiring schedule that denotes plate and base umpires.

4. Schedule

- a. Games schedules will be created by the division Coaching Coordinator and supplied to the League President prior to the Board of Directors for approval.
- b. Every effort shall be made to schedule at least 2 games per week.
- c. Game schedules are not movable without the approval of the division Coaching Coordinator
- d. Inter-league play may be incorporated within the League schedule, with approval of the League President.
- e. Managers CANNOT schedule their own games.
- f. All schedules shall be posted on the Richlands Little League website/FaceBook page.

5. Times/Curfews

- a. Curfew is 10:00PM
- b. Weekday games will be scheduled for 5:30PM and 7:30PM
- c. Saturday games will begin at 10:00AM
- d. Majors Softball Division will observe the 5-run rule per inning. This rule is suspended in the 6th inning.
- e. The game shall end by Mercy Rule if the winning team is ahead by 10 runs after four innings (3½ innings if the home team is ahead). Rule is in effect for any inning after the 4th as well.

6. Official Scorebook/Pitch Count

- a. Each Manager is responsible for maintaining an accurate scorebook to record games played by participants, compliance with playing time rules, and pitch count (baseball).
- b. Scorebooks must be turned into the League President at the end of the year.
- c. The OFFICIAL scorebook for each game is the Home team's scorebook.
- d. The OFFICIAL pitch-count for each game (baseball only) will be the Visiting team's scorebook.
- e. All OFFICIAL pitch-counts must be entered on the Richlands Little League website by the Visiting team's Manager (or designee) by the following day.
- f. All OFFICIAL game scores must be entered on the Richlands Little League website by the Home team Manager (or designee) by the following day.

7. Press Box/Concession

- a. Each team must supply one volunteer for the press box during the game.
- b. Each team must supply one volunteer for the alternate game time concession stand duty.

8. Protests

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- a. The protest must be submitted to the Umpire on the field of play and then in writing to the local league President within 24 hours. The Umpire-in-Chief shall also submit a report immediately.
- b. Once the protest is submitted to the Umpire on the field, it must also be logged in each team's scorebook. The protest reason, time remaining, outs, runs and other game details must be documented for the time of protest. The game shall proceed to completion, and if the protest is upheld, then the game is reset back to the documented protest point.
- c. A committee composed of the President, Player Agent, league's Umpire-in-Chief and one or more other officers or Coaching Coordinators who are not managers or umpires shall hear and resolve any such protest, including playing rules. If the protest is allowed, resume the game from the exact point when the infraction occurred.
- d. NOTE: The Board of Directors' decision on any issues will be **FINAL**.

9. Controversy and Problem Resolution

- a. IF Managers, Coaches, Umpires, Parents and all other members have a problem, the issues must be taken to the ***Division Coaching Coordinator***. If the issue involves a player the ***Player Agent must*** be notified.
- b. IF the issue cannot be resolved by the Division Coaching Coordinator, the issue must be taken to the League ***Vice President***. The issue must be put in writing, defining the specific problem.
- c. IF the Local League Vice President cannot resolve the problem, the Division Coaching Coordinator will contact the Local League ***President***. If necessary, the President will call a meeting of the Board of Directors to resolve the issue. The President may send the issue to an advisory committee for an investigation.
- d. No Alcohol or Drug use is allowed.

10. Loss of Player

- a. If a player is lost for any reason, the manager shall notify the Player Agent in writing within 1 day after the loss. Upon notification, the manager will have three (3) days to inform the Player Agent the name of the replacement from the lower league (if applicable) or waiting list. All other players will come from the Player Agent replacement list. A loss includes: (a) Known – The player is lost for the season (example: quit or moved) and (b) Unknown -- The player is injured or misses 3 games. The Manager shall notify the Player Agent.
- b. The Player Agent will notify the prospective player's current manager and parents of the impending change. The replacement player shall report to the new manager no later than three (3) days after official notification, or for the next regular scheduled game of the new team, whichever is earliest.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL THE SELECTING MANAGER OR COACH CONTACT THE PROSPECTIVE PLAYER'S MANAGER, COACH, PARENTS, TEAMMATES, OR THE PROSPECTIVE PLAYER UNTIL THE PROSPECTIVE PLAYER REPORTS TO THE SELECTING MANAGER.

- c. If a player "refuses" to move up, the Local League President shall be notified by the Player Agent. Such refusal will result in forfeiture of further eligibility to be a player member in the Local League. If a manager does not select a replacement when required to do so, the Player Agent will make a replacement selection. The Manager will be suspended until the Board shall meet and make a final determination as to whether that

manager will be permitted to continue managing.

11. Uniforms:

- a. Uniforms and hats/visors will be issued by the Local League and may be kept by the player after the end of each season.
- b. All Teams will be allowed to have colored pants/shorts with the exception of Tee Ball (gray only). It is the responsibility of the parents to purchase pants, socks and cleats.
- c. The uniform order form must be complete to order regular season shirts that is provided in the Manager's packet, must be turned into the office to be signed by the League President. ***No manager has authorization to turn the order form into the shirt vendor.*** **Section**

VI – All-Stars:

1. Team Setup

- a. Richlands Little League is committed to fielding the most competitive team possible in the 9-10 and 11-12 All-Star divisions.
- b. Richlands Little League may attempt to field a 10-11 All-Star team, if there are enough participants.

2. Manager Selection

- a. All Managers and Coaches within a division are eligible to request, to the League President, their name be placed on the ballot as manager.
- b. The League President has the authority to remove a name from the Manager ballot prior to submitting to the Board for approval.
- c. All Managers will be voted on and approved by the RAL Board.
- a. 2 coaches will be selected by the Manager after the players have been selected to the team. Coaches must be RAL board approved for the regular season.

3. Player Selection (9-10 and 11-12 teams)

- a. Ballots will be created for the 9-10 and 11-12 divisions for softball and baseball including all players that returned an All-Star permission form.
- b. Final Ballots must be approved by the RAL Board.
- c. All divisional Managers will be given the opportunity to vote for the All-Star players for that divisional team.
- d. All Managers must vote for up to the maximum number of required players (12-14 as a goal), but must vote for at least 10.
- e. The top vote getters will be placed on the respective team.
- f. In the event of a tie, a run-off vote will occur for the tied players. If the run-off vote produced a tie, then the All-Star Team Manager will select the player(s).
- g. Votes will be counted by the League President and the Player Agent.
- h. The All-Star Team Manager will select any remaining players, at their discretion, from the players on the ballot.

4. Player Selection (10-11 teams)

- a. Should a 10-11 All-star team be fielded, the players will be selected from the remaining 10 year olds from the 9-10 ballot and the remaining 11 year olds from the 11-12 ballot.
- b. If additional players are required for the 10-11 ballot, those players must submit an All-Star permission form (RAL-AS1) to be placed on the ballot.
- c. Should there be more than the allowable number of players, a ballot will be created and approved by the RAL board.
- d. The voting process will remain the same as outlined in section 3.c-3.h above.

5. Player Selection (Minor League 7-8 teams)

- a. Process for selecting the Minor League tournament teams are outlined in Appendix A section 5 below.

6. Voting Results

- a. Vote totals and/or player rankings will not be release by the League.
- b. The League President will notify the Manager selected.
- c. The Manager selected will be given the 10 names voted in alphabetical order.
- d. The Manager will notify the League President of his player selections within 1 business day, if applicable.
- e. The League President will release the teams on the appropriate day, per the Little League rules.

7. Tournament Equipment

- a. Parents will be responsible for the cost of the uniforms which will be ordered through the league. Parents will pay the league, and the league will pay the uniform vendor directly for the exact cost.
- b. Team equipment will be provided by the League.

8. Tournament Travel and Expenses

- a. Teams are solely responsible for any costs incurred while playing in the District 11 tournament.
- b. If a team wins the District tournament, and advances to the State Tournament, the Board will have authority to allow parents and players to fundraise within the Rules and Regulations of LLI and in accordance with applicable laws for 501(c)3, tax exempt organizations under the IRS code.
- c. Richlands Athletic League uses a per diem payment system for all state tournament travel for Food and Lodging expenses with the following guidelines.
 - i. Any team attending the State tournament will attempt to raise funds to offset the costs of attending the State tournament.
 - ii. Any funds received (cash or check) to assist in covering the State tournament costs will be remitted to Richlands Athletic League using the State Tournament Fundraiser Form.
 - iii. When cash is raised, the total must be placed onto one form, per event, for accounting purposes.
 - iv. Overnight team travel expenses may be paid for by Richlands Athletic League based upon the Board's discretion and approval.
 - v. Each player and approved coach may receive a daily per diem amount to cover overnight travel and meal expenses. The Board will approve the daily per diem amount based on factors such as: lodging expenses, length of travel and location, amount raised, and other discretionary factors.
 - vi. All lodging expenses will be paid by fundraising efforts first
 - vii. All approved items to be paid for the entire team must accompany a Richlands Athletic League Tournament Expense Form and valid receipt. (For example, tournament t-shirts or tournament meal tickets for the opening ceremony)
 - viii. The individual per diem amount allowed will not require a receipt.
 - ix. The individual per diem amount dispersed, per family, will be documented by the Manager of the team and shall include a signature from each parent of the player.

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- d. Teams are expected to utilize reasonably priced lodging accommodations.
- e. The Board of Directors has **final approval** for all expenditures for State bound teams, regardless of amount of funds raised for a specific team.

**YOUR 2024 SEASON RULE BOOK EXPLAINS ALL RULES OF THE GAME
THEREFORE REFER TO IT WITH QUESTIONS
ALL OTHER QUESTIONS PLEASE REFER TO YOUR DIVISION COACHING
COORDINATOR**

By-Laws approved by the Richlands Little League Board of Directors on December 8,2024, effective for the fiscal year October 2024 - September 2025.

Tonya Hurt, President

Date

Sarah Lawson, Secretary

Date

Appendix A – Minor League Rules

The rules specified in this section apply to both the Minor League Baseball and Minor League Softball divisions.

1. Player Participation

- a. All players bat in a continuous batting order.
 - i. If an injured or ill player is unable to bat the position is skipped in the order without penalty. If the player returns, they assume the same place in the batting order.
 - ii. Players arriving late will be added to the bottom of the batting lineup and bat the next time that spot comes up in the order.
- b. All players participate in the field of play
 - i. Team can only have 6 players in the infield
 - ii. All other players are placed in the outfield
 - iii. The pitcher must have one foot in the circle prior to the pitch

2. Game Play

- a. Games are 6 innings
- b. There is a 5 run rule for the offensive team – **there is no exception for the final inning. 5 runs is the limit.**
- c. The game shall end by Mercy Rule if the winning team is ahead by 10 runs after four innings (3½ innings if the home team is ahead). Rule is in effect for any inning after the 4th as well.
- d. Games are scheduled for 1 hour 30 minutes and **no inning can start 1 hour 15 minutes after SCHEDULED START TIME. Exception:** If the game is delayed by weather or other official time stoppages, the time amount of the official stoppage shall be added to the start time to allow for a complete game.
- e. No game shall start after 8:00PM ET.
- f. Players get 5 pitches or 3 strikes per at bat
 - i. The Umpire can rule NO PITCH and not count that pitch against the limit
 - ii. NO PITCH call does NOT count if the batter makes contact on the pitch, fair or foul.
 - iii. If the player does not swing at the 5th pitch, they are out.
 - iv. For coach pitching, if the player fouls the 5th pitch they may get a subsequent 5th pitch. The player will not be out for fouling the last pitch unless it is caught by the defensive team.
- g. Pitching
 - i. The first inning of each game will be player pitch with rules outlined in the Little League rule book.
 1. No 9 year old players shall be allowed to pitch in the Minor's Divisions
 2. All 6 year old players shall be coach pitched in the Minor's Divisions.
 - ii. Each subsequent inning will be coach-pitch.
 1. For baseball the pitch will be delivered in an overhand manner.
 2. For softball the pitch will be delivered in an underhanded manner.
 - iii. Baseball pitches will be delivered from a distance of 39 feet (even coach pitch)

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- iv. Softball pitches will be delivered from a distance of 35 feet (even coach pitch)
- h. Stopping Play
 - i. Play is stopped (and DEAD) after a batter puts the ball in play, under the following circumstances
 - 1. All runners have cleared the bases
 - 2. Any defensive infielder returns the ball to the pitcher's circle.
 - 3. Umpire calls TIME for an injury
 - 4. Umpire declares DEAD BALL for a ball thrown out of the playing field (Runners advance 1 base)
 - i. Runner Advancement
 - i. There is **NO STEALING**.
 - ii. In the event TIME or DEAD BALL is called by the umpire the halfway point between each base will be used to determine advancement when time is called.
 - iii. When the umpire calls TIME
 - 1. Runners having not made it to the halfway mark will go back to the previous base
 - 2. Runners passed (at least one foot crossing the line) the halfway line when time is called are awarded the next base.
- 3. **Umpire**
 - a. Teams are responsible for providing umpires for the game scheduled opposite their game per the schedule from the Coaching Coordinator for that Division.
 - b. Home Team manager/coach for the alternate game will be the plate umpire
- 4. **Additional Rules**
 - a. Each team will delegate a "team mom" to coordinate participation in the concession stand for scheduled times.
 - b. Each manager is responsible for clean-up of the dugouts and trash around the stands after games and practices.
 - c. Any rules not specifically noted in this Appendix, fall under the General By-Laws of Richlands Little League and the official rulebook for baseball and softball written by Little League International.
- 5. **All-Stars**
 - a. All-Star team(s) will be decided from the available list of players returning permission forms, by vote of the division managers (only managers, no coach votes).
 - b. Manager will be approved by the RAL board of directors as nominated by the RAL President.
 - c. 3 Coaches will be chosen by the Manager. Coaches must be RAL board approved for the regular season.
 - d. All Managers must vote for up to the maximum number of required players (12-14 as a goal), but must vote for at least 10.
 - e. The top 12 vote getters will be placed on the respective team.
 - f. In the event of a tie, a run-off vote will occur for the tied players. If the run-off vote produced a tie, then the All-Star Team Manager will select the player(s).
 - g. Votes will be counted by the League President and the Player Agent.
 - h. The All-Star Team Manager will select any remaining players, at their discretion, from the players on the ballot.
 - i. Should a second team be approved, selection will follow the above criteria.
 - j. The League will provide each tournament team with the appropriate equipment.

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- k. The League will pay the district tournament fee per team (i.e. \$50).
- l. Parents will be responsible for the cost of the uniforms which will be ordered through the league. Parent will pay the league, and the league will pay the uniform vendor directly.

Appendix B – Tee Ball Rules

1. Player Participation

- a. All players bat in a continuous batting order and each inning. The last batter clears the bases by “touching them all”.
 - i. If an injured or ill player is unable to bat the position is skipped in the order without penalty
 - ii. Players arriving late will be added to the bottom of the batting lineup and bat the next time that spot comes up in the order.
- b. All players participate in the field of play
 - i. Team can only have 6 players in the infield, in standard playing positions
 - ii. All other players are placed in the outfield

2. Game Play

- a. Games may be played at the Williams Field Tee Ball Field (40-foot bases) OR Mary Ann Strong Field (60-foot bases)
 - i. Games are scheduled at 1 hour intervals and **no inning can be started after 45 minutes from the SCHEDULED START TIME**. 2 inning games are common.
- b. No score is kept
- c. Although outs are not kept, if a successful play is made, the batter or runner is removed from the bases as if the out occurred.
- d. Each batter will receive 3 pitches. If no contact is made, the ball is put on a tee for the batter.
 - i. Week 1 game(s) should have everyone hitting from the tee. Coach toss for 5-6 year-old players starts with Week 2.
 - ii. All 4 year-old players must hit from a tee.
 - iii. Managers and Coaches have discretion on underhand pitch delivery for girls and overhand pitch delivery for boys.

3. Additional Rules

- a. Each team will delegate a “team mom” to coordinate participation in the concession stand for scheduled times while playing at Mary Ann Strong Field only.
- b. Each manager is responsible for clean-up of the dugouts and trash around the stands after games and practices.
- c. Any rules not specifically noted in this Appendix, fall under the General By-Laws of Richlands Little League and the official rulebook for baseball and softball written by Little League International.

Appendix C – Richlands Athletic League Sponsorship Levels

Field Sponsor

- ☐ Fees:
 - \$150 for existing sign
 - \$125 for additional existing sign
 - \$75 new sign fee
- ☐ Special recognition during Richlands Little League Opening Day
- ☐ 4ft X 8ft banner placed on the outfield fence at Flanary Field and/or Williams Field complexes
- ☐ Company name included on RichalndsLittleLeague.org website home page

Team Sponsor

- ☐ Fees:
 - \$300 for shirts
 - \$100 (discounted) for additional field sponsor sign
 - \$75 new sign fee
- ☐ Special recognition during Richlands Little League Opening Day
- ☐ Corporate name represented on specific team participant jersey
- ☐ Corporate name represented on any replica player jerseys sold to parents/families
- ☐ 4ft X 8ft banner placed on the outfield fence at Flanary Field and/or Williams Field complexes (if purchased)
- ☐ Company name included on RichalndsLittleLeague.org website home page and team page

Appendix D – 2023 Richlands Athletic League Player Registration Fees

Tee-Ball Division

- ☐ Fees:
 - \$40 for 1st player
 - \$30 for 2nd player
 - \$25 for 3rd player
- ☐ Teams will receive team hat and shirt.

Minor/Major League Divisions

- ☐ Fees:
 - \$50 for 1st player
 - \$40 for 2nd player
 - \$35 for 3rd player
- ☐ Teams will receive team hat (or visor) and premium shirt.

Junior/Senior/Big League Divisions

- ☐ Fees:
 - \$60 for all players
- ☐ Teams will receive team hat (or visor) and premium shirt.